

Barkly Regional Deal



Minutes Governance Table Meeting 25

Thursday 5 September 2024

Barkly Regional Council Chambers, Tennant Creek



Item	Description and discussion points	Actions arising	Decisions
1.1	<p>Formalities (Introduction, Apologies, Quorum)</p> <p>Meeting started at: 8:35</p> <p>New staff and members were acknowledged and introduced.</p> <p>Apologies Claire Keen (BCN), Kym Brahim (Patta), Ross Williams (Community member), Cathy Stillwell and Rosemary Plummer (Connected Beginnings)</p> <p>Present: Sean Gordon (Independent Chair BRD GT), Deb Hartman (BBT E.O.) Members Mervyn Franey, Valerie Nelson, Graham Calma, Allan Punch (BAAC); Mischa Cartwright (CLC), Chris Kelly, Jeff McLeod (BRC); Lisa Rauter, Fiona Yule (online) (Cwth Dept Infra); Soana Vaihu, Lachlan Wilkins (DCMC) Waikem Kelly and Stewart Willey (Youth sector) Byron Matthews (NIAA); Tony Miles, Pat Brahim (ACLG); Shalee James (Patta) Georgina Bracken (BCN)</p> <p>Other BAAC members: Dawn Swan, Gordon Noonan</p> <p>Support people: Peter Burnheim (NT DCMC); (AG Dept Infrastructure); (DSS); Lucy MCGarry, Omar Khoyam, Athena Plummer (BBT); Cyril Franey (BAAC); Marnie Wettenhall, Pano Georgiou (online)(DSS), Ashley Cox (online);</p> <p>Guests: Angela Salmon (BankaBanka Station); Shakira Munkton (Stars Foundation) and Darrenia Carr (Tennant Creek High School); Dawn Swan, Diane Curtis (BAAC);</p>		Apologies and attendance recorded for minutes
	<p>Welcome, acknowledgements vision and ways of working (code of conduct)</p> <p>Sean Gordon and Jeff McLeod paid respects to the life, achievements and passing of Elliot McAdam and there was a minute's silence.</p>		
1.2	<p>Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting</p>	Confirmed via email	Minutes accepted
1.3	<p>Action Items (5 minutes)</p>	To be discussed later with TLR	Action Items noted
1.4	<p>Conflict of Interest Disclosures*</p>	Lachlan Wilkin's partner works for Centred Solutions who prepared	Any or Nil noted

