



**Media Release**

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## **REGIONAL DEAL KEY TO TENNANT CREEK DEVELOPMENT**

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

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull recently wrapped up a two-day trip to Tennant Creek, where he discussed a regional deal designed to improve the region's economic and social development.

Mayor Steve Edgington said the 'regional deal' was key to the social and economic development of Tennant Creek and the wider Barkly region.

"Our proposed deal includes an outline of plans for social and economic development in Tennant Creek and the Barkly and the need for infrastructure and attracting new industry, business and investment," he said.

"It also highlights solutions for creating a safer community and sustainable employment."

The Mayor, along with a delegation of councillors, originally proposed the 'regional deal' to Mr Turnbull while at the 2018 National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra last month.

The Mayor said that now 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 forward for Tennant Creek and the Barkly region," he said.

"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.

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“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.

The Mayor said the ‘Regional Deal, which may include asset depreciation to attract businesses and investment, could provide a solution to the region’s social and economic problems.

“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.”

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