

Submission to the Select Committee on the effectiveness of the Australian Government's northern Australia agenda

31 July 2020

The Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DISER) thanks the Select Committee for the opportunity to provide an update to our original submission (September 2019), outlining the progress occurring under the Australian Government's northern Australia economic development agenda and the impact of COVID-19 on the north.

The impact of COVID-19 in northern Australia

COVID-19 has impacted lives and livelihoods across the nation. Northern Australia has not been immune to the economic effects of COVID-19, with the depth of impact varying across sectors and localities.

Travel and hospitality restrictions were wisely imposed to protect community health. However, the absence of tourists and travelling workers and the disruption to supply chains has resulted in extremely challenging business conditions. COVID-19 exacerbated the underlying structural issues in northern Australia's economy – a narrow industry base, export dependency, transient workforce, long and inefficient supply chains, and strongly seasonal cycles.

Refer to ~~Attachment A~~ for a summary of sectoral impacts in northern Australia.

Relief and recovery measures

The Australian Government has delivered economy-wide and targeted economic assistance in response to the unprecedented disruption caused by COVID-19. DISER has worked with responsible agencies to understand and influence their application in northern Australia. A full list of national initiatives delivering support to northern Australia is at Attachment B.

Commonwealth assistance measures are focused on immediate recovery, rebuilding business confidence and re-starting the economic momentum vital to the long term development of northern Australia.

Some of the nation-wide programs delivering relief to northern Australia include the extension of the JobKeeper program which provides support for impacted business and individuals, while JobSeeker has been boosted by a COVID-19 supplement and expanded eligibility until the end of September 2020. The \$40 billion Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme is offering small and medium businesses guaranteed loans and an initial six month repayment holiday, and has recently been extended. The Boosting Cash Flow for Employers program is providing temporary cash flow support to small and medium businesses and not-for-profit organisations.

The \$1 billion Recovery and Relief Fund is managed by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications and supports a significant number of initiatives targeting sectors including tourism, agriculture, the arts and recreation. A sizeable proportion of the funding allocated to date will be directed to businesses and organisations in the north.

In summary:

- Regional Airlines Funding Assistance – Financial assistance of up to \$100 million for smaller regional domestic air service providers to manage cash flow issues. As at May 2020, funding of up to \$5.9 million has been provided for essential flight services for Cape York and the Torres Strait Islands, Darwin and Jabiru to West Arnhem Land, and Port Hedland through to the Pilbara region.
- Regional Airline Network Program Support – Underwriting of regular public transport air services to regional locations including 26 weekly routes to/from and within northern Australia.
- The International Freight Assistance Mechanism (IFAM) – Established as a temporary mechanism to restore critical global supply chains. IFAM supported the export of high value agricultural products from across Australia, with two northern flights: a Darwin-Brisbane air bridge three times a week, and a Brisbane-Hong Kong flight via Cairns twice a week.
- Crisis Relief for Regional Arts – \$10 million total, with \$3.71 million spent in the Northern Territory (NT), Queensland (Qld) and Western Australia (WA). Note that figures are state/territory-wide).
- Support for Tourism and the arts – including support for zoos and aquariums; upgrade of the Reef HQ Aquarium in Townsville; fee waivers for Commonwealth national parks (including up to \$10.1 million in the NT); fee waiver of environmental charges for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park; construction of the Wangetti Trail in north Queensland (through the Tourism Icons Package), and crisis relief for regional arts including support for Indigenous visual arts centres.

The \$165 million domestic aviation network guarantees is supporting weekly return services to/from regional centres including 60 weekly services to/from regional centres in northern Australia. The \$715 million Australian Airline Financial Relief Package eases the costs and charges of operating domestic commercial air services in northern Australia including waiver of fuel excise and Airservices Australia charges, a rebate on domestic aviation security charges and support for enhanced regional security screening.

The \$80 million national Infection Control Training Fund will deliver accelerated uptake of infection control training to support customer-facing businesses to reopen, and is being delivered in partnership with the states and territories. \$12.5 million in funding will be going to the northern jurisdictions.

The northern agenda

Developing the north is encountering a more challenging economic baseline from which to continue the economic development agenda. Northern Australia is both heavily impacted by the economic impact of COVID-19 and also has a key role to play in supporting Australia's economic recovery. Industry recovery and growth both need to be fostered.

Pre-COVID-19, the Australian Government in partnership with northern jurisdictions through the former Ministerial Forum on Northern Development was formulating a new five year plan for the next phase of development.

Despite the stalled momentum caused by COVID-19, the potential of the region remains strong. The Australian Government is committed to support the north in reaching its economic potential through a sustained, long term economic development effort.

White Paper on Developing Northern Australia

To date, the Australian Government, together with the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia governments, have delivered 45 of the 51 White Paper commitments. A summary table of the status of the 51 measures is at [Attachment C](#).

Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF)

The NAIF is a Corporate Commonwealth entity, established under the *Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility Act 2016*. The NAIF has a special appropriation of \$5 billion to finance the construction of infrastructure that provides a basis for economic growth in northern Australia and stimulates population growth in northern Australia.

A Statutory Review of the NAIF has been underway since July 2019, considering how the NAIF can best support the economic development of the north. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the Review has expanded to consider how the NAIF can contribute to the recovery of northern Australia from the economic impacts of the pandemic. The Review is ongoing and will be finalised in coming months.

On 17 July 2020, the Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia announced the Government would extend the NAIF for a further five years from 20 June 2021 to 30 June 2026. The extension was announced early to provide certainty to investors and proponents in northern Australia, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As at 31 July 2020, the NAIF has approved loans in each northern jurisdiction to the rounded values of:

- \$914 million for Queensland across eight projects equating to 43 per cent of total approved loans.
- \$795 million for the Northern Territory across six projects (including the one current conditional approval) equating to 37 per cent of the total.
- \$438 million for Western Australia across six projects equating to 20 per cent of the total (this figure excludes Pilbara Minerals).

That investment is now over \$2 billion (\$2.148 billion), supporting projects with an estimated total capital value of some \$4.1 billion (\$4.17 billion).

These investment decisions are forecast to generate around \$6.2 billion in benefit for northern Australia. This includes a forecast of supporting over 6,500 jobs during construction and operations.

As at 31 July 2020, the department has made total payments of \$169.2 million (including capitalised interest). These payments are comprised of:

- Onslow Marine Support Base Project (\$16.8 million).
- Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia Project (\$24.5 million).
- Humpty Doo Barramundi Project (\$7.2 million).
- Alinta Energy Project (\$67 million).
- Kalium Lakes (\$19.7 million).
- NT Airport Expansion project (\$32.3 million).
- Townsville Airport Expansion project (\$1.7 million).

It is important to note that drawdown of funds is made at the discretion of the borrower. As funds are for construction, they are not drawn down in one tranche, but rather as required by the project's design and construction timetable.

Information on NAIF Investment Decisions as at 31 July 2020 is at [Attachment D](#).

Road infrastructure

To help stimulate economic activity and road building jobs in the north, construction has been bought forward for important early works under the northern package of the Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) program. Construction will begin on identified projects within the next 12 months.

All 38 projects under the Northern Australia and Beef Roads Programs, announced as part of the White Paper on Developing Northern Australia are approved, with 23 of these projects completed, 12 underway and the remaining three to commence throughout 2020.

A list of all northern roads projects is at [Attachment E](#).

Remote Airstrip Upgrade

The Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program is part of the Australian Government's Regional Aviation Access Programme and provides funding for upgrades to remote airstrips in isolated outback communities.

On 13 June 2020, the Deputy Prime Minister announced \$9 million in funding for 45 access and safety upgrade projects across Australia, under Round 7 of the program. Twenty-nine of the 45 projects were based in northern Australia totalling \$6.9 million.

Water infrastructure

Water resources is a major driver of economic activity, particularly for key northern industries such as agriculture, aquaculture, mining, energy and tourism. A series of business cases remain underway and are on track for completion, all with varying timeframes and complexity.

A list of northern Australia water projects is at [Attachment F](#).

Indigenous economic development

The Northern Australia Indigenous Development Accord, an intergovernmental agreement focused on progressing Indigenous economic development in northern Australia, was launched at the Ministerial Forum on Northern Development in December 2019.

The Accord sets out the commitment of governments to strengthen Indigenous economic participation and the mechanisms for jurisdictions and the Commonwealth, led by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), to continue to work together to progress the Indigenous Reference Group's recommendations.

The Accord is available online via the NIAA website (<https://www.niaa.gov.au/resource-centre/indigenous-affairs/northern-australia-indigenous-development-accord>).

One of the joint activities in the Accord is expanding fee-for-service opportunities for Indigenous ranger groups across the north.

Tourism sector

A Northern Australia Tourism Roundtable will be held on 4 August 2020, co-chaired by Neville Power Chairman, National COVID-19 Commission Advisory Board and Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, and attended by the Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia the Hon Keith Pitt MP and the Assistant Minister for Northern Australia the Hon Michelle Landry MP. The Forum will hear from business, industry and government on the current status of the industry and mid-term forecasts, commercial realities and potential ways to support recovery through industry-led initiatives and government support.

Resources sector

Northern Australia has abundant untapped resources in gas and critical minerals that can be a driver for growth over the longer term. The resources sector is one of the north's most productive sectors, employing almost 50,000 people in northern Australia. The sector has weathered the impacts of COVID-19 so far – iron ore exports, for example, have reported continuing growth even through the COVID-19 disruption – and it will play an important role in the national economic recovery.

In January 2020, the Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO) was established in DISER to support and coordinate the development of Australia's critical minerals sector, and support projects moving further along value chains toward midstream and downstream mineral processing.

Since its creation the CMFO has established close working relationships with critical minerals projects across Australia, including in northern Australia. As part of its role, the CMFO is working with Austrade and project proponents to help secure sources of robust offtake agreements and project investment, including financial support from Australian Government financing vehicles such as Export Finance Australia, the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and the NAIF.

The Australian Government's immediate priority is to ensure Australia's resources sector delivers a fast recovery from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of Government's top priorities is developing our natural gas resources while driving down energy costs for businesses and households. The government is focused on developing gas resources in strategic locations best suited to supply existing and future demand centres. The aim is to accelerate development of Australia's gas reserves, increase domestic supply, avoid forecast shortfalls, and put downward pressure on gas prices.

Geoscience Australia commenced the first phase of the Exploring for the Future program in 2016, to better understand the mineral, energy, and groundwater resources of northern Australia to encourage exploration investment and inform resource management decisions. The program has been highly successful, implementing innovative methods and integrating multi-disciplinary data collected over 3 million square kilometres. As of 2020, the program has been extended for four years and will expand its reach nationally.

Agriculture sector

The National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency is providing support to farmers, businesses and communities affected by floods and drought, with more than \$3.3 billion committed to assist people as they continue to rebuild and recover. Eighteen Regional Recovery Officers are now based across the country working directly with rural and regional communities, including five officers covering northern Australia.

The Australian Government has committed funding to provide eligible small businesses in regional communities with access to free and confidential financial counselling. This includes \$7 million for small regional businesses in drought-affected areas and \$4.8 million for small regional businesses affected by COVID-19. Financial counselling services for rural and small businesses are available throughout northern Australia including in the NT Territory-wide via Darwin; in north Qld via Aitkenvale, Atherton, Innisfail, Isaac, Longreach, Mackay, Richmond and Townsville; and WA-wide via other regions.

The Northern Australia Biosecurity Framework Reference Group developed the Northern Australia Biosecurity Strategy in late 2019. A consultation draft of the strategy was released in April 2020. This work aligns with the Developing Northern Australia and the Agricultural Competitiveness White Papers, which focussed on increasing economic opportunities and supporting a stronger agriculture sector.

Workforce

The Australian Government has announced intentions to reform the higher education sector, including a \$400 million package to increase opportunities for regional and remote students and support for regional university campuses. The three regional universities in the north (James Cook University, Central Queensland University and Charles Darwin University) will benefit from the \$48.8 million allocated to fund research collaboration between the regional universities, industry and other higher education partners and 3.5 per cent in additional Commonwealth Grant Scheme funding. The package also commits to establishing up to eight additional Regional University Centres, which support regional and remote students to receive tertiary education, delivered locally by distance from any Australian institution. Of the 25 centres currently operating, three are located in northern Australia.

In response to the economic impacts of COVID-19, the JobTrainer fund has been established in partnership with the states and territories, with the Australian Government providing \$500 million to deliver around 340,700 additional training places nationally. The fund is complemented by a \$1.5 billion extension to the Supporting Apprentices and Trainees program, which provides a wage subsidy to employers of apprentices and trainees. This program is supporting around 70,000 businesses Australia wide to keep approximately 117,000 apprentices and trainees in work.

Research and innovation

Since the establishment of the Cooperative Research Centre for Northern Australia (CRCNA) company and board in 2017, the CRCNA has invested \$11 million towards 39 research projects. The total value of projects exceeds \$34 million which includes participant co-contributions and CRCNA contributions. Research projects cover a range of areas from infrastructure, agriculture and aquaculture and health. The CRCNA has contracted nine projects since September 2019 and has a further 11 projects in its pipeline. In addition to these, its next competitive funding call (due to open August 2020) will prioritise funding towards identified research projects from its completed sector situational analysis and other completed projects. A detailed list is at [Attachment G](#).

Trade and Investment

The Major Projects Facilitation Agency acts as a 'single point of entry' to help project proponents deal with regulatory requirements, and currently works with 23 active projects in northern Australia. Nine of these projects have been formally recognised with Major Project Status. These projects represent an estimated investment of approximately \$66.3 billion (as at 31 July 2020), detail of these nine projects is at [Attachment H](#).

