



Photo by William Thomson

A UNITED COUNCIL: Minister for Indigenous Affairs Nigel Scullion, Cr Ronald Plummer, Cr Ray Aylett, Cr Jeffrey McLaughlin, Cr Kris Civitarese, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Mayor Steve Edgington, Cr Hal Ruger, Cr Sid Vashist and Barkly Regional Council CEO Steve Moore.

Barkly 'regional deal' given green light during PM visit

The Barkly Regional Council is thrilled with the Prime Minister's announcement of a 'Regional Deal' for Tennant Creek and the wider Barkly region.

Last month I outlined in my column how we took the opportunity to propose a 'Regional Deal' after Malcolm Turnbull invited a Council delegation to his office in June.

A group of us - Councillors Kris Civitarese, Ronald Plummer and Ray Aylett - were attending the 2018 National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra when the invite came and we were heartened by his interest in the issues in Tennant Creek.

Now that the Prime Minister has visited Tennant Creek and spoken to and listened to different organisations and local people it is time to commence the process of identifying the key objectives and actions required for the preparation of a Social and Economic Development Plan.

The 24-hour visit was a fantastic opportunity for all three levels of government - Commonwealth, Territory and Council - to continue discussions about a pathway



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● Mayor Steve Edgington and PM Malcolm Turnbull.

forward for Tennant Creek and the Barkly region.

It also provided an important opening for greater coordination and collaboration between the three tiers of government, combined Aboriginal organisations, the newly established Cultural Authority Group, and the business and non-government sector to enable real outcomes for the region under a local Management Structure.

We must do everything we can to improve child safety and protection as well as increase housing and reduce unemployment in the town and the greater region.

We must also grab the chance to develop Tennant Creek and the Barkly region as a mining, minerals and gas services and supply centre that will help deliver new industries and business prospects, new social and economic infrastructure as well as vital employment opportunities.

We believe this 'Regional Deal', which may include reduced payroll tax and rapid asset depreciation for larger businesses to attract industry and investment, could provide a solution to the region's social and economic problems.



● Elder Dick Foster, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Minister for Indigenous Affairs Nigel Scullion and Traditional Owner Ronald Plummer.

All of our Councillors - Jeffrey McLaughlin, Kris Civitarese, Sid Vashist, Ray Aylett, Ronald Plummer, Hal Ruger, Noel Hayes, Lucy Jackson, Jack Clubb, Jenny Mahoney, Jane Evans and Ricky Holmes - are working tirelessly in the best interests of this region, and will continue to do so.

Special thanks must go to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs Nigel Scullion and the Minister for Social Services Dan Tehan for their ongoing support and to the Chief Minister Michael Gunner, Minister for Housing and Community Development Gerry McCarthy and Minister for Territory Families Dale Wakefield for supporting the Council's idea of a 'Regional Deal'.

There is still plenty of work to do and further discussions to occur but we are all definitely moving in the right direction.

With everyone working together, we can make Tennant Creek and the Barkly region the preferred place to live, work, visit and invest in.



● Mayor Steve Edgington addresses the Regional Economic Development Committee (REDC).

WHAT'S NEW...



● Council has received \$1.45 million from the Territory Government for a street-scapes project in Tennant Creek. The beautification package includes Paterson Street, Davidson Walk and Peko Road. Council will soon establish a Project Control Group with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) to commence consultation with business owners and to focus on ensuring local jobs for local people and local opportunities for local business.

● Mayor Steve Edgington has been appointed as Chair of the Regional Development Australia Northern Territory (RDA NT) Committee. RDA NT works to identify and facilitate projects that contribute to supporting the sustainable development of the Northern Territory by working across all

three tiers of government, industry and the not-for-profit sector to maximise impact.

● Council is set to receive \$9 million from the Territory Government to upgrade facilities at Purkiss Reserve. The grant money will be held by the NTG's Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) under a Recoverable Works Agreement to upgrade Purkiss Reserve in accordance with priorities identified by the Purkiss Reserve Consultative Committee and to be agreed to by Council.

A Project Steering Group consisting of representatives from the Barkly Regional Council, DIPL, the Purkiss Reserve Consultative Committee and the Department of Tourism & Culture has been formed to guide the project through to completion.

Meet Councillor Jennifer Mahoney



Jennifer Mahoney joined Barkly Regional Council in May 2012 and after the elections in August 2017 is now in her second term.

Born and bred in Alpururulam, Cr. Mahoney represents the Alpururulam Ward. She has held various governance positions, including serving on the Local Authority, and is keen for the needs of the community to be heard.

Cr. Mahoney wants to improve the quality of life for residents, not only locally but in all communities in the Barkly. Her other major focus is encouraging the young ones, helping them to go for training and to bring these skills back to the community to help it grow.

BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



Working together with local communities
Ali Curung, Alpururulam, Arlparra, Ampilatwatja, Elliott, Tennant Creek, Wutunugurra

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