



Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Development Zone Inc

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Committee Secretary

Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia

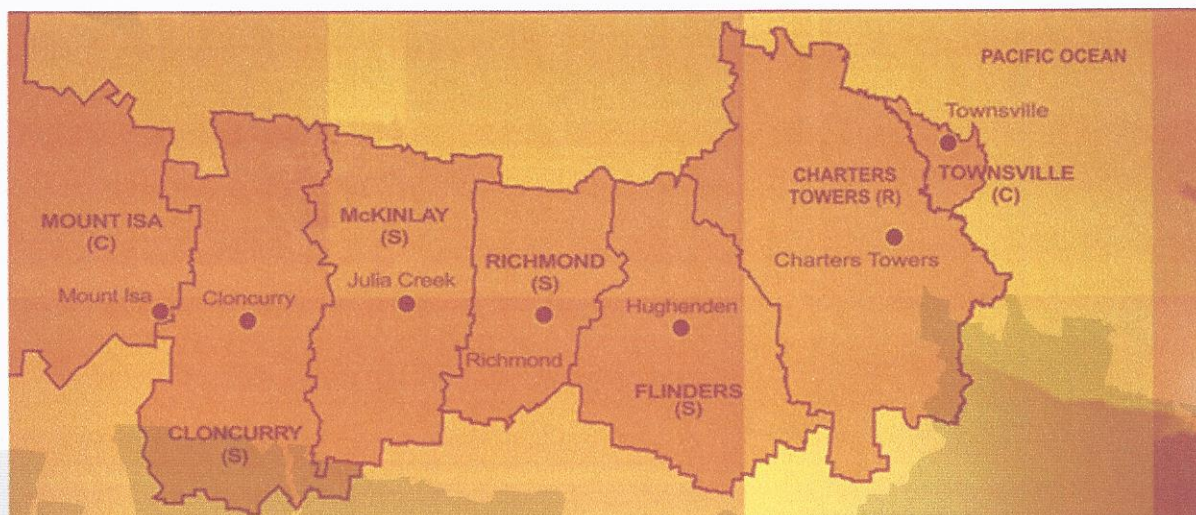
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Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission: to the Commonwealth Government for the 'White Paper' on Northern Australia.

Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Zone Inc. (MITEZ) is the regional development organisation responsible for the seven local government areas along the corridor between Townsville and Mount Isa and includes Mount Isa; Cloncurry; McKinlay; Richmond; Flinders; Charters Towers and Townsville.



In addition to Local Government (Mayors), MITEZ membership includes representatives of a number of the corporates operating in the region such as Glencore/ Xstrata, BHP Cannington, MMG, Aurizon and Pacific National and as well as some of the GOC's operating in the region including QR, Port of Townsville and Ergon.

MITEZ current priorities include:

- To assist to identify potential opportunities to strengthen and grow communities across the region and to develop existing and new industries.
- Improving the efficiency of the region's transport network and associated infrastructure, including road, rail and port to meet future demand. *Ref: North Queensland Resources Supply Chain Project*
- Promote opportunities and attract potential investors to finance and undertake significant projects.
- Support the aims of the Commonwealth Government's plan to develop Northern Australia and to highlight those opportunities in the MITEZ region that can contribute to developing Australia's north.

MITEZ congratulates the Commonwealth Government for its focus and commitment towards developing Northern Australia and looks forward to working with the Joint Select Committee as it examines the potential for furthering development and in considering policies and strategies to achieve this.

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MITEZ believes a focus on the north is well overdue and it is indeed time to identify the critical economic and social infrastructure needed to support the long term growth of the region, and ways to support planning and investment in that infrastructure.

It is understood the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee will include:

- i. enhance trade and other investment links with the Asia- Pacific;
- ii. establish a conducive regulatory, taxation and economic environment;
- iii. address impediments to growth; and
- iv. set conditions for private investment and innovation:

Priorities areas where MITEZ is currently working on with the Commonwealth Government:

Electricity – increasing regional capacity to reduce national inefficiency, and to enable a number of mining and agricultural projects to proceed.

