

Joint Communiqué: Northern Australia Ministerial Forum #1 31 October 2022, Darwin, Northern Territory

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The re-established Ministerial Forum met today in Darwin on Larrakia Country.

The Forum was chaired by the Minister for Resources; and Minister for Northern Australia, the Hon Madeleine King MP, and was attended by members:

- The Hon Glenn Butcher MP, Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water (Queensland).
- The Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC, Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; and Minister for Hydrogen Industry (Western Australia).
- The Hon Nicole Manison MLA, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Advanced Manufacturing; Minister for Mining and Industry; Minister for Northern Australia and Trade; Minister for Parks and Rangers; Minister for Tourism and Hospitality (Northern Territory).

All governments have reiterated their strong commitment to developing the north and agreed the strength of the Forum was in the opportunity to ensure ongoing leadership to drive resilient and sustainable economic development in Northern Australia.

The Forum agreed to a collaborative approach between governments to liveable, safe, sustainable and healthy communities in the north focused on the following priorities:

Human capital

- Engagement with First Nations people
- Justice reinvestment
- Housing availability
- Migration and mobility
- Workforce skills and training development
- Delivering amenity

Enabling infrastructure

- Digital connectivity
- Enabling roads, rail and ports
- Common user infrastructure
- Water

Economic development and diversification

- Transformational and complex projects
- Diversification that responds to climate change (adaptation and mitigation)
- Agriculture and biosecurity
- Data to support decision making and investment

The Forum also agreed to a refresh of the *Our North, Our Future: White Paper on Developing Northern Australia* to inform a program of joint actions to progress these agreed priorities.

Improving social and economic outcomes for First Nations people in Northern Australia is a key component of an inclusive Northern Australia agenda. The Forum agreed to progress a review of the Northern Australia Indigenous Development Accord to ensure it reflects the needs and aspirations of Indigenous communities.

Ministers welcomed the invitation for the next Forum meeting in the Kimberley, Western Australia in early 2023.