



Northern Australia Committee begins its inspection/public hearing tour

The Australian Parliament's Northern Australia Committee will next week begin six weeks of inspections and public hearings across the breadth of Northern Australia. In the week beginning 31 March, the Committee will visit Mackay, Bowen, Ayr, Townsville and Mt Isa in Queensland's north.

Committee Chair, the Hon. Warren Entsch stated: "This is an important phase of the inquiry when the Committee visits existing and potential projects and talks to local people and organisations about their vision for developing northern Australia."

The Committee will conduct five public hearings, receiving evidence from more than 35 organisations and individuals and inspecting a number of projects between Mackay, Townsville and near Mt Isa.

"Northern Australia has great potential to boost Australia's economic development and significantly contribute to our exports," Mr Entsch said. "The Committee will be seeking to identify ways to unlock this potential as well as identifying key projects of merit."

PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM

MACKAY, Monday, 31 March 2014, Mackay Resort Motel

- 8.30 am: Regional Development Australia—Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday
- 9.10 am: Mackay Regional Council/Isaac Regional Council/Whitsunday Regional Council (Proserpine)
- 9.50 am: Mackay Fish Market/Debbie's Seafoods
- 10.20 am: Prof Pierre Viljoen, Pro Vice Chancellor, Central Queensland University
- 11.00 am: AgForce
- 11.20 am: Mackay Tourism
- 11.40 am: Mackay Conservation Group
- 12.10 pm: Lunch
- 1.10 pm: North Queensland Bulk Ports
- 1.50 pm: Mackay Area Industry Network
- 2.20 pm: Mackay Chamber of Commerce
- 2.50 pm: Queensland Canegrowers/Mackay Canegrowers/Mackay Sugar
- 3.30 pm: Open microphone for contributions from the public
- 4.00 pm: Close

BOWEN, Tuesday, 1 April 2014, Bowen Police Citizens Youth Club

- 10.00 am: Bowen Collinsville Enterprise/Whitsunday Marketing and Development
- 10.40 am: Bowen Gumlu Growers Association
- 11.10 am: Whitsunday Charter Boat Industry Association
- 11.40 am: Open microphone for public contribution
- 12.00 nn: Close

AYR, Tuesday, 1 April 2014, Burdekin Shire Council Chambers

- 4.15 pm; Burdekin Shire Council
- 4.40 pm: Burdekin Canegrowers Groups/Austcane
- 5.05 pm: Open microphone for public contribution
- 5.15 pm: Close

TOWNSVILLE, Wednesday, 2 April 2014, Jupiters Hotel & Casino Conference Centre, Ballroom 2

8.30 am: Regional Development Australia—Townsville and North West Queensland
9.00 am: Townsville Enterprise Ltd/Townsville City Council
9.30 am: James Cook University
10.00 am: Flinders Shire Council
10.30 am: Australian Institute of Marine Science
11.00 am: Townsville Airport P/L
11.20 am: Medicare Local
11.40 am: Broadband for the Tropics
12.00 nn: Open microphone for public contribution
12.30 pm: Close

MT ISA, Thursday, 3 April 2014, Mt Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health

(Located on the hospital campus, opposite the Air Hospital entrance)

10.00 am: Mt Isa to Townsville Economic Development Zone (MITEZ)
10.25 am: Flinders River Agricultural Precinct
10.45 am: Mt Isa City Council
11.10 am: Cloncurry Shire Council/Boulia Shire Council
11.30 am: Mt Isa Chamber of Commerce
11.50 am: Mt Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health
12.10 pm: Carpentaria Rail
12.30 pm: Open microphone for public contribution
1.00 pm: Close

To date the Committee's inquiry has received more than 200 submissions from regional communities and stakeholders from every sector, which include development proposals as well as identifying impediments to them. 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:
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