

Barkly Regional Deal

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Minutes of Governance Table Meeting 28

(rescheduled) Thursday 24 July 2025

Barkly Backbone Office, Patterson Street, Tennant Creek



Item	Description and Discussion Points	Actions	Decisions
1.1	Members: Independent Chair, Ms Barb Shaw, Deb Hartman (EO Backbone); Ms Pat Brahim, Tony Miles (ACLG); Shalee James, (Patta); Peter Burnheim, Clarissa Burgen (NTG), Georgina Bracken (GB), Claire Keen (BCN); Byron Matthews (NIAA); Angela Sammon (Business Sector); Georgina Bracken, Claire Keen (BCN); Bek Hendriks (DITRDCA) Apologies: Joey Carter (NLC), 4 x BAAC Members, Kym Brahim (Patta) Support: Harry Abrahams, Sally Jollop (NIAA), Maddie Chandler, David Lindenbauer DITRDCA); Lucy McGarry, Omar Khoyam (Backbone) Guests and Presenters: Rae Finlay TBAR, Danielle Tucker incoming Backbone EO. Fionn Griffin, Remote Strategy Plus; Shirley Shepherd NIAA; Meeting opened at 8:30am, Welcome to Country: Richard James Introduction to GT meeting from Chair, Truth Telling The Chair referred to recent events: - Stronger Places Stronger People workshop in Sydney in mid July and the commitment by DSS to working differently. - The Review of the BRD and the opportunity that presents to commit to that way of working. - The challenges of the Backbone in the auspice transition and recruitment of the new EO Affirmation of vision and ways of working, including Code of Conduct	N/A	
1.2	Formalities: Endorsement of Admin Group Decision to appoint Ms Danielle Tucker to the role of EO BBT Introduction to New Members (including acceptance of sector authorised GT representatives, and new member Angela Sammon), Apologies and Proxies - Danielle Tucker (incoming BBT EO) David Glover (CFO BRC), Susan Steele (action CEO BRC), - Bek Hendriks (acting First Assistant Secretary for the First Nations Partnerships Division and David Lindenbauer (DITRDCA) and Angela Sammon (Business sector) introduced themselves - Chair noted the need for Members to RSVP to meeting invitations so BBT can prepare and know it quorum will be reached Declaration of any conflicts of interest <i>for current agenda items</i> Nil conflicts were declared		Moved: GB Seconded: Pat Brahim

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	Confirm previous meeting's minutes - Page added to the GT Handbook about sector endorsements. - Chair moved a motion that the changes be accepted and the Handbook be endorsed Correspondence received and sent - Sector endorsement letters received from the BCN for Claire Keen and GB; from BRC for Susan Steele and David Glover; from Lisa Rauter for Bek Hendriks from DITRDCSA; Angela Sammon, Indigenous Business Rep. - Endorsement letters outstanding from the following sectors: Business, (Darrin Whatley) Patta, ACLG, NTG, BAAC 18/3 Letter sent to three tiers to demonstrate their commitment to the BRD Statement of Intent. Paper in response at this meeting 19/3 Letter sent to three tiers about delegation to reps involved in the BRD Training and Workforce initiatives Suggestion from Backbone EO: - Due to lack of clarity around comms protocols for the BRD (particularly post MOG) there is a need to revisit the protocols at the next GT. This was evidenced with the opening of housing in TC under Initiative 19. Discussion: - Need for comms protocols/strategy to be included in the Handbook and a demonstrated commitment to these by three tiers of Govt.	Action: Sectors to send in endorsement letters for their reps. BBT to resend the format for how to do this Action: BBT to include comms protocols/strategy on next GT agenda	Minutes Moved: Pat Seconded: GB Handbook endorsement Moved: GB; Seconded Claire
2.1	Initiative Updates, including Revised Implementation Snapshot, Traffic Light Report (TLR) and associated papers and Action Items: Clarissa Burgen presented a differently formatted TLR document with update on progress on initiatives and immediate action Items, and explained new data in template. Outcomes from initiatives 21 School based apprentices at TC High School - Barkly Arts working with BOM for artwork on the Weather Radar. Key discussion points: - Local Rebuilding the Economy Committee will lead NTG economic Strategy for the Barkly. High level and will incorporate the BRD EG Strategy. Will have clear input to enabling economic growth for the Barkly - Chair noted the need for synergy between this Committee, the DITDRC commitment to the BRD and the BRD Economic Growth Strategy - Discussion about the whole Barkly including TC to be classified as remote for training funding purposes. Peter Burnheim noted that Regional COORD and specifically TBAR will progress this re-classification process. - The impacts of classifications on funding across sectors including education, and housing- e.g. to CLAs in particular - Questions around the NTG Minister's engagement with the Barkly around housing issues	Action: NTG and Cwth remoteness classifications for the Barkly to be compiled and reported by the next meeting Action: DCMC to work with TBAR to progress through COORD the remote classification for the Barkly for training purposes Action: BBT to invite NTG Housing Minister to present at the next GT Meeting Action: Cwth to update text on Weather Radar initiative in Project timeline document	Decision that the existing TLR to be the public facing document providing updates on the BRD initiatives

