



Developing the Northern Australia Action Plan

The prosperity of northern Australia is key to the prosperity and security of our nation.

This is why the Australian Government, in consultation with the Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory governments is developing the Northern Australia Action Plan. The Plan will help ensure we build liveable, fair, inclusive and resilient communities in the north.

Why is it important?

- In 2015 the government set out a 20-year agenda for developing Northern Australia through the *Our North, Our Future: White Paper on Developing Northern Australia* which has delivered a range of initiatives including the \$7 billion Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund. To view the paper, visit the Office of Northern Australia website at www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/regional-australia/office-northern-australia.
- It is time to revisit the Northern Australia Agenda. The Northern Australia Action Plan will set out key short- and medium-term actions that are needed to ensure the north can respond to the challenges of climate change, maximise

the opportunities of the transition to net zero, address global economic challenges and shifting regional power and support the implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

- The Plan will outline strategies for how all levels of government can work together.
- The Plan will also outline partnerships arrangements for working with First Nations people, this will be informed by the current review of the **Northern Australia Indigenous Development Accord**

Who we are working with

- The Plan is being developed in collaboration with key stakeholders including state and territory and local governments, First Nations People, the private and not for profit sector.
- The Plan is being developed in consultation with the Northern Australia Ministerial Forum and the Northern Australia Indigenous Reference Group.

Have your say

Public survey

- The Australian Government has released an online survey with guided short form questions to understand priorities for the north. You are invited to share your ideas and experiences by responding to the survey which also allows for a short submission.
- The survey outlines priorities agreed by the Northern Australia Ministerial Forum, and responses will inform how the actions in the Plan are targeted and phased.
- To access the survey please visit the Office of Northern Australia website at www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/regional-australia/office-northern-australia.
- If you require an Easy Read or Auslan version of the survey, please email NorthernAustralia@infrastructure.gov.au to receive a copy as soon as it becomes available.

Targeted engagement

- Targeted engagement is underway with key stakeholders, this work is building on the Senate Enquiries into the Effectiveness of the Northern Australia Agenda at [Select Committee on the effectiveness of the Australian Government's Northern Australia agenda – Parliament of Australia \(aph.gov.au\)](#) and Northern Australia's Workforce Development at [Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia – Parliament of Australia \(aph.gov.au\)](#) and other recent consultations and research.

Subscribe for updates

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Focus areas for the new Northern Australia Action Plan

The Northern Australia Action Plan will cover 14 priorities.

Cross-cutting Priorities

1. Engagement with First Nations People: provisions for co-design practice to deliver meaningful long-term economic, social and cultural benefit to First Nations communities.
2. Transformational and complex projects: projects that have the potential to have a fundamental and lasting impact involving multiple stakeholders, significant coordination and reform.

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Priority area 1: Human Capital

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

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Priority area 2: Enabling Infrastructure

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

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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.

More information about the 14 priorities is available from the Office of Northern Australia website at www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/regional-australia/office-northern-australia.

What is the Accord?

The Northern Australia Indigenous Development Accord (the Accord) is an agreement between the Australian, Western Australian, Northern Territory and Queensland 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

Why are we doing a 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

Who will undertake the review?

In 2022, the Hon. Madeleine King MP, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, established the Northern Australia Ministerial Forum (NAMF). NAMF agreed to the Terms of Reference for the review of the Accord. The Review will be driven by the Accord Review Action Group which contains members from the Australian and States and Territory Governments and First Nations representatives.

How will the review be undertaken?

Phase 1 – Situation analysis

- Stocktake of achievements against the Accord
- Stakeholder engagement

Phase 2 – Analysis and opportunities

- Review the achievements against the Accord
- Analyse the key issues and opportunities identified by stakeholders

Phase 3 – Options and recommendations

- Synthesis of what is left to do and how we should do it
- Recommendations

When will the review happen

Jul 2023	Aug 2023	Sep 2023	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024
project planning		stocktake report	engagement	draft report		final report	review presented to NAMF
	Accord Review Action Group Stood Up						Input into the White Paper Refresh

What will the review consider

- What actions have been undertaken to deliver the Accord outcomes?
- The suite of 36 recommendations made by the former IRG and the summary of IRG commissioned studies
- The Closing the Gap Framework, including priority reforms and relevant State and Territory First Nations policy
- Discussion with key stakeholders

How will engagement happen?

- 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

What are the 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

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