

Barkly Regional Deal



Australian Government



BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



Foreword

The Barkly region in the Northern Territory is known as having a ‘heart of gold’. This description applies as much to the people as it does to the rich natural resources of the land. The Barkly region has a proud heritage but more importantly, it has a prosperous future that encompasses Aboriginal culture, caring for country and land rights, through to the burgeoning economic opportunities in Northern Australia from the resources, tourism, agriculture and energy sectors. The 10 year Barkly Regional Deal—

Australia’s first ever Regional Deal— aims to build on these strengths to improve the productivity and liveability of the Barkly region by stimulating economic growth, improving social outcomes and supporting local Aboriginal leadership. The deal recognises the future vision of the Barkly community to build a stronger, prosperous and inclusive region for current and future generations.

Unlocking new opportunities and responding to the economic and

social challenges facing the region will depend on the determination and leadership of the local community. All three levels of government— the Australian Government, the Northern Territory Government and the Barkly Regional Council— will continue to work closely with the Barkly community, including Aboriginal peoples, local business leaders, young people and non-government organisations, to ensure the Barkly Regional Deal supports the community’s vision and aspiration.



Senator the Hon
Bridget McKenzie



The Hon Michael Gunner MLA
Chief Minister of the
Northern Territory



Mr Steven Edgington
Mayor, Barkly Regional Council

Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian Government, Northern Territory Government and the Barkly Regional Council acknowledge the Aboriginal peoples who live in the Barkly region. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we strive towards a shared goal of a united community working together. We pay our respects to the

ancestors and Elders of this land, past and present. The Australian Government, Northern Territory Government and the Barkly Regional Council respect the Barkly Aboriginal peoples’ unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land and waters, and their rich contribution to society.

Aboriginal Community Statement— Barkly Region

We, the Aboriginal people from the Barkly region, have a connection to our traditional lands and waters, passed on through our ancestors, which continues today through our unique languages, cultures and histories.

We acknowledge our Elders; those who have gone before us; those with us today; those who are emerging and will lay down the foundation for our future.

We acknowledge those who have settled on our land, introducing

other languages, cultures and having their own histories; developing our lands to accommodate the demands of Australian society; providing the benefits that this development has to offer. Past developments have been undertaken without our involvement and consultation, or understanding of our needs.

We invite all levels of government, business, service providers and the communities throughout the Barkly

region to work with and involve us in the planning and delivery of social, cultural and economic activities to ensure the opportunities which arise are for the benefit of us all.

We commit to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to strengthen our relationships, identify opportunities and deliver sustainable outcomes through a process based on mutual respect, understanding and acceptance of our differences.

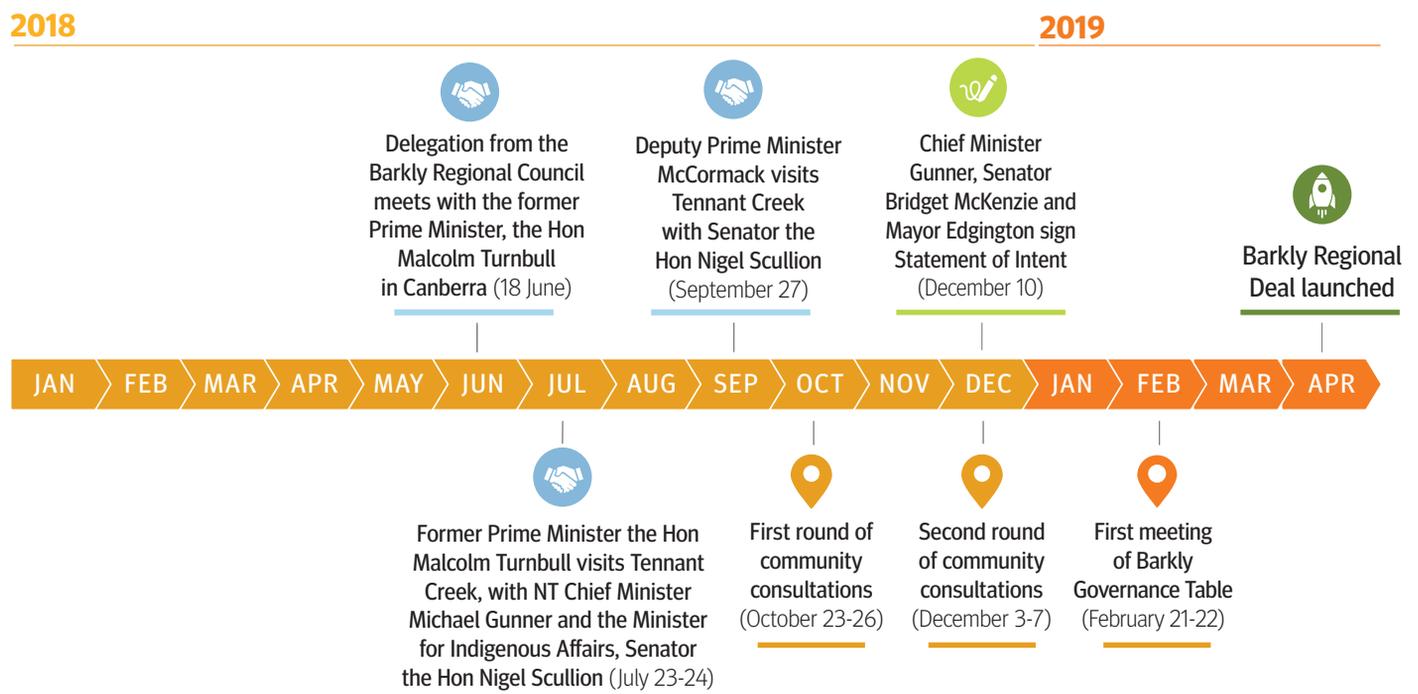


The story of the Barkly Regional Deal

The Barkly Regional Deal demonstrates how cooperation between the three levels of government and local community members can drive positive change in the community. The Prime Minister, Chief Minister and the Mayor, acting together through their offices, put together a long term plan for the sustainability of the Barkly region. The former Prime Minister visited Tennant Creek at the invitation of the Barkly Regional Council Mayor Steven Edgington in July 2018, with the Northern Territory Chief Minister, Michael Gunner and the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, and agreed the Barkly region would be a good place to forge a Regional Deal. The two day visit involved meeting with community members to better understand the community's needs and aspirations, and reinforcing the community's determination to chart a better future for their children. The Barkly Regional Deal is the first Regional Deal in Australia and involves the three levels of government working together to respond to community-identified priorities to improve economic and social outcomes. Since the deal was announced in July 2018 there has been strong commitment to involving the Barkly community throughout its development and implementation.

When the Statement of Intent was signed in December 2018 a commitment was made by the three levels of government to develop and negotiate the Barkly Regional Deal with the broader community, including Aboriginal peoples. Consultations occurred with over 200 people from Tennant Creek, Elliott, Alpururulam, Ali Curung, Mungkarta, Canteen Creek and Epenarra (Wutungurra) and a Barkly Governance Table has been established to give practical effect to this commitment, bringing together Traditional Owners and representatives from the 16 language groups across the Barkly region, Aboriginal organisations, youth, business leaders and the non-government sector with the three levels of government. The Governance Table is the overarching governance body that will lead the development and implementation of the Barkly Regional Deal to boost economic development, improve social conditions and reinforce the region's strong Aboriginal culture and history over the next 10 years.

Timing for the preparations for the deal



Barkly Regional Deal Snapshot

28 initiatives and \$78.4 million in new investment

The 28 initiatives respond to three community priority areas:

- economic development
- social development
- culture and place-making.

The three priority areas were identified by the Barkly community during consultations about the Barkly Regional Deal and each are interdependent.

Economic and social development are key components of regional development—one cannot occur without the other—and culture and place are critical to ensuring the growth and development of the region is based on the priorities of the local community. Aboriginal leadership is critical to the success of the Barkly Regional Deal.

The total value of the Barkly Regional Deal includes:

- \$45.4 million from the Australian Government
- \$30 million from the Northern Territory Government
- \$3 million from the Barkly Regional Council.



