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25th February 2014

Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia
email: jscna@aph.gov.au

Dr. Bill Pender

Re: Submission from the Mareeba Chamber of Commerce

The Mareeba Chamber of Commerce executive committee would like to respond to the Development of Northern Australia white paper inquiry by submitting this submission.

Our main area of concentration being Mareeba and district is a very diverse and expansive area. There are numerous issues that need to be brought to the table to enhance the economic viability of the area; however we would like to touch on the main issues at this time:

1. Transport upgrades
 - a) Upgrade to the existing Kuranda Range or looking into an alternative route such as a Tunnel
 - b) Putting in the place the infrastructure for a B Double pad at Koah (in between Mareeba & Cairns) to save on transport costs to the agriculture industry and reduces the amount of traffic if heavy vehicles going back and forth.
2. Health including Aged Care and Mareeba Hospital
 - a) The need for a high care aged facility is required for our ever increasing ageing population.

- b) Better services to the local hospital including the expansion into local surgery's and better access to more high care equipment.
- 3. Modernisation of the existing irrigation scheme as the existing system is at the age of major work to stop leakages and requires high expenditure to keep up with demand.
- 4. Feasibility study on a suitable area as another water source to be a high priority, including the opportunity for trade off of urban water for Cairns's increasing population and high demand for residential water.

Regards

Joe Moro
President, Mareeba Chamber of Commerce