



## Barkly regional deal on the table in PM talks

A delegation from the Barkly Regional Council met with the Prime Minister, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs and the Minister for Social Services in Canberra last week.

Councillors Ronald Plummer, Kris Civitarese and Ray Aylett, Council's Finance Manager Gary Pemberton, and I were attending the 2018 National General Assembly of Local Government Conference when we were invited to see the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on Monday, 18 June.

Earlier that day in Parliament, Mr Turnbull had referred to the national outcry over the alleged rape of the toddler in Tennant Creek and that "the protection of children is our most sacred duty".

Later on, our delegation attended his office where we discussed the general issues of housing, child protection, liquor restrictions and unemployment.

We also took the opportunity to propose a "regional deal" for the Barkly, similar to the Darwin City Deal.

Our proposed deal includes an outline of plans for so-

cial and economic development in Tennant Creek and the Barkly and the need for infrastructure and attracting new industry, business and investment.

We also highlighted solutions for creating a safer community and sustainable employment.

Such a plan would put residents and businesses on a much better track to making the Barkly a better place to live, work, visit and invest in.

Our delegation told the Prime Minister that there is an opening in the Barkly for the three tiers of government – local, Northern Territory and Federal – to work together.

Such a proposal would see the three levels of government consulting with local residents and businesses as well as working with the non-government sector, Aboriginal organisations, and the newly formed cultural authority group.

There's already collaboration in Tennant Creek, but the development of a detailed plan around social and economic development would be much more effective.

It was clear during the meeting that Mr Turnbull is very

interested in the issues in Tennant Creek and the Barkly region.

He wants to work with local people to try to find solutions to the region's problems.

We extended an invitation to Mr Turnbull on behalf of everyone to visit Tennant Creek, and later that day he tweeted that the meeting was "constructive and positive".

He has now instructed Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion and the Minister for Social Services Dan Tehan to visit Tennant Creek next month to progress some of the ideas discussed.

Our delegation also met with the Assistant Minister for Children and Families Dr David Gillespie, Senator Malarndirri McCarthy (Northern Territory) and the Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government John McVeigh to discuss what's happening in Tennant Creek and the Barkly.

When not in meetings with Federal Government Ministers we were attending the Local Government Conference.



**CONSTRUCTIVE MEETINGS:** Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, third from left, met with elected members, from far right, Ray Aylett, Ronald Plummer, Mayor Steve Edgington and Kris Civitarese, and Council Finance Manager Gary Pemberton. The Council delegation then caught up with Senator Malarndirri McCarthy (NT).

## Funding Boost for Youth Links

After intense lobbying and advocacy by Barkly Regional Council, I am pleased to announce that the Northern Territory Government has now agreed to a five-year funding agreement for the Youth Links After Hours Youth Program.

The funding \$415,000 per annum is effective from Sunday, 1 July 2018.

You may recall how back in April 2018 Council was

informed by the Minister for Territory Families Dale Wakefield that only two years of funding would be provided, instead of the five years requested.

This was a bitter blow to the program and staff but we thank Minister Wakefield for re-considering the Territory Government's position.

With a long-term funding agreement being finalised it is now in Council's

best interest to plan and seek further funds for the upgrade of the Youth Links building to create a youth precinct, and to secure long-term agreements with staff.

Council is committed to supporting young people and will continue to seek funding for services, facilities and programs in Tennant Creek and the Barkly to advance the region.

## Council supports housing motion

There were over 90 Motions debated during the 2018 National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra this month.

Many of the motions were supported by our Council, including the following Motion moved by the Palm Island Council in Queensland:

"That the National General Assembly calls on the Federal Government to commit to vital long-term funding for housing construction in remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander communities ...".

In the Northern Territory, the Federal Government recently confirmed its promise to match the Territory's commitment for remote indigenous housing over five years from 2018/19; bringing the total amount available to \$1.1 billion.

Our Council looks forward to hearing more about the NT Government's plan to increase social and public housing in Tennant Creek and across the Barkly region for the next five years.

## Meet Councillor Lucy Jackson



Councillor Lucy Jackson joined the Barkly Regional Council in a supplementary election in November 2012. This is her second term serving on Council and she represents the Alyawarr Ward.

Cr. Jackson lives in Ali Curung and sits on various committees, including the Mirnirri Store, Ali Curung Health Centre and the Ali Curung Local Authority.

She believes that local government is all about looking after your community, and is keen to do what's best for the local residents. Cr Jackson sees her role on Council as a chance to improve services and facilities in Ali Curung and to help the community move forward.

### WHAT'S NEW...



● Council is calling for tenders to design and construct a sporting oval and associated infrastructure in Elliott. Applications close Friday, 6 July 2018 at 2pm (ACST). Find the full details including contacts at [www.tenderlink.com/barkly](http://www.tenderlink.com/barkly)

● A vacancy has become available on the Purkiss Reserve Consultative Committee. Submissions close on Friday, 13 July 2018 at 4pm (ACST). Visit <https://www.barkly.nt.gov.au> for more details.

● There's one week left for individuals, community groups or businesses to send in an expression of interest to lease the kiosk/café at the Tennant Creek Swimming

Pool and build the facility to its full potential. Email [caitlin.dunn@barkly.nt.gov.au](mailto:caitlin.dunn@barkly.nt.gov.au) or call 08 8962 0076 for more information and documentation. Deadline is Friday, 6 July 2018 at 4pm (ACST).

● Fill in our survey asking for feedback on the Pedestrian Alleyways. Click on <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Alleyways> and away you go. Deadline is Wednesday, 11 July.

● Council's draft Regional Plan 2018-2019 was put before elected members yesterday at the ordinary council meeting after receiving public feedback. Once approved it will be printed and uploaded on to the website.

### BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



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

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