



FAREWELL TO SEAN GORDON

At the end of 2024, Mr Sean Gordon AM will complete a three-year term as Independent Chair of the Barkly Regional Deal. As we said goodbye to him in this role, we honored his hard work, clear thinking and commitment to strengthening and supporting local Aboriginal voices and leadership. He said 'the time has come for there to be a local Chair. No other community in Australia has this unique opportunity to speak to the three tiers of government.'

'There is 5 years left in the Barkly Regional Deal, and the local Aboriginal leadership is becoming more focused and united. The role of the Chair is to be fair and equitable and to ensure that all voices at the Governance Table are heard'.

Mr Gordon is continuing his commitment to community action and empowerment through his role as Chairman of a new national organisation PLACE (Partnerships for Local Action and Community Empowerment). Before the end of his term as GT Independent Chair, Mr Gordon will convene a meeting of the Local Steering Committee of the Governance Review of the Barkly Regional Deal. He will still be a regular visitor to the Barkly and will be a very good friend and ally to us at a national level. Thanks Sean!!!

EOI FOR NEW LOCAL CHAIR

The BRD is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) for a local Chair of the Governance Table. The term is for two years commencing February 2025. Please contact Deb Hartman, deborah.hartman@barklybackbackbone.com.au for further information about the Chair role, the EOI process, and to receive an EOI pack. Expressions of Interest will open on 15 December 2024 and close on 20 January 2025.

November 2024 Communique

New NTG Commitment to Governance Review of BRD

Following the recent change of government in the NT, the Governance Table members were very pleased to hear that the NTG continue to support the Governance Review of the Barkly Regional Deal, which had been called for in November 2023 by the wider community and the business and community representatives on the GT. The Governance Review was endorsed by Australian Government Senator Chisholm and previous NT Minister Uibo. Commitment to the review by Minister Edgington means that the Governance Review process will continue as soon as possible. A Local Steering Committee is advising the GT on the review process.

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY ABOUT YOUTH SERVICES

The Community Researcher Team of the Barkly Backbone have been consulting with young people and youth services to hear young people’s experiences and views on priorities for further funding. They heard suggestions about how to strengthen and improve services and outcomes for young people. They analysed data from 2018–2024. They conducted surveys and held meetings and a Youth Round Table as part of the Barkly Futures Forum. The Community Researchers are still getting feedback from all stakeholders in this ongoing Understanding, Measuring, Evaluation and Learning Project, which aims to inform good decision making and implementation plans to address identified youth issues. They will develop a theory of change and measures of success with services and young people. A strong youth leadership group representing the views of young people to the BRD Governance Table and other decision-making forums is emerging. They have heard that the hours and arrangements at the Tennant Creek Youth Centre are working very well at the moment. They are continuing to work with other services who may run activities at the Youth Centre.



COMMUNITY MEDIATION PROJECT UNDERWAY

Mr Tristan Duggie and Mr Lachlan Wilkins presented to the Table about progress in the Mediation and Peacekeeping Project (Initiative 25). Tristan Duggie and Amiel Nubaha are the Project Officers. They have hit the ground running with a community BBQ to discuss community mediation at Ali Curung and a workshop for workers who are first responders to community incidents, such as the Ambulance, Police, Fire Brigade and the Tennant Creek Women’s Refuge. They are meeting with a range of stakeholders and look forward to collaborating with others, such as Access to Justice, Health and School Engagement Groups. To contact the project, please email Tristan.Duggie@nt.gov.au or Amiel.Nubaha@nt.gov.au



BBT MOVING TO A NEW AUSPICE BODY

The GT endorsed Anglicare NT to be the new auspice body for the Barkly Backbone Team (BBT), with the arrangement commencing before 1 July 2025. For the first 5 years of the Deal, the Barkly Regional Council (BRC) has been the auspice body. Barkly Regional Council is a signatory to the 10-year Deal and will continue to be a major partner at the Governance Table. The BBT thanked BRC staff for their hard work in developing suitable administrative arrangements for the auspice.



The BBT is an independent group responsible for coordinating the partnerships in the 28 initiatives and offering strategic and secretariat support to the structures of the BRD. It is a small team of workers dedicated to supporting the partners to change systems so that the Deal can contribute to the community vision of ‘Strong Barkly communities and families, together determining our future and thriving in both worlds.’

THE NEXT MEETING

The next Governance Table meeting is scheduled for 6th of March 2025.