



**GARY HIGGINS**  
**OPPOSITION LEADER**

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**Regional Deal for Tennant Creek**

The Regional Deal for Tennant Creek continues to move forward, despite Territory Labor trying to hose down the progress so far.

The Regional Deal is a topic that the Territory Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins pursued last week in meetings in Canberra.

“I can assure Territorians and in particular Tennant Creek locals that the Regional Deal is progressing and remains a priority for the Australian government.

“It is now under the charge of the Deputy Prime Minister who will continue to progress this important project, and Territorians can expect Ministers to be visiting Tennant Creek soon to discuss social and economic components of the deal, which will be worked through with the Northern Territory Government, Barkly Regional Council and the community, including the Cultural Authority Group.

“Initiatives such as this involve many stakeholders and need to be tailored to the town, there is a not a one-size-fits-all approach that can be simply rubber stamped.

“Contrary to commentary from ill-informed Labor Members, a tailored regional cities deal is a priority for our Federal colleagues.

“Tennant Creek has sadly made national news for all the wrong reasons this year, and a significant investment in the town will work to enhance both the social and economic fabric of the community’s future.

“That said, a Regional Cities Deal should not be seen as the be all and end all for Tennant Creek, the Territory government must ensure the safety of children is at the centre of all decision making.

“What is clear is that the Northern Territory Labor Government is failing children badly right across the Territory and is presiding over a child protection system that is in crisis.

“Instead of playing politics, the Gunner Government needs to work with all levels of government to deliver a Regional Deal for the Barkly,” said Mr Higgins.

**ENDS**

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