

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

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science thanks the Select Committee for the opportunity to provide this submission, which outlines the progress made under the Australian Government's northern Australia economic development agenda.

Department of Industry, Innovation and Science

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science is focused on economic transformation and boosting Australia's competitiveness by backing business, science, innovation and investment. The department works to position Australian businesses to harness the opportunities presented by technological change and global economic growth. Equally important is the department's responsibility to help people navigate these changes by ensuring policies and programs pave the way for businesses to create jobs across all parts of the economy.

The Office of Northern Australia (ONA) is a branch within the department. The ONA has responsibility for leading the Australian Government's northern Australia agenda, working across all levels of government to implement measures under the White Paper on Developing Northern Australia, and the economic development agenda more broadly.

Implementation of initiatives occurs at various levels, across the Commonwealth, state and territory governments and, industry, economic development, research and academic sectors. The ONA provides coordination and leadership to achieve strategic outcomes, minimising duplication, and broadening objectives to achieve maximum development potential.

The ONA has staff in Darwin, Broome, Cairns, Townsville, Brisbane and Canberra. This footprint enables the views of northern Australian residents to be heard in a nationally significant policy agenda. ONA's northern presence models meaningful and agile stakeholder engagement and collaboration, which responds quickly to emerging barriers and opportunities.

Green and White Papers

The Green Paper on Developing Northern Australia was released on 10 June 2014 and was the foundation document which informed the 2015 *Our North, Our Future: White Paper on Developing Northern Australia* (White Paper). The White Paper sets out the Australian Government's major policy directions to unlock the economic potential and opportunities of the north.

The White Paper is a 20-year national agenda to achieve sustained economic growth in northern Australia. It provides a framework for government to:

- assist major project investors through providing concessional finance for infrastructure
- build an evidence base for expanded agricultural production
- upgrade key corridors to better connect industry and producers to markets, providing more reliable transport links for freight and tourism
- create and share pre-competitive data and information to help investors and governments reduce risk
- make informed decisions about large scale developments.

Unlocking the north's full potential is not without challenges. The White Paper recognises that much of the work needed to make a stronger north involves long-term commitment and a united effort across governments, industry and the community. The Office of Northern Australia is actively leading the implementation of the northern agenda, in close collaboration with partners from the Commonwealth, northern jurisdictions and other stakeholders.

Links to documents:

Green Paper – <https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/green-paper-on-developing-northern-australia>

White Paper - <https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/our-north-our-future-white-paper-on-developing-northern-australia>

To date, the Australian Government, together with the Queensland, Western Australia and Northern Territory governments, have implemented, delivered or finalised 42 of the 51 White Paper commitments, worth over \$6.2 billion. A table of the 51 measures is at [Attachment A](#).

From the White Paper and broader northern agenda initiatives, key areas of focus are supporting industry development through whole-of-government collaboration:

1. Road upgrades through the Northern Australia Roads and Beef Roads Programs, and subsequently the northern component of the Roads of Strategic Importance initiative.
2. Increasing investment across all three jurisdictions through the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF). Investment commitments include airport facilities, higher education facilities, major new mining projects, a marine supply base, agriculture and aquaculture projects, and solar and hydro investments.
3. Water resource assessments and feasibility studies are helping to reduce the risks for investors to encourage financial commitment to major water storage developments, and agricultural opportunities.
4. The Indigenous Reference Group supports Indigenous economic participation to maximise the economic opportunity and contribution of north Australian Indigenous businesses, individuals and communities.
5. Industry-led research through the Cooperative Research Centre on developing northern Australia is generating productivity gains in industries critical to productivity improvements such as agriculture, Traditional Owner-led development and tropical health service delivery.

The effect of these measures are demonstrated when applied across industries. For example, the mango industry in the Northern Territory alone contributes \$62 million worth of production, and over four million trays are produced each year from this jurisdiction. The following steps have been taken to increase the productivity of this industry:

- a. The Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility has made an Investment Decision to offer finance of up to \$150 million, for construction of a cold storage and export hub at the Darwin International Airport and solar energy farms at Darwin Airport and the Alice Springs and Tennant Creek airports.
- b. A Building Better Regions Fund investment for a freight and education hub, which will see a vapour heat treatment plant and cool rooms, constructed to enable export of quality horticultural goods.
- c. The CSIRO led water resource assessment on the Darwin region catchment identified the potential for new in-stream water storage that could support up to 40 000 additional hectares of irrigated mangoes. It could add up to \$2.3 billion and 2500 jobs to the northern economy.
- d. All levels of government worked together with industry to identify strategic mango industry roads in the Northern Territory under the Roads of Strategic Importance initiative. The \$20 million upgrade of these roads will impact the quality of fruit while being transported, cutting export times and putting more profits into the hands of the producers, and the upgrade is expected to have a 9.3 per cent return on investment.
- e. The Cooperative Research Centre for Northern Australia funded the Smart Supply Chains project for the horticultural sector, allowing northern mango producers to collect and utilise data on their supply chain, value-add to their business and capture new markets. The transforming mango futures project is also establishing high-density mango orchard technologies for commercial scale research trials in Queensland and the Northern Territory.
- f. The northern mango industry relies on seasonal and local workforces. When local Australian workers are not available, the government's Seasonal Worker Programme offers a reliable and returning workforce from participating countries from the Pacific Island's and Timor-Leste.

This is just one example of the broader impact of the northern agenda to foster increased productivity, innovation and job creation in other key industries such as resources, tourism and agriculture.

WORLD-CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE

Building better infrastructure is critical to making liveability and doing business in the north easier and more productive. Better infrastructure allows farmers, miners and other producers to get their products to markets more easily and reliably; and is helping to grow the tourism industry.

Infrastructure Australia's 2015 Northern Australia Infrastructure Audit identified key infrastructure needs across all northern jurisdictions and the three northern state and territory governments have identified additional priority northern road projects. The 2019 National Infrastructure Audit was released in August 2019 and includes specific analysis of the needs of northern Australia.

Links to documents:

2015 Northern Australia Infrastructure Audit – https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-06/ia_northern_australia_audit.pdf

2019 National Infrastructure Audit – <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/publications/australian-infrastructure-audit-2019>

Roads

The Australian Government has committed \$2.98 billion to road upgrades for key northern Australia corridors. These investments will support critical roads in northern Australia, aimed at better access, safety and connectivity for northern Australia. A list of road and beef road projects is at [Attachment B](#).

- \$700 million for the Northern Australia Roads (NARP) and Beef Roads Programs
- \$330 million for the Outback Way
- \$1.733 billion for the northern package of the Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI)
- \$220.8 million for the Cape York Region Package.

Construction on the ROSI funded Karratha to Tom Price corridor in Western Australia began in September 2019, the remaining roads are yet to commence.

As of September 2019, the 19 NARP roads (10 in Queensland, four in Western Australia and five in Northern Territory), projects are at various stages in the delivery cycle. Five projects are complete, 10 are underway and four are yet to commence construction. Under the Beef Roads program, (15 in Queensland, one in Western Australia and two in Northern Territory) eight projects are complete, seven are underway and three are yet to commence. Approximately 480 kilometres of road construction and upgrade including over 270 kilometres of sealing is occurring.

It is expected that the NARP and Beef Roads Programs will support more than 2400 jobs across the three jurisdictions, including significant employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians. Through the inclusion of Indigenous employment and business use targets, these projects are providing Indigenous Australians with greater opportunities to access employment opportunities or to start or expand businesses.

For example, the NARP project on the Flinders Highway (Charters Towers to Richmond) culvert upgrades (package 1) that commenced in September 2017 and was completed in November 2018, supported 65 direct jobs over the life of this project (Queensland Transport and Main roads 14 January 2019).

The Cape York Region Package will upgrade and seal over 170km of road networks, including the Peninsula Developmental Road, due to be completed by the end of 2019. The project will improve accessibility to Cape York for the local community, and produce flow-on benefits to local industry, including mining.

The Australian Government is also investing \$10 billion in the Bruce Highway from 2013-14 to 2027-28 through the Bruce Highway Upgrade Program including sections in north Queensland:

- \$800 million for the Rockhampton Ring Road
- \$280 million for Mackay Ring Road (Stage 2)
- \$180 million towards the \$225 million Cairns Southern Access Corridor
- \$144 million towards the \$180 million Townsville Ring Road

Additional northern roads investments announced from the 2019-20 Budget include:

- \$287.2 million for Cairns Ring Road
- \$100 million for Gladstone Port Access Road Extension
- \$60 million for the Tiwi Island Roads upgrades

Airstrips

The Australian Government has upgraded remote airstrips to improve northern Australian's access to essential medical and education services, fresh foods, and employment, particularly during the wet season. Under rounds 4, 5 and 6 of the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program, over \$21.9 million for 63 projects has been committed to the north. The project is enhancing the safety and accessibility of aerodromes in remote areas, and will facilitate improved delivery of essential goods and services, including health care. Projects are, upgrading runway surfaces; stormwater drainage; safety equipment such as runway lighting and navigation aids; and other infrastructure such as animal proof fencing.

Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF)

NAIF's primary purpose is to accelerate infrastructure development and thereby transform northern Australia by financing that generates:

- public benefit that is broad based and outside of what is captured by the project proponent;
- longer-term growth in the economy and population;
- potential to encourage private sector participation in the financing of infrastructure needs; and
- sustainable Indigenous participation, procurement and employment outcomes.

The NAIF aims to accelerate development to help unlock economic, social and growth opportunities for northern Australia. Information on NAIF Investment Decisions as at 31 August 2019 is at [Attachment C](#).

Links to documents:

NAIF factsheet: https://naif.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/NAIF-Fact-Sheet_FINAL-30-May-2018-4.pdf

Types of infrastructure NAIF can finance:

The types of infrastructure that NAIF can finance is wide ranging and includes assets that facilitate the establishment or enhancement of business activity, or increase economic activity in a region.

Examples of the types of projects that may be eligible include, but are not limited to, ports, airports, rail, roads, water, energy and communications networks, social infrastructure (including health, education, research, training and related accommodation facilities), processing facilities (including abattoirs and agricultural processing plants) and transshipment vessels. Eligible projects must bring new capacity online either through the construction of new infrastructure or by materially enhancing existing infrastructure.

NAIF is able to provide up to 100 per cent of debt funding for an eligible project, provided Commonwealth risk is managed. When determining which projects to fund, NAIF considers the potential of its investment to encourage private sector participation in financing the project.

In contrast to private sector lending, NAIF's financing can be concessional, including longer loan tenor, deferral of interest and principal repayments or security subordination. NAIF will only offer the minimum concessions necessary

for a project to proceed. NAIF is able to accept a higher risk than commercial lenders, particularly where the risk relates to factors that are unique to investing in northern Australia, including distance, complexity and remoteness.

NAIF projects must be of public benefit (being broad based and must demonstrate benefits to the broader economy and community, beyond those captured by a project proponent). In offering any concessions, NAIF must have regard to the extent of the forecast public benefit.

An Indigenous Engagement Strategy demonstrating objectives for Indigenous participation, procurement and employment, reflecting the Indigenous population in the region must also be developed for each NAIF project.

Links to documents

NAIF Indigenous Engagement Guideline: <https://naif.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Final-IES-Guideline-November-2018-.pdf>

NAIF's contribution to northern Australia:

The NAIF was established under the *Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility Act 2016* (NAIF Act) on 1 July 2016. In the 38 months since 1 July 2016, NAIF has to date, delivered commitments totalling \$1.4 billion through 13 investment decisions and one conditional approval.

As at 31 August 2019, of the total Investment Decisions made, \$781 million of loans have been approved for Queensland; \$345 million for the Northern Territory and \$308 million for Western Australia. Investments are diversified across sectors including ports, roads, airports, tourism, education, agriculture, resources and renewable energy.

Projects supported by NAIF to date are forecast to create more than 4000 jobs (more than 3100 construction jobs and more than 900 jobs in operations).

An estimated \$3 billion in public benefit is forecast to be generated across these projects. In addition, the projects have commitments for Indigenous participation, procurement and employment. Refer to [Attachment C](#).

NAIF's due diligence pipeline by jurisdiction and sector as at 31 August 2019.

As at 31 August 2019 there were 26 projects in the due diligence phase of NAIF's assessment process.

Projects in Due Diligence				
Northern Territory		Queensland		Western Australia
4		9		13
Sectors				
Energy Generation	Agriculture and Manufacturing	Resources	Transport	Tourism & Social
2	4	12	5	3

NAIF's active enquiries pipeline as at 31 August 2019.

As at 31 August 2019, there were 93 active enquiries in the NAIF pipeline.

- Queensland 51%
- Western Australia 41%
- Northern Territory 6%
- Cross jurisdictional 2%

Reviews into NAIF:

Review/ Inquiry	Findings
Shepherd Review	In December 2017, Mr Anthony F Shepherd AO undertook an expert review of the NAIF. The aim was to recommend ways to accelerate project development and ensure the NAIF can best meet its legislated objective. This review was established by the responsible Minister, and with the support of the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, Mr Shepherd made 15 recommendations. The NAIF Investment Mandate was amended as a result of the recommendations, see below.
Senate Inquiry into the Governance and Operation of NAIF	On 14 June 2017, the Senate referred an Inquiry into the Governance and Operation of NAIF to the Senate Economics Reference Committee. The Senate Committee tabled its report on 6 July 2018.
ANAO Performance Audit into the Governance and Integrity of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility	The ANAO tabled its Performance Audit report on 10 April 2019. The report concludes that NAIF has an appropriate governance framework, including systems of risk management and internal control. It also concluded that NAIF has an appropriate integrity policy framework and that its management of conflicts of interest were effective. It recommended areas for improvement including publishing more information and better recording of aspects of its decision-making and relating to measuring and reporting on certain performance targets. The ANAO made six recommendations. NAIF agreed with all recommendations (five in full and one in principle).
Legislative review of the NAIF Act	The legislative review of the <i>NAIF Act</i> , as outlined in s43 of the <i>NAIF Act</i> , commenced on 1 July 2019 (being three years after the commencement of the Act). The review will include, among other things: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether the time limit of 30 June 2021 for making decisions to provide financial assistance should be extended; and • appropriate governance arrangements for NAIF after that date. The responsible Minister must table a copy of that review in each House of Parliament within 15 sitting days of receiving the review report.

Investment Mandate:

In April 2018, significant changes to NAIF's Investment Mandate were announced which came into effect on 2 May 2018.

Key changes made to the Investment Mandated included:

- Broadening the types of eligible assets NAIF could invest in to include those that incorporate (in whole or in part) construction or enhancement of physical structures, assets (including moveable assets) or facilities that underpin, facilitate or are associated with:
 - the transport or flow of people, goods, services or information; or
 - the establishment or enhancement of business activity in a region; or
 - an increase in economic activity in a region, including efficiency in developing or connecting markets; or
 - an increase in population.
- Allowing NAIF to lend up to 100 per cent of debt for eligible projects provided there is appropriate risk sharing and the Commonwealth (overall, through all project roles) is not the majority risk taker.
- Streamlining the eligibility criteria to five mandatory criteria down from seven previously.
 - The two non-mandatory criteria in the original mandate were removed, making it clear that NAIF has flexibility to support smaller projects.
- Whilst this is no longer a non-mandatory prerequisite, the Board, in making an Investment Decision, must consider a preference for projects that address an infrastructure need identified through a Commonwealth, State or Territory assessment process, pipeline or priority list.
- For any investment decision over \$100 million, the NAIF must consult with Infrastructure Australia.

Summary of NAIF process:

NAIF uses a staged screening process before any project is approved for a loan. This process involves two review stages, Strategic Assessment and Due Diligence:

1. Strategic Assessment

Following initial enquiry and provision of high-level project information, NAIF conducts a preliminary assessment to see if a project can demonstrate the potential to meet the NAIF eligibility criteria.

If the project is assessed as having this potential, a Strategic Assessment paper is submitted to the NAIF CEO for approval seeking the commitment of NAIF resources to further investigate the project. The NAIF Board notes each Strategic Assessment paper, following CEO endorsement.

The project then moves to due diligence.

2. Due Diligence

This is a more detailed stage of assessment to determine whether the project has satisfied all the requirements of the *NAIF Act* and Investment Mandate.

The detailed due diligence process can include the following:

- developing appropriate NAIF loan terms and conditions
- project and credit risk analysis
- environmental and social assessments.

A decision to commit NAIF resources and progress to the due diligence phase does not constitute an Investment Decision nor is it an offer of finance. It does not indicate whether the NAIF eligibility criteria will be met nor is it an endorsement of any specific terms or conditions.

3. Investment Decision and Execution

Following the completion of due diligence stage, the project proponent will be required to submit a formal Investment Proposal to NAIF which the NAIF executive rely on to prepare a request for financial assistance for consideration by NAIF's Board who will decide whether or not to offer finance.

The NAIF Board must be satisfied that the requirements of the *NAIF Act* and the Investment Mandate are met.

Like loans from commercial entities, an Investment Decision to offer finance will be subject to negotiation and execution of finance documents and may be subject to specific conditions. Financial Close of the loan agreement will be subject to conditions.

