

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: NEW INQUIRY-DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN AUSTRALIA  
**Date:** Tuesday, 4 February 2014 3:04:22 AM  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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Dear Dr Pender,

Thank you for your e-mail. I have read the Terms of Reference. I have attached an electronic copy of my submission (the Water Project) and note that this project focuses on the first and last key points within your terms of reference, viz;

- examine the potential for development of the region's mineral, energy, agricultural, tourism, defence and other industries;
- 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.

In my view the project addresses many of the issues that will be required to be investigated in developing the north of Australia. I have had meetings with Mr Ken Wyatt MP who suggested that I contact the Committee as he feels that what I am proposing here is potentially a commercial method of developing aspects of the North.

I am of the strong view that northern development will (or can) be self-generating and sustainable if a commercial structure is developed to sustain it over the longer term is devised and developed. Economically firms will move to where economic profits are significant and on-going and to date we have not developed that environment in Northern Australia generally. I am working on developing a base of a dozen businesses that are prepared to work on the initial phase of this project to ensure that it is developed with a suitable commercial footprint in place. In addition I am working with a group that are developing a "Centre of Innovative Excellence" that will target Northern Australian business in mining and Oil and Gas that could be expanded to include innovation in Northern Australian agriculture.

This concept that I have presented here is potentially unique to WA, however the overall concept could be adopted into the eastern states however there would be difficulties in my view.

The paper as presented here is effectively a summary of a much larger concept of an interlinked and sustainable approach to development. I understand that I am meeting with members of the committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> and look forward to addressing any issues that they may have.

I look forward to this meeting.

Yours sincerely

Ian Marshall