

PROGRAM



NORTHERN AUSTRALIA
FOOD FUTURES
CONFERENCE 2014

Developing the Future of Agriculture in the North

3-5 NOVEMBER - DARWIN, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Message from The Hon. Barnaby Joyce Federal Minister for Agriculture



Federal Minister for Agriculture Barnaby Joyce, says Australia is well placed to take advantage of the huge projected growth in world food demand over the coming decades and believes Northern Australia can play a vital role in meeting a share of this demand.

“There are many opportunities for further development of agriculture in northern Australia based on a number of fertile areas of undeveloped land, seasonal rainfall patterns and close proximity to Asian markets,” Minister Joyce said.

“Market access has been a particular priority for the Coalition Government, and since coming to office we have achieved record export volumes to a number of markets to Australia’s north, such as China, Vietnam, Thailand and of course with our closest trading partner, Indonesia.

“There are tremendous opportunities for Australia, supplying key commodities that are highly regarded worldwide for safety, quality and traceability and we can also endeavour to supply Asia with high quality, premium and niche products.

“To truly support agriculture in northern Australia, the Coalition Government is focused on practical measures such as removing unnecessary impediments to business, investing in better infrastructure, and continuing our efforts to develop stronger trade linkages and to achieving improved market access for our agricultural and food products,” Minister Joyce said.

Message from The Hon. Willem Westra van Holthe MLA, Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries (NT)



The Northern Territory Government recognises the important role it has in ensuring the responsible development of horticultural, pastoral and aquaculture industries to address food security concerns. Our Government hopes to take advantage of the economic and investment opportunities that will come with the development of northern Australia.

Through the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries, the Northern Territory Government has implemented initiatives designed to help grow these agricultural industries. This in turn will increase domestic and international trade that will create economic diversity and opportunity for Territory producers. We see this development as an opportunity to further develop our rail, road and port facilities, especially infrastructure in the bush.

The under-developed north of Australia has the potential to increase its production of food and contribute to national and international food security. The Northern Territory can certainly play its part in helping feed the populations to our north. Working with industry we will develop northern Australia and achieve mutually beneficial goals in the process.

Message from The Hon. John McVeigh, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (QLD)



Agriculture is a key pillar of Queensland's economy.

Four-fifths of our State's entire area of 1,852,642 sq km is used for farming and grazing.

Beef is our largest farm industry and beef processing our largest manufacturing industry in terms of employment.

Queensland has a strong economy, a clean environment, and along with the rest of northern Australia, is ideally located to capitalise on the growing markets of Asia Pacific - a region which by 2050 will account for more than half the world's population.

Our challenge is to take full advantage of the many export opportunities the Asia Pacific region offers - to unlock the economic potential of northern Australia.

While our northern beef industry is particularly well positioned to take advantage of agri-food growth, there are also great opportunities for horticulture, sugarcane, grains, cotton and other agricultural products.

The Queensland Government is committed to growing our agriculture sector. We're committed to working side-by-side with the Federal, Western Australia and Northern Territory Governments and with the private sector to unleash the true potential of the North.

It's an opportunity not to be missed.

Message from The Hon. Ken Baston, Minister for Agriculture and Food (WA)



Developing agriculture in northern Australia is critical for our country's long-term food security and economic prosperity.

By 2050, global food demand is expected to increase by 70 per cent, however in Asia, food demand will double.

With about 500 million people in Asia today regarded as middle class - and by 2030, that number expected to rise to around 3.2 billion people - this presents excellent opportunities for Australia, but only if we seriously commit now to developing our agriculture capacity in the north.

There are significant challenges developing this area - it is much tougher than many other parts of the country, the scale of the projects is much larger, and the regulatory issues often more complex.

Investment capital is critical to developing northern Australia and, where such funds are not available in Australia, we should welcome overseas investment.

New agricultural development projects require significant infrastructure to bring the projects to fruition.

Given the huge costs of setting up infrastructure in remote areas, the holistic integration of industries - including pastoral, aquaculture, agriculture, forestry and energy production - will help create the synergies and critical mass necessary to drive economic growth in the north.

To achieve this it is vital that governments work together to reduce the regulatory burden, and engage with private industry to deliver new and innovative solutions.