NAIF will not proceed with making an Investment Decision if at any time the relevant State or Territory government provides written notification that financial assistance should not be provided to the project.

The responsible Australian Government Minister will also consider the project and can reject a proposal if he or she determines that financial assistance should not be provided on the following grounds; be inconsistent with the objectives and policies of the Commonwealth Government; or have adverse implications for Australia's national or domestic security; or have an adverse impact on Australia's international reputation or foreign relations.

Once a final Investment Decision is made by the NAIF Board, information about the transaction, as required by the NAIF Investment Mandate, is published on the NAIF website within 30 business days.

4. Funds and loan repayment

Once loan documents are finalised and financial close reached, proponents can drawdown the funds loaned by NAIF as and when their individual project requires.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

Water resources is a major driver of economic activity, particularly for key northern industries such as agriculture, aquaculture, mining, energy and tourism. The White Paper recognised the importance of water in unlocking the full economic potential of northern Australia. Information and data from feasibility studies and water resource assessments is informing future industry developments and infrastructure across the north.

Under the \$1.3 billion National Water Infrastructure Development Fund, \$494.2 million has been committed for northern projects.

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

Capital projects:

- \$176.1 million to co-fund the Rookwood Weir (Queensland) – due to commence construction in the 2020 dry season – governance arrangements progressing
- \$11.6 million to co-fund the Mareeba-Dimbulah Water Supply Scheme Efficiency Project (Queensland) – commenced
- \$200 million has been committed to secure Townsville's long-term water supply. This includes up to \$5 million for the completed business case and up to \$195 million to fully fund Stage 2 of the Haughton Pipeline extension. Construction of Stage 2 was confirmed on 20 July 2019 and will be supported by Townsville City Council as part of the Townsville City Deal.

Feasibility projects:

Sixteen feasibility studies are on track with the majority completed. There are 10 projects valued at \$18 million in Queensland, two projects valued at \$3.4 million in the Northern Territory and four projects valued at \$3.89 million in Western Australia.

Northern Water Resource Assessments:

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) completed \$15 million for three water assessments in 2018 in Fitzroy River Basin WA, Mitchell River Basin QLD and the NT's Darwin region (Adelaide, Mary, Wildman and Finniss catchments).

This scientific analysis delivers unprecedented water catchment data, providing investors with information to de-risk financial commitment to large-scale infrastructure and agricultural developments in the north.

CSIRO research has identified 387 000 additional hectares with the potential for agricultural crops such as sugar cane and cotton. The assessments also identify another 710 000 hectares of coastal land that could accommodate lined aquaculture ponds.

The Government has made further commitments including:

- \$3.5 million was committed to the Northern Territory Roper River water resource assessment, CSIRO commenced this work in August 2019.
- \$6.5 million has been provided to water modelling in the Queensland Great Artesian Basin; this work commenced in July 2019.

Post-feasibility business case

Further commitment for post-feasibility business case projects have been made from the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund:

- \$30 million to Hells Gate Dam Scheme – Big Rocks Weir
- \$10 million to Lakeland Irrigation Business Case
- \$10 million to Urannah Dam Business Case
- \$2 million to Adelaide River Business Case.

North Queensland Water Infrastructure Authority (NQWIA)

The NQWIA was established in March 2019 to provide strategic planning and coordination of Commonwealth resources to implement the Hughenden Irrigation Scheme project and the Hells Gates Dam Scheme (including Big Rocks Weir) project. The NQWIA's scope includes major water infrastructure in regional Queensland including Rookwood Weir, and the Mareeba-Dinbulah Water Supply Scheme. NQWIA works collaboratively with stakeholders to progress feasibility and planning activities, including developing business cases, related to major water infrastructure initiatives eligible to receive Australian Government funding from the National Water Infrastructure Fund.

National Water Grid Authority

The National Water Grid Authority will commence on 1 October 2019 to provide a science based approach to assess water diversion and storage proposals for future water infrastructure, helping to shape national water infrastructure policy. Working with state and territory governments, the Authority will develop a national framework to identify priority water infrastructure initiatives, including strategies to harness and harvest water storage and supply systems across Australia, to support the growth of primary industries and regional communities. The Authority will build on the \$993.1 million already committed from the \$1.3 billion National Water Infrastructure Development Fund to fund the construction of water infrastructure projects.

INDIGENOUS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BUSINESSES

Inclusion of Indigenous Australians in the northern agenda is critical to maximise the north's full potential. Supporting Indigenous entrepreneurs and businesses is a priority and opportunities are being opened up for Indigenous Australians to benefit economically from their land.

Land tenure reform pilots are operating across northern Australia to support innovative changes to land use arrangements and to simplify and boost investment on Indigenous land. The National Native Title Council is also preparing case studies of the development of Indigenous land-related resources, and developing a Prescribed Body Corporates curriculum and training.

Township leasing is helping to provide a strong foundation for increased economic activity and inter-generational wealth in towns on Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory. It involves establishing a head lease over the whole community, encouraging local decision-making, streamlined land administration and decision making in commercial timeframes. A number of communities in the Northern Territory have negotiated township leases and are seeing the benefits of economic activity—Mutitjulu in Central Australia, Pirlangimpi on the Tiwi Islands, the Binjari housing lease near Katherine and in Gunyangara in northeast Arnhem Land. Lease negotiations are occurring at Jabiru in Kakadu National Park and at Yarralin in the Victoria Daly region of the Northern Territory.

The Australian Trade and Investment Commission has developed business friendly, investor focused online guides to land tenure and native title systems in northern Australia providing investors with valuable information – <https://www.austrade.gov.au/land-tenure>

The clean, pest and disease free status of Australia is one of the nation's greatest assets and gives the north a competitive edge in a global market where quality and safety is highly valued. The Australian Government has invested \$200 million into biosecurity across Australia to protect our farmers and all Australians, through the Northern Australia Biosecurity Framework. This investment includes support to ensure our northern barrier remains intact with \$12.4 million to expand biosecurity activities by Indigenous ranger groups in northern Australia. Sixty-nine skilled ranger groups are now playing a biosecurity role, with many located along northern coastlines in very remote areas.

DIVERSIFYING THE NORTHERN ECONOMY

A more diversified economy is critical to unlocking the north's full potential. The Australian Government is working to create an environment to support entrepreneurs, small businesses and a range of diverse industries such as agriculture, tourism and resources.

The Australian Government's Entrepreneurs' Programme (EP) delivers advice, networking and grants to help Australian businesses grow, innovate and commercialise nationally and globally.

EP has a national network of advisers and facilitators based in Broome, Darwin, Cairns, Mackay, Townsville and Rockhampton. Under the Accelerating Commercialisation and Incubator Support, five incubators located in northern Australia are sharing in over \$2 million in grant funding to deliver services in Darwin, Port Hedland, Rockhampton, Emerald, and Yungaburra.

As part of the White Paper, businesses were given a reduced turnover threshold of \$750 000 (from \$1.5 million) to access services under the Business Management or Innovation Connections elements of EP.

Fifty-three businesses in northern Australia have received services under the Innovation Connections element of EP, with 24 of these businesses receiving a total of \$1.36 million in funding to work on research projects with Publicly Funded Research Organisations.

Tourism

As part of the White Paper, EP was also expanded to provide assistance to the northern Australian tourism industry. The EP Northern Australia Tourism Initiative (EP-NATI) was a three-year, business advisory initiative through to 30 June 2019. This advisory service was extended until 31 December 2019, with grants to grow their business available until 30 June 2020.

Northern Australia has many iconic locations, attracting millions of tourists from across Australia and the world. The tourism industry presents a major opportunity to support the long-term economic and social development helping to contribute sustainability to northern communities.

Investment in key road infrastructure as well as the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program and NAIF funding for airport infrastructure helps provide more reliable and safer transport links and port hub infrastructure for tourists in northern Australia.

City and Regional Deals

City Deals are a partnership between the three levels of government working towards a shared vision for productive and liveable cities. They work to align planning, investment and governance necessary to accelerate growth and job creation, stimulate urban renewal and drive economic reforms.

Because of the unique nature of different cities across Australia, City Deals help to achieve the best outcomes by tailoring governments approach to design and delivery of outcomes set out in the City Deal.

To date two cities in northern Australia have a City Deal. Townsville, which was the first deal put in place in northern Australia was agreed on 10 November 2016 and signed on 9 December 2016. The Townsville deal is a 15-year commitment developed in collaboration with the Townsville community and private sector. Darwin's \$200 million City Deal came into effect on 16 November 2018.

