

24 March 2016



Hon Christopher Pyne MP
Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Hon Josh Frydenberg MP
Minister for Energy, Resource and Northern Australia
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: C.Pyne.MP@aph.gov.au
Josh.Frydenberg.MP@aph.gov.au

RE: Joint Submission on the Establishment of the CRC for Developing Northern Australia

Dear Ministers Pyne and Frydenberg,

North Queensland industry, business and government leaders have come together to promote Townsville's long established role as a key northern Australian hub for the Australian Defence Force, tropical science, health, research, agriculture, and tourism industries who deliver significant beef and mineral exports, education and service provision to Northern Australia and the broader region.

Accordingly, it is the collective view of the 14 undersigned organisations that the research agenda of the new CRC for Developing Northern Australia would be best served by headquartering its operations in Townsville.

As the largest city in Northern Australia and the 13th largest city in all of Australia, Townsville is centrally placed on the eastern seaboard with an international airport and port. Further, Townsville is already supported by key infrastructure such as the National Broadband Network.

The city has long been a focal point for growth in industry innovation, particularly in tropical sustainable living, and has been a leading Solar City location. Townsville is the gateway to the region's natural resources, including: mining in the North West and North East Queensland minerals provinces; cattle in the North West and Gulf regions; aquaculture, sugar cane and horticultural products from the Burdekin and Hinchinbrook areas; and fisheries within the Great Barrier Reef.

Townsville is a major centre for tertiary education and applied research with a concentration of world-class education, training and research facilities such as: James Cook University; Central Queensland University;



the Townsville Hospital; the Australian Institute of Marine Science; the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority; and CSIRO.



Townsville is the epicentre for health delivery, research and education in Northern Australia with significant public, private and university infrastructure and expertise based here, delivering health services, health education and a skilled workforce to rural and remote regions and the broader tropics.

Queensland reef tourism is worth \$5.4B per year and the further development of this industry is dependent on establishing principles for sustainability, high standards of operation and continuous innovation in sustainable use.



Townsville currently hosts the three leading international entities in marine and reef research and protection, being: James Cook University; the Australian Institute of Marine Science; and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. These three organisations are actively looking to partner with the Port of Townsville to establish an international marine research precinct that will showcase advancements in marine and aquaculture commercialisation, research and innovation, alongside a leading international port.



The Port of Townsville is one of Northern Australia's most direct trade gateways to the Asia-Pacific – a region that is seeing increased demand for agriculture products, resources, food, health and medicine. The Port of Townsville is the country's largest sugar, copper, lead and zinc export port and the trade value through the port is worth \$11B per year.



With more than ten million passengers per year, the Townsville Airport is the centre of aviation in the North Queensland Region. Operating under a Joint User Agreement with the Department of Defence, the Townsville Airport services the Australian Air Force and an even spread of business and leisure travel, providing year round market stability.



The North Queensland region has a long-established history of forming collaborative partnerships as evident through the highly successful sister-organisational relationships between:

- Townsville City Council and the cities of: Changshu, China; Foshan, China; Shunan, Japan; Iwaki, Japan; Suwon, Korea; and the National Capital District Commission of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea;
- The Port of Townsville and the ports of: Huizhou, China; Qinzhou, China; and Indonesia Port Corporation, Indonesia;
- James Cook University and: various memorandums of understanding with research agencies and governments in Thailand, Vietnam, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea amongst others; its recently expanded campus in Singapore; and a student exchange program comprising of more than 60 universities across 21 countries; and
- The Townsville Chamber of Commerce and: the Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Papua New Guinea; and the Qinzhou People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.



Townsville’s scale and breadth of industry, health and scientific assets and its expertise operating in and delivering services to the tropics, provides the city with a distinct competitive edge; and makes the city the necessary location for the headquarters of the CRC for Developing Northern Australia.



The new CRC will build on North Queensland’s success to create meaningful relationships and benefit realisation across, and for the benefit of, the whole of Northern Australia.



In addition, the Townsville City Council is willing to offer office space and facility support for the new CRC if it is based within the Townsville CBD. Similar support is currently provided to RDA Townsville North West Queensland and the regional development agency Townsville Enterprise Limited.



Thank you for considering Townsville as the location of the CRC and we look forward to working collaboratively to deliver on the Federal Government’s vision for Northern Australia.

Yours sincerely,

John Gunn
Chief Executive Officer,
Australian Institute of Marine
Science

Matthew Magin
Chief Executive Officer,
Burdekin Shire Council



Mark Crawley
Chief Executive Officer,
Charters Towers Regional Council

Russell Reichelt
Chairman and Chief Executive,
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
Authority



Dan McKinley
Chief Executive Officer,
Hinchinbrook Shire Council

Professor Sandra Harding
Vice Chancellor and President,
James Cook University



David Glasson
MITEZ President
Mount Isa to Townsville Economic
Development Zone Inc. (MITEZ)

Raneë Crosby
Chief Executive Officer,
Port of Townsville Limited



Paul Woodhouse
Chairman,
RDA Townsville and North West
Queensland Committee

Kevin Gill
Chief Operating Officer,
Townsville, Mount Isa and
Longreach Airports



Troy Popham
President,
Townsville Chamber of Commerce

Ray Burton PSM
Chief Executive Officer,
Townsville City Council



Patricia O'Callaghan
Chief Executive Officer
Townsville Enterprise Limited

Andrew Wallace
President,
Urban Development Institute
of Australia (Townsville Region
Branch)



CC:
Cr John Wharton AM (NorthernAustraliaCRC@industry.gov.au)

