



Media Release

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Barkly ‘regional deal’ on the table in PM talks

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

The Mayor Steve Edgington, along with Councillors Ronald Plummer, Kris Civitarese and Ray Aylett, were attending the 2018 National General Assembly of Local Government Conference when they were invited to see the PM 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, the delegation attended his office where they discussed the general issues of housing, child protection, liquor restrictions and unemployment.

Mayor Steve Edgington said they 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 social and economic development in Tennant Creek and 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.

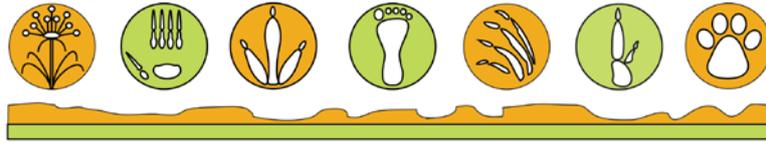
The delegation also highlighted that there is an opening in the Barkly for the three tiers of government – local, Northern Territory and Federal – to work together.

“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,” said the Mayor.

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

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BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



“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”.”

The Prime Minister 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.

The 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.

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