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	- Correction needed around description of Weather Radar delays in the document. They were due to BOM changes not Native Title/ ILUA issues. Peter Burnheim clarified that incorrect coordinates for the site contributed to delays. - Initiative 19: Concerns about lack of information about the process for community members to access these 12 new homes. Clarissa Burgen explained it is through Dept of Housing and Venture. and that the Public Housing waitlist had been provided and is being processed. - Remaining funds for each initiative reported in this alternative document - Accountability to BRD and CTG outcomes: - The failure of the TLR to reflect the initial intent of the BRD - training/employment/wellbeing outcomes. - BBT EO noted the different ways the TLR has been discussed at the GT and that it has never adequately reported on the purpose and intent of the BRD - Chair suggested that the Members recommend how this document could better reflect outcomes from BRD initiatives and that the format of the TLR needs to be updated. - Concerns about the accountability of Govt to the Statement of Intent. HOW?? - What is being endorsed by GT members with this document? Is it just the spending of the monies? - Whose job is it to do the analysis and accountability to broader social outcomes? - How do all partners share and be accountable and report against the outcomes framework for the BRD? Whose responsibility is it? - Need to be clear about what data is needed and who will provide it to report against the framework. The TLR needs to be developed to address this and CTG targets and Priority Reforms - BBT EO noted that the Measuring Change Working Group was stood down 18 months ago at the request of Govt (due to Review process and MOG)	Action: Clarissa Burgen to email application process for Social and Affordable Housing to Backbone Team/GT members Action: Govt partners to report to GT unspent funds from their initiatives Action: BBT EO to identify which initiatives have corresponding papers to keep this agenda item discussion efficient Action: Measuring Change Working Group will be led by Shalee James and will continue the evaluation work to ensure better accountability to outcomes. The first action of the Working Group will be to suggest improve measuring change and accountability mechanisms	
	Morning Tea		
2.2	Update on BRD Governance Review (verbal Report): Members of Review Reference Group and Fionn Griffin, Remote Strategy Plus. Discussion Points: - Fionn presented the Report for discussion for the first time to the entire GT. - Bek acknowledged that most GT Members were seeing the Report for the first time at this meeting and have not had time to consider it and what needs to come next - Report includes a recommendation that initiatives could be grouped under particular themes and that	Actions: Meetings to be arranged between community and govt partners about the Review findings prior to the Workshop on 10 September:	