Regional Deals are based on the City Deal concept and bring together all levels of government around a clear set of objectives. These deals are tailored to each region's comparative advantages, assets and challenges, and reflect the unique needs of regional Australia.

Regional Deals support a place-based approach by putting community-identified priorities at the centre. The Barkly Regional Deal is the first regional deal in Australia – a 10-year \$78.4 million commitment between the Australian and Northern Territory governments and Barkly Regional Council.

Links to documents:

Townsville City Deal – <https://citydeals.infrastructure.gov.au/townsville>

Darwin City Deal – <https://citydeals.infrastructure.gov.au/darwin>

Barkley Regional Deal - <https://www.regional.gov.au/regional/deals/Barkly.aspx>

Resources

The Australian Government's \$100.5 million Exploring for the Future (EFTF) program is helping industry stimulate exploration investment in the mineral, energy and groundwater resource potential in northern Australia to secure future investment in the resources sector. Led by Geoscience Australia, the collection of pre-competitive geoscience data in the north (and parts of South Australia), began in the second half of 2016 and will conclude in 2020. Through the program, Geoscience Australia is delivering new data and knowledge about groundwater systems and associated soils to attract new agricultural investment in key regions of northern Australia. The program comprises large-scale geological programs to help identify the next generation of commercial mineral deposits under cover and to support frontier gas exploration. This work has provided improved understanding of the resource potential in northern Australia, and will generate industry investments.

Through Geoscience Australia's EFTF, the program has invested \$22.6 million in the Barkly region to map underground mineral, energy and water resources that will provide economic and social benefit for communities. Geoscience Australia is currently in discussion with Native Title Representative Bodies in northern Australia on how the program's new data and knowledge can be used in future land use decisions and support informed decision making for communities.

The Australian Government's \$5.5 million national expansion of CSIRO's Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA) is also benefiting the north. This work is providing information to communities where research projects are underway while also investigating greenhouse gas and water issues.

The \$26 million Gas Acceleration Program (GAP) is accelerating the development of onshore gas. The program targets projects with the greatest potential to supply significant volumes of gas to domestic customers by June 2020. A GAP project is located west of Gladstone in Queensland.

In November 2018, the Australian and Northern Territory governments signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will help realise existing offshore gas reserves and the potential of the Beetaloo sub-Basin as a new world class gas province. This has led to continued work to facilitate development of the Beetaloo sub-basin and the development of a downstream Northern Territory gas industry.

The Department of the Environment and Energy received \$8.4 million in the 2019-20 Budget to support the sustainable development of the Beetaloo Basin and ensure economic benefits for Indigenous people of the Barkly Region and the wider Northern Territory are realised.

Workforce

To support a diversified economy, the Government has implemented strategies to develop a sustainable supply of labour in the north. Two White Paper initiatives have contributed; the Pacific Microstates Northern Australia Worker Pilot and the Seasonal Worker Programme. The Skilling Australians Fund and the Pacific Labour Scheme have also helped to build a stronger labour pool for the north.

The Australian Government's \$525 million Skills Package Delivering Skills for Today and Tomorrow has been designed to ensure Australians have the right skills to get a job, build a career and to reskill and retrain over the course of their lifetime. It takes immediate actions to support Australians everywhere to make the best choices for their careers and

equip themselves with the right skills for the future. Skills needs vary across the nation and that areas such as northern Australia face unique challenges. The measures in the Skills Package are designed to ensure that the VET system is responsive and flexible, and does not impose a 'one size fits all' approach.

Four remote communities pilots in north Queensland, South Australia, Northern Territory and Western Australia will deliver tailored, flexible, and locally developed training, co designed with Indigenous leaders and community members to meet local needs.

Ten pilot Industry Training Hubs are being established in regions with high youth unemployment across Australia including in Alice Springs and Townsville. The Hubs are designed to improve opportunities for young people by creating better links between local industry, employers and schools. The Commonwealth Scholarships for Young Australians program will provide 400 VET scholarships to young people in the same ten regions as the Industry Training Hubs, including Alice Springs and Townsville.

Measures under the Skills Package will assist students in northern Australia to gain the skills they need to participate in the labour market, boost the ability of employers in the north to recruit and retain apprentices, improve youth employment opportunities in regions with high youth unemployment, and increase the availability of quality careers information for job seekers.

Defence

Australia's defence industry contributes almost 7 per cent of economic growth across the Top End and the Australian Defence Force's presence and investment in the north continues to contribute to regional growth. The 2016 Defence White Paper outlined defence investment in northern Australia to 2035, including \$20 billion to upgrade defence facilities in the Northern Territory; \$930 million to upgrade facilities and infrastructure in Western Australia; and \$8 billion over ten years to build new or strengthen existing infrastructure and introduce a fleet of lightly armed boats in Queensland.

Defence White Paper - <http://www.defence.gov.au/WhitePaper/Docs/2016-Defence-White-Paper.pdf>

Agriculture

The Australian Government's White Paper on Developing Northern Australia and the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper both emphasised the importance of agriculture to Australia's economic growth and identified priority actions to develop the agriculture sector in Australia. This included better regulation and land reform, as well as support for research and development, infrastructure investment (including water), and access to skilled workers.

The north is already an established producer of a wide variety of food and fibre products, with expectation that the sector will expand significantly. Investment in water projects, as well as research into cropping and supply chains being undertaken through the Cooperative Research Centre on Developing Northern Australia will help to build northern Australia's capability of providing for the sector and its expected growth.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Cooperative Research Centre on Developing Northern Australia (CRCNA)

The CRCNA is investing \$75 million of Australian Government funds over ten years to support industry-led research collaborations. The CRCNA is headquartered in Townsville with offices also in Darwin and Broome.

The CRCNA board was appointed in February 2017 and has members located across the north.

CRCNA funding is developing new technologies, products and services, which address industry issues in northern Australia within three initial focus areas:

1. Agriculture and food (including aquaculture): removing barriers and improving supply and value chains for new and existing northern agricultural industries.

2. Northern Australia health service delivery: identifying new models and approaches, early detection, health seeking behaviour and mental health.
3. Traditional Owner-led business development: identifying new models and approaches and building an industry ready skilled workforce in the fields of agriculture, food and/or health industries.

The CRCNA brings together industry, universities and other research bodies, regional development organisations, all northern jurisdictions and international partners in a collaborative industry-led research and development venture to assist businesses, governments and researchers identify opportunities for business and growth in the north.

To date, the CRCNA has funded \$7 910 257 to projects worth a total of \$24 647 553. A full list of CRCNA projects is at [Attachment E](#).

Tropical health

Through the White Paper, the Australian Government committed \$20.3 million to the development of tropical medicine research in the north. The funding has boosted tropical research capacity in the north, fostered commercialisation opportunities and strengthened links with international research partners through several initiatives such as the HOT NORTH project led by the Menzies School of Health Research.

The Australian Tropical Medicine Commercialisation Grants program has provided support for the commercialisation of Australian tropical medicine research in partnership with international companies. Investments have also helped build links between Australian and international research institutions and a Tropical Health Short Course program has provided education and training to Indonesian health professionals in areas such as malaria prevention and treatment, with courses run in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

A TRADE AND INVESTMENT GATEWAY

The Australian Government has hosted two Northern Australia Investment Forums, in Darwin in 2015 and in Cairns in 2017. The forums brought together international and domestic investors and northern producers and businesses, and were attended by more than 350 global investors from over 20 countries. The Australian Trade and Investment Commission continues to monitor post-forum investment outcomes and ongoing interest, and engagement with international investors.

Stronger connections have been forged with our regional neighbours and links between northern Australia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) connectivity agendas have been strengthened. The White Paper has provided \$2.5 million in development assistance to enhance business links between Australian businesses and Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Indonesia.

The Australian Government has built on the success of its “single point of entry” for major projects in northern Australia by establishing the Major Projects Facilitation Agency Darwin office. The agency is assisting projects across northern Australia in industries like resources, energy, telecommunications and aquaculture. Since the Darwin office opened in January 2016, the agency has assisted 24 projects in northern Australia, representing an estimated CAPEX value of \$221.5 billion.

GOVERNANCE

Northern Australia Strategic Partnership (NASP)

The NASP is a partnership made up of the Prime Minister, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia and first ministers from Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia. The partnership provides national leadership on the strategic direction for the northern agenda. The NASP last met in Cairns in August 2019.

Ministerial Forum on Northern Development

The Minister for Resources and Northern Australia chairs the Ministerial Forum on Northern Development. Membership includes the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, the Western Australia Minister for Regional Development, Agriculture and Food, and the Queensland Deputy Premier.

