



Northern Australia inquiry comes to the Kimberley

The Australian Parliament's Northern Australia Committee will be in the Kimberley next week to hold public hearings in Broome and Kununurra as part of its inquiry into the region's economic future.

The Committee will hold public hearings on 5 May in Broome where it will hear from a range of people involved in tourism, agriculture, education and local government. The Committee will also visit the Kimberley Training Institute in the afternoon.

On 7 May, the Committee will hold public hearings in Kununurra to hear about the Ord-East Kimberley Expansion Project, as well as hearing from local government and business.

The Committee will devote a whole day visiting projects in and around Kununurra on 8 May. This will include visiting the Ord Expansion Project.

Committee chair Warren Entsch said, "The Ord Expansion Project represents the potential to increase long-term employment and boost the region's contribution to the nation's economy. The Committee will be keen to see the potential which the expansion of the project will unlock."

The Committee will also inspect the TFS Ltd sandalwood nursery. Mr Entsch added, "Indian sandalwood can be grown across the tropical north. Commercial production of sandalwood is an example of a high-value product and demonstrates the productive potential of horticulture in the north."

The Committee will also tour the Ewin Family Day Care Centre. "Social infrastructure is an important aspect of life in the north. If the population is to grow, such facilities will contribute to the willingness of people to bring up families in the north," Mr Entsch stated.

Details of the program for each day is available on the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/jscna

The Committee has already held hearings in Canberra, Perth, Pilbara and in various locations in north Queensland.

Public Hearings Broome

Where: Jimmy Chi Hall, Broome Civic Centre

When: Monday, 5 May 2014, 8.00 am–2.00 pm

PROGRAM

8.00 am	Yawuru Native Title Holders (Sub. No. 214)
8.30 am	Environs Kimberley
9.00 am	Shire of Broome (Sub. No. 240)
9.25 am	Kimberley Land Council (Sub. No. 96)
9.45 am	Regional Development Australia—Kimberley
10.05 am	Shire of Derby-West Kimberley (Sub. No. 196)
10.40 am	Greater Northern Australia Regional Training Network (Sub. No. 144)
11.05 am	University of Notre Dame (Broome Campus)
11.25 am	Broome Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Sub. No. 125)
11.45 am	Australia's NW Tourism

12.05 pm Not for Profits Broome (Sub. No. 82)
1.00 pm Mr Jack Burton, Yeeda Station
1.20pm Broome International Airport
1.40pm Broome Port Authority
2.00 pm Close

Public Hearings Kununurra

Where: Council Offices Kununurra

When: Wednesday, 7 May 2014, 8.30 am–12.30 pm

PROGRAM

8.30 am Kimberley Development Commission
9.00 am Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley (Sub. No. 124)
9.30 am Kununurra Chamber of Commerce
10.00 am Cambridge Gulf Limited
10.20 am Break
10.30 am Ord-East Kimberley Expansion Project (Sub. No. 121)
11.00 am Ord Irrigation Cooperative
11.30 am Shire of Halls Creek/Central Kimberley Chamber of Commerce
12.00 noon Kimberley Cattlemen's Association (Telephone conference)
12.30 pm Tanami Action Group (Telephone conference)
1.00 pm Close

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:
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