

Northern Australian Futures Roundtable

Darwin, 7 & 8 May, 2014

Northern Australia stands at a critical juncture. The Joint Parliamentary Committee on Northern Australia's report is due in July, and the federal Government's white paper will be finalised later this year.

The Northern Australian Futures Roundtable offers an important and timely opportunity for different sectors to come together to share perspectives to help shape a prosperous and sustainable future for Northern Australia.

- *What does an economically resilient and environmentally sustainable future for Northern Australia look like from your perspective or in your region/sector?*
- *How might economic development also maintain and strengthen the world renowned natural and cultural values of the north?*
- *How can Indigenous socio-economic development be advanced as a key part of development plans?*
- *How can we best work together to shape a sustainable future for Northern Australia?*

Roundtable objectives:

- Identify common ground around an economically resilient and environmentally sustainable future.
- Identify pathways and actions that will help achieve future aspirations.
- Provide key messages to government and others.
- Share ideas and opportunities across different sectors on appropriate development and conservation.

Roundtable principles:

- A strong, diverse and sustainable economy for Northern Australia is necessary to underpin the wellbeing of its communities, the long-term management of its resources, and its contribution to Australian and global society.
- Northern Australia's unique, intact and globally-significant natural and cultural values must be recognised, utilised and safeguarded as a centre point of its future.
- Northern development and Indigenous socio-economic development must be pursued together, since neither is sustainable, nor equitable, without the other.
- Development options must involve genuine consultation with local communities and be compatible with local conditions.

Roundtable outputs:

- Agreed future direction via shared principles and vision/elements of vision.
- New perspectives, wider breadth of possibilities and innovative ideas for pathways to desired future.
- Action plans to progress pathways and messages for government, development and conservation.
- Next steps for working together.

Sessions include:

1. Where do we want to be in 2030?:

Identifying elements and examples of an economically resilient and environmentally sustainable future for Northern Australia

2. Signposts to point the way:

Identifying key messages regarding risks and opportunities for northern development from what we know to date.

3. Possible pathways:

Identifying mechanisms, ideas, incentives, business models, etc that will assist in achieving a preferred future, including how, by whom, and by when.

4. Putting the map together and bringing others along:

Summarising where participants want to be in the future, good ways to get there, roads to avoid, recommendations and actions, as well as identifying how to best engage others in this journey.

5. Getting a better vehicle:

Identifying next steps for this collaboration including follow up actions.

The Roundtable is being convened by the organisations below and coordinated by 'Kimberley to Cape'. Assistance has been kindly received from NAILSMA, AC IUCN, Greening Australia, Environment Centre NT and others. The Roundtable focuses on the rural areas of northern Australia covered by catchments flowing into northern tropical seas.

**Venue: Signatures Room, Hilton Hotel, 32 Mitchell St, Darwin.
Time: 9.00am – 4.30pm**

**For more information please contact Dr Clare Taylor: m 0405 730 999
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Kimberley to Cape - working towards a prosperous and sustainable future for Northern Australia... serving a network, facilitating collaboration, catalysing action, aligning effort and investment.

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