Economic Development
\$37.97M

Development and implementation of a regional workforce strategy	\$1M
Youth Infrastructure	\$7.62M
Barkly Business Hub	\$2.2M
Construction of a new alternative to detention secure accommodation facility	\$5.55M
New housing builds	Ongoing
Justice Infrastructure Investments	\$3.40M
Upgrade Alpururulam airstrip (Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program)	Ongoing
Economic growth strategy	\$0.3M
Maximising Aboriginal employment	Ongoing
Barkly Mining and Energy Services Hub	Ongoing
Weather radar	\$17.9M
Improvements to delivery of the Community Development Program (CDP)	Ongoing



Social Development
\$31.75M

Tennant Creek Visitor Park	\$9.5M
Government investment services system reform	\$0.6M
Crisis youth support – safe places and accommodation	\$3M
Trauma informed care	\$3M
Multi-purpose accommodation facility	\$0.25M
Student boarding accommodation	\$12.7M
Social and affordable housing private-public partnership	\$1.9M
Community sports	\$0.8M
Aged care services in the Barkly region	Ongoing
Childcare places	Ongoing



Culture and place-making
\$8.65M

Barkly local community projects fund	\$6M
Local community governance	\$1M
Community mediation	\$1.65M
Arts Centre in Elliott	Ongoing
Update Council website about Aboriginal history	Ongoing
Marketing and promotion	Ongoing

Section 1

Overview of the Barkly Region

The Barkly region in the Northern Territory is the second largest local government area in Australia centred around the junction of two great highways—the Stuart and Barkly. The region stretches from south of the old Telegraph Station at Barrow Creek in the south to the historical droving township of Newcastle Waters in the north. The largest town in the region is Tennant Creek (with a population of 3,252), approximately 1000km south of Darwin and 500km north of Alice Springs. The Barkly region is known for its million acre cattle stations, gold mining heritage, iconic rock formations and strong Aboriginal culture.

The population of the region is estimated to be around 7,392 with approximately 72 per cent of the population made up of 16 Aboriginal language groups. Many Aboriginal people speak several languages with English being a third or fourth language—over 50 per cent of the population over 15 years of age speak a language other than English at home. There are 10 language groups with traditional ownership connections to the land, namely the Warumungu, Warlmanpa, Warlpiri, Wakaya, Jingili, Mudburra, Kaytetye, Alyawarr, Anmatyerre and Wambaya.

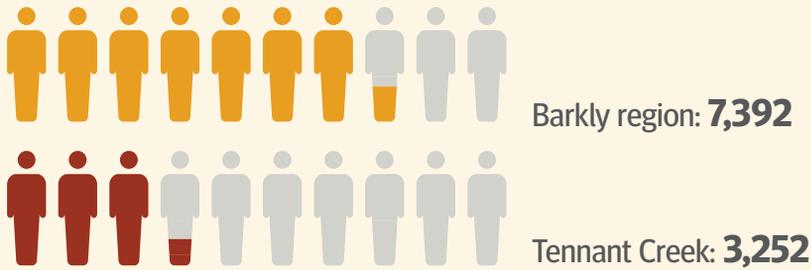




Aboriginal leadership is strong across the Barkly region and is expressed through various representative groups, including land councils, Aboriginal controlled organisations, Traditional Owners and native title groups.

Fast Facts about the Barkly region and Tennant Creek

Population

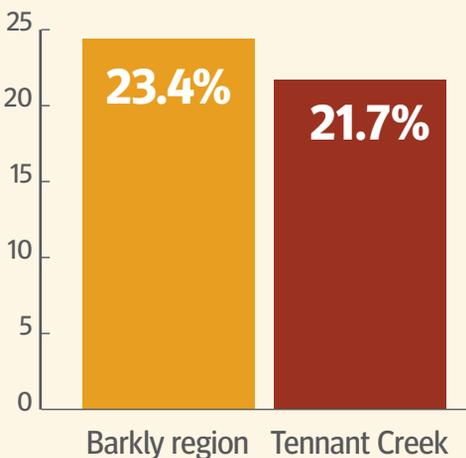


Aboriginal population



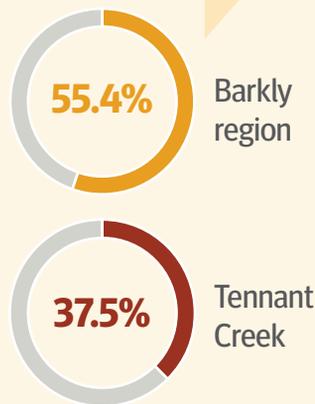
Single parent families

Higher proportion of single parent families than Northern Territory (16.6%) and Australia (15.8%).



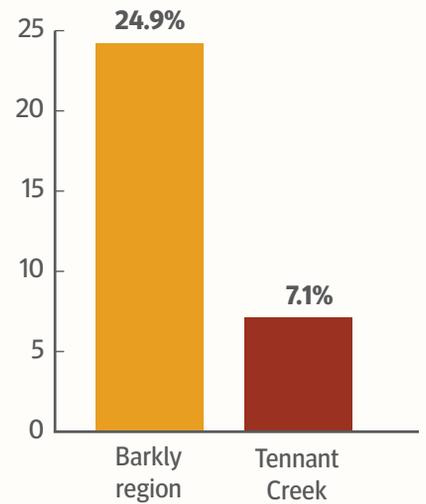
Speaking Language

Higher proportion of people who speak a language other than English at home than Northern Territory (33.7%) and Australia (22.3%).



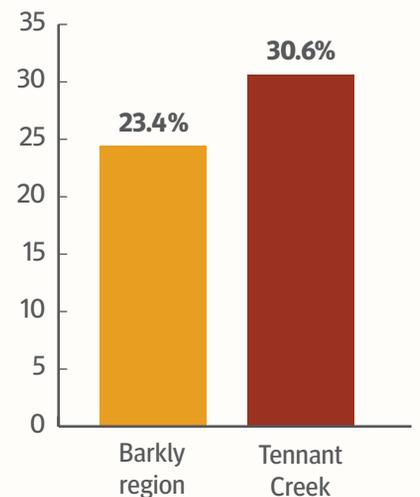
Unemployment

3.5 times the rate of unemployment in the Barkly region compared to Tennant Creek.



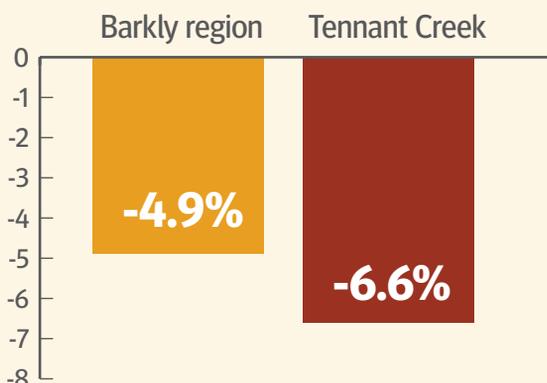
Aboriginal employment

The Aboriginal employment rate is lower across the Barkly region than Tennant Creek and Northern Territory overall (31.2%).



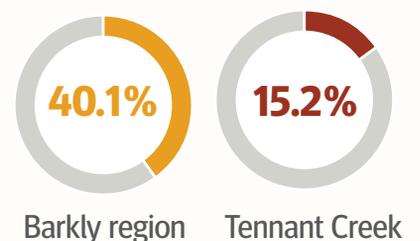
Population growth

Negative population growth over the last 10 years from 2008 to 2018.



Youth unemployment

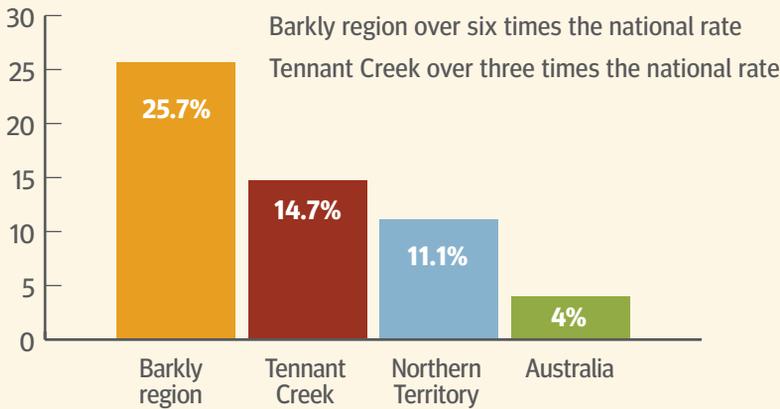
The youth unemployment rate in the Barkly region is more than twice as high as Tennant Creek.



See page 31 for the data sources. Note, the Barkly region refers to the Barkly Local Government Area (LGA) and Tennant Creek refers to the SA2.

