



Northern Australia Committee visits the Western Cape

The Australian Parliament's Northern Australia Committee will spend four days next week on inspections and public hearings in four remote towns in Western Cape York, Queensland.

Committee Chair, the Hon. Warren Entsch MP stated: "Our inspections begin on Tuesday, 1 July 2014 in Richmond and Georgetown, two rural communities in the mid northwest of Cape York. While small in size and population, these towns are the planned sites for very large scale and innovative agricultural and pastoral development—the Flinders River/O'Connell Creek Cropping Proposal and the Etheridge Integrated Agriculture Project (EIAP)."

Following inspections of the land, the Committee will conduct public hearings in Georgetown and then Normanton on Wednesday 2 July 2014. In Georgetown the Committee will also hear about wind energy developments and about gulf fishery, and in Normanton from an Aboriginal owned community business, Northern Project Contracting, which provides services to the mining and civil industries. On Thursday 3 July, the Committee will visit the mining town of Weipa to hear from Rio Tinto and local stakeholders about the town's sustainability post mining.

"Communities in the north of Australia are very enthusiastic about development", Mr Entsch said. "The Committee will be pleased to hear about how these communities plan to grow and increase productivity, and what needs to be done to overcome obstacles to that vision."

PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM

Georgetown, Wednesday, 2 July 2014, Georgetown Town Hall, 8.00 am–10.40 am

- 8.00 am Etheridge Shire (Sub 232)
- 8.30 am Richmond Shire Council
- 9.00 am Infigen Energy Development Ltd (Sub 49)
- 9.30 am Break
- 9.40 am Pastoral panel: Northern Gulf Graziers Group; Gilbert River Working Group Committee; Strathmore Cattle Station; Forest Home Station
- 10.10 am Fisheries Panel: NPF Industry Pty Ltd (Sub 85); Qld Seafood Industry Association and Gulf of Carpentaria Fishermen's Association; Sunfish Qld (Sub 79)
- 10.40 am Close

Normanton, Normantown Shire Council, 2.00 pm–4.00 pm

- 2.00 pm Carpentaria Shire Council (Sub 7) and North West Queensland ROC (Sub 68)
- 2.30 pm Bynoe Community Advancement Co-operative Society, Bynoe Directors
- 3.00 pm Burke Shire Council (Sub 16)
- 3.30 pm Northern Project Contracting (Sub 290)
- 4.00 pm Close

Weipa, Wednesday 16 April 2014, Weipa Council Chambers, 8.30 am–12.10pm

- 8.30 am Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
- 9.10 am Weipa Town Authority (Sub 132)
- 9.50 am Break

10.10 am	Western Cape Chamber of Commerce
10.50 am	Western Cape Regional Partnership Agreement (Exhibits)
11.30 am	Rio-Tinto Alcan (Sub 218)
12.10 pm	Close

To date the Committee's inquiry has received 293 submissions from stakeholders from every sector. Submissions and other information on the inquiry is available on the Committee website at www.aph.gov.au/jscna

For media comment: Please contact Heather Beck, Media Adviser to the Committee Chair the Hon. Warren Entsch MP on (07) 4051 2220 or 0427 585 668

For background information: Please contact the committee secretariat:

Phone: (02) 6277 4162 Email: jscna@aph.gov.au Website www.aph.gov.au/jscna