

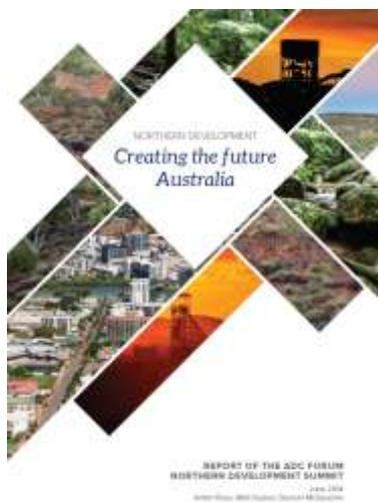
Press Release – For Immediate Release

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New book promotes collaboration on new pathways for developing Australia's northern regions

ADC Forum has launched its book 'Northern Development – Creating the Future Australia' at Parliament House. Looking at the global growth trends and northern Australia's area of advantage, it is clear that some of the North's most important next waves of prosperity are likely to come from: agriculture, energy and resources, tourism, and the knowledge economy. Moreover, the location – at the axis of two great axes of growth (Asia and the tropics) – places Australia in an enviable position to take advantage of those waves.



ADC Forum Chair Prof John Stanley said: "Perhaps most importantly, northern Australia sits at the intersection of the two most important global axes of the 21st century, Asia and the tropics. Together these axes define the demand side potential of north Australia as they produce a millennium-defining growth in population, economic power and urbanisation."

Northern Development Summit Advisory Council Chair The Hon Larry Anthony said: "The context for northern development is clear. On the supply side Australia's northern regions are home to vast areas of arable, diverse and pristine land. Northern Australia is home to 60 per cent of Australia's water runoff, 90 per cent of gas reserves, at least \$117 billion of identified potential mining and energy projects and some of

the world's most beautiful natural environments. The people of the North are pioneering and innovative, including the deep knowledge of country held within the ancient cultural traditions of Australia's first peoples."

John Stanley said "This initiative grew out of pioneering work done by Working Groups established by ADC Forum as part of its wide-ranging programs to help leaders make better decisions. ADC Forum's initiatives challenge conventional wisdom, provoke debate and build greater understanding about the profound, complex and interconnected challenges facing Australia and the world."

Luke Chandler General Manager Food & Agribusiness Research & Advisory at Rabobank and part of the research contributing Working Group shed light on the issues and opportunities: "Global food demand is likely to increase markedly over the coming decades and Northern Australia has the land and know-how to deliver on those opportunities, but we need to get several things right if we are going to do so. Removing inefficient regulation and improving and strengthening essential regulation, such as that which protects the very things which industries of the North rely on -- people and natural resources, would significantly lower the costs of doing business."

The Hon Warren Entsch MP, Member for Leichhardt said: "We're at the dawn of a new era as the Australian Government moves to develop the northern half of our great country."

“There has been talk and focus on developing the north since 1937 – numerous reports and comments that have been made, but most of them are gathering dust on shelves in the archives. That is not going to happen this time.

“Last year, at the ADC Northern Development Summit, government, industry, educational institutions, communities and individuals from across Australia came together to develop a shared vision, and plan a path forwards.

“Now, this ADC Forum publication, Northern Development – Creating the Future Australia, is another string in our bow as we aim for a Northern Australia that is recognised for the potential it can bring to the our entire country. It highlights the size of the task before us, but also the incredible outcomes that can be achieved once we start this exciting journey.

“As Chair of the Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia I am very pleased to have contributed.”

The Minister for Trade and Investment Andrew Robb – who was instrumental in the development of Coalition policy in regard to Northern Australia – commended the ADC Forum for its work in regards to the North: “Northern Australia is a region of enormous promise with many comparative advantages to further leverage. Developing the right policy responses is essential to ensuring the North can realise this promise across key areas of strength such as agriculture, aquaculture, energy and resources, tourism and hospitality, tropical health and medical research and education. The ADC’s report – based on last year’s thought-provoking Northern Development Summit – is a well-researched and most thoughtful contribution to this important process,” Mr Robb said.

“The North possesses many comparative advantages with world-class and growing strengths in agriculture, aquaculture, energy and resources, tourism and hospitality, tropical health and medical research and education.

“And, all the services, high-end manufacturing, infrastructure, logistics, training, innovation and research and development that cluster around these strengths.

“To be clear, it is not the role of government to direct or be the principal financier of further major development of Northern Australia, or in any part of the country for that matter.

Government’s primary role is to put in place the most conducive policy settings possible to enable the private sector to lead and to prosper.”

ADC Forum is an independent, not-for-profit organisation founded in 1996 by the Australian members and participants of the World Economic Forum.

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