Transport – focus on the supply chain work. An investigation of supply chains to best meet a growing Asian / Pacific focus. Good supply chain work identifies the blockages such as the Townsville Eastern Access Corridor.

Water – to complement the Ag work already done / to complement historically high minerals exploration activity / to sustain and grow existing communities and assist with the regionalisation agenda.

The Coalition's document "2030 Vision for Developing Northern Australia"

The Coalition's document "2030 Vision for Developing Northern Australia" outlines a range of potential opportunities to develop Northern Australia and drive growth by:

- Developing a food bowl, including premium produce, which could help to double Australia's agricultural output.
- Growing the tourist economy in the north to two million international tourists annually; and
- building an energy export industry worth \$150 billion to the economy, with a major focus on clean and efficient energy, providing major increases to resource exports.

In this (MITEZ submission) there is reference to each of these potential opportunities (identified above) and a response to the proposed 'White Paper' to highlight the strengths of our region.

In recent years MITEZ has facilitated a number of strategic studies and reports looking at opportunities for irrigated agriculture; meat processing; solutions for energy generation and transmission; transport infrastructure; water storages; tourism etc. These studies were carried out to examine feasibility and business cases to support investment attraction for potential projects. Stakeholder reference groups and project steering committees were established to guide these projects and ensure relevant input.

MITEZ Regional Development Projects (since 2008)

YEAR	PROJECT
2008 -09	MITEZ Region Investment Guide
2009-10	White Mountains National Park Access
	Emerging Investment Attraction and Business Development Opportunities
	Business Case for O'Connell Creek Water Storage
	Flinders Highway Heavy Transport and Freight Study
2010-11	White Mountains National Park - northern access survey
	Study for Flinders River Ag Precinct – to assist graziers
	Energy Project - AC Power-line
	Evaluation of total renewable energy potential/ generation

	Business case assessing potential for Cloncurry as a major regional transport hub/ Load-out facility
	Update of the Overlanders Way Marketing and Branding
	North West Queensland Meatworks Feasibility Study
2011-12	50 Year Freight Infrastructure Plan – for Road, Rail and Port on MITEZ corridor
	Flinders River Ag Forum and Industry Field Day
	Grow Mid-Western Shires, NW Queensland
2012-13	No projects Funding available
2013-14	North West Queensland Regional Development Strategy Study
	Strategic Marketing and Investment Plan

The studies are completed and are available to assist the Commonwealth Government to ‘develop Northern Australia’.

North West Queensland Regional Development Strategy Study- 2014

This visionary project (undertaken by GHD and AEC) looks to the potential of the region over next 30 years and was commenced in October 2103, and MITEZ considers the completed study would be of particular interest to the Joint Select Committee (JSC). *The project follows on from the Stage 1 studies carried out for developing the Carpentaria Minerals Province in 1993.*

The study (MITEZ and Gulf Savannah Development project) will identify the enablers for future economic development to realise the full potential of the North West and Gulf regions and looks at not just mining, but also irrigated agriculture, beef, fishing, tourism and other industries that have potential in the Shires of Mount Isa; Cloncurry; McKinlay; Richmond; Flinders; Etheridge; Croydon; Carpentaria; Burke and Doomadgee.

The study (funded by the Queensland State Government, Queensland Resources Council, Local Government and industry) will focus on major new developments, synergies across industry sectors, and substantial expansion of existing operations.

Consultation meetings with the region’s key stakeholders were held in Normanton, Georgetown, Richmond and Mount Isa in December 2013 and the individual comments concerning future development have been documented in a separate report.

The emphasis will be on high value adding and game changing new developments. The project is expected to be completed at the end of April 2014 and it is intended that the North West Strategic Development Plan will be a reference point and blueprint to assist civic leaders to chart a new wave of development in the region. MITEZ will forward to forward a copy of the plan to the JSC as soon as it is available as both MITEZ and GSD believe the study recommendations are critical in preparing the ‘White Paper’ for developing the North.