Governance

The governance framework established after the 2015 White Paper on Developing Northern Australia is now under review following the Prime Minister's announcement on 29 May 2020 on changes to the federal-state relations architecture.

All Ministerial Forums, including the Ministerial Forum on Northern Development, are being considered through the Conran Review of the Council of Australian Governments and Ministerial Forums. The review will provide recommendations back to National Cabinet by September 2020. The review will undertake consultation with Commonwealth and state and territory ministers and officials on a streamlined structure, scope, reporting arrangements, and with a focus on regulatory and policy work programs.

While the Review is underway the Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia continues to meet with northern counterparts through multi-lateral and bilateral meetings and the Office of

Northern Australia continues to meet with senior officials from the Australian and northern state and territory governments.

Attachment A

Summary of COVID-19 economic impacts in northern Australia

The economic impacts of COVID-19 are highly localised across northern Australia and reflect the underlying economic base of each region.

The analysis presented below relates to observable economic impacts since health response measures to COVID-19 were enacted in March 2020. These impacts are ongoing and will continue to evolve over time depending on factors such as localised outbreaks and containment measures, the return of international travellers, and global economic conditions.

The tourism sector was hit the first and the hardest

Tourism is a critical driver of northern Australia's economy and has been the hardest hit by COVID-19 travel restrictions. The Great Barrier Reef, for example, is a major economic driver for all coastal communities along the reef. It contributes \$5.7 billion to the Australian economy and supports 59,000 full time jobs.¹

International tourists are higher-value visitors to northern Australia. Nationally, international and domestic visitors typically spend more in capital cities than in regional areas. However, this trend is reversed for international visitors, in regional Queensland² who spend 2.6 per cent more and in the Northern Territory spend 7.0 per cent more, outside of capital cities.³

Northern Australia has a limited tourism 'season' and it follows that up to 90 per cent of annual income is earned during the 'dry' season (April to October). International border closures and interstate travel restrictions means that many businesses will face highly restricted visitor numbers until at least April 2021. This 12-month period of very limited turnover will seriously impact cash flow and the ability of tourism-dependent businesses to survive and reopen.

Northern Australia's tourism industry is highly dependent on air travel with around 90 per cent of tourists arriving by air to locations such as Cairns, Broome and Darwin.⁴ Re-establishing air transport links and passenger numbers will be critical to sustain short term domestic visitors until high value international visitors can return.

The extent of the tourism downturn in certain parts of the north is illustrated in the JobKeeper numbers, which show around 3,600 organisations in the Cairns postcode area applied for JobKeeper during April, the fifth highest JobKeeper numbers across all Australian postcodes.⁵ Nationally, at the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) Statistical Area 4 (SA4) level, the biggest decline in payroll jobs was 8.1 per cent between 14 March and 18 April, yet Cairns experienced a 10.6 per cent decline.

It is expected that small businesses will struggle to sustain operations through a protracted period of economic uncertainty. For example, a recent national ABS survey found that 30 per cent of small

¹ Tourism and Events Queensland, *Great Barrier Reef Research and Insights* (accessed 6 July 2020)

² Tourism Research Australia defines regional areas as those areas other than capital cities except for Queensland where the Gold Coast is included in the definition of a capital city.

³ Tourism Research Australia, 2016, *Tourism businesses in Australia* (accessed 6 July 2020)

⁴ Internal advice provided by Tourism Australia.

⁵ <https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/jobkeeper/data> (accessed 2 July 2020). The organisation application count at the postcode level is based on the most up to date primary organisation address detail that the ATO holds on its records, as supplied by the organisation. This address does not always represent the actual organisation location and/or trading location of the organisation. The organisation may also have multiple trading locations and this is not captured in this data set. The organisation location is also not representative of where employees are based.

businesses (i.e. 0-19 employees) reported that currently available cash on hand would support business operations for less than 3 months.⁶ In the tourism sector nationally, around 95 per cent of tourism businesses employ fewer than 20 people.⁷

The agricultural sector experienced some turbulence but shows signs of resilience

The agricultural sector has experienced disruptions to its supply chains by way of limited flights and an exorbitant increase in freight costs, which for northern producers is further exacerbated by export hubs mainly being located in the south. Disruptions to the agricultural sector are reflected in recent ABS data which shows that in May 2020 rural goods exports fell by 10 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms – in the preceding ten years there have only been 11 months that recorded a fall in these exports greater than 8 per cent.

In northern Australia local producers have experienced a steep drop in income due to slackening demand from local restaurants and cafes. The Northern Territory Farmers Association reported that local growers lost 40 per cent of the market for locally-grown produce as demand dropped from hotels, restaurants and cafes.

International and interstate border closures are limiting labour mobility and availability with agricultural producers heavily reliant on seasonal workers such as working holiday makers and the Pacific Labour Scheme. While there remains a pool of seasonal workers who have stayed in Australia throughout lockdown, the ban on international travel is preventing workforce replenishment, and the accessibility of the available labour pool is hampered by the domestic travel restrictions. The mango industry, worth an estimated \$300 million annually to the north, is reporting significant concern that insufficient labour will risk full harvest of this year's crop.⁸

The resources sector remains resilient but faces longer term risks

The resources sector is one of the north's most productive sectors, employing around 49,700 people in northern Australia,⁹ and has been the least severely impacted in the short term. This cushioning is due to some commodity prices such as iron ore remaining strong. However the sector faces longer term challenges as exploration and development is delayed or halted due to border restrictions and the impact of lower oil prices – both of which risk long term investment opportunities. The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies reports 74 per cent of exploration companies nationally have ceased all or most exploration operations, and a similar number do not think their cash reserves will last the year.¹⁰ These impacts are reflected in recent ABS payroll data showing that in the Northern Territory, for example, there was a 15.7 per cent decline in mining payroll jobs since week ending 14 March.¹¹

⁶ ABS catalogue 5676.0.55.003 - Business Indicators, Business Impacts of COVID-19, June 2020

⁷ Tourism Research Australia, 2016, *Tourism businesses in Australia*.

⁸ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2020-05-14/northern-territory-claims-title-of-biggest-mango-producer/12246604> (Accessed 16 July 2020)

⁹ Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, May 2020, cat.no. 6291.0.55.003, Datacube RQ1 Notes; Census proportions applied to Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4) data.

¹⁰ Association of Mining and Exploration Companies 2020 Survey 2020, *Impacts of COVID-19 on Australian Mineral Exploration*

¹¹ ABS catalogue 6160.0.55.001 - Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia, week ending 27 June 2020

Pre-existing higher than average unemployment and youth unemployment rates

Prior to COVID-19, northern Australia had an underlying unemployment challenge, with the unemployment rate above 6 per cent since 2014.¹² To understand the impacts of COVID-19 on the unemployment rate in northern Australia, the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DISER) undertook internal modelling to estimate the unemployment rate by SA4 regions.¹³ There continue to be challenges with accessing robust data at the regional level to model these impacts and sensibly compare them to national headline figures produced by the ABS. This data challenge is further complicated by the ABS suspending trend estimates which is in itself an indication of how significant the COVID-19-induced shock to the economy has been and how difficult the impacts are to measure.

At a high level, our internal modelling indicates significantly higher than average unemployment rates persist in regions such as Outback Queensland and Townsville. The modelling also indicates that for all SA4 regions in northern Australia – with the exception of Darwin and Mackay/Isaac/Whitsunday – the unemployment rate is higher than the national average for May 2020.

The modelling also indicates that northern Australia's youth unemployment rate is higher than the national average in all SA4 regions except for Cairns, Mackay/Isaac/Whitsunday, and Darwin.

The overall unemployment situation in the north is also higher than the national average, reflected in JobSeeker numbers which show a high number of recipients in tourism centres such as Cairns, Broome and Airlie-Whitsundays.¹⁴ Similarly, the top two postcodes in northern Australia with the highest number of JobKeeper applications were Cairns and Mackay/Isaac/Whitsunday.¹⁵

Infrastructure challenges in northern Australia may hinder the recovery

The travel restrictions have disrupted and reshaped traditional business models across the country and the globe, resulting in an increasing reliance on the remote delivery of products and services. The size of northern Australia and remote geography of much of its population centres presents a challenge to the adoption of remote delivery. While the government continues to invest in improving digital connectivity across the north, it lags the rest of the country, making it difficult for northern residents to take up or adopt digital opportunities in the same way as other Australian regions. The combination of the north's size and climate also presents challenges to transport infrastructure, with many communities reliant on air routes, particularly for the delivery of urgent goods and services including healthcare. The government has made significant investments to support the continued functioning of regional air transport routes, but reliance on these supports presents an additional challenge for the north's recovery.

¹² Office of the Chief Economist, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, Economic analysis of northern Australia

¹³ Statistical level 4 regions in northern Australia include: Cairns, Central Queensland, Mackay/Isaac/Whitsunday, Queensland Outback, Townsville, Western Australia outback (north and south), Darwin, Northern Territory Outback,

¹⁴ <https://data.gov.au/search?q=JobSeeker> (accessed 2 July 2020)

¹⁵ <https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/jobkeeper/data> (accessed 2 July 2020).

Attachment B

Summary of government initiatives supporting the COVID -19 recovery in Northern Australia (as at 31 July 2020)

Initiative	Description	Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
Commonwealth Initiatives					
Economic Response to the Coronavirus \$259 billion ¹⁶					
JobKeeper	<p>For impacted businesses (and self-employed) \$1500 per fortnight payment per employee.</p> <p>21 July – extension announced. Will continue to be available to eligible businesses and not-for-profits until 28 March 2021. Payment rate will be reduced to \$1,200 per fortnight from 28 September 2020 and to \$1,000 per fortnight from 4 January 2021. From 28 September, lower payment rates will apply for employees that worked few than 20 hours per week.</p>	Businesses and individuals	30 March - 28 March 2021	Budgeted: \$70 billion	<p>Applications in April and May 2020 across northern Australia totalled 31,778:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NT – 4,649 Qld – 25,224 WA – 1,905 <p>906,484 business applications nationally. Note that postcode data on JobKeeper reflects the head office location of companies, not necessarily where the workers receiving JobKeeper are located.</p> <p>The health care and social assistance, retail trade, and construction sectors are the biggest three employers in the north, and data from the recent review of the JobKeeper payment shows these three sectors are also among those with the highest take-up of JobKeeper¹⁷.</p>
JobSeeker	<p>Supplement of \$550 per fortnight + expanded eligibility</p> <p>21 July – Jobseeker coronavirus supplement extension announced. From 25 September to 31 December the coronavirus supplement will be \$250 per fortnight. JobSeeker will be reviewed again in December.</p>	Individuals	27 April to December 2020.	Budgeted: \$14 billion over six months	<p>100,016 people on Jobseeker in northern Australia (1,463,863 nationally).</p> <p>The top 3 job seeker SA2s for each NA jurisdiction are (showing number of payments and percentage of SA2 population):</p> <p><i>North Queensland</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cairns – 1,661 (13%) Airlie-Whitsundays – 1,510 (11%) Mt Isa – 1,267 (7%)

¹⁶ Source: <https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus>

¹⁷ The JobKeeper Payment: Three-month review, published by The Treasury, available at https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-07/jobkeeper-review-2020_0.pdf accessed 4 August 2020. Based on ATO administrative data as at 23 June 2020

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
					<p><i>North Western Australia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broome – 1,542 (11%) • Derby-West Kimberley – 1,358 (17%) • Kununurra – 871 (12%) <p><i>Northern Territory</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Arnhem – 1,634 (19%) • West Arnhem – 1,352 (25%) • Charles – 1,344 (31%)
JobTrainer Package (JobTrainer Fund and extension of the Supporting Apprentices and Trainees program)	\$2 billion skills package. \$1 billion <u>JobTrainer Skills Fund</u> (in partnership with the states and territories) will provide up to an additional 340,700 training places to help school leavers and job seekers access short and long courses to develop new skills in growth sectors and create a pathway to more qualifications.	Apprentices	Wage incentive extended until March 2021.	JobTrainer Fund: \$500 million from Australian Government, to be matched by jurisdictions Supporting Apprentices and Trainees: extra \$1.5 billion	Announced 16 July 2020. Agreements with the states and territories not yet finalised. National Skills Commission to identify current and future skills needed.
	<u>Supporting Apprentices and Trainees</u> – wage subsidy (50% of apprenticeship or trainee wage). Extra \$1.5 billion to expand the wage incentive to keep apprentices in work announced in the JobTrainer package	Businesses – SMEs (~70,000 businesses keep ~ 117,000 apprentices and trainees in work)	2 April to 30 September 2020 (subsidies available for wages paid back to 1 Jan 2020)	\$1.3 billion, plus additional \$1.5 billion announced 16 July 2020	As at 31 December 2019, there were around 85,695 people enrolled in apprentice or traineeship programs in WA, Qld and NT (33 per cent of the national total) ¹⁸ . Extension announced 16 July 2020.
Homebuilder	\$25,000 grant to build a new home or substantially renovate an existing home	Construction	Time-limited. Homeowner must sign contract with builder by 31 December 2020 and	\$688 million	Applicants can apply for HomeBuilder when the relevant State or Territory Government signs the National Partnership Agreement with Commonwealth Government.

