



Northern Australia inquiry returns to Queensland

The Australian Parliament's Northern Australia Committee is returning to Queensland next week to hold public hearings in Cairns and Thursday Island as part of its inquiry into the region's economic future.

The Committee will hold public hearings on 28 and 29 April in Cairns where it will hear from a range of stakeholders representing current industry strengths, such as tourism, and areas for development in agriculture, mining and tropical medicine. The potential environmental impacts of development proposals and the implications for resource management more generally will also be discussed.

On 29 April, the Committee will explore development proposals from the perspective of Aboriginal title owners. The Ewamian Aboriginal Corporation and Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation will talk to the Committee about their aspirations for effective management of land and water in the North.

On 30 April, the Committee will hold public hearings on Thursday Island to learn about challenges and opportunities across the Torres Strait. Torres Strait Islanders have traditional trade connections with Papua New Guinea and other regional nations but must now manage biosecurity risks presented by the close proximity of these neighbours.

Committee chair Warren Entsch said he looked forward to hearing a wide variety of views about the way forward for the economic prosperity of northern Australia.

"Northern Queensland is a dynamic part of Australia which is already attracting large numbers of international visitors as well as being a place in the sun for Australian retirees and those just wanting time to relax. But there is much more to the North than tourism: its proximity to key trade partners, richly diverse natural environment and resource wealth offers enormous opportunities that are still largely untapped," 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 Western Australia in Perth and the Pilbara and in various locations in north Queensland.

Public Hearings Cairns

Where: Cairns Council Chambers, 119-145 Spence Street

When: Monday 28 April 2014, 8.30 am–5.20 pm

PROGRAM

8.30 am	Cairns Regional Council (Sub. 40)
9.00 am	Advance Cairns (Sub. 69)
9.30 am	Tourism Tropical North Queensland (Sub. 169)
10.10 am	North Queensland Airports (Sub. 185)
10.40 am	Ports North (Sub. 66)
11.10 am	Regional Development Australia—Far North Queensland (Sub. 56)
11.40 am	Gulf Savannah Development Inc. (Sub. 33)
12.10am	Break
1.10 pm	Mareeba Chamber of Commerce (Sub. 111)
1.40 pm	James Cook University (Subs 30; 249)

2.10 pm Northern Gulf Resources Management Group (Sub. 186)
2.40 pm Wet Tropics Management Authority (Sub. 48)
3.20 pm North Queensland Bioenergy Corporation (Sub. 167)
3.50 pm Might and Power (Sub. 220)
4.20 pm Cape York Natural Resource Management (Sub. 198)
4.50 pm Troplinks Inc. (Sub. 143)
5.20 pm CLOSE

Where: Cairns Council Chambers, 119-145 Spence Street

When: Tuesday 29 April 2014, 8.30 am–12.10 pm

PROGRAM

8.30 am Ewamian Aboriginal Corporation
9.00 am Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation (Sub. 61)
9.30 am Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership (Sub. 87)
10.00 am Pinnacle Consulting (Sub. 231)
10.40 am Cairns Alliance of Social Services (Sub. 20)
11.50 am Cape York Sustainable Futures (Sub. 212)
11.40 am Mareeba Shire Council
12.10 pm CLOSE

Public Hearings Thursday Island

Where: Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Conference Room, Torres Strait Haus

When : Wednesday 30 April, 9.00 am–12.50 pm

PROGRAM

9.00 am Opening Prayer: Mayor Cr. Napau Pedro Stephen, Torres Shire Council
9.10 am Welcome to Country: Kaurareg Native Title Aboriginal Corporation
9.25 am Chair opens the meeting
9.30 am Torres Shire Council
10.10 am Kaurareg Native Title Aboriginal Corporation
11.00 am Torres Strait Regional Authority
11.40 am Ngurupai Kaurareg Aboriginal Land Trust (Sub. 127)
12.20 pm Rotary Club, Thursday Island
12.50 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:
Phone: (02) 6277 4162 Email: jscna@aph.gov.au Website www.aph.gov.au/jscna