Program Overview

EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
MONDAY 3 NOV		
Horizon Future Leaders Breakfast	7.00am – 8.30am	Waterfront Room 3
NT Farmers Association President's Lunch	12noon – 2.30pm	Waterfront Room 3
Welcome Reception	6.00pm – 8.00pm	Foyer area
TUESDAY 4 NOV		
Conference Plenary Session	8.30am – 5.15pm	Hall 1 & 2
Melbourne Cup Lunch	1.30pm	Hall 1 & 2
Conference Dinner	7.00pm for 7.30pm – 10.00pm	Hall 1 & 2
WEDNESDAY 5 NOV		
Conference Plenary Session	8.30am – 11.00am	Hall 1 & 2
Concurrent Commodity Sessions	11.00am – 1.30pm	
- Horticulture		Hall 1
- Niche Crops		Waterfront 1
- Fodder and new cattle		Meeting Room 1
- Cotton		Meeting Room 2
- Grains		Meeting Room 3
- Sugar		Meeting Room 4
Lunch	1.30pm – 2.30pm	Hall 1 & 2
Conference Plenary Session	2.30pm – 5.40pm	Hall 1 & 2

Program

DAY 1 - Tuesday 4 November

08.30 MC Mr Grant Fenton, CEO NT Farmers Association

08.35 Welcome to Country by James Parfitt

08.40 Opening by The Hon Adam Giles MLA, Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

08.50 Ministerial forum with the Hon John McVeigh (Qld), Hon Ken Baston (WA) and Hon Willem Westra Van Holthe (NT)

The Ministers for agriculture from the NT, WA and Qld discuss development in each area, the common areas of interest and what can be learnt from each other across the north. Moderated by Matt Brann, ABC Darwin's Country Hour.

09.30 Learning from northern farmers.

What works and why? What's failed?

Rob Boshammer - Ord, Gavin Scurr - Pinata Marketing NT and Qld, John Howard - CEO Peanut Company Australia, and Gabi Bloecker - Bothkamp Australia and Chair Ord Co-op led by ABC Country Hour presenter Matt Brann.

A group of northern farmers discuss their development path, in an area haunted by failure. They grow, melons, mangoes, chia, grains, pineapples and peanuts. These farmers have been at the pointy end of northern agricultural development for many years. They bring credibility to the debate - the "can do" of northern agriculture. They deserve a strong voice in development. Success is possible if we get the approach and thinking right.

10.15 Morning Tea

10.45 Future synergies with Indonesia

North Australian agriculture and food security in Indonesia.

Dr Peter Horne, ACIAR, Hartono Atmadja CEO Garuda Foods, Professor Bustanul Arifin University Lampung with session moderator Terry Mills.

This panel will air the views of key Indonesians in the Agri-food sector and will be facilitated by Terry Mills, former NT Chief

Minister, now based in Jakarta. Rising food imports is putting pressure on the Indonesian economy e.g. sugar, soybean, cotton, peanuts. Senior business and government officials in Australia and Indonesia recognise the joint opportunity to develop northern agriculture to meet Indonesia's rising food needs. Indonesia is already a partner in the northern cattle industry. Dr Peter Horne of ACIAR has a key role in contributing good research to development in northern Australia and Indonesia.

11.30 Market opportunities brain trust

Where are the opportunities, the competitive market advantages, and viable economics?

Bob Dall'Alba, Dr. Andrew Ash, David Hanlon, Grame Barty and moderator ABC Darwin's Kristy O'Brien.

This panel will target realistic northern development opportunities, driven by markets and economics. Bob Dall'Alba is CEO of OLAM Australia (Queensland Cotton and almonds), a major international agricultural producer and commodity marketer, headquartered in Singapore. David Hanlon has 40 years of agricultural market and economic analysis experience across the north for government, commercial and Indigenous clients. Dr Andrew Ash is one of the authors of the Food and Fibre Study, commissioned by the Northern Ministerial Forum. and Grame Barty is a senior Austrade executive and General Manager Growth and Emerging Markets. Markets and economics have to be the drivers of development; which crop, which area, what infrastructure.

12.15 Indigenous participation

Leigh (Tracker) Tilmouth, Wayne Bergman and Joe Morrison with ABC Darwin's Charlie King as panel moderator.

Indigenous participation is essential in northern agricultural development, as both a large landholder and a major part of the northern rural population. Three key Indigenous thinkers discuss how Indigenous participation can be part of northern agriculture. Wayne Bergman led the Kimberly Land Council negotiations on Ord Stage 2. Tracker Tilmouth, former CEO of Central Land Council, has for many years been a strong advocate of agricultural development on Indigenous land. Joe Morrison is CEO of the Northern Land Council and a strong advocate for environmental development on Indigenous lands in the north. Issues of Ord stage 3, the wild rivers of the Cape, water and a strong environment are important considerations.