¹⁸ Apprentices and trainees 2019: December quarter data slicer, available from <https://www.ncver.edu.au/research-and-statistics/data/all-data/apprentices-and-trainees-2019-december-quarter-data-slicer> accessed 3 August 2020

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
			work commence within 3 months of signing.		All states and territories are now signatories to the HomeBuilder National Partnership.
Payments to support households	Two separate \$750 payments to social security, veteran and other income support recipients and eligible concession card holders.	Individuals. (~50% of those who will benefit are pensioners)	Payment 1: 31 March 2020; Payment 2: 13 July 2020		Approximately 6.6 million social welfare recipients expected to benefit, with around 32 per cent of all social welfare recipients living in WA, Qld or the NT ¹⁹ . Specific data on distribution in northern Australia is not available.
Temporary early release of superannuation	Eligible individuals can access up to \$10,000 of their superannuation in 2019-20 and a further \$10,000 in 2020-21.	Individuals	Available in 2019-20 and 2020-21		2.7 million applications received nationally. Northern Australia specific data not available.
Temporarily reducing superannuation minimum drawdown rates by 50%	The minimum annual payment made to an account-based pensions and annuities, allocated pensions and/or annuities and market-linked pensions and annuities has been reduced by 50 per cent.	Individuals (retirees)	2019-20 and 2020-21		Northern Australia specific data not available.
Reducing social security deeming rates	Reducing the upper deeming rate to 2.25% and the lower deeming rate to 0.25% to reflect the low interest rate environment	Individuals (~900,000 income support recipients, including ~565,000 age pensioners)	As of 1 May 2020		Measure commenced 1 May, reporting not yet available.
Boosting Cash Flow for Employers	Temporary cash flow support to small and medium businesses and NFP organisations. \$20,000 and \$100,000, delivered through credits in Activity Statements	Businesses - SMEs and NFPs	Boosts will be applied for March to June 2020 period and June to September 2020.		Reporting for the March to June 2020 period not yet available. Nationally applied.
Temporary Relief for financially distressed businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the threshold at which creditors can issue a statutory demand on a company and to initiate bankrupt proceedings. • Increasing the time companies and individuals have to respond to statutory demands they receive. • Temporary relief for directors from any personal liability for trading while insolvent. 	Businesses	25 March to 24 September 2020	N/A – regulatory changes	Regulatory changes to increase operating flexibility for business, including those based in the north.

¹⁹ DSS Payment Demographic data March 2020, available from <https://data.gov.au/data/dataset/dss-payment-demographic-data> accessed 3 August 2020

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary flexibility in the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> to provide target relief from provisions of the Act to deal with unforeseen events that arise as a result of COVID19. 				
Increasing the instant asset write off	Threshold increased from \$30,000 to \$150,000 and expanded access to include business with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$500 million (up from \$50 million).	Businesses	March to 31 December 2020		Reporting period not yet complete.
Backing business investment	Deduction of 50% of the cost of an eligible asset on installation	Businesses - SMEs	March 2020 – 30 June 2021		Data for the March-June 2020 reporting period not yet available.
Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme	Provide a guarantee of 50% to SME lenders to support new short-term unsecured loans to SMEs. Phase 1 – eligible lenders offer guaranteed loans to SMEs and sole traders with turnover up to \$50m. Maximum loan size of \$250,000, for up to three years, unsecured, with an initial six month repayment holiday. Phase 2 – increases maximum loan size to \$1m; for up to 5 years rather than 3; an option for the loans to be secured.	Businesses - SMEs	Phase 1 – 9 April to 30 September Phase 2 – 1 October 2020 to 30 June 2021	\$40 billion	Location specific data not yet available.
Quick and efficient access to credit for small business	Temporary exemption from responsible lending obligations for lenders providing credit to existing small business customers	Businesses - SMEs	6 months	N/A – regulatory changes	Increased flexibility for businesses in the north to access finance.
Reserve Bank of Australia – Supporting the flow and reducing the cost of credit	Term funding facility for the banking system. Banks will have access to at least \$90 billion in funding at a fixed interest rate of 0.25%. To encourage lending to businesses, the facility offers additional low-cost funding to banks if they expand their business lending, with particular incentives applying to new loans to SMEs.	Finance sector and Businesses - SMEs	March - September 2020		Increased flexibility for businesses, particularly SMEs, in the north to access finance.
Support for Non-ADI and smaller ADI lenders in the securitization market	The Government has provided the Australian Office of Financial Management to invest in structured financed markets used by smaller lenders, including non-Authorised Deposit	Finance sector (esp smaller lenders)	N/A	\$15 billion	Expected to have downstream benefits to business on northern Australia seeking access to finance.

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
	Taking Institutions (non-ADI) and smaller Authorised Deposit-Taking Institutions (ADI).				
Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority – Ensuring banks are well placed to lend	Temporary changes to its expectations regarding bank capital ratios. The changes will support banks' lending to customers, particularly if they wish to take advantage of the new facility being offered by the RBA.	Finance sector	N/A	N/A – regulatory changes	Expected to have downstream benefits to business on northern Australia seeking access to finance.
Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI)	Additional works brought forward.		Specific projects commencing over next 2 years	\$390 million	<p><u>NT Roads</u> - \$82 million Sealing Tanami Road - 261km to Yuendumu (Alice Springs to Halls Creek Corridor) Pavement Strengthening and Widening (ROSI Newman to Katherine Corridor) Mango Industry Roads Upgrades, Litchfield (Alice Springs to Darwin Corridor) Pavement Strengthening and Widening (ROSI Alice Springs to Darwin Corridor) Pavement Strengthening and Widening (ROSI Tennant Creek to Townsville Corridor) Road Safety and Fatigue Management Upgrades (ROSI Alice Springs to Darwin Corridor) Port Keats Road Upgrade (Saddle Rail Creek) (ROSI Adelaide River to Wadeye corridor)</p> <p><u>Qld Roads</u> - \$185 million Flinders Highway, Kennedy Developmental Road (Hann Highway), Carnarvon Highway, Dawson Highway and Dawson Developmental Road (Springsure – Tambo), Gulf Developmental Road, Gregory Highway and Gregory Developmental Road, Balonne Highway, Gore Highway, Proserpine - Shute Harbour Road and the local government-controlled Floraville Road in Burke Shire.</p> <p><u>WA Roads</u> – \$123 million Great Northern Highway Upgrade Ord River North Stage 3a and 3b (Newman to Katherine Corridor Upgrade) Delivery of Stage 3 and Development of Stage 4 (Karratha to Tom Price Corridor Upgrade)</p>

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
Relief and Recovery Fund ²⁰					
Regional Airlines Funding Assistance	Financial assistance for smaller regional domestic air service providers to help manage cash flow issues. Airlines that operate Regular Public Transport air services to/from regional/remote locations, contracted aero medical providers and a range of essential services providers are eligible to apply.	Airline sector	Non-competitive grant program, closes 31 December 2020.	\$100 million	Grant agreements settled to mid-May include ²¹ : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cape York and Torres Islands – up to \$5.1 million. The Queensland Government is reimbursing flight expenses to continue operating their network. • Darwin and Jabiru to West Arnhem Land – up to \$386,394 for eligible essential service flights. • Port Hedland through the Pilbara region – up to \$410,000 for eligible essential service flights.
Regional Airline Network Support Program	Underwriting of Regular Public Transport air services to regional locations.	Airline sector	3 April - 31 December 2020	\$198 million	In mid-May, around 26 weekly routes to/from or within northern Australia were underwritten (59 nationally). As at 28 May, northern Australia operators with approved grant amounts (subject to monthly assessment of funding need) includes ²² : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air North (NT, WA and Qld) - \$6.8m • Hardy Aviation (NT) - \$0.6m • Chartair (NT) - \$0.9m • Aviair (WA) - \$0.5m Additional funding to operators in WA and Qld where the 'northern' split is not readily available include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Express (SA, VIC, Qld, NSW, Tas, WA) - \$24m
International Freight Assistance Mechanism	Freight service to reestablish supply chains to enable Australia's agricultural and fisheries sector to export their high-quality produce and reconnect with their international customers	Airline sector, agriculture/ fisheries		\$351.9 million	Brisbane - Hong Kong, via Cairns, twice a week Darwin – Brisbane air bridge three times a week

²⁰Source: <https://www.regional.gov.au/regional/programs/covid-19-relief-and-recovery-fund.aspx>

²¹ grants are published on www.grants.gov.au

²² grants are published on www.grants.gov.au

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
	and to import items of national importance such as medicines, medical equipment and PPE. The IFAM supports an outbound and inbound flight schedule from Brisbane, Toowoomba, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Hobart and Perth to key markets in Asia, US, Europe and the Middle East.				
Additional Funding for the Export Market Development Grant Scheme	Scheme provides financial assistance (up to 50% on a reimbursement basis) to SMEs for international marketing and promotional expenditure.	Businesses - SME		\$49.8 million The additional funding brings the scheme up to \$207.7 million in 2019-20.	Estimated value of additional funding by jurisdiction: Qld \$6.6m WA \$3.4m NT \$0.0m
Levy Relief for Commonwealth Fisheries	Reduced levies for the 2019–20 financial year by two thirds Levy relief is limited to fishers in fisheries managed by the Australian Government.	Fisheries		\$10.3 million	Estimated value of levy relief per jurisdiction ²³ : VIC \$2.4m Qld \$2.2m NSW \$1.6m WA \$1.6m SA \$1.2m TAS \$1.2m NT/ACT \$0.2m Note that data based on company addresses, not necessarily where fishing operates from. For example, even though prawn farms are in operation in northern Qld, assistance is provided to SA and WA.
Supporting Indigenous Visual Arts Centres	Contribution to the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS) Program supports Indigenous Art Centres and Indigenous Art	Arts	Art Centres will received the funds across two payments: 2019-20 and 2020-21. Art fairs will receive one payment in 2020-21	\$7 million	Payments will be made directly to IVAIS-funded Indigenous Art Centres and IVAIS-funded Indigenous Art Fairs through the IVAIS Program. NT 33, \$2.9m Northern QLD 15, \$1.13m Northern WA 10, \$0.85m
Crisis Relief for Regional Arts	Crisis relief and targeted support to organisations, artists and arts workers that are	Arts	2019-20	\$10 million	Approximately: Qld \$1.43m for entire state WA \$1.43m for entire state

²³ Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries Senator the Hon Jonathon Duniam, [\\$10 million levy life-line delivered to Commonwealth fishers](#) [media release, published 9 July 2020]

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
	critical to delivering the arts to communities in regional and remote areas				NT \$0.79m for entire state
Support Act: Crisis Relief to Artists, Crew and Music Workers	Immediate crisis relief to artists, crew and music workers	Arts		\$10 million	Administered through the Charity Support Act. Northern Australia specific data not available.
Supporting Australia's Exhibiting Zoos and Aquariums	Objective is to assist eligible exhibiting zoos, aquariums and wildlife parks to maintain their animal populations by assisting with animal welfare costs. Grant funds can only be used for operating costs associated with animal welfare during the grant period. It cannot be used for staff costs, administration and general maintenance or capital improvements.	Tourism	Applications open May to June 2020 with two payments: First payment 2019-20; second payment from 1 July 2020	\$94.6 million	There are 23 eligible applicants in northern Australia, and 145 eligible applicants nationally. First payment will be made on applicant's estimate of eligible animal welfare costs for 3 months to permit funds to flow quickly to recipients. The second payment will be made from 1 July 2020 once all applications have been received and assessed and total demands on the Program are known. As of 8 July, 10 applicants have had grants awarded. In northern Australia the successful applicants were: Hartley's Creek Crocodile Farm - \$232,950.00 Cairns Aquarium & Reef Research Centre - \$511,500.00 Koorana Crocodile Farm - \$20,790.00
Commonwealth National Parks—Support for Tourism—Fee Waivers	Waiver of entry fees for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Booderee National Park Kakadu National Park Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Licence and permit fee and rent relief for businesses operating in Commonwealth National Parks	Tourism	Entry fee waivers: 16 March – 31 December 2020 Business support: 1 January 2020 - 31 March 2021	Entry fee waivers: \$11.2 million Business support: \$772,000	\$10.11 million to National Parks in the NT –Kakadu National Park, and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Of the \$772,000 to support business operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses in the NT will receive \$545,000 of which \$417,000 is to support commercial tour operators; and \$128,000 for electricity waivers for other organisations in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park (schools, etc). Remaining funds to Canberra Botanic Gardens
Temporary waiver of Environmental Management Charge for the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) Marine Park		Tourism	1 April to 31 December 2020	\$8.1 million	All funding flows to tourism operators based in the Great Barrier Reef
Renewing Reef HQ Aquarium	Upgrade and maintenance to the life support systems throughout the Aquarium that control	Tourism	2019-2020	\$2.6 million	All funding to Townsville, Qld.

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
	the environments within the live exhibits. It will also provide energy security through back up power supply.			This is <i>in addition</i> to existing funding announced in December 2019 \$26.9 million over 4 years.	
Financial Counselling for Regional Small Business	Services available through Rural Financial Counselling to help eligible small businesses to: understand their financial position; identify options; and implement plans to improve their viability.	Businesses - SME	Until 30 June 2021	\$4.8 million	Services are available in north Australia in the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NT: Territory-wide via Darwin. • Qld: Aitkenvale, Atherton, Innisfail, Isaac, Longreach, Mackay, Richmond, Townsville. • WA: via other regions.
Seafood sector COVID-19 support – “Eat Seafood Australia” Campaign	Deliver through Seafood Industry Australia a 12-month national awareness campaign that encourages Australians to eat more healthy, sustainable Australian seafood.	Fisheries		\$4 million	Agriculture, forestry and fishing are one of the top ten employing industries in Australia.
Supporting Agricultural Shows	Funding to agricultural show societies to cover fixed cost expenditure in the 2020 calendar year if their show was cancelled this year because of Coronavirus restrictions or uncertainties.	Agricultural sector and community sector	2020-2021 FY.	\$36 million	Applications will open in early 2021 and will be available on Community Grants Hub when open. Payments will be made by 30 June 2021.
Securing Forestry Resources for Economic Recovery	This initiative provides in funding to Australia's forestry industries to help manage the compounding effects of the Coronavirus crisis and the 2019-20 bushfire season.	Forestry sector		\$10 million	Funding will be made available through the state governments. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries are one of the top 10 employing industries in northern Australia.
Temporary Oil Recycling Sector Support	Temporarily increase the benefit paid to oil recyclers under the Product Stewardship Oil Scheme for category one oil from 50 cents per litre.	Businesses	1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020.	\$7.8 million	Reporting period has not yet ended.