The MITEZ Corridor

The Mitez corridor is strategically very important for the future development of Northern Australia-

The MITEZ corridor covers an area of some 271,732 square kilometres and extends from the Pacific Ocean and Port of Townsville out some 1000 kilometres to the west to the North West Minerals Province and the city of Mount Isa.

Mining and beef cattle are the predominate industries particularly in the North West while the Mid-West Shires have been traditionally beef and sheep country with some irrigated agriculture where there are suitable soils and access to water.

Tourism also contributes to each of the communities along the corridor which has links to a number of key and developing tourist routes in Outback Queensland.

Communities along the corridor are linked by the Flinders and Barkly Highways as well as the Mount Isa to Townsville Rail Line which carries some \$15b (gross value) per annum in commodities and freight. These corridors are impacted by flooding and or capacity constraints such as narrow bridges in the case of road, and passing opportunities in the case of rail.

Rail and transport hubs are located in each of the towns along the corridor where it is possible to load products such as minerals, cattle, agriculture, fuel, cement, machinery and equipment.

Each of the towns on the corridor is serviced by regional aviation with flights operating either daily or every second day. These flights connect with flights out of Townsville and Mount Isa with connections to capital cities.

The MITEZ corridor is distinct from other parts of Northern Australia in that it is not remote and already has well established infrastructure and services.

It is because of the level of existing infrastructure and services in the communities along the MITEZ corridor such as housing, schools, hospitals, businesses, recreation facilities, government services such as police and medical personnel, access to power, water and transport that makes these communities ideal hubs to service new industries to develop Northern Australia. This is a distinct advantage over areas of Australia's North that have little to no established communities, infrastructure or services and face capacity constraints in energy, water, transport corridors, etc.

The 'White Paper' - to recognise that these existing towns, communities and services are of great value and essential for the further development of the North and would benefit a range of new industries.

Rail Link to Port is a valuable asset for further developing Northern Australia:

Constructed in the 1920's the existing rail corridor from Mount Isa to the Port of Townsville is a result of the world class Mount Isa mining field and continues to be a major factor for each of the communities and their local economies. There is great potential for further developing the North West and Gulf by extending this rail line to enable new mines to establish as they will then be able to send their product to export through Port of Townsville.

There are some known world-class mineral deposits in the North West that could be exploited if they had high volume access to transport product to port and these have the potential to be large scale mining operations that could contribute to the nation.

An extension of the rail line to the north from Cloncurry and from Mount Isa to Tennant Creek would be enabling projects and herald a new wave of mining activity as mineral deposits could then become viable to extract. An example of this would be to exploit the Constance Range iron ore deposit (west of Burketown) and create a new industry and jobs for people in the region. With the nearby Century Zinc Mine expected to finish around 2016-17, the opportunity to utilise existing infrastructure, and skilled workers at Constance Range needs to be considered.

An ongoing issue is the need for Governments to invest sufficiently to address the existing Mount Isa to Townsville rail infrastructure capacity constraints to be able to handle the freight task. (Mount Isa Rail Line Infrastructure Master-plan 2012)

It is well known that potential mining projects cannot progress to become operating mines without having the transport logistics to get their products to a port.

The 'White Paper' - to recognise that the existing Mount Isa to Townsville rail network and associated Port facilities in Townsville are of great value and essential for the further development of the North and would benefit a range of new industries.

Irrigated Agriculture, potential for further development already identified:

Developing a food bowl, including premium produce, which could help double Australia's agricultural output.

