

Response To The Green Paper On Developing Northern Australia

Tracks Dance Company

July 2014

Tracks Dance welcomes the proposed White Paper on developing northern Australia and would like to be included in the future consultations and the development of related arts and cultural policies and directions.

We believe that the arts and cultural sectors are essential parts of promoting trade and investment, and strengthening the business environment as well as fostering education, research and innovation.

The Creative Tropical City: mapping Darwin's creative industries was a milestone report released in 2009. The report was funded by the Australian government's Australian Research Council Linkage Project scheme, and is jointly supported by Darwin City Council, Tourism NT and the Northern Territory Government's Department of the Chief Minister and Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts.

The report found that there was a "treasured creative vein to Darwin" and that the creative industries are of vital importance to the economic viability of not only Darwin, but the Northern Territory as a whole.

Research has proven that the creative industries help build and maintain vibrant and liveable communities. The creative industry sector contributes by:

- Attracting and activating small to medium enterprises
- Supporting, training and utilising talented employees (many of them local)
- Creating networks and programs of activities both in cities and in rural and remote communities that contribute to national and international awareness of the Northern Territory
- Linking together community members and improving social inclusion
- Improving the quality of life of Northern Territory residents.

Darwin and the Northern Territory punch above their weight when it comes to having a large grassroot creative community. We are known around the world for our artistic excellence with singers like Gurrumul, dancers like Joshua Mu, writers like Mary Anne Butler and painters like Djambawa Marawili at the peak of their chosen fields.

We are well aware that the arts and culture represents one of the major industry sectors in North Australia and would like this to be recognised in future reports, policies and funding programs.