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
Assistance to the aviation sector (not within the Relief and Recovery Fund) ²⁴					
Australian Airline Financial Relief Package	<p>Package to ease the costs and charges of operating domestic commercial air services. Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • waiver of fuel excise • waiver of Airservices Australia charges • domestic aviation security charges rebate • support enhanced regional security screening 	Airline sector	1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020.	\$715 million	<p>Airports are purchasing the required equipment for enhanced security screening with funding support from the Department of Home Affairs' Regional Airports Security Screening Fund (RASSF). Expressions of interest have been invited from eligible airports (47 in total), which are those funded under RASSF, a number of which are in northern Australia airports including (but not limited to) Paraburdoo, Mount Isa, Broome, Kununurra and Weipa.</p> <p>Airservices waiver being implemented directly. Grants to applicants for the fuel excise and security charges rebates with northern Australia postcodes²⁵ include²⁶:</p> <p><i>Queensland</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hinterland Aviation (Cairns) - \$12,739 • Skytrans (Townsville) - \$40,000 • Barkly Helicopters (Mt Isa) - \$1,000 • Atherton Tableland Air Service - \$4,500 • Aero Professional Services (Emerald) - \$12,446 • North Queensland Aero Club (Mareeba) - \$1,328 <p><i>Northern Territory</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katherine Aviation (Katherine) - \$8,000 • Chartair (Marrara, NT) - \$29,000 • Capiteq / Air North (Marrara, NT) - \$1,680,000 • Byron Bay Air Charter (Darwin) - \$2,500

²⁴ Source: <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/>

²⁵ Note: this excludes applicants that may service northern Australia but are headquartered in the south. For example, Qantas and Virgin each received grants (\$68 million and \$67 million respectively), as did smaller regional airlines such as Alliance Airlines, headquartered in Brisbane but servicing a range of regional routes including between south east Queensland and northern Queensland locations such as the Whitsunday Coast and Cairns, received a grant of \$4,400,000; and National Jet Express, headquartered in Perth but providing charter services to many northern WA locations, received a grant of \$834,012.

²⁶ Source grants.gov.au (accessed 3 July 2020)

Measure	Description	Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Frontier (Darwin) - \$12,000 Top End Helicopters (Batchelor) - \$725 <p><i>Western Australia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broome Aviation / Northwest Regional Airlines (Broome) - \$3,700 Shoal Air (Kununurra) - \$4,000 Avair (Kununurra) - \$55,500 Helicopter Film Services (Kununurra) - \$2,500 Fortescue Helicopters (Newman) - \$2,637
Domestic aviation network guarantees	Underwriting the cost of the domestic network: capital cities and major regional centres.	Airline sector	16 April 2020 – 30 September	\$165 million	<p>Around 60 weekly return services to/from regional centres in northern Australia are being underwritten (as at 19 May) including connections to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NT: Darwin, Alice Springs QLD: Horn Island, Weipa, Cairns, Townsville, Mt Isa, Cloncurry, Mackay, Moranbah, Longreach, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Emerald WA: Kununurra, Broome, Port Hedland, Karratha, Newman
Other measures					
Infection Control Training Fund²⁷	A new fund to support the accelerated uptake of infection control training to support customer-facing businesses nationwide to reopen.	Businesses – retail, tourism, hospitality		\$80 million	<p>The Australian Government will make available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QLD - \$8.04 million WA - \$4.13 million NT - \$0.39 million
Freeze of the Heavy Vehicle Road User Charge at current levels	The Road User Charge, which is set to recover the heavy vehicle share of road maintenance and improvements, will stay at 25.8 cents per litre for diesel in 2020-21 instead of increasing by the scheduled 2.5%.	Freight, road transport			Will reduce an anticipated increase in costs for the freight sector in the north, which incurs high costs as a result of the size and remoteness of the region.

²⁷ Source: <https://www.dese.gov.au/news/subsidised-infection-control-training-fast-tracked-re-opening-businesses>

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
Job-ready Graduates Package Higher Education Reform Package	Package aims to deliver more job-ready graduates in the disciplines and regions where they are needed most and help drive economic recovery from COVID-19.	Education	Announced 19 June 2020. Number of messages subject to passage of legislation. Reform changes due to commence from 2021		Package requires legislation to be finalised. The three northern Australia universities will benefit from measures in the \$400 million package for regional and remote students.
Infrastructure investment response to COVID-19 (\$100 billion, 10 year infrastructure pipeline) ²⁸					
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program	Support for local councils to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure across Australia, supporting jobs and the resilience of local economies to help communities bounce back from COVID-19.	Local councils, construction	Immediate	\$500 million	Northern Australia: \$59,023,105 million NT: \$14,538,519 QLD: \$36,327,594 WA: \$8,156,992
Shovel Ready Projects	Support for shovel ready projects that can support jobs immediately.	Construction	Immediate	\$1 billion	NT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban Arterials Asphalt Program (\$1.75 million) Carpentaria Hwy Strengthen and Widening (\$4 million) Stuart Highway Strengthening and Widening (Urban) (\$0.25 million) Stuart Hwy Strengthening and Widening (Regional) (\$7.6 million) QLD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burke Developmental Road – Progressive sealing (\$11.2 million) Cloncurry-Dajarra Road Upgrade (\$16 million) Gregory Developmental Road (Charters Towers to The Lynd) (\$20 million) Regional Economic Enabling Fund (\$120.4 million) – includes range of works in northern Australia.

²⁸ Source: https://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure_investment/infrastructure_investment_response_covid-19/

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
					WA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exmouth Roads Package – Minilya to Exmouth Road Widening (\$11.2 million) Exmouth Roads Package – Yardie Creek Realignment (\$4.8 million)
Targeted Road Safety Works	Investment in road projects on state or territory roads to improve road user safety that can be completed within 12 months.	Construction		\$500 million	NT \$26.8 million WA \$120 million (state total) QLD \$120 million (state total)
COVID-19 Creative Economy Support Package²⁹					
Seed Investment to Reactive Productions and Tours	Competitive grant funding through the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund. This program will provide capital to help production and event businesses to put on new festivals, concerts tours and events as social distancing restrictions ease.		Announced 25 June 2020 Grants program will operate 2020-21	\$75 million	Guidelines yet to be announced. Impact on northern Australia currently unknown.
Slow Starter Loans	Concessional loans to assist creative economy businesses to fund new production and events that stimulate job creation and economic activity. The loans program will complement the RISE Fund and will be delivered through commercial banks, backed by a 100 per cent Commonwealth guarantee.		Announced 25 June 2020	\$90 million	Guidelines yet to be announced. Impact on northern Australia currently unknown.
Kick-starting Local Screen Production	Temporary Interruption Fund, to be administered by Screen Australia, that will support local film and television producers to secure finance and start filming again, supporting thousands of jobs in the sector. Filming of new productions has largely been halted as insurers are not providing coverage for COVID-19.		Announced 25 June	\$50 million	Guidelines yet to be announced. Impact on northern Australia currently unknown.
Supporting Sustainability of Sector-Significant Organisations	Direct financial assistance to support significant Commonwealth-funded arts and culture organisations facing threats to their viability due to COVID-19, which may include organisations in	Arts	Announced 25 June	\$35 million	Guidelines yet to be announced. Impact on northern Australia currently unknown.

²⁹ Source: <https://www.arts.gov.au/covid-19-update>

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
	fields including theatre, dance, circus, music and other fields. The Government will partner with the Australia Council.				
Creative Economy Taskforce	Establishment of a ministerial taskforce to partner with the Government and the Australia Council to implement the JobMaker plan for the creative economy.		Announced 25 June	N/A	Membership yet to be announced.
<i>Queensland Government</i>					
COVID-19 economic relief package \$4 billion ³⁰					
Cost of living	Cost of living relief for households including \$200 rebate on power and water charges, on top of \$50 asset dividend already announced	Households	Immediate	\$300 million	Applied automatically to bills in households in Qld.
Businesses	Payroll tax relief Relief for businesses renting government premises Assist workers who lose their jobs or income with retraining, job matching and other help to transition into jobs in vital industries such as health care, agriculture, food production, transport, cleaning and mining sectors Electricity bill rebates for SME consuming <100,000 kilowatts Liquor licensing fee waiver Assistance to support large business scale up when economic activity improves	businesses	Immediate	\$2.5 billion	State wide
Health Care Package	Increase the capacity of Qld's health system to confront COVID-19. Includes the expansion of fever clinics, emergency department capacity, acute care services, regional aeromedical services for remote communities	Health	Immediate	\$1.2 billion	Details to follow on where funding spent.

³⁰ <https://www.ditid.qld.gov.au/covid-19/recovery-packages>

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
Other Measures					
Job Support Loan Scheme	Concessional interest free loans for the first 12 months to support businesses and keep Queenslanders in work	SMEs	Applications have closed	\$1 billion	State wide application
Payroll tax relief	Payroll tax relief including refunds, payment holidays and deferrals for eligible businesses as well as a tax exemption for JobKeeper payments.		Applications for refunds closed 31 Mar 2020. Deferrals close 31 December	\$950 million	State wide application
Worker retraining and assistance	Assistance for workers and businesses who lose their job or income. Includes creation of Jobs Finder Portal				State wide application
Support for retail and commercial tenants	Land tax relief and payment referrals for retail and commercial tenants.				State wide application
Gaming Machine Taxes Deferral	Deferment of gaming machine taxes for the state's 1,100 pubs and clubs for three months. Gaming machine taxes paid in March 2020 will be refunded.	Hospitality	Commenced April 2020	\$50 million	Impacts pubs and clubs across the state.
New economy minerals initiative	Funding to upscale the Collaborative Exploration Initiative and support exploration activating for new economy minerals for emerging technologies and productions to meet domestic and international demand.	Mining Resources	Announced June 2020	\$10 million	Not yet determined. Mining is ranked 1 in terms of industry contribution to GRP.
Regional Mining Equipment, Technology and Services (METS) Accelerator Program and Queensland METS Accelerator Program	Aimed to accelerate METS small to medium sized businesses by enhancing business capabilities	Resources	Announced June 2020	\$650,000	Not yet determined.
National Parks Works and jobs boost	Visitor infrastructure upgrades and enhancements to re-energise nature-based tourism	Tourism	Announced June 2020	\$8.93 million	Not yet announced funding allocation.

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
Arts and Culture	\$11.3 million to offset revenue losses in music and performing arts venues and organisations \$4.2 million to provide a pipeline of performing arts and live music to support our cultural and tourism recovery \$2.9 million for partnerships with local councils, venues, artists, festivals and organisations to continue employment and provide unique experiences \$4.15 million to support temporary outdoor infrastructure, capital grant funding and to fund a virtual venue for performances and the development of an online Indigenous arts and crafts sales platform.	Arts Tourism	Announced June 2020	\$22.55 million	State wide application. Not yet determined benefit to Northern Australia.
QLD NZ export program	Establish Trade and Investment pathways and opportunities for new and existing exporters between Queensland and New Zealand.	Industry	Announced June 2020	\$100,000	State wide application. Not yet determined what industries will be assisted by program.
Taxi support package	One off and upfront payments to operators, licence holders and booking entities	Transport	Announced June 2020	\$23.16 million	State wide application.
Digital transformation in agribusiness	To develop integrated supply chains that improve traceability biosecurity and food security.	Agriculture	Announced June 2020	\$5.5 million	Impact not yet able to be determined. Could have application to agricultural industries in the north of Qld.
Reinvigorated agricultural trade relationships	Support e-commerce and virtual trade facilitation in key markets and assist coordination of demand for additional regular air freight services	Agriculture	Announced June 2020	\$5 million	Not yet able to be determined.
Agribusiness diversification assistance	To build capability and explore potential diversification opportunities in agricultural businesses, including for tourism	Agriculture	Announced June 2020	\$2 million	Not yet able to be determined.