**** MITEZ Region is where the Commonwealth can meet its objectives to develop a Northern food bowl, however it will require new water storages and increased water allocations from the Flinders River.***

The Local Governments and planning agencies across the MITEZ region have worked together over a number of years to coordinate regional planning activities to ensure continued sustainable futures for their communities. One such example, being the Flinders River Ag Precinct (FRAP), which represents the interests of graziers and potential irrigators along the Flinders River system, and is supported by the Flinders, Richmond and McKinlay Shires as well as the Queensland State Government.

This group with the assistance of MITEZ, has produced reports and studies, organised forums and conferences, held regular meetings, produced newsletters and promotional material and lobbied State and Federal Government to carry out higher level studies towards developing a significant Ag Precinct on the Flinders River system.

In 2012 the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments commenced the \$10.6m North Queensland Irrigated Agriculture Study to assess the suitability of soils, water storage sustainability and cropping potential on the Flinders and Gilbert River. The report was completed in December 2013 and released publicly in February 2014.

The report highlights that the soils in the proposed cropping area are ideal for a range of crops and there is potential to extract up to 350GL of flow from the Flinders River for off-stream storages. The area is ideal for irrigated agriculture and a number of potential storages such as Richmond's O'Connell Creek have been designed and costed. Richmond Shire has also produced an investment prospectus for this proposal.

Independent of the CSIRO study, some of the other local governments have also done preliminary work, designs and costings for water storages and dam construction to assist to attract investment. Some of these schemes, including O'Connell Creek have had input and been evaluated by State Government departments responsible for natural resources water and environment. With water allocations now available for land-holders wishing to venture into irrigation projects, it is anticipated that a precinct will soon develop in the Mid-West.

In addition to studies being completed on water storages, both private and government people have come together to undertake trials of a variety of crops to evaluate how successful these will be in the different soil types. The results have been quite encouraging and include cotton, sorghum, mung beans, rockmelon, rice and others. With proper farming methods and sufficient irrigation profitable results can be achieved although many of these crops may only be viable in the cooler months and it is likely there would be just two crops per year in most instances. There are also opportunities for dry-land farming for crops such as sorghum.

The work already carried out (as outlined above) clearly indicates the region is more than ready to contribute to Commonwealth Government's proposal to develop a food bowl, including premium produce, which could help to double Australia's agricultural output.

That being said, the region will require the support of both the State and Commonwealth Governments to assist in getting the scale of development required from where it is presently.

This could be achieved through the Commonwealth Government idea of establishing a Water Project Development Fund to support the advancement of meritorious proposals for water infrastructure across Northern Australia, including dams and groundwater projects.

Without water, nothing much can happen in the Outback.

- Irrigated Agriculture needs water as does mining and mineral processing
- Value adding industries also need water
- Communities and lifestyle requires water
- They can share a water resource and co-exist

MITEZ plans to provide input to the Coalition's Dams and Water Management Discussion Paper, however the White Paper needs to recognise that water availability will always be the key to developing the North.

The 'White Paper'- to recognise the soils and water in the Flinders River catchment area have significant potential for cropping and can contribute significantly to the future development of the North.

Water for Mining, Agriculture and Industry

In the MITEZ region there is significant mining taking place on land also used for grazing purposes where there is also potential for cropping, particularly for feedlots to fatten cattle in close proximity to a meatworks. There is potential to build water storages to supply all three industries plus nearby communities such as the proposed Cave Hill Dam near Cloncurry, (as featured in the CSIRO Flinders River Summary Report).

MITEZ believes there is an urgent need to identify strategic locations where there are opportunities encourage new mines, to support a more sustainable beef industry and encourage new irrigated agriculture in North West Queensland and Gulf areas. A study was completed in 2012 for a meat processing facility in North West Queensland and there are currently efforts to seek interested investors for the \$85m project.

MITEZ has assisted local producer group "NorthBeef" to produce a feasibility study and prospects to build a meatworks in the North and MITEZ believes for the future of the beef industry in the region it is vitally important that a meatworks needs to be built.

It is anticipated the Commonwealth's White Paper will identify additional opportunities for the study area including North West Queensland and Gulf regions and MITEZ is keen to work with the Commonwealth to look at practical ways to implement those findings and recommendations.

