

**Short comment**

From the perspective of someone who has worked on four NAIF Investment Proposals it is obvious NAIF is doing a great job. The processes are clear and supportive, rigour is there but that keeps proponents focussed and discourages "tyre kickers", and all parties can be sure that funded projects meet regional need and provide public benefit. Expansion of the Terms of Reference to allow a wider range of investment areas and the option to take equity has made it a more useful tool for regional development. Extension of the facility in time, funding and scope is critical for Northern Australia. In the absence of NAIF, many regionally significant projects in the North would most likely not proceed.