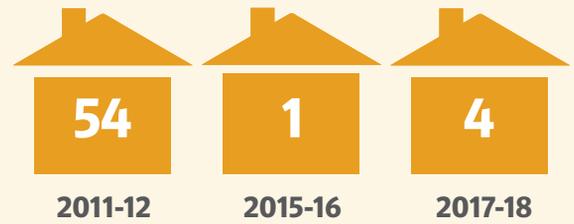
Overcrowding

Substantially higher proportion of houses with overcrowded conditions than Northern Territory (11.1%) and Australia (4%) in 2016:



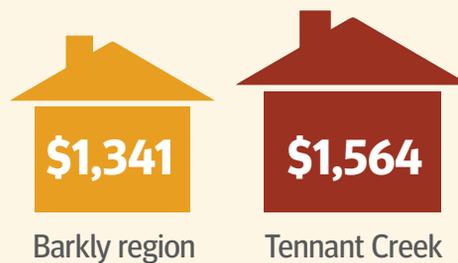
Dwelling approvals

Significant variability in annual dwelling approvals from 2010-11 to 2017-18.

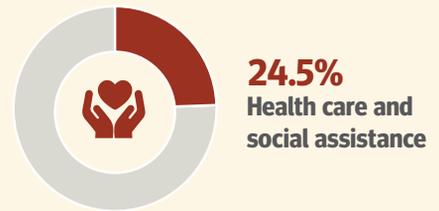


Weekly household income

Both have lower median weekly household income than Northern Territory (\$1,967) and Tennant Creek is higher than Australia (\$1,438). Note, these figures are influenced by the high rates of overcrowding.



Top five employing industries in Tennant Creek



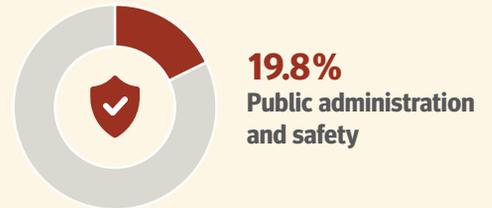
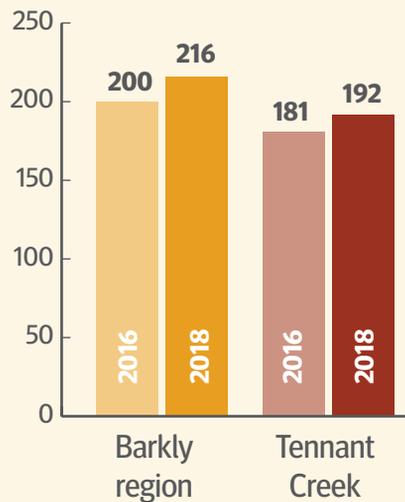
Government support

Higher proportion of people receiving government pensions or allowances than Northern Territory (170 per 1000 persons) and Australia overall (206 per 1000 persons).



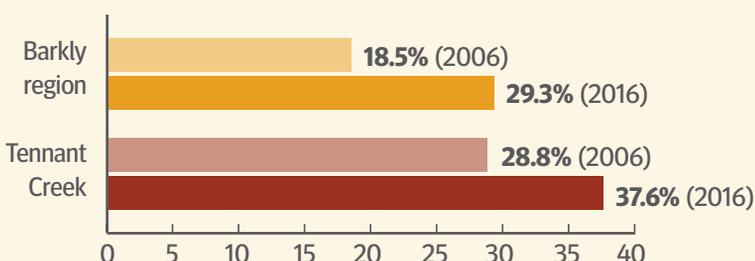
Local businesses

Increase in the number of local businesses trading since June 2016.



Vocational training and higher education

Lower proportion of working age population with a Certificate III or higher education qualification compared to Northern Territory (47.5%) and Australia (56.9%).





Local stories **of the Barkly region**

Desert Harmony Festival

Every year the Desert Harmony Festival brings together the region's culturally diverse population for a weekend of music, dance, art, film, food, theatre, workshops and cultural activities. Hosted by Barkly Regional Arts on Patta Warumungu land, the festival showcases local talent and gives 5,000 visitors and locals alike the opportunity to become immersed in the Aboriginal and multi-cultural life of our outback region. The Festival celebrates its 30th year on 3-4 August in 2019 with the theme 'My Arts, My Culture'. For more information, go to www.desertharmonyfestival.com or www.barklyarts.com.au

Gold mining in Tennant Creek

Gold was discovered in Tennant Creek in 1826 by J. Smith Roberts but Australia's last gold rush did not commence in earnest until the 1930s. Tennant Creek rapidly grew from a region mostly inhabited by Traditional Owners to a town with a population of about 600 people within a few years, eager to strike it rich. Until 1995, Tennant Creek was home to the third largest open-cut mine in Australia. In addition to gold, a range of other minerals including bauxite, phosphate and copper are found in the Barkly region. Tourists to Tennant Creek can visit the Battery Hill Mining Centre, which offers underground tours to explore the old mines, and the historic No 3 Government Gold Stamp Battery that crushed the mine material to extract gold.

Tennant Creek Grog War 1986 to 1996

The Grog War in Tennant Creek is a remarkable story of Aboriginal achievement and self-determination to develop workable solutions for a better future. The war against grog lasted 10 years—from 1986 to 1996—and enforced restrictions on the sale of alcohol for the entire population of Tennant Creek to prevent excessive drinking by some members of the community. While the war on alcohol and substance abuse continues, the Grog War in the 80s and 90s remains an example of Aboriginal peoples' strength, determination and persistence to devise and implement practical solutions to protect themselves and their culture. For more information, read *Grog War*, Alexis Wright, 1997.



Paterson Street Hub

Paterson Street Hub is a community space on the main street in Tennant Creek for community members to meet, share ideas and stories, connect with each other and seek assistance. The Hub has been established in partnership between a philanthropic supporter, First Peoples Disability Network Australia and local community members. Between 25 to 60 community members drop into the Hub on a daily basis to participate in a range of activities including information sessions, reading books and magazines, singing and drumming, having informal 'pop-up' chats about local community matters and events, cooking, connecting and playing with their babies and toddlers, and becoming involved in art projects. The aim of the Hub is to strengthen and support the social fabric of the Barkly community by celebrating the connections between people.

First native title consent determination within a town—Patta Warumungu People's Native Title determination recognised

In September 2007, Tennant Creek became the first town in Australia to have a native title determination made by consent. The Federal Court of Australia recognised the Patta Warumungu people's native title

rights and interests within the town of Tennant Creek, which include: to live, travel over and access the land and waters, hunt, gather, share and exchange natural resources, teach and conduct ceremonies and other traditional activities, access and maintain places of cultural importance, and make decisions about the use of the Recognition Area by Aboriginal people who recognise themselves as governed by Aboriginal traditional laws and customs.

The native title determination involved years of complex negotiations by the Central Land Council, representatives of the Patta Warumungu people, and the Northern Territory Government and included consultation with the local council and mining operators.

Aboriginal owned freehold in the Northern Territory—a new way to advance economic development

The Arruwurra Aboriginal Corporation holds one of the largest Aboriginal owned freehold properties in the Northern Territory. It is approximately 5,110 square kilometres and home to one of the largest undeveloped phosphate deposits in Australia. The freehold was granted to the Arruwurra Aboriginal Corporation in 1989 and the members of the corporation are Arruwurra people who have traditional rights over the Arruwurra freehold. The Arruwurra people are

committed to maximizing resource, agriculture and pastoral development on their land and will continue to work with the Waramungu people, other Aboriginal native title holders and all language groups across the Barkly region to improve economic and social outcomes.

Ankinyi Wirranjiki Night Patrol—the first in Australia

Night patrols play a vital role in community safety in the Northern Territory by helping break the cycle of violence and crime, and supporting intoxicated people who are unable to care for themselves. The Ankinyi Wirranjiki Night Patrol—which means 'it's ours to protect and watch over'—is managed by Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation. It is one of the oldest community-initiated movements, starting in the 1980s when senior Aboriginal Elders volunteered to do foot patrols at night. Patrols operate every night in Tennant Creek and staff members are supported to earn a Certificate III in Community Night Patrol which provides participants with the skills to prevent anti-social behaviours and promote conflict resolution. Other communities around the Northern Territory and Australia have since followed in the footsteps of Tennant Creek and operate night patrols to support and care for community members.



What are **Regional Deals**?

Regional Deals are part of the Australian Government's new place-based approach to regional development. They have been adapted from the highly successful City Deal model and bring together the Australian, State and Territory, and local governments to maximise the comparative advantages of regional Australia through greater collaboration, alignment and coordination of regional investment priorities. Comparative advantages may relate to natural resources, labour resources or capital resources, such as existing infrastructure.