Energy, the enabler of economic growth in the MITEZ region:

The Coalition Government's plan is to build an energy export industry worth \$150 billion to the economy, with a major focus on clean and efficient energy, providing major increases to resource exports.

Much of this could be achieved on the MITEZ corridor and the Gulf region where there is abundance of opportunity and resources available for renewable energy, particularly wind and solar). The challenge however is how to connect renewable energy to the grid and how to make these potential projects viable.

While in some instances, there is opportunity to replace or supplement diesel generation with renewable co generation in small communities particularly in the lower Gulf region, larger-scale projects need to be located in close proximity to High Voltage Transmission infrastructure. Potential large scale generation can meet demand as well as supplement the network during peak and off peak demand periods.

Generation within the region would address the current inefficiencies caused by current generation in either southern and central Queensland associated with costs of transmission and regulated price equalisation. Highly prospective areas for large renewable generation of up to 500Mw exist currently exist in mature business stage.

MITEZ has undertaken studies to support the case for renewable energy projects and a number of the Shire Councils on the MITEZ corridor have shown an interest to establish renewable energy projects for their Shire.

Projects include:

1	WindLab proposed 600MW wind farm at Mt Sturgeon near Hughenden	<p>Private investment but requires Government subsidy e.g. RECs and contribution to construct a high voltage transmission line to connect to the NEM</p> <p>Could supply renewable energy to supplement energy on the NEM</p> <p>Reduces marginal loss factors and energy costs for consumers in the north</p> <p>Requires a transmission line such as the proposed CopperString (Townsville to Mount Isa)</p> <p>Requires at a mini-CopperString (Townsville to Hughenden)</p>
2	Pentland Power Station	<p>Combined base-load (coal), ethanol/ bagasse power generation</p> <p>Requires 50,000 hectare sugar farming with irrigation from the Burdekin River</p> <p>Requires increased transmission (Townsville to Hughenden)</p>
3	Shale Oil for power generation	<p>Global Oil Shale holds the tenements for the vast oil shale deposits north of Julia Creek. There is potential to utilise some of their product (bunker oil) as a fuel for electricity generation of up to 600MW.</p> <p>For the project to commence, it will require access to a high voltage transmission line initially for power to establish the operation (approx. 50MW) and then to supply generated power to the grid.</p>
4	Shale gas energy project	<p>Armour Energy has recently discovered significant reserves of shale gas in the Gulf near Burketown</p> <p>There is potential to connect this future supply to the existing gas pipeline at Mount Isa which presently has approx. 400MW of gas-fired generation capacity.</p> <p>Gas from the Gulf could also be transported via the existing Carpentaria Gas Pipeline to help meet domestic demand in southern states to increase gas supply to the overall domestic market.</p> <p>With vast amounts of gas going to the export market, there is concern about the future domestic gas pricing affecting customers in Australia.</p>
5	Cloncurry Shire solar	<p>Cloncurry is ideally located to establish a large scale solar farm</p> <p>Preliminary planning work has been conducted for a 10MW solar farm</p> <p>10MW roughly equates to the total (town) energy use in Cloncurry</p>
6	McKinlay Shire solar	<p>McKinlay Shire plans to attract to attract an investor to establish a small scale solar farm to supply power to Council.</p> <p>This would then achieve economies of scale to enable local householders and businesses to install solar PVs to provide a percentage of their individual energy needs only to be supplemented with grid power as required.</p> <p>Very little in the way transmission lines will be required as each home will be connected to their own solar pv system</p> <p>This will greatly reduce the energy costs for the population</p> <p>Solar subsidies will assist greatly</p>

7	Cloncurry Shire wind	<p>Cloncurry Shire is looking to establish nine x 1MW wind turbines to make their Shire energy sufficient to help to reduce energy costs for customers in their Shire</p> <p>There may be an industry partner involved</p> <p>Cloncurry has identified a suitable site where there are constant wind speeds ideal for a wind farm</p>
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How this can develop the north and contribute to building an energy export industry?