The Ministerial Forum, with direction from the NASP, drives strategic direction for the northern agenda, engaging key ministers and senior officials from each jurisdiction.

Indigenous Reference Group (IRG)

The Ministerial Forum on Northern Development established the IRG in late 2017 to provide advice on accelerating Indigenous economic participation. The IRG is made up of eight members who were selected by jurisdictions for their business expertise and experience, and are not representative of regions or stakeholder groups. IRG member biographies are available at northernaustralia.gov.au

In 2018 at the Ministerial Forum, the IRG made recommendations to support increased Indigenous economic participation. Recommendations focus on:

1. Creating jobs, fostering labour participation, entrepreneurship and business acumen.
2. Knowledge management systems, research, and development to support Indigenous commercial end users.
3. Infrastructure investment to support Indigenous economic development.
4. Access to capital, domestic, and international markets.
5. Activating the economic value of land, water, sea and cultural resource rights.
6. Institutional arrangements that work to activate, accelerate, and optimise Indigenous economic development across northern Australia.

An agreement that captures the initiatives of the Ministerial Forum to strengthen Indigenous economic participation in the northern development agenda is in development with the intention of formal endorsement by the Commonwealth, Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland governments during 2019.

Interdepartmental Committee on northern Australia (IDC)

The IDC is made up of 15 Australia Government agencies, working to deliver the 51 measures set out in the White Paper and initiatives within the broader northern agenda. The IDC advises and provides input into policy issues, government and industry priorities and program risks relevant to northern Australia for whole of government coordination.

ATTACHMENT A

White Paper measures summary

One measure is on hold (measure 24)

Nine measures are on track for delivery

40 measures are delivered or finalised; one measure has been closed.

Status	Measure	Lead Agency
On hold	24. Improve protections and cut red tape around Indigenous cultural heritage (p79 – note page numbers refer to the White Paper)	Environment and Energy
On track	2. Aspiration to finalise native title claims within a decade (p 22)	Attorney-General's
On track	3. More efficient native title processes (p23)	Attorney-General's
On track	6. Land administration and township leasing (p29, 32) [\$17m]	National Indigenous Australians Agency
On track	10. National Water Infrastructure Development Fund (NWIDF) – northern component (p44, 49) [\$231.2m (\$200m original commitment)]	Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development
On track	23. Reforms to tourism visas (p78) [\$16.6m]	Home Affairs
On track	25. Cutting red tape for fisheries (p80)	Agriculture and Water Resources
On track	26. Wildlife trade reform (p82)	Environment and Energy
On track	30. Improving cattle supply chains (p95) [\$100m]	Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development
Delivered	1. 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	4. Capacity building of native title corporations (p24) [\$20.4m] Delivered in July 2018 post-final forum.	National Indigenous Australians Agency
Delivered	5. Consult on options to use exclusive native title rights for commercial purposes (p25) COAG decision, December 2015.	National Indigenous Australians Agency
Delivered	7. New models to manage native title funds for development (p26) Finalised. Consideration of this measure (focussed on the Indigenous Community Development Corporation (ICDC) model) has been finalised.	National Indigenous Australians Agency
Delivered	8. More business-friendly information on different land tenure arrangements (p33) [\$2m – note: apportioned from Measure 1] Online guides released 2016.	Austrade
Delivered	9. 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	11. Northern Australia Investment Forum and Northern Australia Value Proposition (p62) First Forum held Nov 2015, second Forum held Nov 2017.	Austrade
Delivered	12. Northern Australia Insurance Premiums Taskforce (p75) Taskforce report released March 2016.	Treasury
Delivered	13. Link the north with ASEAN and APEC connectivity agendas (p63) DFAT promoting northern agenda through these agendas.	Foreign Affairs and Trade
Delivered	14. 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	15. Expanding Entrepreneurs' Programme to include Tourism (p66) [\$13.6m] Tourism initiative launched February 2016.	Industry, Innovation and Science
Delivered	16. Enhancing access to the Entrepreneurs' Programme (p66) Minimum turnover or operating expenditure thresholds lowered to \$750,000 in July 2015.	Industry, Innovation and Science
Delivered	17. CRC for Developing Northern Australia (p67) [\$75m] CRC established July 2017.	Industry, Innovation and Science

Status	Measure	Lead Agency
Delivered	18. Bolstering tropical health research capacity (p69) [\$6.8m] Tropical health research grants announced in 2016.	National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
Delivered	19. 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	20 & 20a. 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	21. Increased Indigenous Ranger biosecurity activities (p73) [\$12.4m] Increased Indigenous ranger biosecurity activities implemented 2017.	Agriculture and Water Resources
Delivered	22. Single point of entry for major projects (p33, 75) [\$2m] Major Projects Facilitation Agency opened the Darwin office in January 2016.	Industry, Innovation and Science
Finalised	27. 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 and Water Resources
Delivered	28. Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) (p86) [\$5b] Established July 2016.	Industry, Innovation and Science
Delivered	29. Northern Australia Roads Package (p88) [\$600m] All 19 projects approved. These are commencing progressively and will be completed by 2020-21.	Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development
Delivered	31. 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, Cities and Regional Development
Delivered	32. 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, Cities and Regional Development
Finalised	33. Northern Australia infrastructure audit (p85) Report released January 2015. The 2019 National Infrastructure Audit includes a focus on northern Australia.	Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development
Delivered	34. 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, Cities and Regional Development
Finalised	35. 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, Cities and Regional Development
Finalised	36. Support enterprises in the north through the Industry Skills Fund (p108) Co-contribution rates lowered September 2015.	Education and Training
Delivered	37. 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 applied to NARP and Beef Roads projects.	Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development
Closed	38. 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 and Training
Delivered	39. 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	40. Designated Area Migration Agreements (p111)	Home Affairs

Status	Measure	Lead Agency
	Closure report endorsed by the Office of Northern Australia May 2016 for the Northern Territory DAMA.	
Delivered	41. Expanded Seasonal Worker Programme (p113) National cap on placements actioned 1 July 2015 - inclusion of agriculture sector actioned 8 Feb 2016.	Jobs and Small Business
Delivered	42. 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	43. Work and Holiday visa – second visa if they worked in tourism or agriculture in north Australia (p112) [\$1.9m] Visa changes announced November 2016.	Home Affairs
Delivered	44. 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	45. 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
Finalised	46. Shift Office of Northern Australia to the north (p119) Headquarters established in Darwin in 2015.	Office of Northern Australia (DIIS)
Finalised	47. Joint Select Committee on northern Australia to be made a standing committee (p119) Standing Committee appointed September 2016.	Office of Northern Australia (DIIS)
Delivered	48. Annual statement to Parliament (p119) Statements tabled October 2016; December 2017; October 2018.	Office of Northern Australia (DIIS)
Delivered	49. A public sector secondment program (p120) Processes in place and secondments occurring with the APSC.	Office of Northern Australia (DIIS)
Finalised	50. A northern Australia themed regulation repeal day (p74) Inefficient regulations amended on an individual basis.	Office of Northern Australia (DIIS)
Finalised	51. Strengthen the Defence presence in northern Australia (p120) Defence White Paper released 2016.	Defence