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		Paper 3.8 for the Women's Refuge	
1.5	<p>Corro tabled 6 items received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator Chisolm confirmed funding for BRD Review • Minister Uibo's support for BRD Review • BRD letter re auspice arrangements for BBT and BAAC finishing in June 2025 • Angela Sammon's request for a seat at the GT • Two letters of support requested from GT • Owairtilla Corp • RN Employment 	<p>Actions:</p> <p>Chairs of EGRDWG to invite Angela to join BEGWD WG and to present her request to the executive for the WG</p> <p>BBT to prepare Letter of support for Owairtilla</p> <p>BBT to seek clarification from RN on what they are requesting LoS for</p>	<p>Resolution:</p> <p>Angela has been invited to take her request to the BEGWD WG</p> <p>Letter of support for Owairtilla to be progressed by BBT Moved: Pat Brahim Seconded: Merv Franey</p> <p>Clarification to be sought from RN</p>
2. Emerging issues and opportunities			
2.1	<p>Lessons from Local Leadership Models, Sean Gordon presented a model of working in the middle space/middle ground and how govt can shift from being disablers to enablers by sharing more decision making and responsibility with the community partners.</p> <p>Issues raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving from a transactional to a relational relationship • Who holds the risk? • Systems challenges in building local capability and jobs 	<p>Action: Sean to share PP with GT through minutes</p>	
2.2	<p>Update on BRD Governance Review</p> <p>Lachlan Wilkins from DCMC explained update on the NT elections. Ministers will be announced mid Sept. Support is needed from new ministers for the review of the BRD.</p> <p>Lisa to meet with the Review Steering Committee on Friday Sept 6 to progress next steps for the review</p>	<p>Action: Lachlan will provide an update to the GT members once NTG ministers are announced.</p>	
2.3	<p>NIAA 3000 Jobs Program</p> <p>Byron Matthews gave an update- 200 jobs is close to 300 currently. The details of the 3000 jobs program are still being determined. 37 jobs in the Barkly to support Real Jobs program in Barkly communities.</p> <p>Issues raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent Is NIAA and this program addressing those who are job ready rather than those parked in the welfare system? What are the numbers of those long term unemployed moving into work? • To what extent are barriers like training, driver's license, ochre card and white card being addressed 	<p>Actions:</p> <p>NIAA to seek a response from Jodie (CEO) and data about long term unemployed and how many of those have been part of the 300 new jobs.</p> <p>NIAA to provide detail of where the 37 Barkly jobs are placed.</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent are we holding RTOs and govt depts to account for procurement criteria? This issue was raised in 2019. • Govts are not considering capacity building in their contracts so that local Aboriginal orgs and people are ready when projects come online e.g Youth Centre, Interim YJF, • Some privacy issues with reporting on no's of Aboriginal employment. Contractors report they can't find workers- • How many jobs are being created in communities outside TC? • Lack of recognition of Aboriginal leadership in projects like the YJF • Schedule of training for 2025 has been requested by DCMC to RTO they fund • Can we collect stories of different people's experience and have a specific ask to Govt? • Paper being prepared by the EGRWDWG on systems barriers to training and employment like remote and regional definitions • We have two strategies, we need to be putting them into action. We know the issues we need to have Govt at the table (and WG) to make the changes needed 	<p>BEGWD WG to prepare 10 case studies of individual problems to illustrate issues and support paper on what needs to happen differently in the Barkly regarding training – involving school systems, DEWA and other providers to ensure entry level skills are provided appropriately in Barkly</p>	
<p>2.4</p>	<p>DSS new funding arrangements Marnie Wettenhall gave an update on SPSP funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 budget extended SPSP to 2029 • Changes to the model in progress • Shared Decision Making and Solutions funding also available but not in place in the Barkly • Support to build capability in shared decision making in the Barkly in order to receive those funds • TC currently gets \$300k per annum <p>Issues raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TC SPSP funding doesn't reflect the need, complexity (including 28 initiatives), remoteness and challenges in the Barkly. Population metric for funding means we are under resourced • Social Disadvantage Index would be a better metric for the funding • Is SPSP the right model for the Barkly and what can the Govt do to improve it? • What about Targeting Entrenched Disadvantage funding? • DSS is a funding partner but not a BRD partner but will potentially be the only Cwth funder beyond the BRD • DSS Minister has not been to the Barkly. What commitment is there to the work here? 	<p>Actions: Partners will feed their views about flaws in funding models into the Review of the BRD</p> <p>Govt partners to meet and discuss combined funding</p> <p>Backbone to draft letters to Ministers</p>	<p>Resolution: GT to write to the DSS, NIAA and C'wth Dept of Infrastructure and NTG Ministers to raise the issue that the SPSP and other funding models are not fit for the Barkly region and the population metric needs to be revised and changes made to funding for the Barkly now and beyond the BRD</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We can't wait for federal elections to take action. We need to advocate now across Territory and Federal Ministers 		