The table above demonstrates the enormous potential for renewable and co-generation in the MITEZ region which indicates the region could become a net exporter of energy to supply other regions.

Also in future decades, further development and new mines in the Carpentaria Minerals Province and Galilee Basin will require substantial amounts of energy for these mines to operate. Businesses and communities will depend on the cheapest possible energy prices and a continuation of the Queensland Government's energy price parity policy is essential for consumers in North Queensland.

With technological advances and policy changes, it is also likely that state of the art, nuclear generation will become a reality as most of Queensland's uranium deposits are located in North West Queensland and there may be opportunities to establish uranium enrichment and nuclear power generation in the North.

In summary the key drivers for achieving significant power generation in the MITEZ region are:-

- Renewables (wind and solar) most Shires in MITEZ region
- Coal and ethanol/ bagasse (Pentland)
- Gas fired generation (shale gas from Gulf)
- Shale oil generation (Julia Creek)
- Geothermal (Julia Creek/ Cloncurry)
- Nuclear (Uranium from NWQ)

Potential for Large-scale Electricity Generation at Pentland

MITEZ has participated in a \$2.5m project looking to develop an irrigation precinct north of Pentland and Charters Towers harnessing water from the Burdekin River to grow 50,000 hectares of sugar cane to produce ethanol at a local mill and a includes a range of rotation crops. The project also involves the location of a coal-fired base-load power station to convert bagasse to energy as well as linking a wind-farm near Hughenden to produce over 600MW of generated electricity for North Queensland.

The key to achieving these proposed projects is to construct a high- voltage transmission line across the MITEZ corridor enabling a range of identified projects to connect the power they each generate to deliver to the source of demand/ load in North and North West Queensland.

The 'White Paper' - to recognise opportunities for generating electricity along the Mount Isa to corridor as a potential contributor to further development of the North. Already identified opportunities include: base-load generation (coal; gas; shale oil) and renewables including wind; solar and geo-thermal.

Growing International Tourism in the North (MITEZ region)

The MITEZ region is already home to a number of unique, quality tourist attractions depicting a variety of themes such as pre-history/ fossils; mining; droving and pastoral.

Many of the international tourists visiting Australia do not venture far from the capital cities and in the main their itineraries are controlled by organised tour operators.

Australia needs to encourage new ways to manage and handle overseas tour groups and encourage people to venture out to regional areas to see more of the "real" Australia.

To achieve this, there are many cultural challenges to address and the international visitor needs to feel safe and be assured their special needs can be accommodated in regional areas. Part of the challenge is in preparing and skilling in regional locations to meet those needs. International visitor handling requires different services to domestic visitors who are generally more self-sufficient in the Outback.

There is great potential for further developing environmental, nature based/wild-life and indigenous tourism with quality visitor handling that caters well for niche markets such as Chinese and Korean as well European and North American visitors and giving them the experience they expect.

As the demand begins to grow, this will inevitably require new and improved facilities such as resort accommodation, motels, farm-stays and tourist operator services such as buses and 4WDs.

In recent years, people in the tourism industry in the Outback (includes Shires in the MITEZ region), have become more professional in their attitude and ability to work with and meet the demands of tourists in their regions. With more and more tourism awards being won by Outback operators, there is a corresponding increase in the standard of service being provided and also the quality of attractions.

At present, Outback operators are predominately targeting domestic visitors and would need to invest significant marketing dollars to target other markets. There needs to be a cooperative and coordinated approach to how this should best be done to achieve results.

Outback Queensland Tourism and Tourism Queensland would need to re-think how the Outback is positioned in terms of its target market.

The 'White Paper' - to recognise the diversity of natural and man-made attractions on the MITEZ corridor, each having unique themes and educational value and appeal to domestic and international visitors, essential for the further development of the North's tourism industry.

