Our North, Our Future: 2021-2026





The Australian Government is building on the achievements and progress made during the first five years of the Our North, Our Future: White Paper on Developing Northern Australia (White Paper).

From 2021-2026, the Government will invest in transformational and enabling projects through a whole-of-government approach, in partnership with state and territory governments. The Infrastructure Investment Program and the National Water Grid Authority will be key enablers to this growth.

Through capitalising on Northern Australia's geo-strategic location, we will enhance national security, biosecurity, the defence industry and associated infrastructure.

What are our priorities?

- Indigenous economic growth building capacity and supporting business and entrepreneurs;
- **Energy** affordability and supporting infrastructure;
- Supply chain infrastructure roads, rail, airports, storage and logistics;
- Communications black spots and bandwidth;
- Water infrastructure to support agricultural and industry development and water security;
- Affordable insurance to support households and business;
- **Critical minerals** value-add and diversification;
- **Tourism recovery** bouncing back after COVID-19;
- Workforce training and education addressing critical skills shortages and labour supply; and
- Social services focusing on housing, health, and aged care.



How will we demonstrate success?

- Report on benefits and outcomes of investments
- Publish six-monthly updates on the Office of Northern Australia website
- Report twice a year to Government on progress against each Master Plan
- Deliver an Annual Statement to the Parliament

STRATEGY ALIGNED WITH FOUNDATIONS OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT







Connectivity and infrastructure

Human capital and skills

Regional employment

and business



and collaboration







Sustainable

Amenity and liveability



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Who are our partners?

- Australian Government
- Jurisdictions: Northern Territory, Queensland, and Western Australia
- Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility
- Ocoperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia
- Northern Australia Indigenous Reference Group

How will we implement our priorities?

WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT **INVESTMENT**

Working across Government to coordinate investment in opportunities across northern Australia.

MASTER PLANNING

\$9.3 million for delivery of strategic regional Master Plans focusing on flagship investment with identification of required complementary investments

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY GRANTS

\$111.9 million to grow businesses and industries in northern Australia through the Northern Australia Development Program and the Northern Australia Business and Community Growth Program

DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

\$68.5 million to improve digital connectivity in the north through the Regional Connectivity Program and the Mobile Black Spot Program

ENGAGEMENT

Stay connected to stakeholder challenges and opportunities through: regular meetings with key stakeholders across the north; revitalised Indigenous Reference Group; intensified NAIF and CRCNA collaboration

Our North, Our Future: 2021-2026 Master Plans

Australian Government

Office of Northern Australia

The Australian Government has committed \$9.3 million to develop Master Plans to accelerate Regions of Growth and grow the Northern Australian economy.

The Master Plans will set out the strategic direction for efficient economic development. Master Plans will anchor resources and investment from across all levels of government to maximise the long-term public benefit of regional planning and development. Existing and planned projects will continue in parallel to the master planning process.

Master Plans will deliver a 20-year blueprint for the economic development of a region, supported by five-year action plans and regular progress reports.

The first three priority Master Plans will focus on locations within three Regions of Growth corridors:

- Beetaloo Basin to Katherine to Darwin
- ♦ Mount Isa to Townsville
- Broome to Kununurra to Darwin

An investment pipeline will be mapped out by mid-2022 and by late-2022 the Australian Government and jurisdictions will have identified preferred infrastructure investments.

The next priority Region of Growth corridor is Cairns to Gladstone (QLD). The master planning process for this will commence in late 2022.

Such investments may include workforce planning, roads and ports, supply chain logistics, water infrastructure, digital connectivity, housing, education and training, and Indigenous enterprise.

Regional Master Plans will be supported by an on-ground presence to focus on localised sectoral strengths.

Master Plans will help governments, decision-makers, Traditional Owners, land owners, and private investors better align investments across Northern Australia.



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IDENTIFY THE OPPORTUNITY

Consult jurisdictions and stakeholders to understand the region-specific economic and social opportunities that exist and can be best harnessed.



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ASSESS OPTIONS

Take the requisite time to fully analyse and consider all the options identified, giving all proponents and stakeholders the best opportunity to be involved in the process.

MAKE THE CASE

Ensure the options considered meet all the economic, social, and environmental outcomes required by the region and its communities, including Indigenous communities.

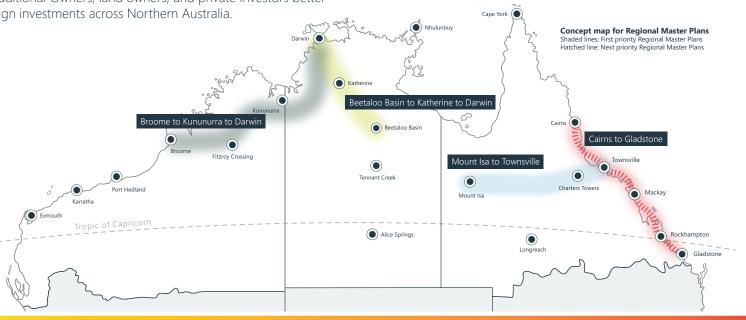
SECURE INVESTMENT

Work to secure the most efficient and effective financing options that give the best chance for success of the investment and for positive flow on effects in the region.

On time and on budget delivery of investments that benefit the regions they are in, creating further economic and social opportunities for the north.

REALISE THE BENEFITS

Coordinated efforts through Master Plans will also create positive spill-over effects into surrounding areas, grow ancillary services, and hasten broader economic development and investment.



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