ATTACHMENT B

Northern Australia Road and Beef Roads Program

Northern Australia Roads Program (NARP)		Total Project Cost (\$m)	AG Contribution (\$m)
Queensland			
Barkly Highway (Cloncurry - Mount Isa) Intersection Upgrades in the Mount Isa Urban Area <i>Involves upgrading nine intersections on the Barkly Highway through the Mt Isa urban area.</i>	8.27	6.62	
Bowen Developmental Road - Stage Development <i>Will upgrade unsealed sections of Bowen Developmental Road between the Gregory Developmental Road (near Belyando Crossing) and Collinsville.</i>	28.75	23.0	
Capricorn Highway (Rockhampton - Duaringa) Rockhampton to Gracemere Duplication <i>Will duplicate (widen from two-lanes to four-lanes) approximately 5 kilometres of the Highway between Rockhampton and Gracemere.</i>	74.99	59.99	
COMPLETED Flinders Highway (Charters Towers – Richmond) Culvert Upgrades (Package 1) <i>Replacement of seven ageing culverts on the Flinders Highway.</i>	17.73	14.18	
Flinders Highway (Townsville - Torrens Creek) Pavement Strengthening and Rehabilitation (Package 1) <i>Involves approximately 8 kilometres of pavement strengthening and rehabilitation works.</i>	22.2	17.76	
COMPLETED Kennedy Developmental Road (Mount Garnet - The Lynd) Pavement Widening <i>Involves widening (from single-lane to two-lane seal) over 3 kilometres of pavement.</i>	3.32	2.66	
Kennedy Developmental Road (The Lynd - Hughenden) Progressive Sealing <i>Involves sealing approximately 42 kilometres of the remaining unsealed sections on the Hann Highway.</i>	50.0	40.0	
Landsborough Highway (Longreach - Winton) Pavement Widening and Strengthening (Package 1) <i>Involves upgrading approximately 25 kilometres of the Landsborough Highway between Longreach and Winton.</i>	24.98	19.99	
Rockhampton (Bajool - Port Alma Road) Pavement Widening Port Access Road <i>Involves widening and safety of 14 kilometres of the Bajool – Port Alma Road, to the south east of Rockhampton.</i>	14.5	11.6	
Peak Downs Highway (Clermont - Nebo) Logan Creek to Nine Mile Creek - Pavement Widening and Strengthening - Package 1 <i>Will strengthen and widen approximately 13 kilometres of the Highway, providing a wider and safer two-lane highway.</i>	35.0	28.0	
Totals	279.74	223.80	
Western Australia			
Broome - Cape Leveque Road <i>The project will realign and seal approximately 90 kilometres of the Broome Cape Leveque Road. The works will also include drainage improvements including culverts, fauna underpasses and flood ways.</i>	65.66	52.53	
COMPLETED Great Northern Highway - Bow River Bridge and Approaches <i>Involves the replacement the existing low-level single lane Bow River Bridge with a new 2-lane high-level bridge and improving the approaching road alignment. Will also upgrade high-level road embankments, rock guide banks at bridge abutments and a new rest area for heavy vehicles.</i>	38.49	30.79	
COMPLETED Great Northern Highway Upgrade - Maggie Creek to Wyndham <i>Involves widening and overlaying approximately 22 kilometres of the Wyndham Spur section and the reconstruction of over 5 kilometres of road pavement at Maggie's Jump Up.</i>	56.14	44.91	
COMPLETED Marble Bar Road - Coongan Gorge <i>The project will realign and reconstruct a 4-kilometre section of the Marble Bar Road that passes through Coongan Gorge.</i>	54.48	43.58	
Totals	214.77	171.81	

Northern Australia Roads Program (NARP)	Total Project Cost (\$m)	AG Contribution (\$m)
Northern Territory		
Arnhem Highway Adelaide River Flood Plain Upgrade <i>Involves constructing approximately 6.6 kilometres of new road alignment on the existing road corridor parallel to the existing road to a finished road level of approximately 4 metres.</i>	77.88	62.3
Buntine Highway – Upgrading <i>Involves upgrading over 52 kilometres of the Buntine Highway. These works will include flood immunity and safety improvements, sealing, and, pavement strengthening and widening of sections of the Highway.</i>	40.08	32.06
Plenty Highway Upgrade <i>Involves sealing approximately 35 kilometres of the Plenty Highway to standard two-lane seal, extra 15km of road being upgraded due to savings, originally was 20km.</i>	25.0	20.0
Tjukururu Road Upgrade <i>Involves includes upgrading 11 kilometres of Tjukururu Road to two-lane standard seal, which will include upgrades from the Docker River Aerodrome to the Docker River Community turn off.</i>	9.98	7.98
Upgrade of Keep River Plains Road Section B to C <i>Involves sealing over 13 kilometres of the Keep River Road to two-lane standard seal and replacing two bridges, one over the Keep River and one over Sandy Creek. Additional funding of \$29.94 million for the delivery of Section C-D of Keep River Plains Road, pending the financial investment decision by SeaFarms Group to proceed with Project Sea Dragon.</i>	48.89	39.91
Totals	240.25	192.19

Northern Australia Beef Roads Program	Total Project Cost (\$m)	AG Contribution (\$m)
Queensland		
Burke Developmental Road – Chillagoe – Almaden – Progressive Sealing (Package 1) <i>Involves approximately 3.45 kilometres of progressive sealing works on unsealed sections of the Burke Developmental Road between Chillagoe to Almaden.</i>	4.73	3.79
Burke Developmental Road – Chillagoe – Almaden – Progressive Sealing (Package 2) <i>Involves approximately 1.8 kilometres of progressive sealing works on unsealed sections of the Burke Developmental Road between Chillagoe to Almaden.</i>	2.73	2.18
COMPLETED Clermont – Alpha Road – Progressive Sealing (Package 1) <i>Involves approximately 5 kilometres of sealing works.</i>	2.5	2.0
Clermont – Alpha Road – Progressive Sealing (Package 2) <i>Involves over 9.5 kilometres of sealing works.</i>	5.01	4.01
COMPLETED Clermont – Alpha Road – Progressive Sealing (Package 3) <i>Involves over 2 kilometres of sealing works.</i>	1.20	0.96
COMPLETED Cloncurry – Dajarra Road – Progressive Sealing <i>The project consists of approximately 4.5 kilometres of progressive sealing works on unsealed sections of the road to improve productivity and safety in the region.</i>	3.22	2.58
COMPLETED Diamantina Developmental Road (Boulia – Dajarra) Rehabilitation and Widening <i>Involves widening and rehabilitation of over 12 kilometres of road from a narrow single-lane seal to a six-metre wide seal to improve productivity, resilience and safety.</i>	5.03	4.03
COMPLETED Richmond – Winton Road – Progressive Sealing (Package 1) <i>Involves approximately 7.5 kilometres of progressive sealing on unsealed sections of the Richmond-Winton Road.</i>	3.71	2.97
COMPLETED Richmond – Winton Road – Progressive Sealing (Package 2) <i>Involves approximately 2 kilometres of progressive sealing on unsealed sections of the Richmond-Winton Road.</i>	0.99	0.8

Northern Australia Beef Roads Program	Total Project Cost (\$m)	AG Contribution (\$m)
Richmond – Croydon Road – Progressive Sealing (Package 1) <i>Involves sealing approximately 11 kilometres of the Richmond-Croydon Road to improve productivity, resilience and safety between the Gulf Developmental Road and the Flinders Highway.</i>	4.0	3.20
COMPLETED Richmond – Croydon Road – Progressive Sealing (Package 2) <i>The project will seal approximately 4 kilometres of the Richmond-Croydon Road to improve productivity, resilience and safety between the Gulf Developmental Road and the Flinders Highway.</i>	1.20	0.96
COMPLETED Ootann Road – Almaden to Kennedy Highway – Gunnawarra – Progressive Sealing (Package 1) <i>Involves progressive sealing of approximately 1.4 kilometres of the Ootann Road between Almanden to the Kennedy Highway.</i>	0.83	0.66
Ootann Road – Almaden to Kennedy Highway – Gunnawarra – Progressive Sealing (Package 2) <i>Involves progressive sealing of approximately 6.4 kilometres of the Ootann Road between Almanden to the Kennedy Highway.</i>	5.12	4.10
Rockhampton Road Network – Road Train Access <i>Approximately 29 kilometres of the cattle haulage route will be upgraded to provide access for Type 1 Road Trains. The roads to be upgraded include the Capricorn Highway, Bruce Highway, the Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road and the Rockhampton-Emu Park Road.</i>	30.0	20.0
Gregory Developmental Road Widening (South of Charters Towers) <i>The project will reconstruct and widen approximately 1.6 kilometres of the Gregory Developmental Road, and replace existing culverts on the approaches to Boomerang Creek Road.</i>	5.79	4.63
Totals	76.06	56.87
Western Australia		
Great Northern Highway – Ord and Turkey Creek Road Improvements <i>Involves road reconstruction, realignment and installation of passing lanes along priority sections of the Highway between Ord and Turkey Creek.</i>	15.64	12.51
Northern Territory		
Barkly Stock Route Upgrading <i>Project will upgrade, widen and seal 15 kilometres to improve efficiency for heavy vehicles transporting livestock, other heavy vehicles and road users.</i>	12.5	10.0
Tablelands Highway – Road Upgrading <i>Involves over 28 kilometres of upgrades to selected sections of the Tablelands Highway, including upgrading to a two-lane sealed standard, pavement strengthening and widening and flood immunity improvements.</i>	25.0	20.0
Totals	37.5	30.00

ATTACHMENT C

Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility – Investment Decisions as at 31 August 2019

