



The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Resources and Northern Australia



Developing the north is a priority because unlocking the full potential of this important region brings benefits to the nation as a whole.

The Coalition Government's *Our North, Our Future: White Paper on Developing Northern Australia* sets out a clear plan to create the right conditions for growth and prosperity in the north and we have brought all levels of government and the private sector together to achieve this vision.

We have backed our vision for a stronger north with an investment of over \$6 billion and are delivering priority White Paper measures and initiatives to further develop the north. We have created an environment in the north that encourages business growth, jobs and investment.

Already, just two years into our 20-year northern Australia implementation plan, our commitment has paid off, with over half of the White Paper's 51 measures delivered and the remaining well underway. The pace of progress is accelerating and will continue to do so.

From the leadership of the Prime Minister as chair of the Northern Australia Strategic Partnership to the involvement of Indigenous community representatives in the 2017 Ministerial Forum on Northern Development, new partnerships and collaboration have been forged across jurisdictions; sectors; and nationally and internationally.

We have brought people together with a shared purpose—making living and doing business in the north easier and more productive.

My government's investment in northern infrastructure, particularly roads and water, is building a stronger future for the north. Our commitment to improve water infrastructure, for example, is part of a broader government investment in water, which is the largest in our nation's history and is key to unlocking Australia's agricultural production potential.

Encouraging the entrepreneurship and drive that is so strong in the north is key to the success of this endeavour so that a diverse range of industries continue to thrive in the north—agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, tourism, defence, resources and tropical health research, to name just a few.

Vibrant and better resourced northern cities and communities are also part of the vision as is developing a growing world-class innovation and research sector.

It is a very exciting time for northern Australia and this government is keeping up the momentum so northern Australia and northern Australians realise their full potential.

Our vision is now becoming a reality—we are making the most of this important region and ensuring the right supports are in place to diversify and grow its economy and communities.

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