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
Housing construction – works for tradies	Targeting social and affordable housing investment. Boost housing supply, drive economic activity and support construction across Queensland.	Construction	Announced June 2020	\$100 million	State wide application. Not yet able to determine impact on northern Australia.
Regional training infrastructure	Upgrade existing TAFE training campuses	Construction Education	Announced June 2020	\$1.175 million	Regional application.
Year of Indigenous Tourism	State-wide promotion for Indigenous Tourism in Queensland. Supported by a \$10 million Indigenous tourism fund to develop this sector and create jobs for Indigenous Australians. Originally intended only for 2020, extended through to 2021.	Tourism	Announced in 2019, extension 19 Jul 2020	\$10 million	State-wide.
Queensland Tourism economic recovery package					
Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund 2020/21	Fast track the development of new and enhanced tourism infrastructure projects that will strengthen Queensland's tourism Industry and deliver economic benefits	Tourism	Registrations closed.	\$25 million	Details of infrastructure projects to follow.
Queensland Tourism Icons Program	Support for tourism enterprises and experiences that are considered to be essential as key marketing 'demand-drivers' to support the resilience of the broader industry during recovery from Covid-19.	Tourism		\$25 million	Only Tourism operators able to apply are (NA operators in bold): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village Roadshow QLD (MovieWorld, SeaWorld, Wet N Wild and Paradise Country) • Ardent Leisure Group (Dreamworld) • Australia Zoo • Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary • Sea Life Sunshine Coast • Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary • Hartley's Crocodile Adventures, Birdworld Kuranda, Kuranda Koala Gardens • Quicksilver Cruises • Experience Co • Skyrail Rainforest Cableway • The CaPTA Group

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
					Funding has also been allocated to outback tourism proponents who will be invited to participate after consultation with Regional Tourism Organisations.
\$5 million for flights within Queensland	Support for 15 regional airports and Brisbane airport to negotiate with airlines to establish new routes or reopen pre-COVID19	Tourism Aviation		\$5 million	Will impact regional airports in Northern Australia. Details to follow of 15 regional airlines given support.
\$10 million to bring tourists back from outside QLD	Funding for key regional airports and Brisbane airport to work in partnership with Tourism and Events QLD to secure aviation routes into regional QLD and Brisbane from interstate and other markets.	Tourism		\$10 million	Details to follow on key regional airports.
Flights from Brisbane to Whitsundays	The QLD Government is supporting new flights direct from Brisbane to the Whitsundays, through Alliance Airlines. The partnership supports flights four times a week from Brisbane to the Whitsundays	Tourism	Start 22 June		Brings in flights from Brisbane to the Whitsundays. Qld government estimates 5,300 tourists to the region over 12 months, generating \$9.2m in expenditure
Flights from Sunshine Coast to Cairns	The QLD Government is supporting three new return services between the Sunshine Coast and Cairns, through Alliance Airlines.	Tourism	Start mid-July		Brings in flights to Cairns
<i>Northern Territory</i>					
Business Relief Package	Measures including abolishing payroll tax for 6 months for small and medium businesses and deferring payroll tax for 6 months for large business; halving water and sewerage bills for business for six months; requested local councils assist households by waiving rates for three-months, followed by a three-month rates deferral; commercial tenancy assistance.	Businesses Households	From 1 May 2020	\$180 million	NT wide
Classroom Stimulus Package	Construction of 15 new pre-fabricated classrooms that will be transported to remote communities when quarantine restrictions are lifted.	Construction Remote communities Education	Immediate	\$10.8 million	The final location of the classrooms will be determined by community consultation, education needs, student numbers and the condition of existing infrastructure. This project is expected to support at least 55 local construction jobs.

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
Operation Rebound Green Paper³¹	The Green Paper outlines a vision for a \$40 billion NT economy by 2030, by averaging 5% annual economic growth across the 2020s by reconstructing the economy and embracing new opportunities such as clean energy supply and international data connectivity to support advanced manufacturing	Economy wide			NT wide
Business Structural Adjust Package	This package will assist businesses who need to physically adjust to the 100 person rule or to establish or upgrade their online presence to adjust to changing behaviours of consumption	All businesses can apply, initial focus on hospitality sector first.		\$5 million	NT Wide
Small Business Survival Fund	Fund will provide five payments to eligible businesses for survival, adaption, operational support and rebounding in the new economic environment	Retail, hospitality, tourism and entertainment businesses		\$50 million	NT wide.
Home Improvement Scheme	Voucher scheme with home owners receiving a voucher worth up to \$6000 if they contribute at least \$2000 of their own money for physical improvements to land and/or buildings and repairs and maintenance services.	Construction		\$100 million	
Business Hardship Register	Territory Businesses can apply to be listed on a central business hardship register to receive payroll tax waiver or deferrals, reductions on utilities, rates and business rents.	Business	1 April – 30 September 2020		NT Wide
<i>Western Australia</i>					
Recovery Package to support small tourism operations	\$10.4 million Tourism Recovery Fund will provide one-off cash grants to assist thousands of businesses adapt to new tourism landscape. \$4 million Tourism Business Survival Grants to support businesses dealing with exceptionally difficult circumstances.	Tourism	Immediate	\$14.4 million	State wide

³¹ <https://ntrebound.nt.gov.au/>

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
Kimberley Recovery Plan	\$110.9 million package to drive economic and social recovery, and create a pipeline of local jobs in the Kimberly.		Immediate	\$110.9 million	Kimberley region-specific
Air freight support to agri-food products to Singapore	Allocated funding towards temporarily offsetting significantly increased air freight costs and supporting dedicated freight services ahead of the commencement of a broader Commonwealth air freight scheme.	Agriculture	Immediate, Temporary	\$634,000	The WA Government supported resumption of air freight of WA agrifood exports to Singapore, with a flight loaded with pork and beef departing on 22 April. Approximately 10% of the value of WA's annual agrifood exports is transported via air freight.
Wastewater charge relief for businesses	The Water Corporation will waive wastewater charges for businesses that are eligible for JobKeeper up until 31 August 2020	Main target hospitality and tourism businesses	Announced 27 May 2020 – until 31 August 2020	\$5.5 million	Applies statewide.
COVID-19 On demand Transport industry relief package	Assistance to On-demand booking services such as taxis, tour and charter, luxury and event, and regular and tourism passenger transport services.	Transport sector	Announced 1 April 2020	\$9 million	Applies statewide
Environment Online and Biodiversity Information Office	Development of Environment Online streamline environmental assessment and approval processes in WA to minimise delays and to assist in the State's COVID-19 recovery. Will improve the transparency and consistency of environmental approvals, and reduce the time take for major projects to navigate joint State and Commonwealth approvals processes by 6-12 months. BIO will provide cost-effective system to capture, store, curate publish and analyse biodiversity data throughout WA. Joint initiative of the Commonwealth and State Governments.	Infrastructure	Announced 12 May 2020	\$28 million for Environment online \$9.2 million for BIO (\$1.5 million Commonwealth funded).	Applies statewide
Construction Workforce Support Package	For employers to support existing apprentices and trainees supplementing the existing Construction Training Fund (\$10 million), a new \$9.5 million program and \$5 million to support more than 5,000 building and construction	Construction	Announced 23 April 2020	\$24.5 million	Applies statewide to keep apprentices and trainees in jobs.

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
	apprentices and trainees to complete short training courses.				
Building Bonus Grants of \$20,000	Building Bonus grants provided to homebuyers who sign up before December 31 2020 to build new houses or purchase a new property in a single-tier development.	Construction	Sign up ends December 31 2020	\$117 million	State-wide. Estimated to create around 2,600 jobs.
Social Housing Economic Recovery Package	Stimulus will refurbish 1,500 homes, deliver about 250 new dwellings for Government housing and rollout regional maintenance program for 3,800 homes.	Construction	Announced 7 June 2020	\$317 million	The package includes an \$80 million maintenance and refurbishment program for regional WA. Estimated package will create more than 17,000 jobs, of which 430 will be regional.
WA Tourism Recovery Program	The Tourism Recovery Fund (\$10.4 million) will provide one-off cash grants to assist thousands of businesses to adapt to a new tourism landscape. The Tourism Business Survival Grants (\$4 million) will support businesses dealing with exceptionally difficult circumstances.	Tourism	Applications close 12 June 2020	\$14.4 million	Statewide. Applies to eligible small businesses who belong to a Regional Tourism Organisation and have a taxable wages bill of less than \$1 million.
Regional Chambers of Commerce Support	Support of between \$5,000 and \$20,000 is being provided to individual chambers across regional WA to keep their doors open and aid business recovery	Business	Announced 4 May 2020	\$235,000	Regional WA. Support will depend on chamber size and need.
Relief package to support tenants and landlords	Grants of up to \$2000 for residential tenants who have lost their job and face financial hardship due to COVID-19. \$100 million in land tax relief grants available for commercial landlords who reduce rent for small business tenants impacted by COVID-19. Coincides with six month moratorium on evictions for certain commercial tenancies and a freeze on rent increases.	Households Small businesses	Announced 23 April 2020	\$130 million	Statewide
Securing Regional Express (Rex) services on the regional air routes of Albany, Esperance, and Carnarvon-Monkey Mia	Regional air services support	Aviation Regional	Announced 27 March 3030	\$3 million	The level of northern WA support comprises \$600,000 Perth-Carnarvon-Monkey Mia: 2 return air services per week. Is a northern route.

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
Lotterywest COVID-19 Relief Fund	A fund to provide community emergency and crisis relief as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.		Announced 30 March 2020	\$159 million	An initial \$1 million round of grants saw over \$516,000 go to community organisations in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.
Western Australia Economic and Health Relief Package \$1billion ³²					
Household assistance	Measures include: Energy assistance payment doubled to \$6000 to support vulnerable Western Australians. No disconnections of power or water, and no interest on deferred bills. Freeze on all household tariffs, fees and charges effective July 1 2020. Alternative tax payment arrangements Keystart customers facing financial hardship due to COVID-19 can apply to defer principal repayments and waive interest costs by up to six months.	Households	In place until 30 September 202 and reviewed when necessary		Applies
Business assistance	Measures include: Reduction of electricity bills for around 95,000 small businesses and one—off tariff offsets available Payroll tax waivers \$100.4 million allocated to waive a wide range of licence fees for small and medium sized businesses in COVID-19 impacted industries for the next 12 months. Interest free payment arrangements and late payment penalty waivers for a range of taxes No utility disconnections.	Small and Medium businesses	12 months		Applies state wide
Community services assistance	Measures include: Reduced electricity bills and one-off tariff offsets available	Community services			Applies statewide

³² [https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/03/\\$1-billion-COVID-19-economic-and-health-relief-package-unveiled-.aspx](https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/03/$1-billion-COVID-19-economic-and-health-relief-package-unveiled-.aspx)

		Target sector(s)	Timeframe	\$	Impact on Northern Australia
	Funding certainty to community service providers, with government agencies to continue to pay contracts with the sector until at least June 30, even if providers are unable to deliver services due to the impacts of COVID-19				

Attachment C

White Paper on Developing Northern Australia – Summary of the 51 measures

As at 31 July 2020:

- 6 measures are on track for delivery
- 45 measures are delivered

(Note that page numbers refer to the White Paper)

Status	Measure	Lead department
On track	<u>2.</u> Aspiration to finalise native title claims within a decade (p22)	Attorney-General's
On track	<u>3.</u> More efficient native title processes (p23)	Attorney-General's
On track	<u>23.</u> Reforms to tourism visas (p78) [\$16.6m]	Home Affairs
On track	<u>24.</u> Improve protections and cut red tape around Indigenous cultural heritage (p79)	Agriculture, Water and the Environment
On track	<u>25.</u> Cutting red tape for fisheries (p80)	Agriculture, Water and the Environment
On track	<u>26.</u> Wildlife trade reform (p82)	Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Delivered	<u>1.</u> Pilot land reform projects in the north (p18) [\$6m] Sites for tranche two confirmed and pilots occurring under tranche 1.	National Indigenous Australians Agency
Delivered	<u>4.</u> Capacity building of native title corporations (p24) [\$20.4m] Delivered in July 2018 post-final forum.	National Indigenous Australians Agency
Delivered	<u>5.</u> Consult on options to use exclusive native title rights for commercial purposes (p25) COAG decision, December 2015.	National Indigenous Australians Agency
Delivered	<u>6.</u> Land administration and township leasing (p29, 32) [\$17m] Township leases are in place in a number of communities supporting economic development on Aboriginal land.	National Indigenous Australians Agency
Delivered	<u>7.</u> New models to manage native title funds for development (p26) Consideration of this measure (focussed on the Indigenous Community Development Corporation) has been finalised.	National Indigenous Australians Agency
Delivered	<u>8.</u> More business-friendly information on different land tenure arrangements (p33) [\$2m – note: apportioned from Measure 1] Online guides released 2016.	Austrade
Delivered	<u>9.</u> Pursue a set of principles and actions to improve the security, bankability and efficiency of pastoral land (p37) (incorporated into Measure 1 for reporting purposes) Linked with Measure 1, pastoral projects occurring under pilot land reform measure.	National Indigenous Australians Agency
Delivered	<u>10.</u> National Water Infrastructure Development Fund (NWIDF) – northern component (p44, 49) [\$231.2m (\$200m original commitment)] The NWIDF is supporting ongoing and detailed planning necessary to inform new and augmented water infrastructure investment decisions. The feasibility studies and water resources assessments completed.	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
Delivered	<u>11.</u> Northern Australia Investment Forum and Northern Australia Value Proposition (p62) First Forum held Nov 2015, second Forum held Nov 2017.	Austrade
Delivered	<u>12.</u> Northern Australia Insurance Premiums Taskforce (p75) Taskforce report released March 2016.	Treasury

