



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure,  
Transport, Regional Development,  
Communications and the Arts



# A date with Northern Australia

5 July 2022

Linda Lee

General Manager, Office of Northern Australia

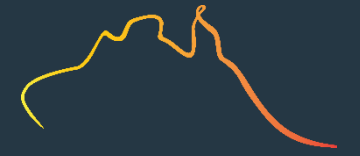
## Acknowledgement of Country

The Office of Northern Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Northern Australia, and recognises their connection to the land, waters, and culture.

We pay our respect to First Nations elders, past, present, and emerging.



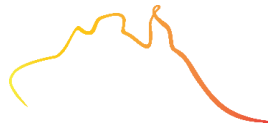
# Office of Northern Australia



## Outline



Definition of Northern Australia



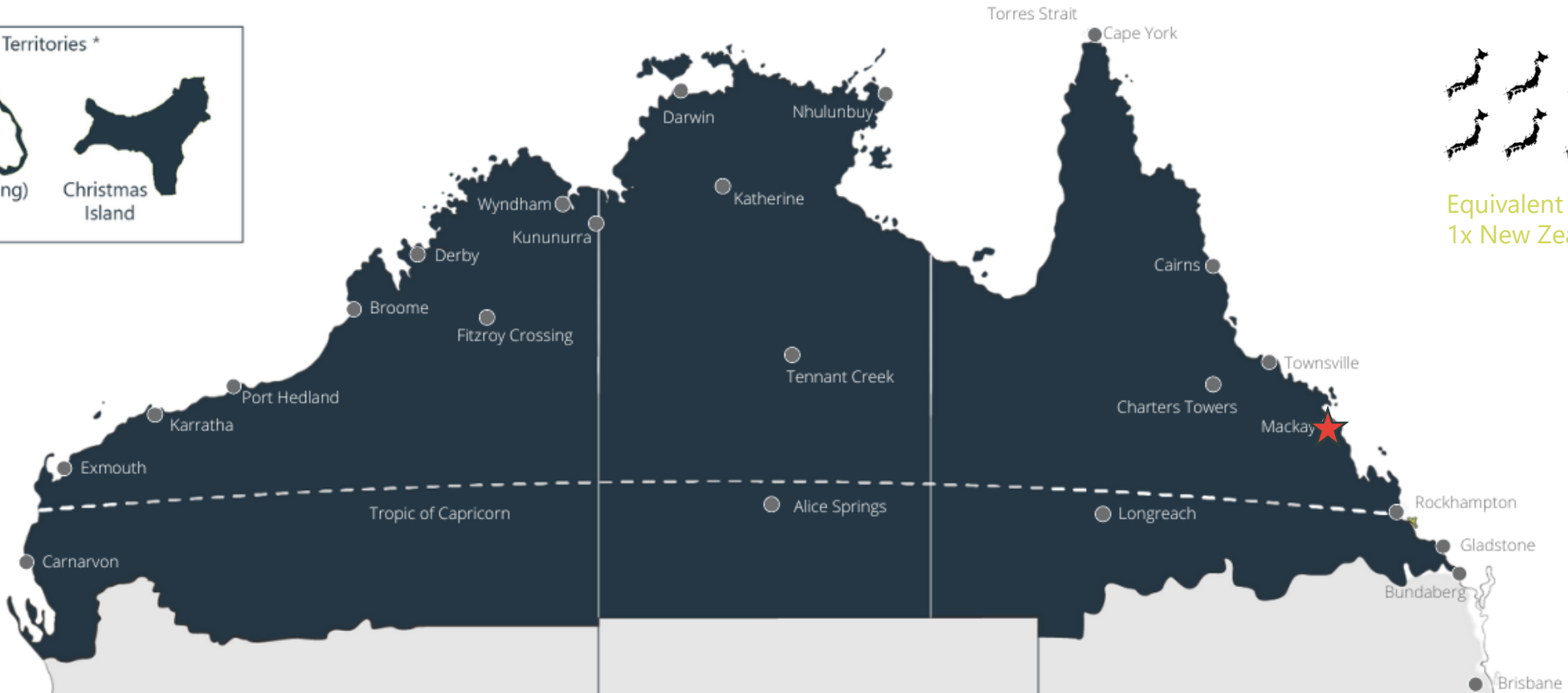
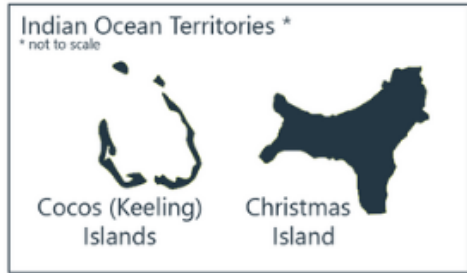
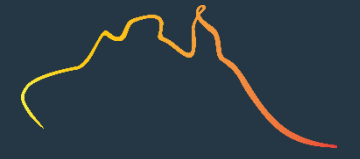
What does the Office of Northern Australia do?



