



That's a wrap for 2025!

What a big year 2025 has been for the Barkly Regional Deal! With just over three years remaining on the ten-year commitment, the GT have been continuing to work towards delivering on the 28 initiatives. At the November GT meeting we were able to close initiative 27 (update council website with Aboriginal history) and initiative 28 (marketing and promotion). Jump on the Barkly Regional Council Website and check out the upgrades. We also had good news recently that the Student Boarding Facility (initiative 18) is out for tender – watch this space for further updates.

Working Groups

One of the mechanisms we have for progressing work on the initiatives is through our working groups. At the November GT meeting we did a 'working group stocktake', closing those that have served their purpose and reinvesting in the groups that still have work to do. Three new working groups have started, one of these being the Community Mediation WG which will support the delivery of initiative 25 in the community living areas (CLAs). It was inspiring to see the interest in the Barkly Economic Growth and Workforce Development (BEGWD) working group. This group played a role in the delivery of the Regional Workforce Strategy (initiative 1) and the Economic Growth Strategy (initiative 8). One of the focus areas for the group and its new members will be to ensure the good work that has been done through the development of these strategies is fed into the other regional planning platforms.

Governance Review

A major milestone for 2025 was the delivery of the BRD Governance Review. The purpose of the review was to:

- Ensure the governance of the BRD continues to evolve in alignment with community aspirations and strategic outcomes
- Initiate structural reform grounded in self-determination
- Embed lasting governance transformation in the region

A position paper was developed which outlines a vision for the future and calls upon the three tiers of Government to work in partnership with the ACCO and community sector beyond the life of the Deal to continue to address social issues in the Barkly. The Governance Strategy Working Group provide input and guidance for this important piece of work. The immediate request is for the three tiers of Government and the community to come together and sign a renewed Statement of Commitment. We are looking forward to working together on this early in the new year.

Future Focus

Our priorities for 2026 are already taking shape. We will have a strong focus on delivery of the remaining 28 initiatives whilst we continue to progress the outcomes of the Governance Review. We have also renewed the commitment to look at the Government Investment Service System Review (GISSR - initiative 14) as a way of understanding what is happening in the service sector and key data and evidence that should inform regional decision-making.

We will be kicking off the first GT in March 2026 with initiative driven presentations on the Youth Justice Facility update (initiative 4), Crisis Youth Support (initiative 15) and the Department of Education plans for the Student Boarding Facility (initiative 18). To date we have:

- 10 initiatives officially completed
- 8 initiatives ongoing and closed at the end of the deal
- 10 initiatives still open with work underway

The Backbone Team will continue to support the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning approach of the BRD through the Measuring Change Working group and with input from the wonderful RJED funded Community Researcher Team. One of the initiatives they will be looking at is the consultation that was undertaken for the Visitor Park (initiative 13). We would also like to take a moment here to say WELL DONE to our Researchers who have all now completed their Certificate II in Community Services! What a great effort and outcome.

All the best for the holiday season

As we sign off, we would like to farewell those that have been part of the BRD story this year and have moved on and welcome the new faces who have joined the GT and the BBT in 2025. And finally, a big congratulations to GT members, Barkly Aboriginal Alliance, for their incorporation this year! What a great outcome for our remote communities and Homelands to have this representation. All the very best for the festive season, stay safe and enjoy your break. See you all back here in 2026!



The next: Governance Table meeting

is scheduled for March 2026.
It will be held at the BRD
Backbone Office from 8:30
am to 3:30 pm