2.5	<p>Opportunities for a local Aboriginal community controlled childcare Matt Clissold, Ahsley Cox and Shannon Killer (DoE) Soana Vaihu and Harry Abrahams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglicare Report on childcare needs in the Barkly was completed in 2021 and is a resource for this initiative and provides information on gaps in the system based on extensive community consultations There were some consultations in 2021-2022 by Ninti One DoE CTG initiative (remote and very remote) to provide more childcare for First Nations 0-5 year olds. Key aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New service, capital works to upgrade existing building Co-design of service- innovative approaches to address local barriers Prioritises Aboriginal led services Sustainability funding to operate the service longer term \$1 Million per year Supports provided to sites by SNAICC Initial agreement with Julalikari no longer in place <p>Issues raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is being considered for childcare in other communities Further consultation needed to understand current need and need to reach people in town camps Need data on existing early childhood services and their reach as well as criteria for the funding Partnership approach recommended. No short cuts possible- staffing, operations, building Possibility of a rotating service in the CLAs <p>Shannon Killer gave a summary of the Connected Beginnings Program- Collective Impact approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 44 sites across the country Transition phase for those not run by ACCOs to potentially move to ACCO run 	<p>ACLG to discuss the opportunity within their sector.</p> <p>Connected Beginnings to be invited to a meeting with ACLG to discuss</p> <p>Lachlan and Soana to request Connected Beginnings to provide data on current services.</p>	
11.15 Morning tea			
3.1	<p>28 Initiatives Status (Traffic Light Report) Issues raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BRC recently began legal proceedings on 3 Community Projects Fund Tractor grants due to non-compliance. 3 of 5 tractors have not been delivered. 	<p>Actions:</p> <p>BRC to keep GT updated of legal proceedings</p> <p>BBT to keep communities updated on proceedings</p>	<p>Resolution:</p> <p>GT will consider using remaining CP funds to buy tractors for the communities waiting</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment to suppliers for tractors up front is a contributing factor to current issues • Communities waiting for tractors have been apologised to and informed by email of legal proceedings. What is happening with their tractors and who is responsible? • The application and assessment process is on hold while the process is reviewed and improved • What is the GT doing next for the communities waiting on tractors? 		
3.2	Paper on updates on TFHC BRD initiatives		
3.3	LCPF update on finances and proposed new processes		
3.4	BBT auspice arrangements and finances Chris Kelly summarised the BRC decision: Arrangement only meant to be for 12 months. BRC focusing on core business and will cease auspice arrangement at end of June 2025. Incorporation of BBT or other auspicings arrangements will be explored and previous paper with options reviewed		
3.5	Alliance auspice arrangements and finances		
12.50 LUNCH			
3.6	Delivery of Community Mediation Initiative Paper Lachlan Wilkins gave a summary of the Initiative so far. Amiel is in the Project Manager position and will be engaging across the region. Cultural Advisor role is under recruitment. Amiel may work of the BBT office. Amiel joined the GT meeting at 3:30 and introduced himself to members. Issues raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do Aboriginal Corps want to be involved in this project? • Supporting Elders and young leaders is a priority. • Deep Collaboration workshops for Aboriginal leadership have been suggested as a first step • CWSP has not taken steering for the initiative as planned • Review of BRD has impacted on the CWSP progress. Is the timing right? • Governance and other training needed for young people • BRC working on a young councillors program • DCMC does not have capacity/mandate to run the project and is seeking guidance on what who and how it should progress. Who will guide the process? • BRC, ACLG, High School need to be involved 	Actions: Patta to present a paper to the GT on how to proceed with a strengthening leadership program. BRC to report back on their progress with a 'Young Councillors' program	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patta has selected someone to consult around leadership in the Barkly, learning from the past and advising on next steps • We need a shared understanding of the purpose of the project and need it to align with other initiatives underway (esp youth) 		