How does the Office of Northern Australia support regional government and SMEs?



# Northern Australia



Equivalent to 10x Japans plus 1x New Zealand



53%

More than 53% of Australia's land mass



5.3%

Home to 1.3 million people, or 5.3% of national population



35-39

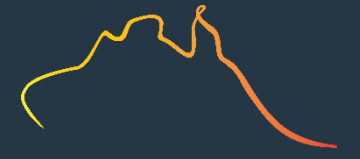
Diverse population with a median age of 35-39 years



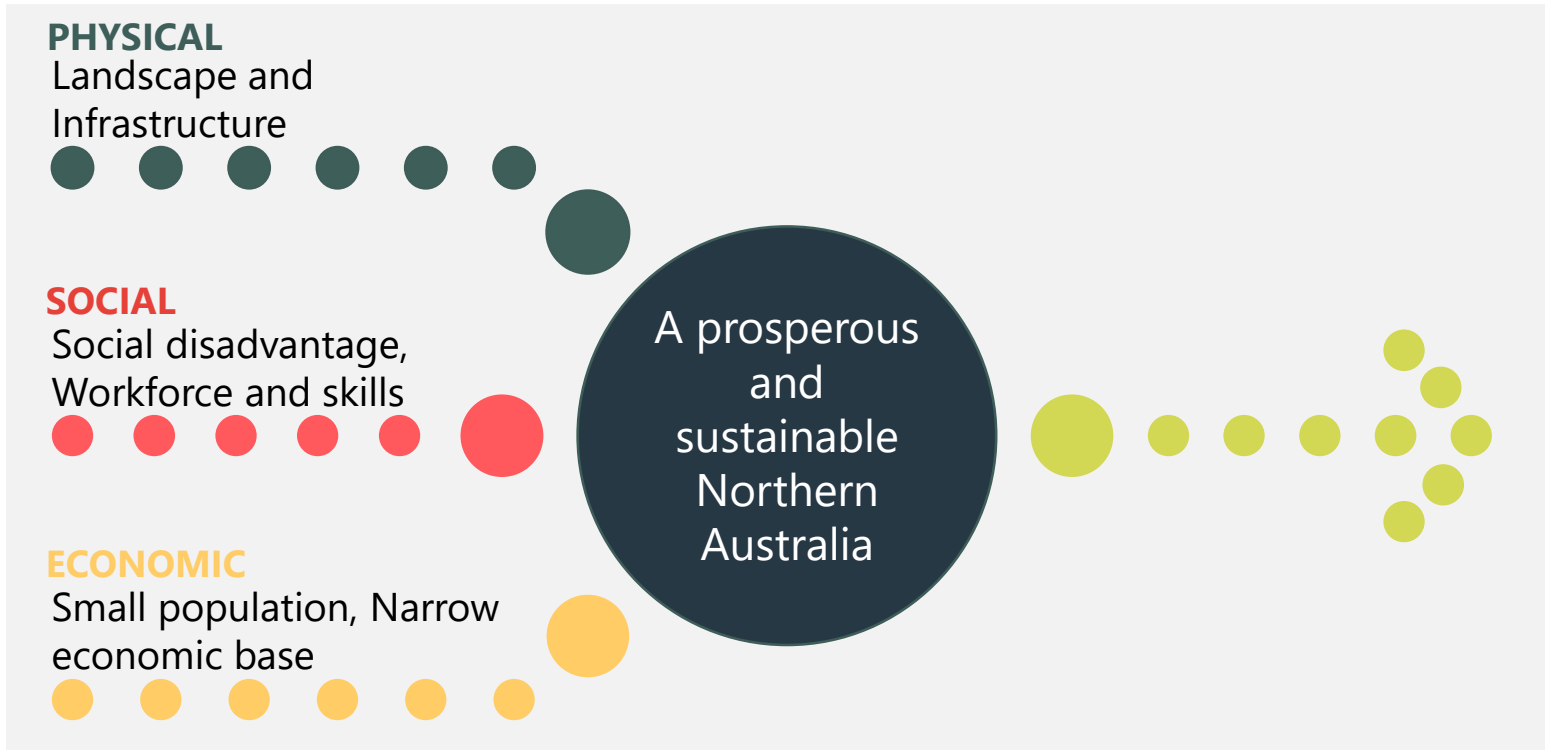
78%

Of the north's land mass is covered by Indigenous rights and interests

# Challenges and Opportunities

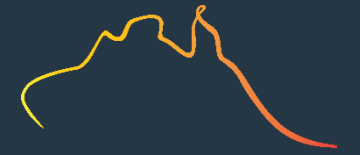


*"The development of Northern Australia is one of the great challenges and opportunities facing the nation."*



## SECTORAL OPPORTUNITY

-  **Renewable and low emissions energy**
-  **Advanced manufacturing**
-  **Cultural and Creative industry**
-  **Agriculture and Aquaculture**
-  **Tourism**
-  **Critical minerals**
-  **Defence industry**
-  **Space industry**



## A short history of northern development

60,000+ years	Traditional knowledge, connection to country and trade
1937 onwards	Numerous reports and recommendations with the aim of developing Northern Australia
1991-1996	Office of Northern Development
2008	Re-established as the Office of Northern Australia
2015	Office of Northern Australia shifted to the north
Current	Office of Northern Australia Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

## Developing Northern Australia



Increase the economic contribution from the north.



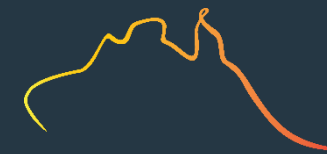
Improve socio-economic parity for Northern Australians

## ONA's purpose



Coordinate a whole of government effort to deliver sustainable growth and livability in Northern Australia

