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Our North, Our Future



Newsletter | 11 July 2022

From the General Manager | Linda Lee

Last week we had the pleasure of attending the most anticipated event on our yearly calendar, the Developing Northern Australia Conference, in Mackay on Yuibera (Yuwi) Country. It was fantastic to meet with so many engaged and committed stakeholders, and to hear the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, the Hon Madeleine King MP, deliver her first official speech on Northern Australia.

A key highlight from the event included the commitment by Minister King to restart and reinvigorate the Ministerial Forum on Northern Development, to bring together state, territory and federal ministers with responsibility for developing Northern Australia.

We also broadened our awareness and understanding of key focus areas through engaging presentations and discussions, including:

- Collectively working with and learning from First Nations people.
- Addressing workforce shortages and skilling Australians in modern, high-skilled and technical sectors.
- Social infrastructure such as housing, connectivity, roads, and health services which is a major concern acknowledged by all levels of government and vital for retaining people in the north long term.
- Biosecurity threats which we're experiencing now with Foot and Mouth Disease and Lumpy Skin Disease on our borders. Please report any threats via the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry [here](#).
- Climate action and the need to be ambitious, yet realistic, to bring emissions under control whilst still supporting vital sectors and our greatest assets like the Great Barrier Reef.
- Setting a positive and optimistic narrative to attract people to live, work and invest long-term in the north.

It was also fitting that the second Indigenous Reference Group (IRG) meeting was held in the margins of the Conference and during NAIDOC week. IRG members and Minister King had productive discussions about progressing economic development, maximising benefits and outcomes for First Nations, and the implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

I would also like to thank Rob Cocco from Regional Development Australia (RDA) Greater Whitsunday, for facilitating “A Date with Northern Australia”. I was joined by colleagues from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility, the CRC for Developing Northern Australia, Infrastructure Australia, the National Water Grid and the North Queensland Water Infrastructure Authority, to discuss our role and how we work together on this important Northern Australia agenda.

We look forward to participating in future Developing Northern Australia Conferences, on Larrakia Country in Darwin next year and in Karratha on Jaburrara Country in 2024. Time to get booking!

Linda Lee
General Manager, Office of Northern Australia



Read more:

Minister for Resources and Northern Australia
Speech to the Developing Northern Australia
Conference, 6 July 2022

[Click here](#)

Minister for Resources and Northern Australia
Media Release: *Improving social outcomes from
Northern Australia development*, 6 July 2022

[Click here](#)



Indigenous Reference Group members with the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia.

L-R Gillian Mailman, Tara Craigie, the Hon Madeleine King MP, Colin Saltmere, Peter Jeffries. The remaining members joined the meeting via video conference.



Office of Northern Australia staff enjoying a quick catch up with the Minister for Northern Australia

Supporting Northern Australian businesses

Earlier this year, the Australian Government provided nearly \$80 million (GST exclusive) in grant funding through the Northern Australia Development Program (NADP) and the Business and Community Growth Program (BCGP). Although these programs are no longer accepting applications, this investment was to support businesses, community groups and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations in the north to diversify and scale up their operations.

While the Office of Northern Australia team were in Mackay, they took the opportunity to see how these programs are supporting local businesses.

Thanks to Cameron and Mitchell for sharing their business growth with us!

LiquaForce are establishing a new liquid enhanced fertiliser manufacturing facility to ensure the continuity and timeliness of supply of liquid fertiliser to the agriculture sector. This will improve productivity to the region's growers, and create permanent jobs in the region. (NADP Business Development stream)



Cameron Liddle, Managing Director of Liquaforce with the team, including loyal work mate, Buddy.

The Mobile Crushing Co. are purchasing new crushing equipment to modernise their current quarry operations, providing the competitive edge necessary to compete with multi-national organisations for local and state tenders, increase productivity, reduce the current levels of worker overtime, and improve environmental outcomes. (NADP Business Development stream).



Mitchell Flor, CEO of Mobile Crushing Co.

NAIDOC week celebrations - Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!

The Mater Private Hospital in Townsville is now proudly displaying art work by renowned local Torres Strait Islander artist, Gail Mabo, as part of its NAIDOC celebrations.

Spanning six meters of the hospital's new Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility financed six-storey car park, the artwork demonstrates Mater's ongoing commitment to First Nations people and culture.

Ms Mabo explained how her artwork reflected the spirits of the land, as well as the blue and earthy tones of the region.

"We believe that when people know the story of place, they can own the space," Ms Mabo said.

"It acknowledges the four different clans around Townsville, including the Gurambilburra Wulgurukaba,

Bindal, Nywaigi, and Gugu Badhun People,” Ms Mabo said.

You can read the full article [here](#).



Gail Mabo with her artwork, outside the Mater Private Hospital.



NAIDOC celebrations in Mackay last week.