Regional Deals encourage a 'reform and transform' approach to maximise economic growth in regional communities. They aim to:

- **Strengthen** regional resilience
- **Facilitate** collaboration across various parts of the community
- **Invest** in local leadership, capability and capacity
- **Translate** regional comparative advantages into business competitiveness.

All Regional Deals involve respectful, informed and inclusive engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in recognition of First Nations peoples' ongoing connection to country as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land.

The Barkly Regional Deal is the first pilot Regional Deal in Australia and was announced in July 2018 when the former Prime Minister visited Tennant Creek for two days at the invitation of the Barkly Regional Council to discuss the future growth of the region.

To date, three Regional Deal pilots have been announced in Australia. The other two Regional Deals in development are for the Bundaberg-Hervey Bay region (named the Hinkler Regional Deal) in Queensland and Albury-Wodonga on the New South Wales and Victoria border. The lessons and experiences from the Barkly, Hinkler and Albury-Wodonga Regional Deals will inform how and where future Regional Deals are rolled out as part of the Australian Government's commitment to investing in regional Australia.



Vision for the **Barkly Region**

The Barkly Regional Deal aims to improve the productivity and liveability of the Barkly region by stimulating economic growth and improving social outcomes, including reducing overcrowding and improving child safety.

Key components of the Barkly Regional Deal include:

- **\$78.4 million** package of initiatives co-funded by the Australian Government, the Northern Territory Government and the Barkly Regional Council—the majority of this new investment will be expended over the first three years
- **28 economic, social and cultural initiatives** to be implemented across the Barkly region
- **10 year timeframe**—until 2029
- **Community governance framework** to drive the implementation of the Barkly Regional Deal, including a Governance Table
- **Long-term reform** to government funded and delivered services in collaboration with the community.



Current investment in the Barkly region— Australian Government, Northern Territory Government and Barkly Regional Council

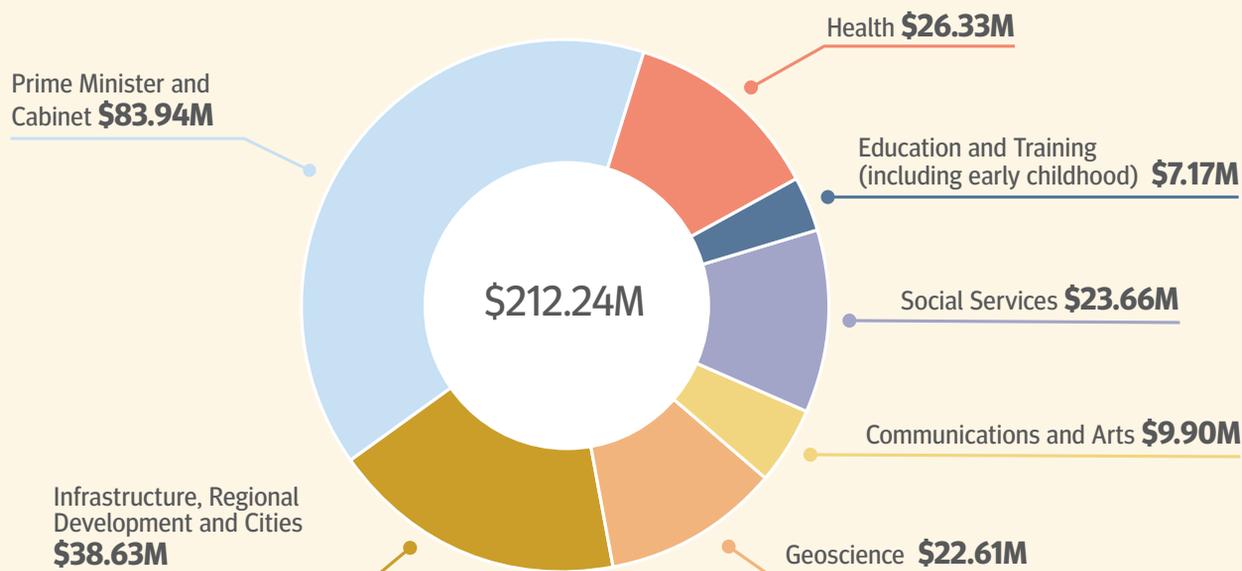
The Australian Government, the Northern Territory Government and the Barkly Regional Council provide substantial government investment to deliver a range of services in the Barkly region. The following information provides estimates of the current levels and patterns of government service expenditure for the region based on available data.

Caution needs to be exercised in interpreting the estimates because it

excludes some types of government expenditure, including universal safety net services such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme, social security payments and some grants made under the formula determined by the Commonwealth Grants Commission. The timeframe of funding also varies (for example, some funding amounts are until 2028). The purpose of these estimates is to provide a snapshot of current investment levels and patterns at one point in time (as at March 2019).

Improving the efficiency, effectiveness and appropriateness of existing government investment will be a key feature of the Barkly Regional Deal over the next 10 years. The three levels of government are committed to improving the economic and social conditions of the region to enable current and future generations of children and young people to reach their full potential.

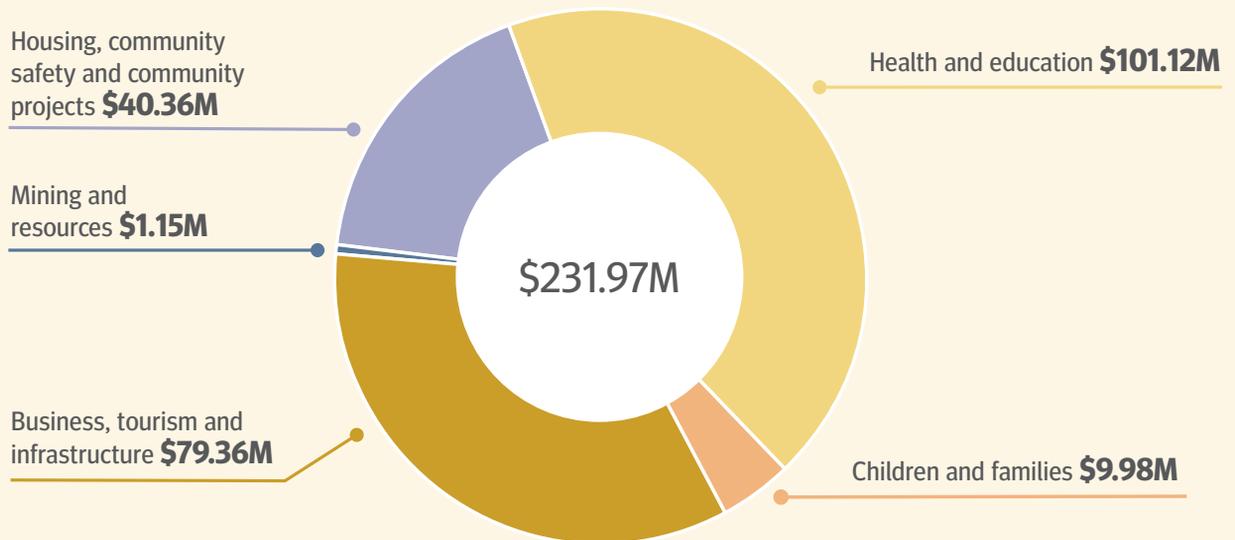
Australian Government—\$212.24M



Some of the services include:

- over \$36.3M for road upgrades to support economic growth and improve access to communities and export markets
- \$22.6M for Geoscience Australia to map underground mineral, energy and water resources
- \$4.5M to enable Aboriginal artists to create new work and engage in the art market
- \$2.3M through 'Connected Beginnings' program to integrate early childhood, maternal and child health, and family support services with schools in Tennant Creek to support 0-5 year old Indigenous children's school readiness
- \$2.3M to reduce smoking rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- \$1.8M to assist with the capture, revival and maintenance of Aboriginal languages

