

From:
To: [Committee, JSCNA \(REPS\)](#)
Subject: Development of the North

New Inquiry - Development of Northern Australia

The Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia has commenced an inquiry into the development of Northern Australia.

The inquiry terms of reference require the committee to consider policies for developing the parts of Australia which lie north of the Tropic of Capricorn, spanning Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland and in doing so:

- Examine the potential for development of the regions mineral, energy, agricultural, tourism, defence and other industries;

- Provide recommendations to:
 - Enhance trade and other investment links with the Asia-Pacific;

 - Establish a conducive regulatory, taxation and economic environment;

 - Address impediments to growth; and set conditions for private investment and innovation;

- Identify the critical economic and social infrastructure needed to support the long term growth of the region, and ways to support planning and investment in that infrastructure.

From Jan Ford

Port Hedland

Thank you for this opportunity to develop our north after all these years.

The north is where Australia is missing opportunities to be a world leader

in utilizing our greatest assets, land, sunshine, energy, oceans, first nation people, millions of years of mineral development, ancient history, and a documented pictorial history of 60,000 years..... And the dreamtime!

The north of Australia has had the same population since 1970 in the Pilbara and Kimberley with little growth in northern Queensland.

During the same time our southern cities have grown to between 2 - 4 million people.

The north consists of many little communities of 100-300 people and few towns of over 5,000 and none of over 100,000 people. Most countries have several cities of over 1,000,000. In fact 60 cities of more than 1,000,000 in the area from the tropic of Capricorn to the Tropic of Cancer. This could be our North.

We are in a massive trade zone.

Empty ships travel from China to Port Hedland in the Pilbara to collect 1,000,000 tonnes of iron ore every day, yet arrive empty and sail back to China to convert the ore to steel to build machinery for the mining industry to send back on a plane to a southern major city, to be trucked across the land to be used to mine more ore, to load on an empty ship to do the trip to China again. This helps build a city of 1,000,000 people in as little as 6 weeks, while the little town of Port Hedland sits with 6,000 dwellings, a permanent population of 15,000 people and a voting population of around 6,000 for the last 40 years.

I do not understand why we do not have 1,000,000 people cities in our north....do you?

I am told it is too hot....yet most of the world's population live in hot climates and in the tropics.

I am told it is too far away....yet Port Hedland is in the commercial trade zone, with 60 flight paths crossing over its shores...see the Qantas Flight path in the Qantas magazine.

What if some of those planes stopped and refueled in Port Hedland?

What if Port Hedland was a "tax free port" encouraging trade?

What if Port Hedland built a university to teach ancient northern history?

What if the university taught innovation and inspiration to create new industries around sun, stars, minerals, dirt, natural indigenous health.....and dream time?

What if the North was settled with 1,000,000 immigrants from our northern shores and they could build businesses, food chains, solar industries?

What if the sun was used for cooling?

What if the sea was used for fishing

What if Australians learnt how to dredge the oceans, design IT in the land of plenty of water land and sun?

What if we planned for 100 years of growth in the north?

Alternatively, what if we stay the same?

What if we do not develop our north?

What if we continue to embrace a tax system that promotes FIFO?

What if we continue to starve our northern people of education, fresh food, and innovation and inspiration?

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I personally travel the world and am amazed at the number of people who wish to come to northern Australia, especially the Pilbara and the Kimberly, yet find it difficult and expensive to access. Meanwhile, communities are struggling to build their towns due to lack of long term planning for joint ventures and incentives to develop thriving innovative industries around minerals, sunshine, land and people.

Our history is not taught. For example Egypt has a thriving tourism industry created around ancient history of 5,000 years taught in Universities to create a new profession of "Egyptologists" who educate the world about their ancient past.

What if Australia did the same?

So, there are my dreams for our north.....what are yours?

Let's turn dreams into reality.

Jan Ford

Port Hedland,

Long term resident, 6th generation Pilbara Australian, Mother, daughter, sister, cousin,
Telstra business woman, local Government Councillor, Port Authority member,
Soroptimist, lobbyist, educator, dreamer, granny.....and DOER!!!!

Let's get the North Pumping with People!!!!