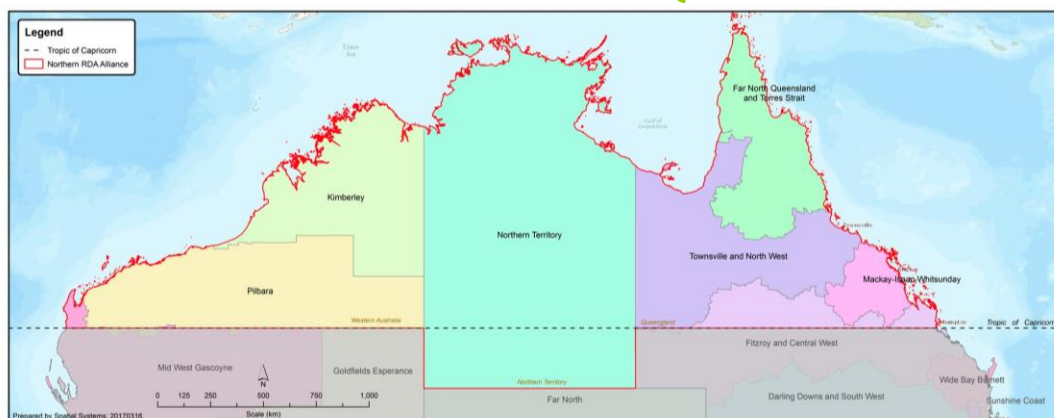


# NORTHERN RDA ALLIANCE

## COMMUNIQUE – June 2017



The Northern RDA Alliance comprises eight RDAs whose regions make up Northern Australia. This network, representing the Gascoyne in Western Australia to Gladstone in Central Queensland, has been collaborating and providing input to the Australian Government on the development and delivery of the White Paper on Developing Northern Australia. Our aim is to inform and support policy development and its implementation, and to prioritise investment opportunities to ensure the sustainable development of Northern Australia.

The Northern RDA Alliance met recently in Cairns around the *Developing Northern Australia Conference* to discuss progress on implementation of the White Paper initiatives; ongoing opportunities and challenges across securing and delivering infrastructure investment, particularly in relation to roads and communications; collaborative progress on strategic water and energy proposals; and engaged across multiple agencies, departments and stakeholders to promote, as well as inform our current and future work.

The Northern RDA Alliance explored new and continuing collaborative opportunities with:

- Northern Australia Cooperative Research Centre;
- Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility;
- Major Projects Facilitation Agency;
- Office of Northern Australia; and
- Infrastructure Australia.

At the meeting we also:

- Agreed to:
  - develop a submission for the Inquiry into National Freight and Supply Chain Priorities;
  - present to the public hearing of the Northern Australia Tourism Inquiry;
- Met with the new CRC for Developing Northern Australia Chair Ms Sheridan Morris to discuss governance arrangements status, program development activities, and targeted engagement with industry to develop quality applications;
- Discussed with relevant Minister's officers the proposed Investor Forum in Cairns in November 2017 and the Northern Australian Ministerial Forum in Darwin in September;
- Met with representatives from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility on progress and development of the program;
- Met with representative from the Major Projects Facilitation Agency on their expanded role and processes.

Our extensive network continues to grow and strengthen across Northern Australia consolidating our ability to link different parties together, broker discussions and relationships, provide advice on processes and projects, and advocate for investment and reform outcomes.

The Northern RDA Alliance is focused on supporting the effective implementation of the White Paper initiatives, shaping the priorities for the next phase of developing Northern Australia, and taking Alliance projects forward, including:

- the roll out of the very successful NT wireless project – a stand out presentation at the recent Developing Northern Australia Conference,
- securing further investment in strategic road infrastructure, through the Inland Qld Roads Action Plan,
- investment prospectus opportunities for Northern Australia linked with the Northern Australia Investor Forum in Cairns in November,
- progressing the Northern Australia Energy Strategy within the current dynamic energy policy discussion,
- developing a Northern Australia water project focused on potable water for communities, and
- continuing advocacy around insurance reform.

We endorsed our revised Strategic Priorities noting a specific focus on Northern RDA Alliance input to key processes including the National Freight and Supply Chain Inquiry and the current Northern Australia Tourism Inquiry.

Updates were provided on Northern RDA Alliance projects:

### Investigation of Alternative Solutions to Shortfalls in Regional Telecommunications

The *High-Speed Wireless Technology Pilot* has connected the remote Indigenous communities of Engawala and Atitjere to Vocus (previously Nextgen) fibre via long-distance point-to-point microwave links. The trial will test the potential advantages of this wireless service over existing and unsatisfactory satellite services. The project tested the capability and affordability of alternative technology. The project will have two direct outputs, new infrastructure and services in the test location and a case study to support dissemination of the learnings across rural and remote Northern Australia.



# NORTHERN RDA ALLIANCE

## COMMUNIQUE – June 2017

### Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP)

Funding has been flowing into prioritised roads, IQ-RAP is one of many advocacy voices and inputs to these:

- \$220 million in funding committed to IQ-RAP roads in the Northern Australia Roads Programme (total package \$700M);
- \$56 million in funding committed to IQ-RAP roads in the Northern Australia Beef Roads Programme (total package \$100M);
- Approx. \$530 million committed to IQ-RAP partner council areas for QTRIP funding in 16/17 – 17/18 – (total investment includes some non-IQ-RAP roads)

Advocacy has been on-going with key high level parliamentary meetings held in Canberra and Brisbane; departmental meetings

and peak industry body briefings in Brisbane. To date, 22 Federal Ministers, Senators and MPs; 31 State Ministers and MPs; and 42 leaders of peak industry organisations have been personally briefed, with a substantial number providing written letters of support.

Next steps – updating IQ-RAP to incorporate new data and recent funding commitments; seeking partnership opportunities to undertake economic and social benefits analysis to inform program and investment decisions; on-going engagement with all levels of government and peak industry organisations.

For more information, contact your nearest RDA.



*Northern RDA Alliance meeting, Cairns, June 2017*

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