



Barkly Regional Deal Information Note – December 2018

What is the Barkly Regional Deal?

The Barkly Regional Deal is a joint partnership between the three levels of government to support the economic and social development of the region.

The then Prime Minister, Northern Territory Chief Minister and Barkly Regional Council Mayor announced the Barkly Regional Deal in July 2018.

Statement of Intent and funding

The Minister for Regional Services, Senator Bridget McKenzie, the Northern Territory Chief Minister Michael Gunner and the Barkly Regional Council Mayor Steve Edgington signed a Statement of Intent on Monday 10 December 2018 committing the three levels of government to work together with the Barkly community to design and implement the Barkly Regional Deal.

A joint commitment of \$60 million for the Barkly Regional Deal was announced by the Australian Government, the Northern Territory Government and the Barkly Regional Council when the Statement was signed.

The Statement of Intent recognises the vision and aspiration of the Barkly community to build a stronger, prosperous and inclusive region for current and future generations. Responding to the economic and social challenges facing the region and making the most of new opportunities depends on the determination and leadership of the local community. The statement acknowledges the strongest asset in the Barkly region is its people. Importantly, it recognises the ongoing connection of Aboriginal people to country as traditional owners and custodians of the land. The statement welcomes the involvement of Aboriginal leaders and communities in shaping the deal to ensure it aligns with their aspirations and priorities.

Where did the Regional Deal idea come from?

The idea for a Barkly Regional Deal was put forward by the Barkly Regional Council Mayor when he met the then Prime Minister in June 2018 and invited him to visit Tennant Creek.

Regional Deals are being developed based on the City Deals model and aim to improve the productivity and liveability of a region by stimulating economic growth. City Deals are up and running in Townsville, Launceston, Western Sydney, and Darwin and are in development in other locations—Adelaide, Hobart, Geelong and Perth. Deals support a 'place-based approach' by putting community-identified priorities at the centre and involve all levels of government, the private sector and other partners supporting local leadership and community aspiration.

Once finalised, the Barkly Regional Deal will be the first regional deal in Australia.

What are the key priorities in the Barkly region?

Since conversations started about the Barkly Regional Deal in July 2018, the following themes and priorities have been put forward and further developed by Aboriginal community members, local business leaders and the wider community:

Economic development

- Investing in local job creation
- Promoting business growth and attraction in tourism, agribusiness and mining
- Attracting industry investment
- Developing a local workforce strategy

Social development

- Addressing overcrowding and increasing the supply of housing
- Strengthening family functioning and wellbeing
- Improving education and training outcomes



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- Strengthening community safety
- Improving the collaboration, coordination and accountability of services across the region

Cultural and place-making

- Strengthening community governance and Aboriginal cultural leadership
- Revitalising towns and communities by improving local amenity and investing in community infrastructure
- Promoting and marketing local events

These themes and priorities are being used to identify specific initiatives and actions that could be included in the deal.

Central and critical to the deal is supporting the Barkly Aboriginal leadership develop responses to local priorities that reflect Aboriginal cultural values. By working in partnership with the local Aboriginal peoples, governments, the business sector and the wider community can work together to improve educational, employment and social outcomes.

Next steps

The Barkly community is at the heart of the regional deal and will be involved throughout its development and implementation. Local leadership is needed to drive and make the deal a success in the long-term. Governments are consulting with community on a governance structure that will reflect the diversity of the Barkly and oversee implementation of the deal over a ten year period.

The first round of consultations about the regional deal commenced in October 2018 and the second round in December 2018. The purpose of the first consultation round was to confirm the priorities raised over the last six months were the right ones to focus on. The second consultations were about confirming the themes and priorities so that governments and

community could start developing proposals for the deal that support these priorities.

The next round of consultations is planned for February 2019.

The Barkly Regional Deal will be announced after the priorities, initiatives and actions have been agreed between the government partners and the Barkly community.