# The Northern Australia Agenda



*Through this, the first ever ... White Paper, the Commonwealth Government is putting in place the right policies, at the right time, to unlock the north's vast potential.*

*This White Paper has been developed to stand the test of time — it should be the first, and last, White Paper for the north.*



## White Paper 2015 - 2035

TIMELINE

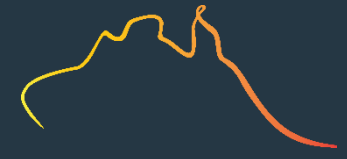


We are here



- Land arrangements to support investment
- Developing the north's water resources
- A business, trade and investment gateway
- Infrastructure to support growth
- A northern workforce for growth
- Good governance for northern Australia
- Indigenous Economic Development Accord

# Progress



2021

- ✓ Extended the NAIF for a further 5 years until 2026
- ✓ Opened the Northern Australia Grants programs
- ✓ Established the Northern Australia Connectivity initiative
- ✓ Announced the Northern Australia Insurance Package including reinsurance pool

2020

- ✓ COVID-19 economic response - >340,000 JobKeeper applicants and >95,000 supported through JobSeeker
- ✓ Released the \$224m Beetaloo Strategic Basin Plan
- ✓ Established Advisory Group
- ✓ Commenced construction of Rookwood Weir
- ✓ Invested an additional \$21m in capacity building for Prescribed Body Corporates

2019

- ✓ Completed the \$15m Northern Australia Water Resource Assessments
- ✓ Announced \$1.5b Roads of Strategic Importance northern package
- ✓ Agreed Indigenous employment targets for northern road projects.
- ✓ Signed the Darwin City Deal

2018

- ✓ Signed the \$78.4m Barkly Regional Deal
- ✓ Agreed the Northern Australia Indigenous Development Accord through First Ministers
- ✓ Commenced the \$3.6m Roper River and \$6.5m Great Artesian Basin water resource assessments
- ✓ Commenced construction and repair of sea transport infrastructure projects in Torres Strait