Status	Measure	Lead department
Delivered	<u>13.</u> Link the north with ASEAN and APEC connectivity agendas (p63) DFAT promoting northern agenda through these agendas.	Foreign Affairs and Trade
Delivered	<u>14.</u> Fostering business to business links with Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste (p62) [\$2.5m] Activities occurring in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste, March 2018.	Foreign Affairs and Trade
Delivered	<u>15.</u> Expanding Entrepreneurs' Programme to include Tourism (p66) [\$13.6m] Tourism initiative launched February 2016.	Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
Delivered	<u>16.</u> Enhancing access to the Entrepreneurs' Programme (p66) Minimum turnover or operating expenditure thresholds lowered to \$750,000 in July 2015.	Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
Delivered	<u>17.</u> CRC for Developing Northern Australia (p67) [\$75m] CRCNA established July 2017.	Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
Delivered	<u>18.</u> Bolstering tropical health research capacity (p69) [\$6.8m] Tropical health research grants announced in 2016.	National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
Delivered	<u>19.</u> Turning tropical research into commercial opportunities (p71) [\$8.5m (revised to \$7.27 million as two projects expended less than initially committed and one project was withdrawn)] Tropical medicine commercialisation grants announced in 2016.	Austrade
Delivered	<u>20 & 20a.</u> Links between tropical health research institutions and world class research institutions (p71) [\$2.0m] Tropical health short course for Indonesian professionals (p71) [\$3.0m] Tropical health and research short courses delivered 2016, 2017 and 2018.	Foreign Affairs and Trade
Delivered	<u>21.</u> Increased Indigenous Ranger biosecurity activities (p73) [\$12.4m] Increased Indigenous ranger biosecurity activities implemented 2017.	Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Delivered	<u>22.</u> Single point of entry for major projects (p33, 75) [\$2m] Major Projects Facilitation Agency opened the Darwin office, January 2016	Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
Delivered	<u>27.</u> Productivity Commission inquiry into fisheries and aquaculture regulation (p82) Report submitted to government December 2016, Productivity Commission's final report and government response publicly released May 2017.	Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Delivered	<u>28.</u> Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) (p86) [\$5b] Established July 2016.	Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
Delivered	<u>29.</u> Northern Australia Roads Package (p88) [\$600m] All projects approved. These are commencing progressively and will be completed by 2022.	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
Delivered	<u>30.</u> Improving cattle supply chains (p95) [\$100m] All projects are approved. These are commencing progressively and will be completed by 2022.	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
Delivered	<u>31.</u> Northern Australia Freight Rail Feasibility Analysis (p91) [\$4.9m] The Mount Isa to Tennant Creek Strategic Operations Paper and Technical Assessment Program were released on infrastructure.gov.au website in April 2019.	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
Delivered	<u>32.</u> Northern Australia pipeline of projects (p92) [\$3.7m] Northern Australia pipeline of projects published on the National Infrastructure Construction Schedule website April 2018.	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Status	Measure	Lead department
Delivered	<u>33.</u> Northern Australia infrastructure audit (p85) Report released January 2015. The 2019 National Infrastructure Audit includes a focus on northern Australia.	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
Delivered	<u>34.</u> Extension to Remote Airstrip Upgrade Programme and additional support for Remote Air Services Subsidy (p99) [\$39.6m] \$10.4m for 25 aerodrome projects committed under Round 4. Round 5 \$5.8m for 21 projects and Round 6 projects announced March 2019, \$5.7m for 17 projects in the north.	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
Delivered	<u>35.</u> Improving aviation & surface transport connections - business stakeholder group (Northern Australia Transport Study) (p100) The Northern Australia Transport Study was published on 24 December 2018.	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
Delivered	<u>36.</u> Support enterprises in the north through the Industry Skills Fund (p108) Co-contribution rates lowered September 2015.	Education, Skills and Employment
Delivered	<u>37.</u> Employment targets for Indigenous Australians for road projects (and other relevant expenditure) funded through WP (p110) Framework for Indigenous employment targets was agreed in September 2017 and is being applied to NARP and Beef Roads projects.	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
Delivered	<u>38.</u> Support the NT Government to allow workers licensed from other Australian jurisdictions to have their licences more easily recognised in the NT (p108) In June 2018 the Australian and NT Governments agreed that no further action is required.	Education, Skills and Employment
Delivered	<u>39.</u> Reforms to the Remote Jobs and Communities Programme to allow participants to work in local businesses (p109) Community Development Programme launched July 2015.	National Indigenous Australians Agency
Delivered	<u>40.</u> Designated Area Migration Agreements (p111) Closure report endorsed by the Office of Northern Australia May 2016 for the Northern Territory DAMA.	Home Affairs
Delivered	<u>41.</u> Expanded Seasonal Worker Programme (p113) National cap on placements actioned 1 July 2015 - inclusion of agriculture sector actioned 8 Feb 2016.	Education, Skills and Employment
Delivered	<u>42.</u> Working holiday makers – an additional six months with one employer in high demand industries in the north (p112) Program guidelines amended November 2015.	Home Affairs
Delivered	<u>43.</u> Work and Holiday visa – second visa if they worked in tourism or agriculture in northern Australia (p112) [\$1.9m] Visa changes announced November 2016.	Home Affairs
Delivered	<u>44.</u> Pacific Microstates – Northern Australia Worker Pilot Programme (p114) MOUs signed with Kiribati (2016), Tuvalu (2017), and Nauru (2017). This program has been grandfathered into the Pacific Labour Scheme, which commenced 1 July 2018.	Foreign Affairs and Trade
Delivered	<u>45.</u> Ongoing Northern Australia Strategic Partnership (p118) Meetings held in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018; the most recent meeting was in August 2019.	Prime Minister and Cabinet
Delivered	<u>46.</u> Shift Office of Northern Australia to the north (p119) Headquarters established in Darwin in 2015.	Office of Northern Australia (DISER)
Delivered	<u>47.</u> Joint Select Committee on northern Australia to be made a standing committee (p119) Standing Committee appointed September 2016.	Office of Northern Australia (DISER)

Status	Measure	Lead department
Delivered	<u>48.</u> Annual statement to Parliament (p119) Statements tabled October 2016; December 2017; October 2018; November 2019.	Office of Northern Australia (DISER)
Delivered	<u>49.</u> A public sector secondment program (p120) Processes in place and secondments occurring with the APSC.	Office of Northern Australia (DISER)
Delivered	<u>50.</u> A northern Australia themed regulation repeal day (p74) Inefficient regulations amended on an individual basis.	Office of Northern Australia (DISER)
Delivered	<u>51.</u> Strengthen the Defence presence in northern Australia (p120) Defence White Paper released 2016.	Defence

Attachment D

Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility investment decisions

As at 28 July 2020

Projects are in order from most recent to oldest, based on NAIF Board approval dates.

ID – Investment Decision; CA – Conditional Approval

Investment Decision Project name (jurisdiction)	Max. NAIF Amount	Date of NAIF Board Investment Decision	Forecast of jobs to be supported	Net benefit estimate
Strandline Resources - Coburn Mineral Sands (WA)	\$150 million	19 Jun 2020	315 - construction 190 - operations	\$922 million
	<u>Project Description:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$130 million loan is being provided to develop open pit dry mining operation and processing facilities for premium zircon, zircon concentrate, chloride ilmenite and rutile. There is also an option for a \$20 million loan which can fund a future public northern access road linking the project more directly with the Denham community in Shark Bay to assist in improving local employment. This portion is an uncommitted loan and may not proceed 			
Charles Darwin University (NT)	\$151.5 million	(ID) 19 Jun 2020 (CA) 26 Nov 2019	730 - construction 80 - operations	\$599.5 million
	<u>Project Description</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The loan will fund the CBD City Campus works which form part of the Darwin City Deal announced by the Prime Minister in November 2018. Total project is valued at \$250 million 			
Mater Hospital Townsville – multi-level carpark (Qld)	\$19.75 million	30 Mar 2020	12 - construction 2 - operations	\$7.6 million
	<u>Project Description:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The loan will support the development of a six level car park that will accommodate 402 car spaces and eight motorcycle spaces over six levels At the Mater Hospital Pimlico Campus, Townsville. The NAIF are funding 100% of project costs. Total project size is valued at \$19.75 million. 			

Investment Decision Project name (jurisdiction)	Max. NAIF Amount	Date of NAIF Board Investment Decision	Forecast of jobs to be supported	Net benefit estimate
James Cook University – Student Accommodation (Qld)	\$46 million	15 Jan 2020	348 - construction 221 - operations	\$140.2 million in benefit over 30 years.
	<u>Project Description:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The loan will support the development of student accommodation on JCU's Townsville campus to house up to 425 students. Total project size is valued at \$53 million. 			
Darwin Ship Lift and Marine Project (NT)	\$300 million	26 Nov 2019	100 - construction 187 - operations	\$924 million over 22 year asset life
	<u>Project Description:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The loan will support building a ship lift facility and associated marine industry infrastructure in the Darwin harbour. Total project size is valued at \$400 million. 			
Townsville Community Training Centre (Cowboys Rugby league Football Ltd) (Qld)	\$20 million	11 Nov 2019	213 - construction 58 -operations	\$202.1 million over 30 years.
	<u>Project Description:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The loan will support the development of a Community, Training and High Performance Centre in Townsville. Total project size is valued at \$35 million. 			
Metro Mining Ltd - Bauxite Hills Mine Project (Qld)	\$47.5 million	11 Nov 2019	60 - operations	\$510 million over 16 year asset life
	<u>Project Description:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The loan will fund a new floating terminal for the bauxite miner on the Skardon River in north-western Cape York. Total project size is valued at \$56.6 million. 			
Signature Onfarm Beef Processing Facility - Signature Onfarm Pty Ltd (Qld)	\$25.0 million	30 Aug 2019	200 - construction 70 - operations	\$63.5 million over 20 years
	<u>Project Description:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of an on-farm, greenfield specialist service, beef processing facility with onsite accommodation for up to 70 employees and other ancillary amenities. Total project size is \$37 million. 			

Investment Decision Project name (jurisdiction)	Max. NAIF Amount	Date of NAIF Board Investment Decision	Forecast of jobs to be supported	Net benefit estimate
Australian Aboriginal Mining Corporation (AAMC) - First Iron Ore Project (WA)	\$12.5 million	22 Aug 2019	120 - construction 120 - operations	\$304 million over 7 year mine life.
	<u>Project Description:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of a borefield, crushing plant and site accommodation and a 55km haul road to connect the Great Northern Highway to the Cloudbreak site. Total project size is \$44.8 million. 			
Genex Power Ltd – Kidston Stage 2 (Qld)	\$610.0 million	8 Jul 2019	510 - construction 20 - operations	\$343 million
	<u>Project Description:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of a Pumped Storage Hydro Project at 250MW, capable of storing and dispatching electricity at 2000MWh on demand Total project size is \$741 million 			
Kalium Lakes Ltd - Beyondie Sulphate of Project (WA)	\$74.0 million <i>\$10.5 million top up (no longer required)</i>	15 Feb 2019	150 - construction 60 - operations	\$169 million over the first 30 years of mine life.
	<u>Project Description:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of the Beyondie Sulphate of Potash Project; a major potash mining operation located southeast of Newman, Western Australia. Total project size is valued at \$323 million. The project includes \$26 million over 12 years for construction of the project plant; and \$48 million over 17 years for supporting infrastructure (gas pipeline, roads and airstrip). On 2 July 2019, through the ASX, Kalium Lakes announced the project has received an additional finance offer of \$102 million from German KfW IPEX-Bank. 			
Alinta Energy - Chichester Solar Gas Hybrid (WA)	\$90 million	15 Feb 2019	200– at peak construction	\$221 million
	<u>Project Description:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of: a 60 megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic farm; new electricity substation(s); and approximately 64km of 220kV transmission lines. Total project size is valued at \$188 million. 			

Investment Decision Project name (jurisdiction)	Max. NAIF Amount	Date of NAIF Board Investment Decision	Forecast of jobs to be supported	Net benefit estimate
NT Airports Expansion - Solar & Storage - Airport Development Group Pty Ltd (NT)	\$150.0 million	7 Jan 2019	980 - construction 142 - operational 500 - indirect/supply chain	\$127 million
	Project Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freight and cold storage and export hub at Darwin International Airport, solar arrays at Darwin, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs, an off-site multi-user battery and runway upgrades. The total project value is estimated at \$293 million and includes Alice Springs Airport Upgrade (\$31 million); Darwin International Airport freight logistics and training hub (\$12 million); and renewable Solar Projects (\$250 million). Total project size is estimated at \$300 million 			
Townsville Airport Expansion - Queensland Airports Limited (Qld)	\$50.0 million	7 Jan 2019	207 - construction 50 - operational	\$82 million over 30 years
	Project Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redevelopment of Townsville Airport terminal including new core infrastructure (water, fire, waste facilities) The project includes substantial refurbishment to the terminal, more aircraft parking, better road access and an upgrade to core infrastructure, as part of QAL's \$80 million Project Alive. 			
Sheffield Resources Ltd - Thunderbird Mineral Sands Project (WA)	\$95.0 million	28 Aug 2018	400 - construction 200 - operations	\$484 million over 42 year mine life
	Project Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LNG power generation facility, upgrade roads and port infrastructure to support the Thunderbird Mineral Sands Project. The total project is value is estimated as \$562 million. 			
James Cook University - Technology Innovation Complex (Qld)	\$98.0 million (final agreed loan size \$96.0 million)	15 June 2018	270 - construction	\$700 million public benefit over 30 years
	Project Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building of a Technology Innovation Complex, a 10,000m2 centre for students, industry partners and researchers in Townsville. It will enable the private sector to utilise University resources to develop their enterprises and boost enrolments in engineering. The total project value is \$174 million. 			

Investment Decision Project name (jurisdiction)	Max. NAIF Amount	Date of NAIF Board Investment Decision	Forecast of jobs to be supported	Net benefit estimate
Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia (NT)	\$27.5 million	14 May 2018	80 - construction 320 -operations	\$370 million over 20 years
	<p>Project Description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airport runway, taxiway and apron upgrade, runway lighting and provision of contractor accommodation. The total project value is \$27.5 million. 			
Humpty Doo Barramundi Farm (NT)	\$7.18 million	3 May 2018	13 - construction 7-operations	See below
	<p>Public Benefit estimate: The expansion will contribute direct economic benefits to the local region, including the creation of an additional 50 jobs over 3 stages of the project. In accordance with the NAIF Public Benefit Guideline, the size of the loan for Humpty Doo was below the threshold requiring a detailed Cost Benefit Analysis. The proponent identified a number of compelling benefits which they outlined qualitatively including the project will help grow the NT aquaculture industry through the supply of fingerlings to third party growers; trialling processing operations will develop capability to move up the value chain from selling 'whole round' fish to selling packaged fillets and for the development of a multi user seafood processing facility; generation of renewable energy; new jobs.</p> <p><u>Project Description:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The loan will support construction of a solar farm and fish nursery, as well as the purchase of processing equipment. The total project value is \$14.4 million. 			
Onslow Marine Support Base (WA)	\$16.8 million	29 Sep 2017	61 - construction (12 direct - 49 indirect). 166 – operations (49 direct - 117 indirect).	\$100 million over 10 years
	<p><u>Project Description:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a marine supply facility including wharf and harbour expansion. The total project value is \$120 million. 			

