
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Advisory Report on the Northern Australia
Infrastructure Facility Bill 2016

Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia

April 2016

Canberra

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Chair's Foreword

The release of the Committee's first report, 'Pivot North', underpinned the Government's White Paper on Developing Northern Australia and together they set in motion a new approach to tackling the economic and social issues which have plagued Northern Australia for over 100 years.

Northern Australia is a region of vast potential. The development of infrastructure that can generate long-term growth in the population and economy of Northern Australia is crucial in realising this potential. Through its first inquiry, the Committee recognised the vital role of growing infrastructure in developing Northern Australia.

Of the 42 recommendations in Pivot North, fourteen concerned the provision of new or existing infrastructure in Northern Australia. These recommendations included: the development of a 20 year strategy for infrastructure provision, as well as the development of critical road, rail, water resource, agriculture, digital communications, and energy infrastructure. The Committee also recommended the creation of a rural investment fund to make it easier for rural infrastructure projects to access capital investment.

The Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility, established by the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility Bill 2016, is one of the Government's White Paper key proposals and it places the development of infrastructure at the centre of the Government's plan to unlock the economic and social potential of Northern Australia.

In its own right the Facility's \$5 billion investment in infrastructure would be significant, but by providing this money in the form of loans rather than grants, the Facility will support the delivery of more than \$10 billion worth of critical infrastructure.

By undertaking a risk-sharing role with the private sector, the Facility, through partnerships will develop projects that, despite being commercially viable, have not been able to attract sufficient investment to go ahead.

For these reasons I welcome, and support, the enactment of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility Bill 2016.

I also thank my fellow Committee Members for their participation in this short inquiry.

Hon Warren Entsch MP
Chair



Committee Membership

Chair Hon Warren Entsch MP

Deputy Chair Hon Alannah MacTiernan MP

Members

Mr George Christensen MP	Senator Deborah O’Neill
Hon Gary Gray AO MP	Ms Melissa Price MP
Mrs Natasha Griggs MP	Senator Rachel Siewert
Senator Joanna Lindgren	Senator Dean Smith
Senator Hon Jan McLucas	Hon Warren Snowdon MP

Participating Members

Senator Hon Eric Abetz	Senator John Madigan
Senator Chris Back	Senator Gavin Marshall
Senator Cory Bernardi	Senator Jenny McAllister
Senator Catryna Bilyk	Senator Anne McEwen
Senator Carol Brown	Senator Bridget McKenzie
Senator David Bushby	Senator Claire Moore
Senator Hon Doug Cameron	Senator Barry O’Sullivan
Senator Hon Kim Carr	Senator James Paterson
Senator Hon Jacinta Collins	Senator Nova Peris OAM
Senator Hon Stephen Conroy	Senator Helen Polley
Senator Sam Dastyari	Senator Linda Reynolds

Senator Sean Edwards

Senator David Fawcett

Senator Alex Gallacher

Senator Katy Gallagher

Senator Hon Bill Heffernan

Senator Hon David Johnston

Ms Michelle Landry MP

Senator David Leyonhjelm

Senator Sue Lines

Senator Hon Joe Ludwig

Senator Hon Ian Macdonald

Senator Zed Seselja

Senator Hon Lisa Singh

Senator Glenn Sterle

Senator Anne Urquhart

Senator Larissa Waters

Senator John Williams

Senator Hon Penny Wong

Committee Secretariat

Secretary Ms Stephanie Mikac

Senior Research Officer Mr Timothy Brennan

Administrative Officer Ms Carissa Skinner



Terms of Reference

In accordance with paragraph 4A of its resolution of appointment, on 17 March 2016, the Minister for Resources, Energy and Northern Australia referred the provisions of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility Bill 2016 to the Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia (the Committee) for inquiry and report by Friday, 22 April 2016.

Abstract from the Resolution of Appointment of the Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia

(4A) following presentation of its [first] report, the Committee:

- (a) Monitor issues relevant to the development and implementation of the government's white paper;
- (b) Consider any relevant issues as may be referred to it by either House of the Parliament or a Minister;
- (c) Report from time to time; and
- (d) Continue its work until the House of Representatives is dissolved or expires by effluxion or time;



List of Abbreviations

CEO	Chief Executive Officer
EM	Explanatory Memorandum
ES	Explanatory Statement
IM	Investment Mandate
Ltd	Limited
MP	Member of Parliament
R&D	Research and Development



Recommendation

2 Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility Bill 2016

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility Bill 2016 be passed by the Parliament.