13.00 Melbourne Cup Luncheon (Melbourne Cup live at 1.30pm in Hall 1)

14.00 The CRC for Northern Agriculture

CEO Michael Guerin.

The coalition's policy for a Northern Agriculture CRC is well advanced. The CRC will be a major catalyst for agricultural development. Michael will outline the key strategies in the Northern Agriculture CRC proposal.

14.20 Innovation for commercial success

Terry Hill, Craig Burns, Robert Gray and Bob Williams with Moderator ABC Darwin's Kristy O'Brien.

A group of leading northern researchers discuss the direction of R&D, with a greater focus on partnering commercial development and partnering with similar countries overseas. This panel includes Research Directors from NT - Bob Williams and WA - Terry Hill. Robert Gray is formerly GM of Harvest Company, the largest successful northern agricultural enterprise with a turnover in excess of \$20 million. RIRDC CEO Craig Burns has been a catalyst funder of northern research for many years in diverse areas like melons, rambutan, Asian vegetables, essential oils, rice, buffalo.

15.00 Resources – Land and Water Resources in the North

15.00 How did the Ord develop - Peter Stubbs.

15.20 NT Soils and Water for food – Jason Hill.

15.40 Flinders Gilbert Study CSIRO – Dr Peter Stone.

Three presentations on land and water resources in Qld, NT and WA, each with a different approach. Peter Stubbs has led the development of Ord Stage 2 and has additional areas for development in WA. Jason Hill has mapped soils and water resources across the NT to focus on development precincts and Dr Peter Stone led the Flinders Gilbert Study in North West Queensland integrating soils, water, economics and markets into a development model.

16.00 The Environmental Imperatives

Dr Bill Freeland, Prof. Andrew Campbell, Gavan MacFadzean with panel moderator ABC Darwin's Kristy O'Brien.

Food Futures brings the views of leading environmentalists and ecologists for a dialogue based on listening, not talking through the media. Dr Bill Freeland is head of Environmental Protection Authority NT and Professor Andrew Campbell is an ecologist based at Charles Darwin University. Gavan MacFadzean is from the Wilderness Society and is leader of their Northern Australia Campaign.

16.40 Impacts of today's proceedings

A group of leading participants from government and business will summarise what they have learnt from the first day of proceedings.

17.15 Finish

19.00 Conference Dinner

7.00pm for a 7.30pm start, with drinks in the foyer on arrival. Dress: Territory Rig.

DAY 2 Wednesday 5 November

08.30 The Hon. Willem Westra Van Holthe, Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries

The NT Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries is a strong supporter of this conference and will discuss his views on agricultural development strategies including the key policy areas of water, the role of R&D, his frequent visits to Asia and facilitating investment.

08.50 Brazil as a development model

Rodolfo Vaz de Carvalho.

Rodolfo grows 10,000 ha of cropping, moving from just cattle in the mid 1990s to a large area of cropping. He is a farm leader in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul. Brazil has lessons for northern agricultural development as the world's leader in agricultural development over the last 40 years. How did this transition happen? Brazil operates in a similar climatic zone with similar crops like sugar, soybeans, cattle and rice.

09.20 The Hon Terry Redman, Minister for Regional Development and Lands (WA)

Terry is an agricultural scientist (Uni. WA) and agricultural educator turned politician. His Ministry has led the development of new areas for northern agriculture in WA, driven by a strong policy through the regional development fund. WA has been a leader in development models, with more areas in the pipeline for development. This is an area where WA can contribute to the development thinking across the north.

09.50 Morning Tea

10.30 The Hon. Barnaby Joyce Minister for Agriculture and Brent Finlay, President of the National Farmers Federation

The two national leaders of agriculture discuss northern agricultural development; a conversation between the politician and the farmer.

The coalition's northern development policy has set new impetus for northern development, along with the 3 northern jurisdictions, in an expanding market environment. Agriculture is one part of a wider strategy of northern development across a number of sectors in defence, medicine, education, mining, Indigenous economic development. The coalition's policy has been a catalyst for renewed interest from many sectors and many individuals.

11.00 CONCURRENT COMMODITY SESSIONS

The commodity sessions cover more detail about specific crops that could be developed for northern Australia. Presentations will cover markets and economics, research, development issues and constraints. A workshop will collate participants' ideas for development. Participants elect one of 6 concurrent commodity sessions – cotton, sugar, grains, horticulture, niche crops and fodder. Each has several presentations plus a workshop on development pathways and development constraints, chaired by relevant Research and Development Corporations including Horticulture Australia, Rural Industry RDC, Sugar Research Australia, Grains RDC and Cotton RDC.

