



Barkly Regional Deal—December 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.

On 10 December 2018, Senator Bridget McKenzie, Minister for Regional Services, Sport, Local Government and Decentralisation, Chief Minister Michael Gunner and Mayor Steve Edgington signed the Barkly Regional Deal ‘Statement of Intent’, and made a joint commitment of \$60 million to support the deal. The \$60 million investment will focus on local priorities and is currently being negotiated between the three levels of government and the broader community, including Aboriginal leaders and remote communities.

Officials from the Australian Government (Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities, and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet), the Northern Territory Government (Department of the Chief Minister) and the Barkly Regional Council undertook a second series of community consultations in the Barkly region from Monday 3 to Friday 7 December. In response to feedback from the first consultation round in October 2018, officials held consultations in a number of communities across the Barkly in addition to conducting targeted forums with youth, NGOs and business groups in Tennant Creek.

The purpose of the second round of consultation was to hear perspectives, priorities and ideas from communities that were not visited in the first consultation; to hold targeted engagement with youth and the NGO sector; to test potential initiatives and commitments that respond to community priorities identified to date; and to commence discussions about an ongoing governance framework to implement the deal.

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

- Central Land Council in Alice Springs (*Monday 3 December*)
- Government Partners Workshop in Alice Springs (*Monday 3 December*)
- Barkly Regional Arts (*Monday 3 December*)
- Youth Focus Group: Disabilities and Education (*Monday 3 December*)
- Parent and Community Engagement (PaCE) Breakfast and Bus Ride (*Tuesday 4 December*)
- Youth Focus Group: Youth Justice System (*Tuesday 4 December*)
- Canteen Creek community meeting (*Tuesday 4 December*)
- Epenarra / Wutunugurra Local Authority Meeting (*Tuesday 4 December*)
- Patta Aboriginal Corporation (*Tuesday 4 December*)
- Tennant Creek Local Authority Meeting (*Tuesday 4 December*)
- Alpururulam Local Authority Meeting (*Wednesday 5 December*)
- Remote School Attendance Scheme Bus Ride (*Wednesday 5 December*)
- NGO workshop (*Wednesday 5 December*)
- Business Forum (*Wednesday 5 December*)



- Youth Services Provider Network (*Wednesday 5 December*)
- Youth Forum (*Wednesday 5 December*)
- Elliott community meeting (*Thursday 6 December*)
- Ride-along with Youth Patrol (*Thursday 6 December*)
- Interim cultural authority group (*Friday 7 December*)

The *Barkly Regional Deal community priorities and aspirations December 2018* document (on the website) was tabled at the various meetings to test early thinking on proposals and actions that can respond to local priorities.

Officials held preliminary discussions on potential governance structures, and agreed that a sustainable community governance structure be developed to ensure we are working closely with the entire community to maximise the benefits of the Regional Deal.

New themes that emerged from the second round of consultation included: the importance of addressing the needs and challenges of youth in the region; increased access to sport and recreation programs; a strong desire to rebuild and strengthen the social capital and inclusiveness of Tennant Creek; the need for a greater focus on improving access to healthcare services; maximising training opportunities to stimulate local employment (eg by training local maintenance teams and other roles like Aboriginal Health Workers); a need to better coordinate and align existing programs, services and infrastructure; and new investment in industry standard venues to support festivals and events.

The key priorities for the Barkly region continue to be addressing housing need, creating local jobs, improving the Community Development Program (CDP), strengthening community safety and stimulating economic development.

The Barkly community continues to demonstrate many strengths and a readiness for change, and is committed to working together with the three levels of government to develop local solutions.

The next round of community consultations is scheduled for February 2019.

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