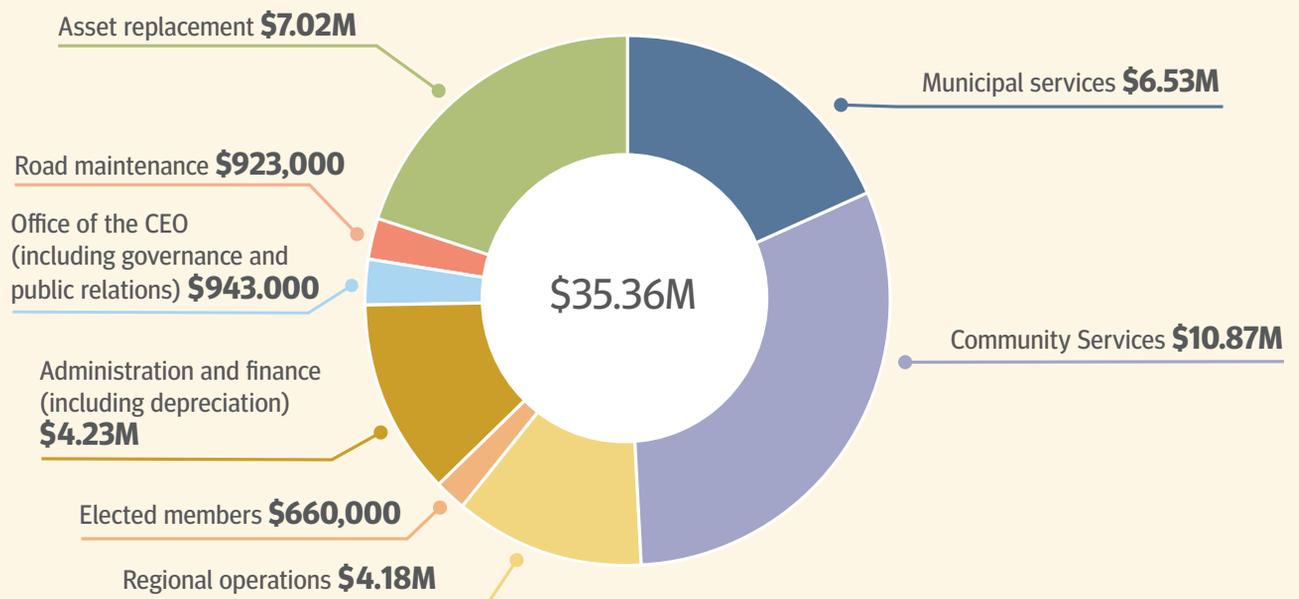
Northern Territory Government – \$231.97M



Some of the services include:

- \$9M for Purkiss Reserve sporting upgrades
- \$6.3M for new pre-school plus integrated child and family centre
- \$5.5M for Elliott town camp housing investment
- \$5.5M to accelerate tourism as part of the Turbocharging Tourism action plan
- \$5M for a new residential rehabilitation and treatment centre operated by the Barkly Region Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Group (BRADAAG)

Barkly Regional Council – \$35.36M



Some of the services include:

- \$2.4M for the night patrol program
- \$2.3M for youth programs
- \$1.2M for parks and gardens maintenance
- \$527,000 for managing and operating the swimming pool
- \$272,000 for environmental management services
- \$30,000 for a community grants program

Section 2

Overview of the Barkly Regional Deal



Economic Development

A key focus of the Barkly Regional Deal is supporting the economic growth of the region, creating local jobs and maximising untapped opportunities in the resources, agriculture and tourism sectors. The deal will target investment decisions to accelerate regional economic development and strengthen the resilience of the region to respond to future shifts in the economy. This will include diversifying the industry and employment composition of the region and building the knowledge, skills and capability of the local workforce.

Headline initiatives

Development and implementation of a regional workforce strategy

The Northern Territory Government will build local capability by providing training and development opportunities in areas of high economic potential (mining, construction, essential services, tourism, road-building, housing-related services such as tenancy and property management, and health services). The strategy will identify current employment opportunities and ensure training options are in line with employment opportunities in Tennant Creek and across the region. Existing training and employment programs will be strengthened to deliver better employment outcomes.

Lead responsibility:
Northern Territory Government

Youth infrastructure

The Australian Government will invest \$7.6 million in youth-focused infrastructure in communities across the Barkly through the Building Better

Regions Fund. The funding will be used to replace the Youth Links Youth Centre in Tennant Creek, build a cycling and walking path from Weaber Road to Blain Street and construct a new Sport and Recreation Centre in Ali Curung. The Barkly Regional Council will be contributing \$400,000 to these projects in addition to in-kind support to complete the construction projects. This investment is expected to support 50 jobs during construction and 35 ongoing jobs.

In addition to stimulating economic activity during construction, the investment will encourage young people to engage in healthy activities, build self-esteem, enhance community cohesion and support school attendance. The youth recreation centres will become a hub for youth and community activities and workshops around sport, arts and culture, meetings and music. The cycle path will promote community safety and encourage more active transport choices. The Barkly Regional Council will maintain and operate these new facilities.

Lead responsibility:
Joint Australian Government and Barkly Regional Council

Barkly Business Hub

A one-stop-shop Barkly Business Hub will be established to support regional business creation and growth by building local business capacity and helping local businesses capitalise on economic opportunities in the region. The Hub will implement the economic growth strategy and support the Barkly Mining and Energy Services Hub.

Functions will include:

- * attracting and facilitating new business investment
- * enhancing and improving the competitiveness of local businesses
- * supporting the growth of small and medium sized businesses across key sectors by providing economic advice, microfinancing and mentoring, and
- * removing barriers to investment such as an accelerated Barkly land tenure process to enable infrastructure and business development.

The Hub will support capability and skill development for businesses and social enterprises, including mentoring and training support, and providing access to government support (for example grants, loans and microfinancing) for small business and enterprise development.

Existing Australian Government funding programs such as the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's Indigenous small business support services and microfinancing will also be leveraged by the Barkly Business Hub. The Northern Territory Government will provide office space and access to existing Northern Territory Government business support services.

Lead responsibility:

Joint Australian Government and Northern Territory Government

Construction of a new alternative to detention secure accommodation facility

This initiative is part of the Back on Track program and supports the recommendations from the *Royal Commission into the Detention and Protection of Children in the Northern Territory*. It will increase the delivery of local services, create employment opportunities, increase support for youth in the justice system and enhance the life course trajectory of young people in the Barkly region.

The Barkly Alternative to Detention Accommodation Facility will keep local young people participating in Back on Track and other programs who are either directed to a program by the courts or referred to a program by police, government agencies or non-government agencies.

The facility responds to regional demand for services and ensures provision of services closer to young people's homes and family. The Back on Track program will help break the cycle of crime by ensuring that young Territorians become better people not better criminals and young people who do the wrong things face the consequences of their actions while also being taught skills to become productive members of the community. The program will involve input and leadership from the Barkly community, working together to come up with innovative solutions to help put kids back on track.

The management and operation of the new facility will provide new employment opportunities in Tennant Creek.

Lead responsibility:

Northern Territory Government



Supporting initiatives

New housing builds

The Northern Territory Government commits to funding government employee housing in order to provide an immediate economic stimulus and ability to return existing stock to public housing to assist with overcrowding in Tennant Creek.

Lead responsibility:
Northern Territory Government

Justice infrastructure investments

The Tennant Creek watch-house will be renovated to upgrade facilities to support families and legal staff to visit prisoners. The Elders at Court program will be reintroduced and videoconference facilities will be installed in Alpururulam and other priority locations.

Lead responsibility:
Northern Territory Government

Alpururulam aerodrome

The Australian and Northern Territory governments will co-invest to upgrade the Alpururulam (Lake Nash) Aerodrome through the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program. This upgrade will enhance the safety and accessibility of the aerodrome to support year-round access for residents, safe aeromedical evacuations and the delivery of essential goods and services to the community.

Lead responsibility:
Joint Australian Government and Northern Territory Government

Economic growth strategy

A regional economic growth strategy will be developed for the Barkly region to encourage private sector growth and diversify existing businesses, including harnessing digital opportunities to expand the marketplace and address barriers to growth. The strategy will:

- Create an investment forecasting pipeline to track existing and new investment and assist the Barkly community to plan for future employment and supply chain opportunities
- Undertake cost/benefit analyses of potential economic project proposals to determine viability
- Support processes for mineral resource development in the Barkly region and related opportunities for local community economic and employment benefits, and
- Assess and remove barriers to investment. For example, an accelerated Barkly land tenure process will enable timely development of government infrastructure and business opportunities, and maximise economic development opportunities for Aboriginal land interests, including Traditional Owners.

Lead responsibility:
Australian Government





Maximising Aboriginal employment

The Australian Government, Northern Territory Government and the Barkly Regional Council will set Aboriginal employment targets across all occupational levels, including leadership and management positions within the local workforce, and procurement targets for goods and services from Aboriginal owned and operated businesses across the supply-chain. The targets will align with the Australian Government Government's Indigenous Procurement Policy (2015) and the Northern Territory existing Special Measures policy and procurement policies. The targets will be reported on annually.

Lead responsibility:

Joint Australian Government, Northern Territory Government and Barkly Regional Council

Barkly Mining and Energy Services Hub

Operating from the Barkly Business Hub, dedicated staff will assist Barkly businesses to understand the

opportunities that mining and energy development may present, and work with local government to provide the infrastructure necessary to attract new investors into the mining and energy industries.

