



Barkly Regional Deal—October 2018 consultation report

The Barkly Regional Deal is a joint partnership between the Commonwealth Government, Northern Territory Government and Barkly Regional Council to support the economic and social development of the Barkly region.

Departmental officers from the Australian Government (Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities, and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet) and the Northern Territory Government (Department of the Chief Minister) undertook a series of initial community consultations in Tennant Creek, Ali Curung and Mungkarta outstation from Wednesday 24 to Friday 26 October 2018. Separate meetings were also held with the Barkly Regional Council as one of the key government partners leading the development of the regional deal.

The purpose of the consultations was to continue discussions about the proposed priorities for the Barkly Regional Deal that was announced by the former Prime Minister, Northern Territory Chief Minister and the Barkly Regional Council Mayor in July 2018. The Australian and Northern Territory Governments wanted to ensure the priorities, aspirations and interests of the Barkly community were heard and understood because they will be central to the design of the deal.

Meetings were held with the following committees, groups and organisations:

- Ali Curung service provider meeting—16 representatives from various local service providers (*Wednesday 24/10*)
- Patta Aboriginal Corporation—four traditional owners from the Prescribed Body Corporate (*Thursday 25/10*)
- Northern Territory Government Regional Coordination Group—seven government representatives from Police, Education, Families, Housing, Health and Infrastructure and Planning (*Thursday 25/10*)
- 10 Aboriginal community leaders from the cultural authority working group (*Thursday 25/10*)
- Combined Aboriginal Organisations Group (CAOG)—five representatives from Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation, Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation and Papulu Apparr-Kari Aboriginal Corporation (*Thursday 25/10*)
- Tennant Creek Regional Economic Development Committee—11 representatives from various local businesses and organisations (*Friday 26/10*)
- Mungkarta community meeting—17 community members and various local representatives from the Northern Territory Government (*Friday 26/10*).

A community forum was also held on Thursday 25 October 2018 (from 3.30 to 5pm). The community forum was organized to provide the wider Barkly community with an opportunity to learn about the Barkly Regional Deal, ask questions and share their priorities for the deal. Approximately 15 community members attended the forum.

The attached diagram was used to focus discussions on community priorities. There was consistent and strong agreement about the key priorities for the Barkly Regional Deal from the consultations, and broad agreement to the framework proposed in that diagram.

The next round of community consultations is scheduled for early December 2018 and will include Elliot and other communities and outstations across the Barkly region.



Key priorities and ideas from the community consultation

These are some of the issues that have emerged through a number of discussions and consultations. They will be refined and tested over coming months.

Economic

- Creating local jobs and reducing fly-in fly-out workforce.
- Increasing housing supply (social and affordable housing) and reducing overcrowding from visitors from outlying communities.
- Attracting new investment and industries to the region.
- Increasing support for local businesses and small enterprises.
- Reducing unemployment, including youth unemployment.
- Improving the current delivery of the Community Development Program (CDP) program and transitioning participants to real jobs.
- Providing more apprenticeships and traineeships for young people.
- Developing a public and private sector investment foresighting process for the region to identify future job growth and supply-chain (business) opportunities.

Cultural and place-making

- Ensuring the Barkly Regional Deal benefits the whole region, including bush communities and outstations.
- Re-establishing a community governance group that brings together all relevant stakeholders in the community, including government, non-government, private sector, the Aboriginal community and the wider community to drive local solutions.
- Ensuring the CDP program responds to community identified priorities.
- Supporting inclusive Aboriginal cultural leadership across the Barkly region.
- Developing 'community plans' for outlying communities and outstations.
- Developing local solutions to priorities that reflect Aboriginal cultural values and practices.

Social

- Improving community and child safety, and reducing community conflicts.
- Reducing youth and property related crime.
- Increasing school attendance and improving the level and type of support provided to young people.
- Reducing alcohol consumption and gambling.
- Improving coordination between local government and non-government service providers to reduce duplication and address service gaps.
- Increasing opportunities for students to board during the week and return home on the weekends (in Tennant Creek, communities and outstations).
- Increasing access to childcare and integrated childhood services.
- Delivering localised cultural awareness training for all frontline service providers.

For more information about the Barkly Regional Deal, please contact media@infrastructure.gov.au