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	Advisory Panels would ensure they are accountable to specific outcomes - Chair noted that the role of Aboriginal people in future BRD work is not about giving advice (e.g. suggested Cultural Advisory Panel in the Review Report) but making sure action and accountability are built into the work - Community partners raised concerns about the tabling of the report and a possible motion that Govt doesn't accept the report until Aboriginal and NGO GT Members have time to read and assess it and then meet with Cwth DITDRC to discuss next steps - Should all Govt partners be part of that meeting? Is it exclusionary to not include all? Is it in the spirit of the BRD? Is this motion necessary? The Motion was withdrawn following the discussion outlined below: - Community Members of the GT felt that the limited and late sharing of the Report was exclusionary. Clarissa Burgen explained the Report was presented to all at one time, there is no expectation of any Table member to offer opinion to the Review. As per Fionn's presentation the questions being asked are: - What time period do Table members want to appropriately consider the Report details? - What future date would the Table meet for a Special meeting and how long half or full day? - Community GT Members on the Review panel were uncomfortable about the embargo around sharing contents of the report. This placed them in a difficult position in the community. - All Govt Partners expressed there was no expectation from Govt partners for a decision about the Review Report to be made today, it was decided there was no need for the proposed motion and that community partners could meet with C'wth and others to discuss the Review Report over an agreed period of time - Need for workshoping of the contents of the Report and next steps specifically for community partners and for all partners together	Action: NGO and Aboriginal Partners meet with DITRDCA (within 4 weeks- date to be confirmed) Action: All GT Members Workshop on Review Report on Sept 10 Discussion of Review Report to be added to agenda for GT meeting Sept 11 Action: Annexures to the Review Report be shared with all Members by the Backbone Team	
3.1	Update on Initiative 12, RJED and RAES employment initiatives and outcomes for the Barkly: NIAA staff Ben O'Sullivan, Elizabeth Crombie, Randall Pieterse gave an update - RJED 1st round: 650 jobs approved- 100 jobs in the Barkly 2nd round agreements being executed. Details can be shared when this is complete. - New Jobs Program Trial: transition to RJED complete and grants issued to end of June 2028. - Transition to community control? How will CDP and jobs networks go back more to community-controlled orgs running it? Eg job opportunities and strengths in orgs like JCAC being missed by Job Providers - JCAC has received a grant through RJED with positions focused on work in CLAs - Current RJED grants have to provide evidence of community support required as part of assessment process		

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3.2	- Questions from community partners about what data is being collected and shared by Govt departments on processes and outcomes for CDP participants? Barkly Economic Growth and Workforce Development WG update - Deb Hartman gave an update on the system mapping and student journey processes completed by the Working Group. - A shared action plan has been developed and being implemented. Training Opportunities and Barriers Strategic Plan, Progress on plans for Training Calendar and Pipeline/Pathways Workshops: TBAR Sera Bray, DET Laura Ryan - Rae Finlay reported that ToRs for BTEN, led by TBAR and DET, have been endorsed and will meet quarterly. Focuses on Adult training and business and DET. - Opportunities/Careers Expo being planned 2025 Barkly Training Needs Survey results identified training gaps and industry needs. How to reach target cohorts: remote, existing workers, school students, school leavers, unemployed. How to better coordinate training and delivery/supports. - Remote Training Hubs bringing opportunities to the Barkly 12-month Training calendar for all agencies being developed. Comms plan for how to best share it across the Barkly. Via Bushtel is one way. - NTG 2026 Graduate programs on offer on the NTG website. 3 positions available		
3.3	Youth Roundtable Update: Ms Lucy McGarry	For Noting	
3.4	BRC Project Updates, including Ali-Curung Youth Centre and LCPF: Mr. David Glover. 3 recommendations in the paper: - Receives and notes the process of community consultation and support for the Ali Curing Youth Centre infrastructure project. - Notes the cost and project updates, and the process for approvals and procedures in delivering on the Ali Curung Youth Centre project. - That the Governance Table endorses the BRC proposal to build the Ali Curung Youth Centre as provided. - Building Better Regions Fund \$3.6 million for the Ali Curung Youth Centre. Cost currently at \$2.9 million. Plan approved by the Ali Curung LA and BRC. 18 Aug-28th Sept Tender process for construction. - Attachments to GT paper include concept drawings and detailed costings. - Space will likely be occupied by a youth services team with Aboriginal staff Discussion points: - What has community consultation been around the design? 6-month process with drawings around the community. - Community concerns that questions about the project were raised and not answered at the 2023 Ali Curung GT meeting	Action: BRC to work with the Backbone to include the Ali Curung Youth Centre in the EGWD WG Pipeline workshops Action: All Govt partners to share their minimum standards around procurement in tender documents	All three recommendations: Moved: GB Seconded: Shalee James