Lead responsibility:

Northern Territory Government

Weather radar

The installation of a new weather radar to provide real-time weather information has been a long-standing issue for the Barkly community since the previous radar was decommissioned in 2015. The Australian Government will invest \$15.4 million over 21 years (2021-22 to 2041-42) for the acquisition, installation, operation and maintenance of a new Doppler weather radar in Tennant Creek with a co-investment of \$2.5 million from the Northern Territory Government. The new S-Band weather radar will provide communities across the Barkly region with more real-time and short-term weather information. The local weather radar will improve road and air travel

safety for community members and local emergency services. In addition it will support agricultural, pastoral, transport and mining industries better manage the impact of rainfall and other weather events on their businesses. The process of site selection will commence in 2019-20 with installation expected to be complete by late 2021-22.

Lead responsibility:

Australian Government (Bureau of Meteorology) with a funding contribution from the Northern Territory Government

Improvements to the delivery of the Community Development Program (CDP)

The Barkly Regional Council will partner with local Community Development Program providers to ensure alignment of the work program with community priorities and create employment pathways for participants.

Lead responsibility:

Barkly Regional Council



Social Development

Improving social outcomes, including reducing overcrowding and improving child safety, is a critical aspect of the Barkly Regional Deal. Substantial investment and activity has been directed towards increasing accommodation options and housing supply in the deal—from transitional and crisis youth accommodation through to affordable housing—in recognition that overcrowding is one of the most pressing issues in the region. A strong relationship exists between overcrowding and other social outcomes including child vulnerability (neglect and abuse), educational outcomes, community conflict, domestic and family violence, youth crime and unemployment. A ‘housing first’ approach has been adopted for the Barkly Regional Deal because without attempting to reduce chronic overcrowding, other long-standing social and economic challenges in the Barkly region are unlikely to improve.

Headline initiatives

Government investment and service system reform

A consistent and repeated issue raised by the Barkly community is the need to strengthen the collaboration, coordination and accountability of government funded and delivered services in the region. The region currently receives around \$200 million per year from the Australian and Northern Territory Governments (based on 2017-18 data) and is administered through 362 programs and services. Better outcomes can be achieved from the existing spend.

The current service system in the Barkly region is fragmented and lacks transparency despite the dedication and commitment of the local workforce. This has resulted in service gaps, duplication, and in some cases, the delivery of ineffective services. This is compounded by the practical challenges of delivering services in a remote location with high levels of entrenched economic and social disadvantage. Frontline government service providers describe their default

way of working as having ‘... no time, no energy, poor mental wellbeing and an inability to stretch further’. *The Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory* (2018) (Royal Commission) found the child, youth and family service system across the Northern Territory to be disjointed, have gross inefficiencies and waste, and be less effective at achieving long lasting benefit. This resulted in lower uptake, access and trust in the services offered. The Royal Commission found that this inefficiency was largely due to a lack of meaningful opportunities for Aboriginal Territorians to be involved in the design and delivery of services that affect them.

In response to the findings of the Royal Commission, on 14 March 2019 the Australian Government tasked the Productivity Commission with examining ways to improve funding arrangements across and within the Australian Government and the Northern Territory Government and the services delivered via these funding arrangements. A priority for the

Barkly Regional Deal is improving and strengthening the local service system to ensure it responds to local priorities and needs, and results in measurable social and economic outcomes across the Barkly region. This long-term reform agenda will be implemented over the life of the Barkly Regional Deal and will be developed and implemented in the context of the Coordinated Funding Framework recommended by the Royal Commission and agreed by the Australian Government and the Northern Territory Government. The Barkly region will be a priority location to commence implementation in the Northern Territory. This will involve:

- Assessment and review of the effectiveness, efficiency and appropriateness of existing government funded and delivered services (currently underway)
- Local community involvement in the planning, design and monitoring of current and future government investment

- Strengthening the coordination and integration of frontline services
- Improving the coordination of government funding to the non-government sector
- Adopting an outcome-based approach to service planning, delivery and performance reporting to improve the accountability of government funding.

Lead responsibility:

Joint Australian Government and Northern Territory Government

Tennant Creek Visitor Park

As part of the Barkly Regional Deal, a dry and secure Tennant Creek Visitor Park will be constructed for transitional and seasonal visitors from outlying communities and will provide a range of accommodation options. The consultation and design phase will investigate the feasibility of designing a scalable (or expandable) model with different

types of accommodation options—such as permanent camping sites, dormitories and cabins—that can flexibly respond to demand throughout the year. The model will identify options to maximise efficiencies and reduce costs, including accessing existing services from the current Aboriginal Hostels Facility (for example, meals) and integrating both service offerings, including a potential redevelopment of the existing Aboriginal Hostels Limited property as part of a larger Visitor Park complex.

The Tennant Creek Visitor Park will be a joint venture between Aboriginal Hostels Limited, the Northern Territory Government and the Barkly Regional Council, with the objective to transfer operational management to a community housing provider or another provider two years after the business model is viable (for an operator) and affordable (for residents). The service design model will be developed in consultation with Traditional Owners, Aboriginal language groups across the region and the local community. Australian Government funding will be used for the consultation, design and

construction phases (capital works) and all ongoing operational funding will be provided by the Northern Territory Government. Potential land options will be canvassed with Aboriginal Hostels Limited (adjoining vacant land) and the Barkly Regional Council.

Lead responsibility:

Joint Aboriginal Hostels Limited, Northern Territory Government and Barkly Regional Council

Crisis youth support—safe places and accommodation

The Northern Territory Government will increase the level and type of youth support services provided in the Barkly region. This will include the co-design of a service model in consultation with non-government organisations, Traditional Owners, Aboriginal language groups and the local community.

Lead responsibility:

Northern Territory Government



Supporting initiatives

Trauma informed care

The Northern Territory Government recognises the need for a multidisciplinary trauma response for children and young people in the Barkly region. A service model will be developed, working with identified stakeholders to design and implement a model that addresses physical health, developmental, cognitive and mental health assessments in a safe and culturally appropriate way. The model of care is expected to include holistic assessment, intensive case management and early intervention, coordination of support for families and carers (including respite) and outreach services.

Lead responsibility:
Northern Territory Government

Multi-purpose accommodation facility

As part of the Barkly Regional Deal, a one year (2019-20) affordability trial will be conducted to reduce the current nightly tariff to maximise occupancy rates for residents on low incomes, in particular medical patients sleeping rough. Existing Australian Government funding (under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy) was provided

to Aboriginal Hostels Limited in June 2018 to repurpose the former student boarding facility into a 42 bed multi-purpose accommodation facility for public housing waitlist clients, renal and medical patients, out-of-town visitors and rough sleepers.

Lead responsibility:
Aboriginal Hostels Limited

Student boarding accommodation

In response to low student enrolment and attendance rates, and the large numbers of children and young people left unsupervised at night, the Australian Government will provide capital funding for the construction of a 40 bed student boarding accommodation facility for students in Tennant Creek and outlying communities. The Northern Territory Government will be responsible for the ongoing operations and management of the facility, including intensive case management, wrap-around social support services and the provision of suitable land. Governments will undertake community consultation to inform the design of the student accommodation facility and a broader school attendance strategy to ensure the suite of measures is responsive to

the identified needs and service gaps in the Barkly region. A phased approach will be undertaken that includes a series of gateway decisions, including a feasibility study in 2019-20.

Lead responsibility:
Joint Australian Government and Northern Territory Government

Social and affordable housing private-public partnership

A public-private partnership proposal with a community housing provider (Venture Housing Company) will support the construction of 20 units of social and affordable housing. This will include 10 safe houses for younger and older Aboriginal women experiencing housing stress (rent set at 25 per cent of income not including Commonwealth Rent Assistance) and 10 affordable houses for Aboriginal families with low to moderate incomes (rent set at less than 75 per cent of market rate). The matched grant contribution from the Australian Government and Northern Territory Government represents 40 per cent of the total construction costs of the \$4.94 million turn-key housing development. The housing development involves a partnership between the community housing



provider, philanthropic donations (facilitated by Bank Australia), private company (T&J Contractors) and the Australian Government and Northern Territory Government. The potential for the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation to provide financing assistance in the form of concessional loans, grants, equity investments (or a combination) will be investigated as part of this process.

Lead responsibility:

Joint Australian Government and Northern Territory Government

Community sports

The Australian Government will support reactivating and building community involvement in local sports across the Barkly region. The Barkly region has a proud sporting tradition of producing successful sports people and bringing people together. This initiative will build on sporting infrastructure investments in the Purkiss Reserve upgrade, Elliott football oval, and the Ali Curung sports and recreation centre.