	Onslow Marine Supply Base	Humpty Doo Barramundi	Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia	James Cook University	Pilbara Minerals ¹	Sheffield	Townsville Airport	NT Airports	Commercial in Confidence ²	Kalium Lakes	Genex Power: Kidston Stage 2	Australian Aboriginal Mining Corporation	Commercial in Confidence
Location, Jurisdiction	Onslow, WA	Humpty Doo, NT	Yulara, NT	Townsville, QLD	Pilgangoora, WA	West Kimberley, WA	Townsville, QLD	Darwin, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs, NT	Commercial in confidence	Beyondie, WA	North west of Townsville, QLD	North west of Newman, WA	Commercial in Confidence
Asset	Development of a marine supply facility including wharf and harbour expansion	Development of a medium fish nursery, processing equipment and adult fish feeding systems	Airport runway, taxiway and apron upgrade, runway lighting and provision of contractor accommodation	Building a Technology Innovation Complex, a 10,000m ² centre for students, industry partners and researchers	Upgrade of public road	LNG power station and reticulation, road upgrade, port infrastructure	Redevelopment and expansion of Townsville airport terminal including facility upgrades	Cold storage/export hub, solar energy farms, off-site multi-user battery, runway upgrades	Commercial in confidence	Gas pipeline, gas power station, new communication facilities, road upgrade, accommodation village	250MW pumped storage hydro project	Construction of a borefield, crushing plant and site accommodation and a 55km haul road to connect the Great Northern Highway to the Cloudbreak site.	Commercial in Confidence
NAIF Loan \$	\$16.8m	\$7.18m (potential for up to \$30m over three stages)	\$27.5m	\$96.0m	\$19.5m	\$95.0m	\$50.0m	\$150.0m	\$90.0m	\$74.0m	\$610.0m	\$12.5m	Commercial in Confidence
Total Project	\$120m	\$14.4m (potential for up to \$60m over three stages)	\$27.5m	\$174.0m	\$25.0m	\$562.0m	\$80.0m	\$300.0m	\$188.0m	\$250.0m	Commercial in Confidence	\$44.8m	Commercial in Confidence
Board ID	September 2017	May 2018	May 2018	June 2018	August 2018	August 2018	January 2019	January 2019	February 2019	February 2019	July 2019	August 2019	Commercial in

¹ 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.

² Details of this project currently remain commercial in confidence while the proponent concludes commercial approvals and negotiations.

	Onslow Marine Supply Base	Humpty Doo Barramundi	Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia	James Cook University	Pilbara Minerals ¹	Sheffield	Townsville Airport	NT Airports	Commercial in Confidence ²	Kalium Lakes	Genex Power: Kidston Stage 2	Australian Aboriginal Mining Corporation	Commercial in Confidence
													Confidence
Indigenous Engagement Strategy	Active engagement with Indigenous suppliers, contractors and businesses that employ local Indigenous workers. Contractor must report on a 6 monthly basis on engagement activities and the number of hours of Indigenous people employed.	10% target plus HR manager for employment and participation outcomes. Identify Indigenous subcontractors and supply chain and service providers. Support Indigenous community engagement in the NT aquaculture sector.	Continue to support proponent's purpose of increasing Indigenous employment in tourism. 3-5% target of goods and materials sourced from companies that are 50% or more Indigenous owned. 10% target for construction employment.	Target of 3 FTE during design and 3% for construction. Engagement and participation with Traditional Owners, JCU's Indigenous Reference Group and the JCU Indigenous Education & Research Centre.	Preferential employment and procurement initiatives targeting local Indigenous workforce and businesses.	Aboriginal jobs (building to 40% in first 8 years of operation). Joint ventures with Indigenous suppliers. Cash royalties over 42 years.	Targets for Indigenous employment 3% and procurement 3%. Mandatory cross-cultural awareness training.	Indigenous employment target of 10%. Procurement Plan and broader partnership opportunities including with Larrakia Development Corp.	Commercial in confidence	Support local Traditional Owners for employment, training and to improve retention. Procurement opportunities and Indigenous business capacity building.	Actively maximising job opportunities for the local Ewamian people, with requirements for subcontractors. Promote Indigenous businesses in the supply chain. Provide funding contribution to Ewamian owned tourist facility.	Committees with relevant Traditional Owner groups, employment of an Aboriginal Liaison Officer, cross cultural workshop development. Targets for contracts awarded to Aboriginal contractors. Obligations on contractors to provide opportunities for employment, training, capacity building, procurement and participation. Good and services provided by local businesses matched with procurement opportunities and Aboriginal business attraction and retention policies.	Commercial in Confidence

	Onslow Marine Supply Base	Humpty Doo Barramundi	Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia	James Cook University	Pilbara Minerals ¹	Sheffield	Townsville Airport	NT Airports	Commercial in Confidence ²	Kalium Lakes	Genex Power: Kidston Stage 2	Australian Aboriginal Mining Corporation	Commercial in Confidence
												Employment targets and culturally appropriate employment policies.	
Jobs created	61 construction 166 operational	50 jobs (once the three stages are complete)	80 construction In addition 320 jobs supported as a result of the project outcomes	270 construction	30 construction	400 construction 280 operational	207 construction 50 operational	980 construction 142 operational	Commercial in confidence	140 construction 56 operational	510 construction 30 operational	120 construction 120 operations	Commercial in Confidence
Forecast Public Benefit	Benefits of: > \$100m over 10-year period for WA. A multi-user facility provides chandlery, heavy lift capabilities, reverse logistics, refuelling, transport, freight and emergency services to support onshore and offshore industries in middle and southern Carnarvon Basin.	Benefits of: - Help grow the NT aquaculture industry through supply of fingerlings and future multi-user processing capacity	Benefits of: > \$370m over 20 years including increased employment and increased tourism generating economic growth.	Benefits of: Full Enterprise Bundle forecast public benefits exceeding \$700 million over 30 years including through attracting and retaining students and industry to the region, generating employment and economic growth.	Benefits of: - up to \$27m over 17 year life of mine and road will remain in public hands and be available to all users, avoids traversing 3 significant rail crossings.	Benefits of: \$487m over the 42 year mine life including salaries staying in the region through DIDO workforce. Economic activity for Derby and Broome.	Benefits of: approx. \$82m including additional visitor spend and leisure amenity and safety benefit for passengers.	Benefits of up to \$127m over 20 years incl growth in tourist numbers as well as be able to export more NT fresh agriculture and aquaculture.	Commercial in confidence	Benefits of: Up to \$169m and this mine will provide a domestic source of a product that is currently imported. Potentially generate a new export market.	Benefits of: \$814m (public benefit to the broader economy and community) including \$235m direct value added for Far North Queensland.	Benefits of: \$304m net public benefit including tax royalties and Native Title payments. Will be Australia's first substantially owned and operational iron ore mine.	Commercial in Confidence

National Water Infrastructure Development Fund – northern Australia project status (5 September 2019)

State	Project Title	Funding	Location of benefits	Description	Expected completion date	Status
Capital component						
QLD	Mareeba-Dimbulah Water Supply Scheme Efficiency Improvement Project	\$11,634,072	Mareeba	Modernisation of the Mareeba-Dimbulah Water Supply Scheme The North Queensland Water Infrastructure Authority administers this project.	28 February 2022	On track
QLD	Rookwood Weir	\$176,100,000	Fitzroy River catchment	Co-funding the construction of Rookwood Weir The North Queensland Water Infrastructure Authority administers this project.	TBD	Under negotiation
QLD	Hells Gates Dam Scheme (Big Rocks Weir)	\$30,000,000	Charters Towers	Co-funding the construction of Big Rocks Weir as the first stage of the Hells Gates Dam project, contingent on the outcome of the business case. The North Queensland Water Infrastructure Authority administers this project.	TBD	Subject to completion of the business case
QLD	Hughenden Irrigation Scheme	\$180,000,000	Hughenden	Co-funding the construction of the Hughenden Irrigation Scheme, contingent on the outcome of the business case. The North Queensland Water Infrastructure Authority administers this project.	TBD	Subject to the outcome of the business case
QLD	Townsville Water Security – Houghton Pipeline extension	\$200,000,000 (Funded through the City Deal)	Townsville	\$5 million to complete business case \$195 million will fully fund Stage 2 of the Houghton Pipeline extension	Business case finalised. Funding for construction confirmed 20/7/19.	