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	- What are the Power and Water issues and timeline for the site? - Potential for this initiative to be part of the Pipeline workshops as part of the BEGWD WG. Purpose of workshops is to align training and job needs and opportunities with BRD initiatives to ensure local people are prepared and outcomes are monitored throughout the project. LCPF Update: Clarissa Burgen: 7 recommendations in the paper: - NOTE: The presented Expenditure Table of the LCPF. - NOTE: The NTG/CWTH have recognised \$1,452,555 as BRC contributed funding for projects under this initiative for infrastructure and non-infrastructure community development projects in Barkly communities and homelands outside Tennant Creek Township. - NOTE: To meet their committed contribution of \$3 million to the initiative, Barkly Regional Council's remaining financial commitment to new project funding is \$1,547,445. - NOTE: The NTG/CWTH support the BRC proposed Aged Care Facility Upgrade project of \$628,780 as LCPF expenditure (paper attached). - NOTE: At each GT meeting, BRC will provide a list of funded projects, and their status, until the total committed quantum of \$3 million funding expenditure is met. - AGREE: to appoint the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Community Development (DHLGCD), as the administrator of the remaining \$1 million NTG/Commonwealth funds, for projects approved through the established LCPF assessment process. - NOTE: At each GT meeting DHLGCD will provide a list of funded projects, and their status, until the total committed quantum of \$1 million funding is exhausted. Overview of the background of the initiative and the \$3.833 of the \$6 million funds spent provided in paper. Remaining funds: BRC: \$926,542 NTG: \$610,692 Discussion Points: - Ali Curung Bus grant (\$156k) to be downgraded from a 22 to a 10-seater bus. Maintenance an issue for a bigger bus. - Discussion about approx. \$70k left over funds: - Should they go back into fund for reallocation. - Should it be reallocated into Ali Curung community to avoid paperwork etc? Recommendation (8) that the Admin Group be delegated to consider a revised proposal from Arlpwe Arts regarding the community bus project funding - Discussion about issues with the tractor grants and lack of accountability to the communities who applied. Legal process underway with T&J (contractor). - Concerns raised about if the communities still want the tractors and what the process will be of following up with them.	Action: BRC to share an updated version of the expenditure Table with items 2 and 3 under BRC in kind contributions removed as they are not associated with this fund. Action: BBT to work with NTG and Ali Curung Community to action the recommendations about the revised proposal	8 Recs: Moved: Pat Brahim Seconded: Shalee James

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	Grant guidelines and application process need to be reviewed for the remaining \$1.5k and to reflect current circumstances and learnings from previous grant processes	Action: Review and update of the LCPF guidelines, processes and panel composition by BBT and NTG	
	LUNCH		
3.5	Draft Paper from 3 Tiers in response to Statement of Intent: Bek Hendriks from DITRDCSA suggested that the Statement of Intent should incorporate consideration of the BRD Review Report and that government partners re-visit the Statement of Intent following consideration of the BRD Review Report	Action: Draft Statement of Intent will be revisited after the Review discussions	
3.6	Backbone Team EO Report: BBT EO, Dr Deb Hartman Deb's Learnings and Reflections: - Crazy, ambitious project with so much complexity and some flaws - We are still working out how to do this work and reposition ourselves - Despite this we have done some amazing things - Community members have stayed the course and been here forever and have said the same things so many times - New people are stepping up and the community's power in this work is consolidating. - Govt people are starting to shift and we need to honour that they are starting to listen. Advice: You need to listen more and empower your local staff - Govt can't do the systems change- Govts job is to create stable institutions that listen and learn when they are not working - Strong Backbone Team with a strong new EO incoming - Having a local dedicated amazing woman as the Chair has been an incredible support for the EO role and the BRD		
	None advised		
5.1	Review of meeting and communique topics decided, decision on venue of next meeting - Ali Curung Youth Centre - Review Received – agreed next steps - Progress on Training and Youth Initiatives - New GT members - Farewell to Deb and Hello to incoming EO Danielle Tucker - DSS Stronger Places Stronger People Workshop in Sydney		
5.2	Next Meeting Date: 11 September 2025 (note change of date) (venue BBT office) Future Meetings: 20 November 2025 (TC)	Backbone to update invitations for Sept 10 workshop and Sept 11 GT	
5.3	Photo and Celebration of Milestones Speeches from Backbone Team		
	Meeting close		

10.00 Morning Tea

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12.30 Lunch

GT Meeting Close - 3.30 pm