Lead responsibility:

Australian Government

Aged care services in the Barkly region

Improving the wellbeing of older people by supporting them to stay in

their homes or assisting them to access timely and affordable residential care is a priority for the Barkly region. In addition to Australian Government funded residential and home care programs, aged care services are delivered to older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people close to their home and community through the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program. The 2018-2019 Budget committed to expand the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program by \$105.7 million from 2018-19 to 2021-22 in remote and very remote Australia, to support culturally safe aged care for older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people close to home and community. Funding rounds under this program expansion commenced in 2018, with further rounds planned in 2019 and 2020. Governments will work with the Barkly community to tailor any new investment to local need.

Lead responsibility:

Joint Australian Government and Northern Territory

Child care places

The child care centre in Tennant Creek has 50 approved places and has reported limited availability. In addition, very few formal child care

facilities exist outside Tennant Creek. This creates a number of challenges, including making it harder to attract and retain qualified staff with families to the region. Restricted availability of child care for foster parents also means some children have to leave their community to be placed in foster care in Alice Springs. The Australian Government is investing additional funding into the new Child Care Package to provide more support for more families. This will bring the Australian Government's child care subsidy outlays over the next few years to almost \$10 billion a year. The new package includes a Child Care Safety Net which aims to give the most vulnerable children a strong start, while supporting parents into work. Under the Safety Net, the Community Child Care Fund makes \$110 million available per annum for five years from 2018-19 to increase early learning and child care participation, particularly in disadvantaged communities. As part of the Barkly Regional Deal, the three tiers of government will work with the Barkly community and prospective child care providers to increase early learning and child care participation in the Barkly region.

Lead responsibility:

Australian Government, Northern Territory Government and Barkly Regional Council



Culture and Place-making

Celebrating and strengthening the Barkly region's culturally diverse communities and its distinctive heritage are important features of the Barkly Regional Deal. Investments and initiatives under the Barkly Regional Deal are designed to enhance community governance, support local Aboriginal cultural leadership and strengthen community safety and relationships. The Barkly Regional Deal will help revitalise towns and communities by improving local amenities, investing in community infrastructure and promoting local events and cultural attractions to attract business growth and tourism. These initiatives will strengthen the Barkly region as a great place to live, work and visit.

Headline initiatives

Barkly Local Community Projects Fund

The Australian Government, Northern Territory Government and Barkly Regional Council will establish a targeted community grants program to deliver local projects in communities and Aboriginal homelands outside Tennant Creek. The aim of the fund will be to improve liveability, strengthen local leadership and implement local solutions in line with community action plans. This could include infrastructure such as men's sheds, sporting change-rooms and other community development activities.

Community decision-making under the fund will support local capacity, governance and leadership in remote communities and contribute to a shared vision for the region. Program guidelines for the Barkly Local Community Projects Fund will be developed with the Barkly Governance Table.

Lead responsibility:

Joint Australian Government, Northern Territory Government and Barkly Regional Council

Local community governance

The Barkly Governance Table will oversee the implementation of the Barkly Regional Deal and advance other economic and social development priorities in the region over the next 10 years. Funding will be used to establish a 'backbone team' to provide secretariat, advisory and support services to the Governance Table.

Lead responsibility:

Joint Australian Government and Northern Territory Government

Community mediation

Long-standing community conflict exists between some groups in the Barkly region. The reasons for the conflicts are varied and complex, and include the history of European settlement of the region when various unrelated language groups were grouped together in missions and reserves; intergenerational trauma; the consequences of poverty and material deprivation; alcohol and substance misuse; unemployment and inter-family disagreements. The community of Ali Curung, with a population

of approximately 560 people, has experienced a number of volatile conflicts and riots over the last 10 years.

As part of the Barkly Regional Deal, ongoing mediation support will be provided for Aboriginal people across the region. The mediation model will be co-designed with community members and informed by other highly effective mediation and community justice models that are designed and delivered by local Aboriginal community members. A key component of the model will involve training and empowering local community members to resolve conflict peacefully to strengthen community safety and relationships, and to divert community members from the criminal justice system.

Lead responsibility:

Joint Australian Government and Northern Territory Government

Supporting initiatives

Arts Centre in Elliott

The Northern Territory Government will conduct a feasibility study to assess the commercial viability of establishing an Arts Centre on the Stuart Highway with a focus on attracting visitors and developing economic opportunities in the region.

Lead responsibility:

Northern Territory Government

Update Council website about Aboriginal history

The Barkly Regional Council will work in partnership with Traditional Owners and language groups across the region to provide information on the Council website about the rich Aboriginal and mining history of the region.

Lead responsibility:

Barkly Regional Council

Marketing and promotion

The Barkly Regional Council will promote the Barkly region, including using online and social media platforms, with a focus on attracting business growth and tourism.

Lead responsibility:

Barkly Regional Council

Supplementary Australian Government investment

The Australian Government is investing in a number of supplementary initiatives in the Barkly region that support the objectives of the Barkly Regional Deal. They include:

Supporting development of the Beetaloo

The Australian Government will invest \$1.9 million to work with local stakeholders in the Barkly region to develop a strategy identifying how increased gas activity in the Beetaloo sub-basin can yield significant economic benefits for Aboriginal peoples in the Barkly region and the Northern Territory. The strategy is part of a broader three year \$8.4M Australian Government investment to accelerate the future development and production of gas in the Beetaloo sub-basin, including a feasibility study and support for the Northern Territory's strategic regional environmental and baseline assessment.

Lead responsibility:

Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities

Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI)

The Australian Government will invest \$162.3 million to upgrade the Alice Springs to Darwin corridor, which runs along the Stuart Highway, and \$70 million to upgrade the Northern Territory component of the Tennant Creek to Townsville corridor, which runs along the Barkly Highway. The upgrades extend to feeder roads on these corridors. The Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) investments in the Northern Territory will ensure that key freight roads efficiently connect agricultural and mining regions to ports, airports and other transport hubs. The initiative will deliver works such as road sealing, flood immunity, strengthening and widening, pavement rehabilitation, bridge and culvert upgrades and road realignments. This will open up corridors to provide a more reliable road network, improve access for higher capacity vehicles, better connect regional and Indigenous communities, and facilitate tourism opportunities.

Lead responsibility:

Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities

Stronger Places, Stronger People

The Australian Government will invest up to \$2 million over five years from 2019-20 as part of the *Stronger Places, Stronger People* initiative to support the operation of a local project team that is accountable to the community-led Barkly Governance Table. The initiative involves partnering by communities, governments, service providers and investors to deliver on a locally designed vision and plan of action to create better outcomes for children, families and communities. Co-investment will be provided by the Northern Territory Government.

Lead responsibility:

Department of Social Services



Section 3

Implementation

Implementation

Implementation of the Barkly Regional Deal will be overseen by the Barkly Governance Table over the next 10 years. The Table brings together representatives from the Australian Government, Northern Territory Government, Barkly Regional Council, Aboriginal community members (including Patta Aboriginal Corporation and representatives from the 16 language groups across the region), young people, Aboriginal community controlled organisations, non-Indigenous community organisations and local business leaders.

The establishment of the Barkly Governance Table is a critical element of the Barkly Regional Deal. It was established in recognition that successful place-based approaches require building, supporting and investing in community engagement and participation. The Barkly Regional Deal is piloting this governance model to support the local community lead, drive and champion economic growth and improve social outcomes, with coordinated support from the three tiers of government. The Barkly Governance Table will evaluate progress over several key stages of the deal, with the first evaluation point to be undertaken in 2022. The Barkly

Governance Table will be supported by a 'backbone team' that will provide a range of coordination and administrative services including secretariat, community engagement, governance and leadership capability development, data and evaluation, project management and communications.