Calendars representing Indigenous seasonal ecological knowledge

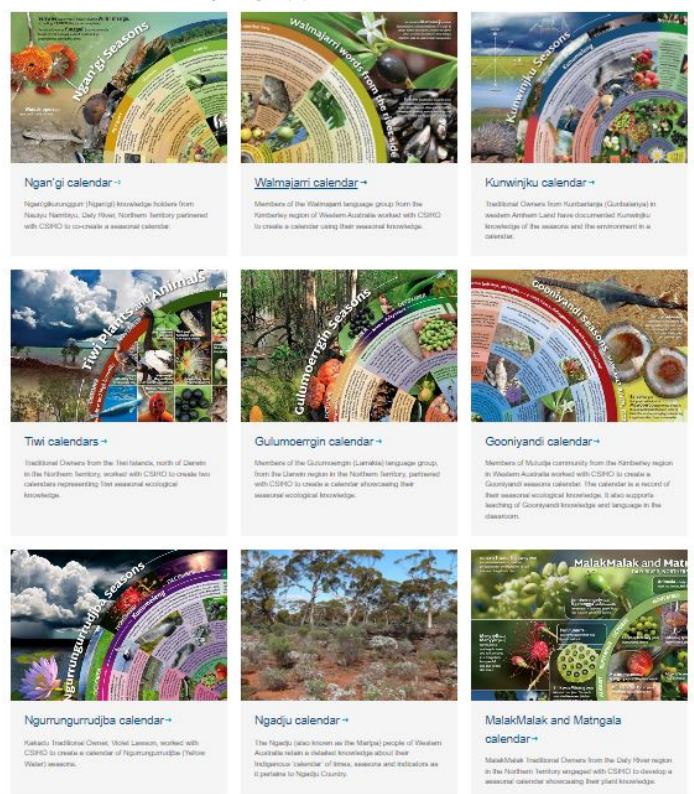
Indigenous language groups from across Australia have partnered with CSIRO to co-develop seasonal calendars. They are important enablers for sharing and learning about Indigenous knowledge and management of Country.

In Darwin, we're currently in Dinidjanggama season which means 'heavy dew time' in Larrakia. It is the coldest time of the year and the ideal time to burn grass. Dangutjbela and Milula, kangaroos and wallabies, rely on bushfires for regrowth and green grass.

More information and the full library of Indigenous seasonal and ecological calendars is available [here](#).

Calendars representing Indigenous seasonal ecological knowledge

The calendars demonstrate the wealth of knowledge that Indigenous peoples in Australia hold about the environment.



Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia

The CRCNA is seeking nominations for two highly capable, motivated, and values-driven individuals to join their Board of Directors. Nominations close **22 August 2022**. More information is available [here](#).

The submission window for the Activating the Indigenous Estate project proposal EOI has been extended

until **5pm AEST Friday 22 July 2022**. The CRCNA is seeking research proposals for collaborative projects that deliver innovative solutions to activate the Indigenous estate and demonstrate capacity to grow and address their four focus priorities. More information is available [here](#).

Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility

Mr Craig Doyle has started as the new Chief Executive Officer at the NAIF, based in Cairns. He has extensive experience across multiple industries in Northern Australia, and has served as CEO of Gladstone Ports Corporation, as Executive General Manager of Australia's largest sugar producer, Wilmar and as former CEO of Mackay Regional Council for nearly five years.

Over the coming weeks Mr Doyle will meet with key stakeholders to discuss the impact NAIF and its projects have on people's lives and the broader Northern Australia economy, and to discuss how NAIF can assist in future financing activities. More information is available [here](#).

Did you know?

You could fit the country of Japan 10 times into Northern Australia and still have room for New Zealand!



Mark it in your diary

The Office of Northern Australia is proud to promote conferences, events and key dates that progress the development of Northern Australia. If you would like your event listed please let us know by sending an email to northernaustralia@infrastructure.gov.au

Garma

29 July 2022 | Gulkala, East Arnhem Land, NT

Garma is Australia's premier First Nations event, a celebration of the cultural, artistic and ceremonial traditions of the Yolngu people and led by the Yothu Yindi Foundation. Over four days, guests are immersed in the rich cultural heritage of Yolngu hosts, experiencing traditional miny'tji (art), ancient story-telling, manikay (song) and bunggul (dance).

[Find out more](#)

Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair

5 August 2022 | Darwin, NT

The Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair is an annual event that showcases the contemporary fine art of more than 70 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Centres and the economic and social contribution they make to remote and regional communities

[Find out more](#)

NT Resources week

24 August 2022 | Darwin, NT

Northern Australia's largest resources and construction industry based event.

[Find out more](#)

International Business, Environment and Climate Conference

31 August 2022 | Cairns, QLD

This is the inaugural event addressing the theme of sustainable business and investment on the road to net zero. The event is attended by global leaders providing an in-depth analysis of the complexities of environmental, social and governance reporting and how to drive sustainable business growth.

[Find out more](#)

October Business Month

October 2022 | Across the NT

October Business Month provides Territory businesses access to a program of inspirational and educational events designed to inspire and grow Territory business.

[Find out more](#)

National Economic Development Conference

12 October 2022 | Sydney, NSW

The event will look into complex economic issues, provide tactics to energise regional communities, insights to develop economic growth strategies and the opportunity to collaborate with peers nationally.

[Find out more](#)

NT Major Projects Conference

18 October 2022 | Darwin, NT

This event is one of the largest infrastructure and construction events held in the NT focussing on the NT Government's strategy for turbo charging major projects, creating new jobs and growing the NT economy. Their goal is to achieve a \$40 billion economy by 2030 with significant capital investment in strategic economic infrastructure.

[Find out more](#)

TropAg Conference

31 October 2022 | Brisbane, QLD

TropAg will 'Shape the Science of Tomorrow', by featuring leading Australian and international scientific voices who are actively engaged in advancing research and raising awareness of the many challenges in the diverse field of agriculture and food production and is hosted by the University of Queensland.

[Find out more](#)

Kimberley Economic Development Conference

9-11 November 2022 | Broome, WA

Theme "Kimberley Rising", hosted by the Broome Chamber of Commerce. The Forum provides an opportunity for business leaders across the Kimberley to come together, for information on industry trends and major developments, and discuss the future of the region and ways to expand agriculture, aquaculture, construction, mining, tourism and logistics.

[Find out more](#)

WA Major Projects Conference #11

29 November 2022 | Perth, WA

Western Australia's largest major projects and infrastructure conference attracting over 250 delegates each year, covering topics such as transport, housing, health, education, energy and water.

[Find out more](#)

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Office of Northern Australia

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Office of Northern Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Office of Northern Australia

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