13.30 Lunch

14.30 Economics, Markets and Development

Dr Andrew Ash CSIRO and Francis Bright NT Department of Primary Industries with afternoon session Chair Richard Mulcahy, CEO Ausveg.

Key economic findings from the Food and Fibre Study are presented with a focus on market and economic analysis. These two studies are the most comprehensive, most recent and most detailed studies on northern agricultural development. Francis Bright has worked in the Ord for many years and is now working in the NT as an agricultural economist.

15.10 Plenary Session Panel - Development pathways

Results from the 6 commodity discussions presented by chairs of each session.

15.40 Building a policy agenda

The Hon. Warren Entsch MP, Jim Engelke, The Hon Gary Gray AO, MP with moderator ABC Canberra's Lucy Barbour.

Land tenure, infrastructure, tax, water, logistics, and reducing risk.

Two of Australia's political leaders and farmer Jim Engelke of KAI Kununurra who has to deal with the policy agenda, discuss policy issues including land tenure, infrastructure, logistics and policies to reduce risk. The Hon. Warren Entsch MP is Chair of the Northern Australia Taskforce and the Hon. Gary Gray AO MP is Shadow Minister for Northern Development and has worked across politics and across the region to facilitate northern development, especially in WA.

16.30 Horizon Future Leaders Panel

Panellists have been chosen through the Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation's Horizon Scholarship, industry and government as passionate, emerging leaders between 20 & 35 in Agriculture. Coming from across Northern Australia each will represent a different industry area. This session will ask what future leaders in agriculture have taken from their conference experience. What were the key arguments? What direction do they think industry should take? What role will their generation play?

Moderator Luke Bowen - General Manager of the North Australia Development Office (NT).

17.00 Impacts of Proceedings

A group of government and business participants summarise and discuss what they learnt from the inaugural Northern Australia Food Futures Conference.

17.30 Next Steps? NT Farmers

NT Farmers Association presents the next steps for the Food Futures Conference including Regional Roadshows and, the theme for Food Futures 2015.

17.40 Close

The Hon. Willem Westra Van Holthe, Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries.

Message from Mr Grant Fenton CEO NT Farmers Association



The Northern Territory Farmers Association is proud of this event.

Firstly, it's industry driven. We thought of it. It is a conference that is driven by us; by farmers who wanted to tell the story of successful development in the north.

Secondly, it is a conference about the entire north. We have worked hard to make sure that the content is not Territory-centric. **To add weight to that we have partnered with the Queensland and Western Australian Governments as well as the Northern Territory Government**, through the Northern Australia Development Office, Department of Primary Industries and The Office of Asian Engagement, Trade and Investment (Department of the Chief Minister).

Finally, this conference on northern development focuses entirely on Agricultural development. The program is dedicated entirely to food and fibre production. Then, beyond the conference we roll out our findings into Regional Road Shows in Katherine, Alice Springs, Kununurra and the Flinders Gilbert region of Qld. In addition, prior to the 2015 conference, we will look to conduct an International Forum in Indonesia; making this conference a truly ongoing initiative.

The 2014 Northern Australia Food Futures Conference will not be the definitive discussion on northern development. However, it's a starting point for agriculture. As we roll into year 2 and 3 and 4 of our conference this first year will be seen as a foundation for ongoing discussion and for the Northern Territory Farmers Association, our foundation for leadership.

The logo for NT Farmers, featuring the letters 'NT' in a large, bold, yellow-green font, followed by the word 'FARMERS' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, all contained within a dark rectangular background.

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Exhibitors

Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries (DPIF)	www.nt.gov.au/d
Office of Asian Engagement, Trade and Investment	www.dcm.nt.gov.au/territory_economy/office_of_asian_engagement,_trade_and_investment
Water Dynamics	www.waterdynamics.net.au
Export61	www.export61.com.au
Territory Natural Resource Management	www.territorynrm.org.au
drumMUSTER	www.drummuster.com.au
Department of Employment	www.employment.gov.au
Northern Australia Development Office (NADO)	www.haveyoursay.nt.gov.au/developing-the-north
Department of Land Resource Management	www.lrm.nt.gov.au
Department of Regional Development	www.drd.wa.gov.au
PITAC	www.pitac.org.au
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