

Collaboration the key to the future of Northern Australia

Friday 8 May 2015

The existing strength and future potential of Northern Australia was celebrated today when The Hon. Tony Abbott MP, Prime Minister of Australia launched the Northern Australia Alliance in Cairns.

The Alliance sees key advocacy bodies from Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia unite to work collaboratively and act as catalysts to help shape and change communities across Northern Australia in a strategic and consultative manner.

The Prime Minister witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Advance Cairns, Broome Future Ltd, and Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce, as each organisation committed to advancing and promoting the development of Northern Australia.

Warren Entsch MP, Federal Member for Leichhardt and Chair of the Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia, welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement, saying:

"This Alliance represents a landmark in the development of Northern Australia which will realise new opportunities that will benefit the entire country. The collaboration between these organisations is an exciting indication of the potential that lies within this new frontier in the economic development of Australia."

Advance Cairns hosted the event and Chair, Trent Twomey said, "The economic potential of Northern Australia is as vast as the area it covers and there are many exciting nation building projects such as Nullinga Dam, the Ord River Irrigation Scheme, investment in the Bruce, Hann and Savannah highways, further expansion of HMAS Cairns and Coonawarra, and greater funding for health and research at the Cairns and Darwin Hospitals."

Northern Australia is broadly defined as the parts of Australia north of the Tropic of Capricorn, spanning WA, NT and Qld. The area covers approximately three million square kilometres with a growing population of around one million people.

Greg Bicknell, CEO of Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce is confident about the benefits that will be realised from the Alliance. "The Alliance aims to research, validate and build community support for concepts and ideas for the region. We will strive to significantly improve the economic, business, social, cultural and environmental well-being of Northern Australian communities and citizens, with a key objective to 'keep alive' the work that is been done at a national level."

Dr Ken Michael, Chair of Broome Future, echoed the sentiment, saying, "Each of our regions has worked solidly on the Northern Australia development agenda, ensuring that our submissions take account of a national approach to development and this Alliance is a public commitment to the collaboration and cooperation that will be required to maximise the opportunities for business and communities across the region."

For further information or comment:

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