

**Senate Economics References Committee for inquiry and report**

**The governance and operation of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF), with particular reference to:**

- a. the adequacy and transparency of the NAIF's governance framework, including its project assessment and approval processes;**

From reading and observation of the NAIF there appears to be scant information on the project assessment and approval processes.

**What is obviously lacking from the project selection process is a clearly stated overall strategy for Northern Australia which should be the fundamental basis for identification of required projects.**

The unique assets of the north are its natural beauty including the climate, Great Barrier Reef, beaches and sea, waterways, native flora and fauna and aboriginal culture.

All of these unique and precious assets should be known, understood, protected, enhanced and made more accessible for people to enjoy where appropriate with knowledgeable, intelligent and sensitive infrastructure.

The other wonderful assets the North has in abundance are sun, wind and seasonal rains.

Australia, particularly in the south, is struggling with energy and water whereas there is enough sun in the north in an area of only 10% of the continent to power the world<sup>1</sup>.

So any talk of energy shortage in Australia is stupid as there is technology available to transition Australia's fossil fuel domestic and export market to 100% renewables from the North without delay<sup>2</sup>.

There is enough water in the north with up to two metres annual rainfall to harvest<sup>3</sup> for use in areas of the country in desperate need and there is solar water desalination technology available<sup>4</sup> for backup in dryer times.

The NAIF needs a stated overall strategy for Northern Australia to target the funding properly to first, sustainably develop the North, secondly, to benefit the whole country and third, to meet our commitments to the rest of the world.

The current NAIF project assessment and approval processes are not even clearly known and are obviously seriously inadequate, as discussed above, for the fit and proper development of infrastructure for Northern Australia.

Peter Atherton  
Member Engineers Australia  
Create Magazine's List of Australia's Most Innovative Engineers 2017  
Member Institute of Hospital Engineers  
Centennial Medal 2001  
Emerging Exporter of the Year 2001  
[REDACTED]

1. <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/scienceshow/big-solar-%E2%80%93-australian-sunlight-could-power-the-planet/7451890>
2. <http://www.itm-power.com/about/technology>  
<https://www.ngva.eu/etogas-delivers-worlds-largest-methane-production-plant-to-audi>  
<https://energy.gov/eere/about-office-energy-efficiency-and-renewable-energy>
3. <http://www.cat.org.au/applications-and-methods-for-rainwater-harvesting-in-the-arid-zone/>
4. <https://www.ecowatch.com/sundrop-farms-solar-desalination-2033987160.html>