## 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.

## 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 livability of a region by stimulating economic growth. City Deals are up and running in Townsville, Launceston and Western Sydney and are in development in four other locations—Darwin, 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 priorities have been put forward by Aboriginal community members, local business leaders and the wider community:

• Addressing overcrowding, visitor accommodation shortages and increasing affordable housing options

• Local job creation and reducing youth unemployment

• Promoting economic growth opportunities in tourism, agribusiness, industry and mining

• Strengthening community, family and child safety

• Reducing alcohol and youth-related crime

• Increasing school attendance rates

• Investing in community infrastructure

• Improving the collaboration, coordination and accountability of services in the region.

These priorities are being used as a starting point 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.

The first round of consultations about the regional deal commenced in October 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 next round of consultations is planned for December 2018. The deal will be announced after the priorities, initiatives and actions have been agreed between the Australian Government, Northern Territory Government and the Barkly Regional Council.