Terms of Reference for the Joint Select committee -

- **Examine the potential for development of the region's mineral, energy, agriculture, tourism, defence and other industries;**

Each of these items has been covered in the information provided (above).

- **Establish a conducive regulatory, taxation and economic environment;**

Reform to Australia's taxation system is well overdue and particular focus is required to enable those living and working in Australia's North to operate in an environment where there is some encouragement and recognition of the challenges and extra costs associated with living in the North.

The current zone allowance system is not realistic in terms of its value nor is it of any value in attracting and retaining workers and populations in the west.

Zone allowance needs to be reviewed and a new formula introduced that seriously addresses the issues of those living in communities in regional areas burdened by the extra costs associated with isolation, small population and limited services.

Incentives could also be provided to assist people to relocate to these areas.

Business tax incentives could also be reviewed.

Governments should “positively discriminate” infrastructure priorities in regional locations to compliment growth. Commonwealth and State must support Local Governments that require funding to meet the cost of providing the services needed for growing communities.

The cost of red tape is a serious impost to doing business Australia-wide and needs to be simplified to make it easier for business to invest, innovate and create jobs.

- **Address impediments to growth;**

The biggest impediment to business in Northern Australia is the cost of doing business. Factors that contribute to these costs include:

- Northern Australia’s current supply chains
- Restrictions to the use of the land and ensuing red and green tape.
- Instances where bureaucracy’s entrenched attitude and departmental culture prevents change and stifles investment.
- Significant cost of transport, fuel and freight as everything needs to be transported long distances in and out.
- Limited availability of skilled labour in remote areas as well as shortages of suitable housing.
- Attracting people, insufficient incentives to live in remote locations. Challenges of living in isolated communities and relative costs to travel to major centres on the coast.
- FBT laws discourage employees providing incentives to residential workers, but FIFO and DIDO is encouraged through company tax laws.

- **Set conditions for private investment and innovation;**

The Coalition’s document “2030 Vision for Developing Northern Australia” lists a number of initiatives that MITEZ agrees will assist to set the conditions for private investment and innovation.

For example:

- Relocating relevant components of Federal departments and Commonwealth agencies, such as CSIRO and AQIS to key urban zones in Northern Australia.
- Investigating the establishment of a Water Project Development Fund to support the advancement of meritorious proposals for water infrastructure across Northern Australia, including dams and groundwater projects.
- Establishing a Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) responsible for Developing Northern Australia. The CRC would foster the collaboration of research bodies, institutions and individuals across Australia, including the involvement of commercial interests in relevant research and development.

- Accelerating a range of bilateral free trade and taxation agreements. Making the coordination of targeted and regular trade missions a government priority.
- Other initiatives that will assist to attract private investors in the North include:
 - Creation of a Northern Australia Investment Zone with a range of special remote area incentives that apply specifically for investors in the north.
 - Zonal Taxation and rebates made more relevant.
 - Continuation of energy equalisation (parity) and introduction of competition.
 - Continuation of fuel equalisation subsidy
 - Commence infrastructure projects to build the enablers of economic development e.g. dams, transmission lines, road and rail links.
 - Programs to assist Local Governments to upgrade infrastructure to accommodate growth and to improve lifestyle in communities wanting to attract larger populations and workforces.
 - Government encouragement of foreign investment to build on existing studies and mature studies, (shovel-ready projects).

Potential Projects:

Please refer to the table (attached) indicating potential projects to develop Local Government areas in the MITEZ region. Further projects will be identified as part of the North West Queensland Regional Development Strategy Plan.

Information provided in this submission represents a response from the Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Zone to the issues as stated in the Coalitions document "2030 Vision for developing Northern Australia" and also the Terms of Reference for the Joint Select Committee.

Communities on the MITEZ corridor look forward to the opportunity to present their issues at the public hearings to be held across Northern Australia during February to April and we look forward to receiving notification of these meetings once the dates are made available.

