



REFRESH OF OUR NORTH, OUR FUTURE

White Paper on Developing Northern Australia



WHAT – The White Paper

The Developing Northern Australia White Paper was published in 2015 to lay out the policy framework for promoting growth across the north in order to realise its economic potential.

The White Paper provides strategic policy direction over a 20 year implementation schedule, to 2035. It remains the cornerstone document in the Australian Government's developing Northern Australia agenda.

WHY – Refresh of the White Paper

The world has changed since the White Paper was developed in 2015 including:

- The COVID-19 pandemic.
- Changing economic circumstances across the globe.
- Changes in regional and national security and cybersecurity.
- Increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters.
- Increasing cost of living pressures compounded by ongoing disadvantage in regional and remote communities.

The refresh is also an opportunity to align implementation of the White Paper with Government priorities and policies, including:

- Implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full.
- Achieving Net Zero by 2050 and transitioning communities to a low carbon economy.

It is time to update and refine the Northern Australia agenda and reconsider implementation.

The refresh will deliver a prioritised action plan to refocus delivery and reinject urgency in the economic and social development of Northern Australia.

HOW – Engagement Sessions

The Refresh engagement process includes:

- Face-to-face and virtual engagement—targeted engagement with key stakeholders.

This will be complemented by a survey open to all who would like to have a say. We are interested in your views on issues and solutions within 14 priority areas:

Cross-cutting Priorities:

1. Engagement with First Nations People
2. Transformational and complex projects

Priority Area 1: Human Capital

3. Housing availability
4. Workforce skills and training development
5. Migration and mobility
6. Delivering amenity
7. Justice reinvestment

Priority Area 2: Enabling Infrastructure

8. Digital connectivity
9. Water
10. Enabling roads, rail and ports
11. Common user infrastructure

Priority Area 3: Economic Development and Diversification

12. Agriculture and biosecurity
13. Diversification that responds to climate change (adaptation and mitigation)
14. Data to support decision making and investment

For more information

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REVIEW OF THE

Northern Australia Indigenous Development Accord

WHAT – The Accord

The Northern Australia Indigenous Development Accord (the Accord) is an agreement between the Australian, Queensland, Western Australian and Northern Territory Governments, signed in December 2019, for progressing Indigenous economic development in Northern Australia.

The objectives of the Accord are to:

- Unlock and maximise the economic potential of Indigenous businesses, individuals and communities in Northern Australia; and
- Mainstream the consideration of Indigenous interests in the development and delivery of government policy and programs.

The Accord Implementation plan establishes the key outcomes as:

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



Scan the QR code to view the Northern Australia Indigenous Development Accord

WHY – The Accord Review

Since the Accord was signed, there has been significant change in the national First Nations policy landscape, including the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and the Government's commitment to implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full.

The review will:

1. Assess progress against the Accord
2. Consider whether the Accord remains the most appropriate mechanism to drive resilient and sustainable economic development in First Nations communities in Northern Australia.

HOW – Engagement Sessions

The Accord review process includes:

- Workshops—targeted engagement with key stakeholders
- Face to face engagement—key agencies and First Nations stakeholders that have delivered against the Accord
- Virtual engagement

This will be followed up by a survey later in the year.

Key Questions for the Accord review:

- What are the key achievements delivered under the Accord?
- What is left to do?
- How can it be done?
- What needs to be done differently?
- What lessons can be learnt?
- Feedback on the Accord as a mechanism for joint action in the context of the current and emerging Indigenous affairs landscape.