3.7	<p>Access to Justice Paper Kevin Banbury, Zoe (CAAFLU), Alice Langton (NAAJA) John Jablonka (A2J) The group has developed a 3-4 year Action Plan from the 2020 A2J in consultation with communities and organisations about its 16 recommendations. A2J group is a collaboration across the four legal services in Tennant Creek and is seeking further funding for Project Management and other roles</p> <p>Issues raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overlap with the mediation initiative and aligned with the overall remit of the BRD work • Seed funding sought from GT will be complemented with funding from other sources • About \$1million left from Mediation Initiative 25 	<p>Action: BBT to draft a letter of support for A2J</p>	<p>Resolution: Endorsement of the allocation of \$100k from funding for initiative 25 to the A2J project for the 2024-2025 financial year.</p> <p>GT will provide a support letter to A2J to support their fundraising.</p>
	<p>BRC paper Chris Kelly provided details of finances for the Community Projects Fund and Backbone and BAAC</p> <p>Issues raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to reconcile with communities, how the expenditure meets/related to the \$6 million Community Projects fund promised to the community? • DCMC confirmed in the few weeks the remaining funding (aprx \$1 million) in fund will be clarified and become available for applications • Due to late submission of paper, members were unable to review or provide comment 		<p>Resolution: Review and endorsement of paper to be deferred to the Admin Committee</p>
3.8	<p>Tennant Creek Women’s Refuge Paper Georgina Bracken, Chair of the Women’s Refuge gave a summary of the current situation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High FDV rates • Limited (4 bedroom house) accomm options in current facility do not meet diverse cultural/family/disability and population needs • Refuge seeking \$100k funding for a scoping study to quantify what would be needed for an appropriate facility that met the needs in the Barkly • TFHC funds the Refuge for operations • TFHC exploring funding options- lots of red tape 	<p>Action: GT to write a letter to identified ministers requesting funding for scoping project and describing the need in the Barkly</p>	<p>Resolution: If funding is not provided by Nov GT meeting, DCMC and NIAA will source other funding for the scoping project.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for a facility is clear and FDV is a priority for Cwth and NT Governments. There should be funding available outside the BRD. Can the GT advocate for funding from govt agencies? E.g. Homelessness funding is coming online and other housing funding for women and children fleeing domestic violence 		
4. Standing Agenda Items (prioritised by decision, discussion, noting or information)			
4.1	<p>EO BBT Report</p> <p>EO described the change in auspicing arrangements as a priority and advised members to read the full update report</p>		
4.2	<p>BAAC Report</p> <p>Inaugural AGM held on August 1. HHIP high on their agenda. BAAC seeking endorsement from GT on their request to have a position on AHAC Glad to have CLC at the GT Collaborating with NTG Homelands and remote housing depts and Aboriginal Housing NT Mischa gave an update from CLC on the HHIP processes and other housing programs CLC is involved in. CLC keen to hear more from BAAC and other groups.</p>	<p>Action:</p> <p>CLC to meet with BAAC and Patta to provide more detail of housing funding and programs they are connected with</p>	<p>Resolution:</p>
4.3	<p>Working Group Updates:</p> <p>Noted Darrin Whatley’s resignation from the WGRDWG and his contribution was noted.</p> <p>Deb Hartman described the challenges the collaborative group has faced trying to get CDU to deliver the Cert II in Community Services in Tennant Creek. DCMC keen to get a letter from the GT to take to relevant govt depts if the course can’t be delivered.</p>	<p>Action:</p> <p>BBT to clarify with Darrin if he is also resigning from the GT</p>	
5. Closing Items			
5.1	<p>Review of agreed actions and motions arising from general business</p> <p>Communique topics</p> <p>Community Mediation underway Commitment to addressing barriers in Aboriginal Employment Investment in Access to Justice New members: Mischa Cartwright, Valerie Nelson, Chris Kelly</p>		
5.2	<p>Next meetings:</p> <p>Thursday 21 November, 2024 Tennant Creek, Business Hub</p>		
5.3	<p>Meeting Close 3.40</p>		

Conflicts of interest

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The Governance Table is made up of representatives from communities across the Barkly region. Members have many roles and positions as professional, community and family leaders. It is therefore important to manage real and perceived conflicts of interests.

Real conflict of interest is where a person uses their authority to make decisions that provide a material personal or family benefit.

Perceived conflict of interest is a public perception that a person may be improperly benefiting from their role because of a competing interest.

The Governance Table will manage conflicts of interest by:

- A standing agenda item at the beginning of each meeting for members to declare any 'real or perceived conflict' to the other members.
- A register will be maintained for all members on appointment and updated when a conflict-of-interest declaration is made as part of the standing agenda item.

Disclosing a conflict of interest does not mean a member cannot be part of a Governance Table meeting. It may just mean that:

- for a certain part of the meeting (while the matter is discussed) that member steps out; or
- the member may be invited to stay if they have 'the fully informed consent of the other members to be present and vote'.

There is nothing wrong with having a conflict of interest so long as you disclose all of the information about the conflict of interest to the Governance Table and abide by their decision how it is managed.