NAIF Conditional Approvals						
Investment Decision Project name (jurisdiction)	Max. NAIF Amount	Minister announced	Date of NAIF Board Investment Decision	Forecast of jobs to be supported	Public benefit estimate	State/ Territory approval (Facility signing stage)
Ammaroo Phosphate Project (Verdant Minerals Limited) (NT)	\$160 million	None. Proponent announced ASX 3 Dec 2018	28 Nov 2018	300 construction and 150 ongoing	No estimate available	TBC
<u>Project Description</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The loan will support a phosphate ore mine at Ammaroo and Ammaroo South Deposits and includes the construction of a new 90km rail spur to connect with the Alice to Darwin railway and Darwin Port 						

NAIF Investment Decisions not proceeding	
Investment Decision	
Pilbara Minerals Ltd - Pilgangoora Lithium-Tantalum Project (WA)	In August 2018 the NAIF Board made an Investment Decision to offer a loan facility of up to \$19.5 million to support the Pilbara Minerals' Pilgangoora Lithium-Tantalum Project. This project will not proceed to financial close. Since NAIF's Investment Decision several changes to Pilbara Minerals' regional operating environment have resulted in the company reassessing its investment in the Pippingarra Road as its primary haulage route and as such this project will now not proceed. To support future expansion of the Pilgangoora Lithium-Tantalum Project, Pilbara Minerals is undertaking an internal infrastructure assessment to understand what investment is required to support a larger operation. Pilbara Minerals and NAIF are continuing to engage with regards to future infrastructure requirements and potential NAIF investment support.
Kalium Lakes Ltd - Beyondie Sulphate of Project (WA) Additional Finance	<p>Not announced by Minister – this decision is published on NAIF website under investment decision notifications - On 7 May 2020 the NAIF Board made an Investment Decision to offer an additional Financing Mechanism of up to \$10.5 million to support the Beyondie Sulphate of Potash Project to meet additional forecast construction costs and contingencies for the Project.</p> <p>Following a subsequent successful equity raising by Kalium Lakes Limited, the additional loan facility will not be required by the company.</p>

Attachment E

Progress of Northern Australia Roads and Beef Roads Projects

Northern Australia Roads Program projects	Location	Australian Government contribution (\$ million)	Completion
Completed projects:			
Kennedy Development Road (Mount Garnet – the Lynd) Pavement Widening	Qld	2.66	January 2018
Flinders Highway (Charter Towers – Richmond) Culvert Upgrades (Package 1)	Qld	14.18	November 2018
Great Northern Highway – Bow River Bridge and Approaches	WA	18.59	November 2018
Marble Bar Road – Coongan Gorge	WA	27.58	June 2019
Great Northern Highway Upgrade – Maggie Creek to Wyndham	WA	38.51	July 2019
Barkly Highway (Cloncurry – Mount Isa) Intersection Upgrades in the Mount Isa Urban Area	Qld	6.62	August 2019
Projects underway:			
Kennedy Development Road (The Lynd – Hughenden) Progressive Sealing	Qld	40.00	April 2020
Landsborough Highway (Longreach – Winton) Pavement Widening and Strengthening	Qld	19.99	April 2020
Buntine Highway Upgrading	NT	32.06	Late 2020
Plenty Highway Upgrade	NT	20.0	Mid 2020
Tjukururu Road Upgrade	NT	7.98	Late 2020
Flinders Highway (Townsville – Torrens Creek) Pavement Strengthening and Rehabilitation - Package 1	Qld	17.76	Late 2020
Capricorn Highway (Rockhampton – Duaringa) Rockhampton to Gracemere Duplication	Qld	59.99	Late 2020
Upgrade of Keep River Plains Road	NT	69.85	Late 2020
Bowen Development Road – Stage Development	Qld	23.0	Early 2021
Broome – Cape Leveque Road	WA	52.53	Mid 2021
Arnhem Highway Adelaide River Flood Plain Upgrade	NT	62.3	Late 2021
Rockhampton (Bajool – Port Alma Road) Pavement Widening Port Access Road commenced April 2020	Qld	11.6	Mid 2020

Northern Australia Roads Program projects	Location	Australian Government contribution (\$ million)	Completion
Projects yet to commence:			
Peak Downs Highway (Clermont – Nebo) Logan Creek to Nine Mile Creek – Pavement Widening and strengthening – Package 1	Qld	28.0	Late 2021
Great Northern Highway Upgrade Ord River North Section (Stage 2)	WA	34.80	Late 2020

Beef Roads Program projects	Location	Australian Government contribution (\$ million)	Completion
Completed projects:			
Ootann Road – Almaden to Kennedy Highway – Gunnawarra – Progressive Sealing (Package 1)	Qld	0.66	July 2018
Clermont – Alpha Road – Progressive Sealing (Stage 1)	Qld	2	September 2018
Cloncurry – Dajarra Road – Progressive Sealing	Qld	2.58	December 2018
Richmond – Croydon Road – Progressive Sealing (Package 2)	Qld	0.96	December 2018
Richmond – Winton Road – Progressive Sealing (Package 2)	Qld	0.8	March 2019
Diamantina Development Road (Boulia- Dajarra) Rehabilitation and Widening	Qld	4.03	May 2019
Richmond – Winton Road – Progressive Sealing (Package 1)	Qld	2.97	June 2019
Richmond – Croydon Road – Progressive Sealing (Package 1)	Qld	3.2	July 2019
Clermont – Alpha Road – Progressive Sealing (Stage 3)	Qld	0.96	August 2019
Clermont – Alpha Road – Progressive Sealing (Stage 2)	Qld	4.01	September 2019
Ootann Road – Almaden to Kennedy Highway – Gunnawarra – Progressive Package 2	Qld	4.10	September 2019
Barkly Stock Route Upgrading	NT	10.29	November 2019
Great Northern Highway – Ord and Turkey Creek Road Improvement	WA	12.51	December 2019
Projects underway:			
Burke Development Road – Chillagoe – Almaden – Progressive Sealing (package 1)	Qld	3.79	February 2020
Burke Development Road – Chillagoe – Almaden – Progressive Sealing (package 2)	Qld	2.18	February 2020
Rockhampton Road Network – Road Train Access	Qld	20.0	Mid 2020

Beef Roads Program projects	Location	Australian Government contribution (\$ million)	Completion
Tablelands Highway – Road Upgrading	NT	20.0	Mid 2020
<i>Projects yet to commence:</i>			
Gregory Development Road Widening (south of Charters Towers)	Qld	4.63	Late 2020

Roads of Strategic Importance – Northern Australia

*In-principle Agreement projects remain subject to formal approval under the *National Land Transport Act 2014*; following submission of Project Proposal Report (PPR).

Corridor/Project	Funding Overview (m)			Australian Government Contribution (m)	Status
	QLD	WA	NT		
Tennant Creek to Townsville (including \$40 million for the Kennedy Developmental Road aka 'Hann Highway')	200.0		70.0	270.0	<p>NT Section: A project to strengthen and widen, and to resurface, two short, high priority sections of the Barkly Highway was approved on 30 March 2020 (Australian Government funding \$895,000). Construction works are underway and scheduled for completion in late 2020, weather and COVID-19 restrictions permitting.</p> <p>QLD Section: <u>Corridor:</u> In-principle agreement* has been given to four projects along the Queensland section of the corridor, requiring \$48.38 million of Australian Government funding. <u>Kennedy Developmental Road:</u> Project approved. Construction scheduled to commence mid-2020.</p>
Alice Springs to Darwin (including \$15 million for Mango Industry Roads)			162.3	162.3	<p><u>Corridor:</u> Three projects have been approved for AG funding: A project to strengthen and widen, and to resurface, several high priority sections of the Alice Springs to Darwin road corridor was approved on 30 March 2020 (Australian Government funding \$8.9 million). Construction works are underway and scheduled for completion in late 2020, weather and COVID-19 restrictions permitting. A project encompassing road safety and fatigue management upgrades on several sections of the Stuart Highway was approved on 8 June 2020 (AG funding \$5 million). Construction is expected to start in late 2020. The Mango Industry Roads Upgrades project is a 2019 Election Commitment. It will upgrade approximately 15km of road in the mango production area around Litchfield, with a total project cost of \$21 million (AG \$15m, NTG \$3m with the Litchfield council also contributing \$3m). The project was approved on 27 February 2020. The construction tender was awarded on 7 July 2020 with construction expected to commence by August 2020. The Mango Roads project has been approved and publicly announced.</p>

Corridor/Project	Funding Overview (m)			Australian Government Contribution (m)	Status
	QLD	WA	NT		
Newman to Katherine		70.0	40.0	110.0	<p>NT Section: A project to strengthen, widen, and resurface two priority sections of the Victoria Highway was approved on 5 May 2020 (\$8.54 million of AG funding). Construction works are underway and scheduled for completion in late 2020, weather and COVID-19 restrictions permitting.</p> <p>WA Section: The Australian and WA government have identified three projects as a priority on its section of the corridor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Northern Highway Upgrade – Ord River North Section – Stage 3, which is under assessment. The Australian Government is providing \$31.2 million towards the \$39 million project. • The Great Northern Highway Upgrade – Broome to Kununurra, with the Australian Government providing \$20.6 million towards this \$25.8 million project, and • The Port Hedland Airport Deviation – Total cost: \$36 million; AG contribution: \$18.2 million.
Alice Springs to Halls Creek		75.0	160.0	235.0	<p>NT Section: The Northern Territory Government has identified one early works project, to seal the Tanami Road from the end of the current seal to Yuendumu (approximately 11km), with a project cost of \$11.35 million (AG \$9.08 million, NTG \$2.27 million). The project was approved on 27 February 2020. Plans to commence construction have been affected by access restrictions to remote communities as a result of COVID-19.</p> <p>WA Section: The Australian and WA governments have identified two projects as a priority on its section of the corridor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duncan Road and Gordon Downs Road Upgrade is under assessment. The Australian Government is contributing \$40.8 million towards the \$51 million project. Preconstruction works began in July 2019, .major construction works began in March 2020 and both are currently underway. • Tanami Road Upgrade, with the Australian Government providing \$34.2 million towards the \$42.75 million project.
Adelaide River to Wadeye			60.0	60.0	A project to upgrade 11.7 kilometres of Port Keats Road at Saddle Rail Creek was approved on 22 May 2020 (\$20.72 million of AG funding). This project involves flood immunity measures and road sealing. The tender was awarded in June 2020 with construction to commence by the end of August 2020.

Corridor/Project	Funding Overview (m)			Australian Government Contribution (m)	Status
	QLD	WA	NT		
Mount Isa to Rockhampton (including \$64 million for Yeppoon Road)	254.0			254.0	<u>Corridor</u> : The Queensland Government has not committed funding to this corridor, other than for the Yeppoon Road Duplication project. At this stage the indicative construction timeframe for the corridor, including Yeppoon Road is 2021-22 to 2027-28. Yeppoon Road: \$8 million of the project's funding has been approved for scoping phase activities including development of a Business Case looking at options to upgrade road within available funding.
Townsville to Roma (including \$40 million for Springsure to Tambo Road)	100.0			100.0	<u>Corridor</u> : In-principle agreement* has been given to nine projects along the corridor, requiring \$37.13 million of Australian Government funding. A Project Proposal for strengthening and widening works on the Dawson Highway between Banana and Rolleston is currently under assessment. <u>Springsure to Tambo</u> : \$9.6 million of the project's funding has been approved to pave and seal a section of the road and upgrade the Barcoo River Bridge and approaches. Indicative construction timeframe is 2021 to 2025.
Cooktown to Weipa	190.0			190.0	11 packages of work on the Peninsula Developmental Road have been approved (\$152 million of Australian Government funding), with construction expected to commence in mid-2020 and be completed late 2024, weather and COVID-19 restrictions permitting. In-principle agreement* has been given to allocate \$38 million allocation to Torres Cape Indigenous Councils Alliance for feeder/connecting roads.
Karratha to Tom Price (Stages 3 and 4)		248.0		248.0	Construction commenced on Stage 3 in September 2019 and is expected to be completed by late 2020. Planning and development work has commenced for Stage 4 with construction expected to commence in Mid-2022.
Cairns to Northern Territory Border	50.0			50.0	In-principle agreement* has been given to two projects totalling \$17.23 million. \$1.2 million of the corridor's funding has been approved to replace two failed culverts on Floraville Road near Burketown with construction scheduled to commence in August 2020.
Shute Harbour Road	29.6			29.6	In-principle agreement* has been given to one project totalling \$9.6 million. Project proposal expected during 2020-21. Indicative construction timeframe 2021-22 to 2024-25.
Stanage Bay Road	21.6			21.6	Project approved. Construction expected to commence in July 2020 and be completed mid-2023.
Willies Creek Royles Road	3.0			3.0	Consultation underway with the council to determine project proposal, funding and construction timeframes. Indicative construction timeframe 2020-21 to 2021-22.
Northern Australia Total	848.2	393.0	492.3	1,733.5	