Yours faithfully

David Glasson (President)

Developing Northern Australia – MITEZ Potential Projects

February 2014

Local Govt. Area	Assets/ Item	Opportunities	Enablers/ Infrastructure
Mount Isa 22,628	Major Regional Service Hub	Shift Government functions to regional centres such as Mount Isa	Buildings and services
	Mining and minerals Processing	Additional processing of mining products; phosphate, uranium	Discover new mineral deposits
	Freight hub	Expand to increase capacity and extend rail line to Tennant Creek	New rail line to NT
	Industrial estate (State Development Precinct)	Further develop Industrial and engineering base/ value adding	Investment to develop industrial precinct /available energy
	Commercial hub and supply centre	Accommodate a diversity of processing/ manufacturing	Suitable land/ precinct
	Large water storages/ supply	Capture sufficient water to provide long-term water security	Additional water supply/ deep water storage
	Local power station 400MW	Alternative gas supply -develop a gas hub at Mount Isa Mount Isa has potential for increased local power generation to meet future demand. More industry could be located in the region	Pipeline to connect to new gas supply/ potential for cheaper energy for NW
	Taxation	Review zone allowance	Attraction and retention of population in remote areas
Cloncurry 3,425	Regional Service Hub	Shift Government functions relevant to industry to Cloncurry	
	Mining and minerals processing	Additional processing of mining products	Develop heavy industry precinct for servicing type industries
	Transport hub	Location is at a cross roads in each direction Idea for hub	Road/ rail interchange and load-out
	Beef cattle	Meat processing	Investors
	Access to water supply	A reliable water supply – some known dam locations	Dams to provide water to new mines and industries
	housing stock	Increase population and base additional workers	Housing development infrastructure
	Access to reasonable power supply	Renewable energy projects to reduce power cost	Funding/ investment
	Industrial precinct	Locate new industries	
McKinlay 1,086	District Service Hub	Irrigated agriculture	
	Industrial estate	Engineering works to service agriculture industry	
	housing stock	Increase population and base additional workers	Housing development infrastructure
	Grid power	Alternative energy to boost existing power from the grid	PV Solar
	Minerals	Develop tourism product around a unique theme	Investment/ funding
	Flinders River water flows	Exploit shale oil deposits	Requires significant power supply and transmission
		Harvesting water	Water storages and distribution
Richmond 844	District Service Hub	Support services required once projects commence	
	housing stock	New housing stock required once projects commence	Housing development infrastructure
	Grid power	Limited supply but sufficient to develop some new industries	
	Flinders River water flows	Harvesting water	Water storages
	Suitable farming soil	Irrigated agriculture	and distribution
	Transport Hub	Central point on Flinders Highway	Development of infrastructure for road and rail
			All-weather road to connect north and south to service centres
Flinders 1,831	District Service Hub		
	Flinders River water flows	Harvesting water	Water storages
	Suitable farming soil	Irrigated agriculture	and distribution
	Industrial estate	Accommodate new industries	
	housing stock	Increase stock of accommodation	Boost supply
	Grid power	Limited supply but sufficient to develop some new industries	Transmission and associated infrastructure
	Resources for energy supply	Base load (coal) and renewables (wind)	Hann Highway upgrade to all weather sealed road
	Transport logistics	Capitalise on strategic transport links in each direction	

Charters Towers	Major Regional Service Hub	Meat processing	
12,431	Cattle transport hub/sale yards	Irrigated agriculture	
	Beef cattle	meatworks	logistics
	housing stock	Housing development infrastructure	
	Great potential energy supplier	Generation of energy to supply North	Transmission line to connect to alternative energy projects
			Potential for base-load power station and green energy
	Industrial estate	Processing of mining products and value adding	
	Irrigated cropping	A reliable water supply – some known dam locations	Dams and channels
		Up to 45,000 hectares identified as suitable land	Infrastructure to develop