



The Hon Terry Redman MLA
Minister for Regional Development; Lands;
Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development

Our ref: 39-27430

Dr Ian Watt AO
Secretary
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
PO Box 6500
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Watt

GREEN PAPER ON DEVELOPING NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Commonwealth Government's Green Paper on Developing Northern Australia.

As the Minister for Regional Development, I am committed to the ongoing growth and development of northern Western Australia. The Western Australian Government is investing significant resources to enable the northern regions to achieve their potential and progress towards the transformational change that has long been sought by the regions themselves.

The increasing world demand for resources, particularly from Asia, has shifted to include a range of high quality foods, not just minerals and natural gas. This change underpins the huge potential of the north to drive further economic growth within the region and for the nation as a whole. The Western Australian Government has begun the process of repositioning the north in order to build resilience and the ability to respond to a range of new opportunities. The Commonwealth Government should commit to work with Western Australia and other northern jurisdictions to support this change and to ensure that opportunities are captured now and into the future.

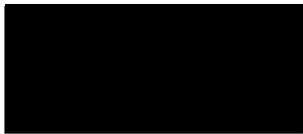
The Western Australian Government submission responds to each of the six broad policy directions outlined in the Green Paper. In offering broad support for these policy directions, it touches on a range of issues, but it is important to note that this is only a starting point for what needs to be achieved.

It is also important to note that many of the policy directions are interrelated. With this in mind, it is important that the Northern Australia Taskforce develop integrated policy solutions for the White Paper, wherever necessary and practical.

Finally, I note that this is the continuation of an important initiative to develop northern Australia and emphasise that our respective governments must maintain a commitment to work together to achieve this aim. It is essential for dialogue to continue and commensurate with that, please note that I am willing to provide further information as required to assist the development of the White Paper.

Please find attached the Western Australian Government's submission.

Yours sincerely



HON TERRY REDMAN MLA
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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