Timeline for delivery

The Barkly Regional Deal will be implemented over 10 years to allow sufficient time for economic and social investments to deliver outcomes and for the Barkly Governance Table to

FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTATION



Monitoring and measuring

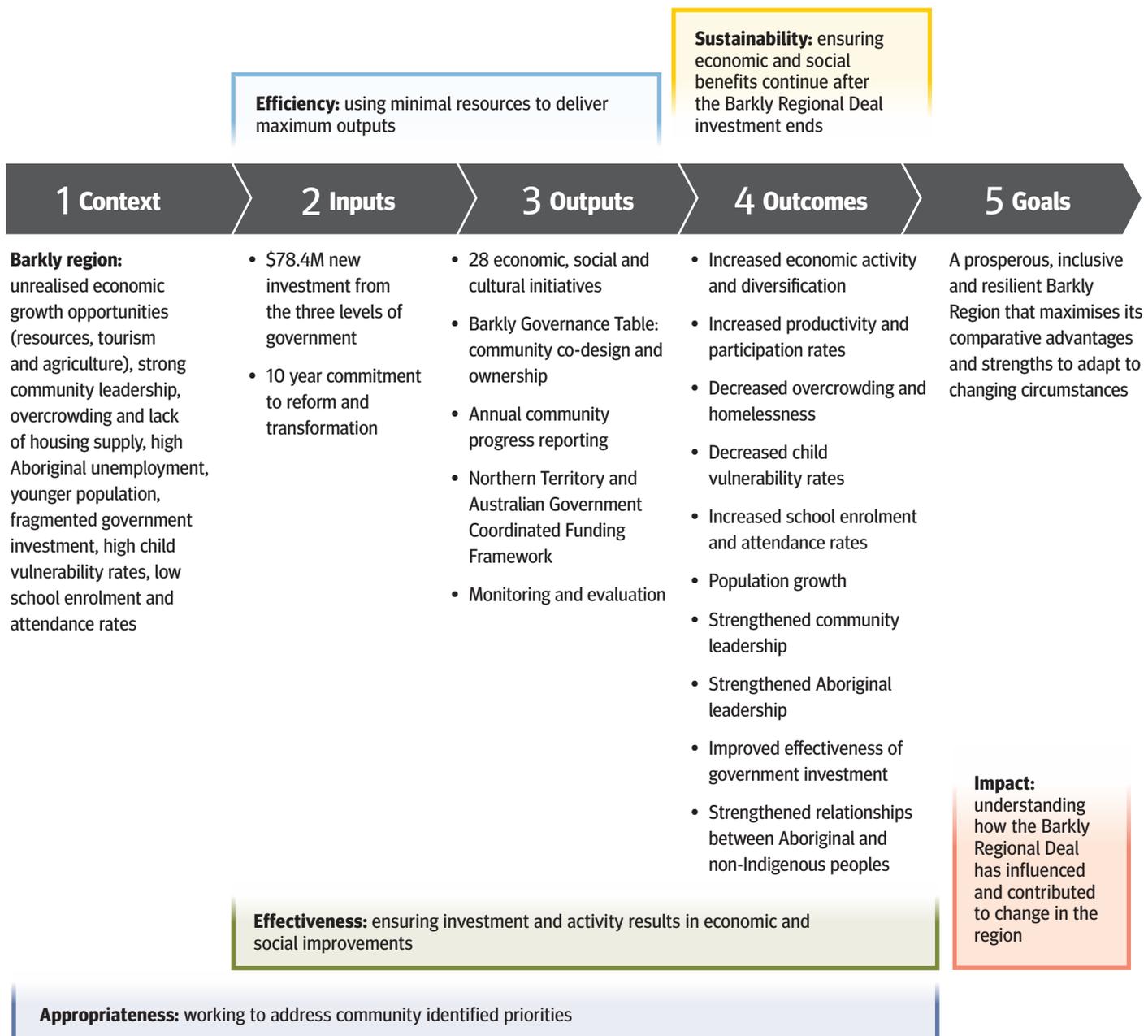
The effectiveness of the Barkly Regional Deal in improving the productivity and liveability of the Barkly region by stimulating economic growth and improving social outcomes will be measured over the 10 year life of the deal. This will include a number of reviews and an independent external evaluation. Three overarching measures will be used to assess the progress and effectiveness of the Barkly Regional Deal:

- **Productivity**—measured by increased income levels
- **Population**—measured by increased population growth
- **Participation**—measured by increased employment participation.

A suite of community-level indicators (quantitative and qualitative) developed by the Barkly Governance Table will supplement the overarching

measures. An annual public report will be prepared on progress and discussed at a series of local community meetings.

A high-level logic model (or theory of change) has been developed for the Barkly Regional Deal. This will be used to assess the progress and effectiveness of the deal over the next 10 years.



Acknowledgements

The Barkly Regional Deal Taskforce, made up of officials from the Australian Government, Northern Territory Government and the Barkly Regional Council, would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the stakeholders across the Barkly region who contributed to the development of the Barkly Regional Deal. The Taskforce was honoured by the time, thoughtfulness and wisdom of the Aboriginal Traditional Owners and 16 language groups from across the region, local business leaders, community organisations, young people and the wider community for sharing their hopes and aspirations for the future. It was humbling and inspiring. The Taskforce looks forward to carrying this work forward with the Barkly community.

ARTIST AND IMAGE CREDITS

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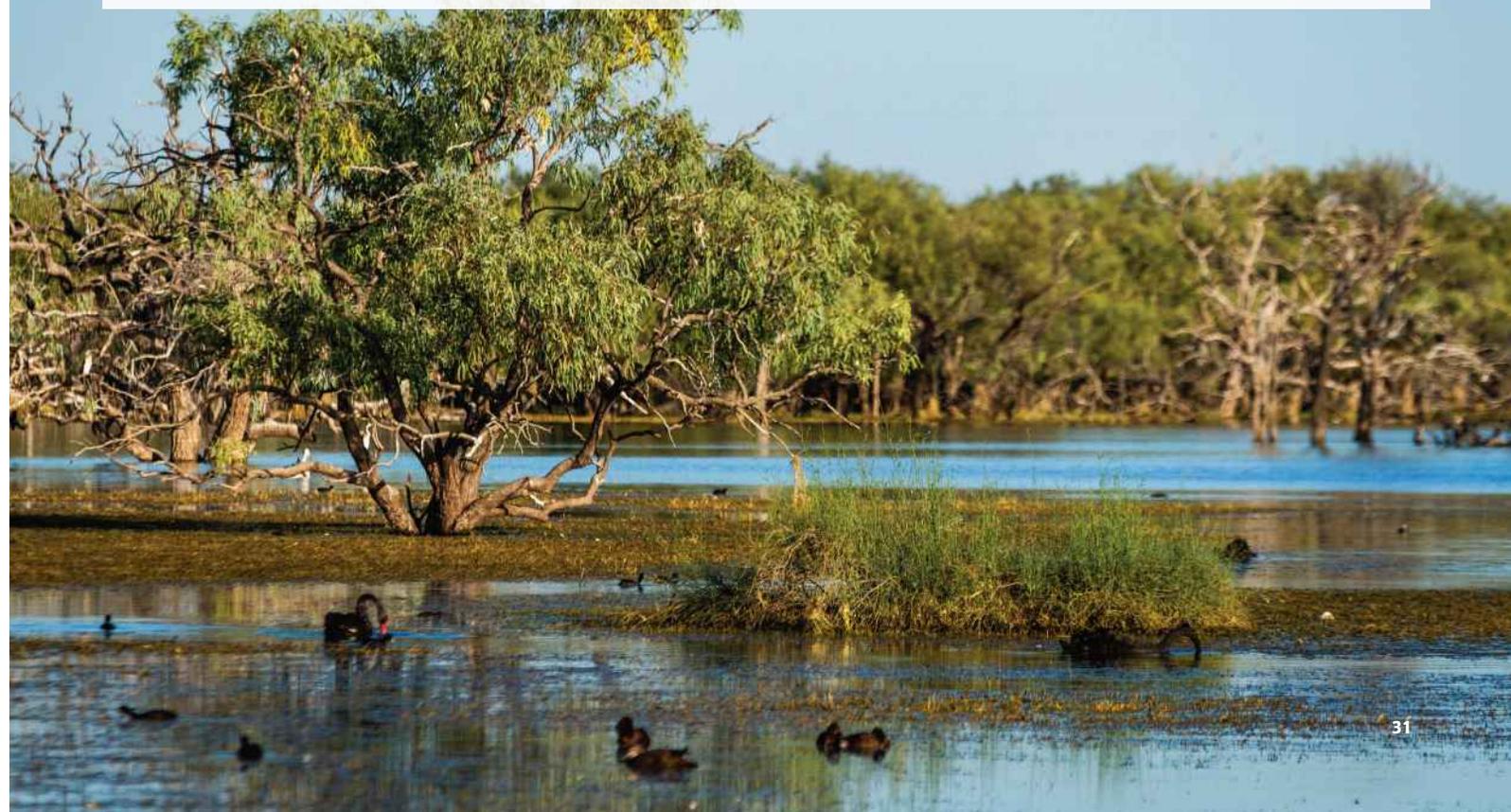
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Counts of businesses: ABS *Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits June 2014 to June 2018 (cat. no. 8165)*.



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