2017

- ✓ Established the \$75m CRC
- ✓ Established the Indigenous Reference Group
- ✓ Commenced construction of Northern Australia Roads and Beef Roads program (\$700m)
- ✓ Commenced the \$100.5m Exploring for the Future Program in Northern Australia
- ✓ Established the Pacific Microstates-Northern Australia Work Pilot Program

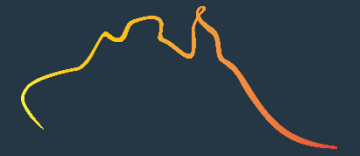
2016

- ✓ Established the \$5m NAIF
- ✓ Online guide to land tenure
- ✓ \$15.3m investment in tropical health and commercialisation
- ✓ Extended Working Holiday Maker visas to agriculture and hospitality
- ✓ Expanded Seasonal Worker Program to remove 2015 caps
- ✓ Signed the Townsville City Deal

2015

- ✓ Established ONA headquarters in Darwin
- ✓ Northern Australia Infrastructure Audit
- ✓ Northern Australia Investment Forum
- ✓ Enhanced Entrepreneur's Program
- ✓ Inaugural Developing Northern Australia Conference

# Office of Northern Australia



## How we deliver

**Advocate and support policy design to meet needs and challenges that are unique to the north**

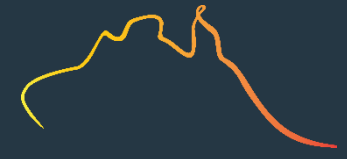
**Inform policy and programs for maximum impact in the north.**

**Support the Northern Infrastructure Facility**

**Lead initiatives such as the Northern Australia Grants Program**



# Grant Programs



**\$111.9 million** towards grants programs to enable business to grow and diversify, create jobs in Northern Australia, and strengthen business capability.

## Top grant sectors

-  Accommodation and Food Services
-  Administrative and Support Services
-  Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
-  Arts and Recreation
-  Education and Training
-  Health Care and Social Assistance
-  Manufacturing
-  Mining
-  Wholesale Trade
-  Other Services



### NADP - Industry Transformation Medium to large size businesses

1. Austral Fisheries
2. Cambridge Gulf Ltd
3. Charles Darwin University
4. Energy Serv Australia
5. Gough Industries
6. Norship
7. Wulguru Steel
8. Yurra

### NADP - Business Development Small to medium size businesses

9. Advanced Agricultural Systems
10. All Fish For Dogs
11. Bridgeman Agencies
12. Broome Dental
13. Connect Paediatric Therapy Services
14. Ecomag
15. Ensave
16. Heli-Muster
17. J3Seven

### BCGP

18. Jean-Pierre Patisserie
19. LiqaForce
20. Marine Biomedical
21. Marine Produce Ltd
22. Mobile Crushing Co.
23. Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Co.
24. North Track Machinery
25. Ornatas
26. Red Range Stock Supplements
27. Tailor Tours
28. Girrigun Aboriginal Co.
29. Health Workforce QLD
30. South Cairns Gymnastics



## Northern Australia Development Program

Trading corporations and incorporated trustees.  
\$50,000 - \$2 million for smaller business  
\$3 million - \$10 million for larger industry transformation



## Strengthening Northern Australia Business Advisory Service

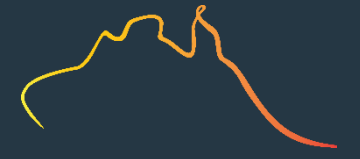
Locally-based expert, independent facilitators and digital specialists, work with eligible NADP grant applicants to help build long-term resilience and business strength.



## Business and Community Growth Program (BCGP)

Eligibility expanded for smaller business grants to not-for-profit organisations; associations; sole traders; partnerships; cooperatives; and Indigenous Corporations (non-trading).

# Future Focus



## ONA implements the Australian Government's vision

- ✔ Supports the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, the Hon Madeleine King MP
- ✔ Coordinates across the Australian Government
- ✔ Supports the Indigenous Reference Group
- ✔ Partners with jurisdictions and other organisations to align resources to deliver results
- ✔ Works with communities and industry to identify further investment and realise economic benefits
- ✔ Keeps communities informed through contemporary communications and engagement
- ✔ Staff located in the north, increasing local capability and capacity



# Office of Northern Australia

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#DevelopingNorthernAustralia  
#OurNorthOurFuture