State	Project Title	Funding	Location of benefits	Description	Expected completion date	Status
Feasibility Component						
QLD, WA, NT	CSIRO Northern Australia Water Resource Assessments	\$15,000,000	Fitzroy River Basin, Mitchell River Basin and Darwin region	A comprehensive and integrated evaluation of the feasibility, economic viability and sustainability of water, agricultural development and regional industries for each of the three key regions of Northern Australia comprising the Mitchell River catchment (Queensland), West Kimberley (Fitzroy River catchment) (Western Australia) and the Darwin region (Northern Territory). Project announced in the <i>White Paper on Developing Northern Australia</i> .	Completed	COMPLETE
NT	Northern Territory Irrigation Feasibility Study	\$985,000	Katherine	To assess the feasibility of groundwater-only, managed aquifer recharge and conjunctive water use approaches to increase water availability and security for irrigated agriculture at select sites in the Northern Territory	Completed	COMPLETE
QLD	Nullinga Dam Feasibility Study	\$5,000,000	Cairns	Assessing the economic feasibility of the proposed Nullinga Dam on the Walsh River and other potential options to service future urban demand in the Cairns area and rural demand in the Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Area. Project announced in the <i>White Paper on Developing Northern Australia</i> .	Completed	COMPLETE
QLD	Burdekin Falls Dam Raising Feasibility Study	\$400,000	Clare, Burdekin Basin catchment	Assessing potential costs, demand for water from, and environmental impacts of, raising the Burdekin Falls Dam to provide water and supply security for urban, agriculture and industrial developments in the region.	Completed	COMPLETE
QLD	Hells Gates Dam Feasibility Study	\$2,200,000	Townsville	Undertaking a cost benefit analysis, including assessment of potential agricultural and urban water demand requirements, to assess the economic viability of the Hells Gate Dam.	Completed	COMPLETE
QLD	Burdekin Haughton Channel Capacity Upgrade Feasibility Study	\$1,915,000	Burdekin region	Investigating the channel capacity limitations and feasibility of options for augmenting the Burdekin Haughton Water Supply Scheme to facilitate the use of available water allocations.	Completed	COMPLETE
QLD	Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure Project Business Case (Rookwood Weir)	\$2,000,000	Fitzroy Basin catchment	Assessing the feasibility of the project to address water supply security and economic development opportunities within the region.	Completed	COMPLETE

State	Project Title	Funding	Location of benefits	Description	Expected completion date	Status
QLD	Clermont: Water Security Feasibility Study	\$225,000	Clermont	Assessing the feasibility of securing reliable long-term water supply for Clermont and development in the Galilee Basin through new and upgraded major water infrastructure for Clermont, and augmentation and remediation works on the Theresa Creek Dam.	Completed	COMPLETE
QLD	North West Queensland Strategic Water Storage Feasibility Study	\$1,765,000	Cloncurry and Mount Isa	Identifying additional water storages within the Cloncurry/Mt Isa region (with a focus on Cave Hill Dam) for urban, mining and increased agricultural water use.	Completed	COMPLETE
QLD	Urannah Dam Feasibility Study	\$3,000,000	Bowen Basin / Galilee and Moranbah Basins	Undertaking a Preliminary Business Case for the proposed Urannah Dam on the Broken River to support mining, agriculture, urban and tourism growth.	Completed	COMPLETE
QLD	Lakeland Irrigation Area Feasibility Study	\$825,000	Lakeland	Investigating new water storage options for to expanded irrigated agriculture, comprising of a water resource assessment and supply options; land sustainability assessment; and economic viability and financial benefit analysis.	Completed	COMPLETE
QLD	Southern Atherton Tablelands Irrigation Development Feasibility Study	\$750,000	Atherton, Barron River catchment	Assessing the feasibility of the Southern Atherton Tablelands Irrigation Scheme.	Completed	COMPLETE
QLD	Ord Stage Three Feasibility Study - WA	\$2,500,000	Kununurra	Assessing the feasibility of the concept design, including geotechnical investigations, engineering design and preliminary approval work, for increasing and optimising the storage and supply of water from Lake Argyle. Project announced in the <i>White Paper on Developing Northern Australia</i> .	Completed	COMPLETE
WA	Oakover Valley Irrigation Prefeasibility Study	\$268,994	Oakover Valley	Investigating the potential for developing an irrigation precinct in the Oakover Valley using available groundwater sources.	Completed	COMPLETE

State	Project Title	Funding	Location of benefits	Description	Expected completion date	Status
WA	Pilbara Irrigated Agriculture Feasibility Study	\$960,000	Regional northern Western Australia	Assessing the feasibility of, and providing a business case on, developing mosaic irrigated agriculture adjacent to the alluvial rivers in the Pilbara Region using managed aquifer recharge and conjunctive water use.	Completed	COMPLETE
WA	Ord Siphon Feasibility Study	\$162,000	Ord River region	Assessing the feasibility and providing a business case and concept design for new distribution channels and a siphon to service irrigated agriculture on the Ord West Bank.	Completed	COMPLETE
NT	Ord Stage Three Feasibility Study - NT	\$2,500,000	Kununurra	To assess the feasibility of the Keep River plain for development for irrigated agriculture. Project announced in the <i>White Paper on Developing Northern Australia</i> .	30 November 2019	On track Milestone 2 completed
NT	CSIRO Roper River Catchment Water Resource Assessment	\$3,500,000	Roper River	Water resource assessment of the Roper River catchment in the Northern Territory.	30 June 2020	On track
QLD, SA	Great Artesian Basin resources model	\$6,500,000	Great Artesian Basin	Funding to complete a water balance model for the Great Artesian Basin. The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science through Geoscience Australia administer this project.	30 June 2022	On track
QLD	Hells Gates Dam and Big Rocks Weir Business Case	\$24,000,000	Townsville, Charters Towers	Fully fund the completion of the detailed business case and environmental/geotechnical assessment for the Hells Gates Dam Scheme and Big Rocks Weir Project. The North Queensland Water Infrastructure Authority administers this project.	30 April 2022	Bilateral Schedule executed
QLD	Urannah Dam Business Case and Approvals	\$10,000,000	Bowen Basin / Galilee and Moranbah Basins	Funding to finalise the business case including detailed design and engineering work, environmental approvals and address cultural heritage and native title.	TBD	Under negotiation
QLD	Lakeland Irrigation Area Business Case	\$10,000,000	Lakeland	Funding to progress the business case and deliver the final engineering and scoping works.	TBD	Under negotiation

State	Project Title	Funding	Location of benefits	Description	Expected completion date	Status
NT	Darwin Region Water Supply Business Case	\$2,000,000	Darwin region	Assess the market demand and infrastructure requirements of a range of new water storage and supply options, including Adelaide River Off-stream Storage.	TBD	Under negotiation

ATTACHMENT E

Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia – project listing

No.	Contracted project Name	CRCNA Funding Ex. GST	Total Project Value Ex. GST
1	North Queensland agricultural market and supply chain study	\$227,273	\$427,273
2	Building the Traditional Owner led bush products sector	\$70,909	\$266,738
3	Northern Australia beef sector situational analysis study	\$181,163	\$470,146
4	Business on country: Land use diversification on the Indigenous estate	\$363,636	\$1,000,177
5	Evaluation of the potential to expand horticultural industries in northern Australia	\$181,818	\$437,720
6	Building horticultural production knowledge and capacity within Indigenous enterprise	\$52,363	\$185,091
7	Smart supply chains	\$272,727	\$754,545
8	Biosecurity in northern Australian prawn aquaculture	\$309,091	\$690,755
9	Exporting perishable commodities to Asia: Developing a stakeholder collaboration model	\$235,455	\$550,910
10	Transforming mango futures	\$500,000	\$1,182,179
11	Improving the efficiency of Kakadu plum/ Gubinge	\$454,545	\$2,276,370
12	Establishing eye screening services	\$800,000	\$1,636,362
13	Sustainable export supply chains for Calypso mango to China	\$952,471	\$2,245,551
14	Cherabin aquaculture production as an enabler for Indigenous business development	\$90,909	\$2,293,313
15	Northern Australia aquaculture industry situational analysis	\$199,948	\$420,192
16	Northern Australia rice industry situational analysis	\$100,000	\$505,136
17	Northern Australian forestry industry situational analysis	\$100,000	\$209,327
18	Capturing the ASEAN agricultural opportunity for Northern Australia	\$110,000	\$110,000
19	GW3 Export supply chains	\$96,000	\$196,904
20	Enabling a traditional Australian medicinal plants agribusiness	\$363,636	\$1,142,032
21	Northern Australian communication analysis	\$145,000	\$288,933
22	Re-framing northern Australia supply chains	\$110,000	\$155,000
23	Northern Australia investor identification and analysis	\$175,000	\$215,000
24	Strengthening northern Australia's horticultural sector through assessing protected cropping	\$100,000	\$443,045
25	Spicing up northern Australia with high-value condiment crops	\$300,000	\$1,211,334
26	Developing an oilseed industry in northern Australia	\$300,000	\$1,520,500
27	Developing a broadacre cropping sector in North Queensland	\$299,989	\$1,581,959
28	Cairns regional export supply chain	\$200,000	\$426,000
29	Northern Australia health service delivery situational analysis study	\$149,534	\$259,597
30	De-risking broadacre cropping options for northern Queensland	\$468,790	\$1,545,464
	Total	\$7,910,257	\$24,647,553