Attachment F

Progress of northern water infrastructure projects

Project	Status
<u>Capital Projects</u>	
\$176.1 million to co-fund the Rookwood Weir (Qld), which is expected to commence construction in the 2020 dry season.	Governance arrangements progressing. Expressions of Interest for construction currently open.
\$11.6 million to co-fund the Mareeba-Dimbulah Water Supply Scheme Efficiency Project (Qld).	On Track – completion February 2022
Up to \$180 million to co-fund the Hughenden Irrigation Scheme (Qld). (A further \$2 million has been allocated to the business case through the Community Development Grants Programme).	Completed - Community Development Grants funded Business Case – March 2020 Funding agreement negotiation underway for the \$180 million construction commitment.
\$30 million for Big Rocks Weir as stage one of the Hells Gates Dam Scheme (Qld)	Business case underway.
\$10 million through the National Stronger Regions Fund (Round 3) for Charleston Dam and \$3 million through the Community Development Grants programme for the Charleston Dam final stage.	The National Stronger Regions Fund project is currently underway. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications is awaiting further information from the local council to progress the Community Development Grants funded project.
<u>Feasibility Projects</u>	
\$24 million for Hells Gates Dam Scheme (Qld) including Big Rocks Weir- for business case.	Completion – 19 June 2022 Funding agreement executed
\$25.5 million for 16 feasibility studies and \$15 million for the Northern Australia Water Resource Assessments:	
Oakover Valley Irrigation Prefeasibility Study – WAQ (\$268,994)	Completed – 30 April 2017
Burdekin Falls Dam Rising Feasibility Study – QLD (\$400,000)	Completed – 30 April 2018
Burdekin Houghton Channel Capacity Upgrade Feasibility Study – QLD (\$1.915m)	Completed – 30 April 2018
Clermont Water Security Feasibility Study – QLD (\$225,000)	Completed – 30 April 2018
Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure Project Business Case (Rockwood Weir) – QLD (\$2m)	Completed – 30 April 2018
Pilbara Irrigation Agriculture Feasibility Study – WA (\$960,000)	Completed – 30 April 2018
Ord Siphon Feasibility Study – WA (\$162,000)	Completed – 30 April 2018
Hells Gates Dam prefeasibility Study – QLD (\$2.2m)	Completed – 30 April 2018
Northern Territory Irrigation Feasibility Study - NT (\$985,000)	Completed – 30 May 2018
Northern Australia Water Resources Assessment – WA, NT, QLD (\$15 million)	Completed - 30 June 2018
Urannah Dam Feasibility Study – QLD (\$3m)	Completed – 30 April 2019
North West Queensland strategic Water Storage Feasibility Study – QLD (\$1.765m)	Completed – 30 April 2019
Southern Atherton Tablelands Irrigation Development Feasibility Study – Qld (\$750,000)	Completed – 30 April 2019
Nullinga Dam Feasibility Study – QLD (\$5m)	Completed – 30 April 2019

Project	Status
Ord Stage Three Feasibility Study – WA (\$2.5m)	Completed – 30 April 2019
Lakeland Irrigation Area Feasibility Study – QLD (\$825,000)	Completed – 30 April 2019
Ord Stage Three Feasibility Study - NT (\$2.5m)	Completed – 30 November 2019
\$3.5 million Roper River Catchment (NT) water resource assessment of the development potential of the water and soil resources by CSIRO. CSIRO are providing an additional \$2 million towards this project.	On Track; Completion – 31 December 2022
\$6.5 million directly appropriated to Geoscience Australia for water modelling in the Great Artesian Basin over three years commencing in 2019/20 financial year.	On Track; Completion – 30 June 2022
\$10 million to progress the QLD Lakeland Irrigation business case, including final engineering and scoping works.	On Track; completion – 30 September 2022
\$10 million to progress the Qld Urannah Dam business case and approvals	On Track; completion – 31 August 2021
\$2 million to study the NT Adelaide River off-stream water storage project business case.	On Track; completion – 31 December 2021

Attachment G

Cooperative Research Centre for Northern Australia (CRCNA) project list

Completed projects:

Project name	Participants	Total project value (ex GST)	Status
Northern Australian broadacre Cropping Situational Analysis	Pivotal Point Strategic Directions ST Strategic Services Pty Ltd	\$200,000	Completed – report to be published Aug 2020
Northern Australian health services delivery situational analysis	JCU Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service Top End Health Service The Rural Clinical School of Western Australia, UWA	\$249,597	Completed Read report here.
Northern Australia beef sector situation analysis	CSIRO NTCA KPCA CCA MLA	\$470,146	Completed Report due to be published Aug 2020
Northern Australia forestry and forest products industry situational analysis	Timber Queensland DAF NTDPIR USC	\$209,327	Completed Read report here.
Northern Australian aquaculture Industry situational Analysis	JCU CSIRO Blueshift Consulting ABFA APFA ILSC	\$422,361	Completed Read report here.
Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday agribusiness export supply chain mapping study	GW3 North QLD Bulk Ports Regional Development Australia: Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday Bowen Gumlu Growers'	\$196,904	Completed Read report here.
Growth of agricultural exports from FNQ through enhanced supply chains	Advance Cairns Cairns Airport Ports North Air Freight Handling Services DAF JCU FNQROC	\$426,000	Completed Read report here.
Northern Australia agriculture investor identification and analysis	PwC	\$215,000	Completed Read report here.
Capturing the ASEAN agricultural opportunity for Northern Australia	Australian Chamber of Commerce ASEAN Singapore	\$110,000	Completed Read report here.

New projects contracted since September 2019:

Project name	Participants	Total project value (ex GST)
<u>Protected cropping systems</u> This project brings together an R&D partnership between industry stakeholders and government organisations across northern QLD, NT, and WA that will support growers identify new investments to scale up commercial protected cropping (PC).	DAF WA DPIRD Carnarvon Growers' Association Northern Territory Farmers' Association (NT Farmers) Cravo Australia Pty Ltd Port of Townsville Ltd Pirrone Brothers Produce	\$443,045
<u>Northern Australian Tropical Rock Oyster R & D</u> This project establishes a collaborative cross-jurisdictional approach to address the most significant technical and regulatory issues which are confronting Northern Australia's fledgling Tropical Rock Oyster (TRO) industry.	NT DPIR WA DPIRD DigsFish Services Pty Ltd Yagbani Aboriginal Corporation Anindilyakwa Land Council Maxima Rock Oyster Company Pty Ltd Athair Aquaculture Pty Ltd (Albany Shellfish Hatchery) Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation Hexcyl Systems Pty Ltd ZAPCO Aquaculture SEAPA	\$4,124,090
<u>Prioritising, de-risking and brokering agricultural development in the Northern Territory</u> This NT-focused project is part of a wider collaboration between the CRCNA and the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australian Governments to support the development of new agricultural activity across northern Australia. Solutions to key policy, regulatory, budgetary and regional development challenges at the Commonwealth, State/Territory level need consideration, analysis, solution building and negotiated resolution.	NAJA Business Consulting	\$100,000
<u>Prioritising, de-risking and brokering agricultural development in northern Queensland</u> This Qld -focused project is part of a wider collaboration between the CRCNA and the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australian Governments to support the development of new agricultural activity across northern Australia. Solutions to key policy, regulatory, budgetary and regional development challenges at the Commonwealth, State/Territory level need consideration, analysis, solution building and negotiated resolution	CRCNA	\$25,000
<u>Prioritising, de-risking and brokering agricultural development in Western Australia</u> This WA-focused project is part of a wider collaboration between the CRCNA and the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australian Governments to support the development of new agricultural activity	Western Australia Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	\$163,000

Project name	Participants	Total project value (ex GST)
across northern Australia. Solutions to key policy, regulatory, budgetary and regional development challenges at the Commonwealth, State/Territory level need consideration, analysis, solution building and negotiated resolution.		
Improving water markets and trading through new digital technologies This pilot trial project will focus on testing Civic Ledger's blockchain Water Ledger trading platform with horticultural irrigators within the Mareeba Dimbulah Water Supply Scheme (MDWSS) on the Atherton Tablelands in FNQ.	Civic Ledger Pty Ltd Queensland Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) Blockchain Innovation Hub Griffith University Far North Queensland Growers	\$203,438
Co-mapping on Country: Train the trainer for sustainable development Co-mapping on Country involves creating large multi-purpose maps on canvas in collaboration with Traditional Owners to facilitate engagement, discussion, communication and informed decision making for the primary purpose of utilising Aboriginal land for economic development.	Centrefarm Aboriginal Horticulture Ltd North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance Ltd Northern Land Council Charles Darwin University	\$490,465
Developing a simple, robust telehealth system for remote communities This project aims to develop a simpler, more robust (reliable with inbuilt backup-systems) and affordable telehealth system using NBN satellite connectivity and a range of telecommunications and diagnostic tools to enhance telehealth access and use in remote Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs).	Simbani Integrated Research Emerge IT Solutions Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service SkyMesh Pty Ltd Synapse Medical Services VisionFlex Pty Ltd Charles Darwin University BIZ365	\$1,663,424
Potential for broadacre cropping in the NT This project will collate historical broadacre cropping data, natural resource information and an understanding of market opportunities to support the development of viable broadacre cropping systems in the NT. This will be achieved by project participants who each bring unique expertise to develop crop management strategies which will help to de-risk broadacre agriculture in the Top End.	NTDPIR USQ CSIRO NT Farmers NTDENR DAF Tipperary Group of Stations Ruby Downs Edith Springs Station Mainoru Station Ooloo Farms Glen Arden Cattle Company Flying Fox Station Cotton Seed Distributors Limited	\$2,097,968

Acronyms

CSIRO – Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research
 NTCA – Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association
 KPCA – Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association
 CCA – Cattle Council of Australia

MLA – Meat and Livestock Australia
NTDPIR – Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Resources
USQ – University Southern Queensland
NTDENR – Northern Territory Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DAF – Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
FNQROC – Far North Queensland Regional Organisations of Councils
PwC – PricewaterhouseCooper
JCU – James Cook University
ABFA – Australian Barramundi Farmers Association
APFA – Australian Prawn Farmers Association
ILSC – Indigenous Land and Sea Council
USC – University of the Sunshine Coast
GW3 – Greater Whitsunday Alliance

Project Pipeline July 2020

The CRCNA has committed funding to deliver the projects outlined below, many of which are still in development and brokering. In addition to these, the next competitive funding call (due to open **August 2020**) will prioritise funding towards identified research projects from the completed sector situational analysis and other completed projects.

Project name and description	CRCNA funding commitment
Improving supply chains of Kimberley barramundi will seek to enhance the genetics of fingerlings.	\$600,000
Indigenous agriculture situational analysis project will undertake SWOT of current industry & examine future opportunities	\$150,000
Growing high-value food and fibre exports from northern Australia develop technical support across a range of crops & products to grow exports from Darwin airport.	\$1,000,000
North Queensland supply chain study – Phase 2 will deliver an action plan to implement the outcomes and recommendations from the three regional supply chain projects with Greater Whitsunday Alliance, Advance Cairns and Townsville Enterprise.	\$180,000
WA Supply Chain gap analysis	\$500,000
Nutrient-dense ingredient demand scoping study – NQ Next Gen food manufacturing will develop product formulations, id and qualification of end-customer product and the demand for specific ingredients.	\$473,060
WA Ord River Traditional Owner share farming (cropping) project To develop a share farming model with MG Corp that can act as a catalyst for the development of unused land parcels on the Ord East Bank and see them developed for the purpose of agriculture using new (to this area) irrigation and farming techniques to deliver social and economic benefits.	\$200,000
Tiwi Island – Maximising northern tropical forestry A community-based enterprise development approach will be used to develop a model for the establishment and growth of tropical forestry plantations across northern Australia. This model, suitable for application across both Aboriginal and freehold land.	\$990,048
Sugar industry situational analysis – an emerging market, supply chain gap analysis and sector capacity baseline study will be conducted to assist in guiding future investment, strategy development etc.	\$250,000
Developing a Northern Australian model of care Phase I - Workforce analysis Phase II - Solutions to deliver integrated care and improved health outcomes.	\$500,000

*DISER Submission to the Select Committee on the effectiveness of the
Australian Government's northern Australia agenda*

Project name and description	CRCNA funding commitment
Agriculture and health workforce development strategy - develop a coordinated Ag and Health workforce development strategy for NA to 2035 – CRCNA research indicates that a workforce development strategy will be needed in Northern Australia (Ag and Health)	\$300,000

Attachment H

Major Project Facilitation Agency – northern Australia major status projects

Project Name	MPS	Location	Industry (based on ANZSIC codes)	Approval Status / FID
Australia-ASEAN Power Link	Yes	NT	Electricity, Gas and Waste (D)	In progress
Beyondie Sulphate of Potash Project	Yes	WA	Mining (B)	In progress
Hughenden Beef Processing Plant	Yes	QLD	Agriculture (A)	In progress
Ichthys LNG Project	Yes	NT	Mining (B)	Completed
Mackay Potash Project	Yes	WA	Mining (B)	In progress
Mardie Salt & Potash Project	Yes	WA	Mining (B)	In progress
Perdaman Urea Plant	Yes	WA	Manufacturing (C)	In progress
Project Sea Dragon	Yes	NT	Agriculture (A)	In progress
Saint Elmo Project	Yes	QLD	Mining (B)	In progress
TOTAL	MPS: 9	QLD: 2 WA: 4 NT: 3	Agriculture: 2 Mining: 5 Electricity, Gas and Waste: 1 Manufacturing: 1	