



Australian Government



# Northern Australia Action Plan

2024–29

## The northern Australia agenda

Building on the 2015 *Our North, Our Future: White Paper on Developing Northern Australia* the Australian Government Northern Australia Action Plan 2024–2029 responds to the evolving needs and priorities of northern Australians and reaffirms the Australian Government’s commitment to the north. The Plan was drawn from priorities identified by stakeholders and known policy gaps.

## Australia’s success relies on the north being successful

The north is key to delivering national policy priorities including;

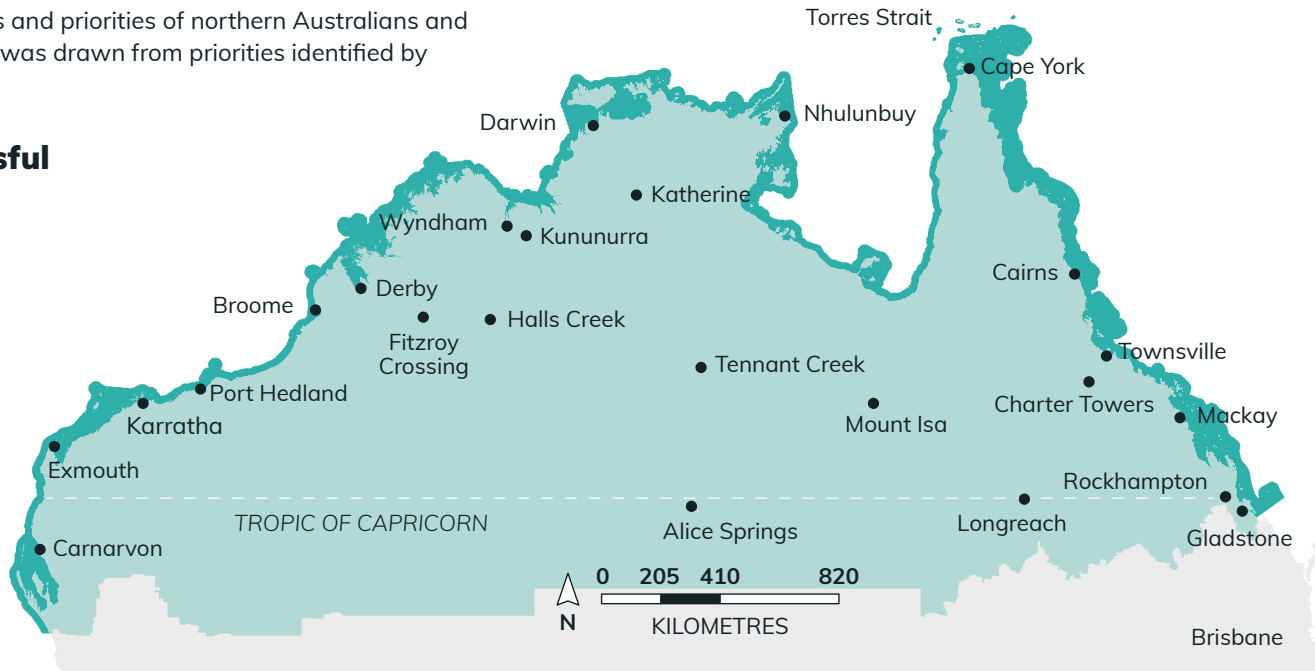
- Future Made in Australia \$22.7 billion over the next decade
- National Defence Strategy 2024 \$14–\$18 billion investment the north over the next decade
- National Agreement on Closing the Gap
- National target to protect and conserve 30% of Australia’s landmass and 30% of Australia’s marine areas by 2030
- National emissions reduction target of 43% below 2005 levels by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050

For more information and updates

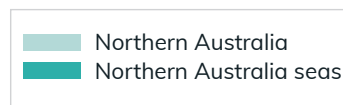
[www.northernaustralia.gov.au/northausactionplan](http://www.northernaustralia.gov.au/northausactionplan)



Download the Northern Australia Action Plan 2024–2029



“Northern Australia” as defined by the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility Act 2016



## Addressing the north's unique challenges, including:

- a small, sparse and transient population
- long distances, harsh climatic conditions
- historical underinvestment in infrastructure and services
- thin markets, absence of scale
- underdeveloped and vulnerable supply chains
- a higher cost of living; and
- a riskier business environment

## The Action Plan recognises the importance of:

- working in partnership with First Nation's people
- working in place, and the transformative impact this can deliver
- a focus on resilience; and
- a focus on decision making supported by evidence and data

## Working across the north

The Australian Government is working with partners including the Northern Australia Indigenous Reference Group and the Qld, WA and NT governments, through the Northern Australia Ministerial Forum, to deliver shared objectives in the north.

### Artworks:

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## Our Priorities and Focus Areas

### 1. Activating the northern economy

- Capitalise on the Future Made in Australia and other government investment opportunities
- Harness the north's comparative advantage to maximise opportunities created by the transition to a net zero economy
- Scope a First Nations Economic Partnership to improve economic outcomes for First Nations peoples
- Enhance self-determined, sustainable opportunities for First Nations people and businesses
- Enhance First Nations organisations' participation in service delivery in the north
- Investigate opportunities to address the higher cost of doing business in the north

### 2. Infrastructure to unlock growth

- Raise awareness of northern Australia's specific housing investment needs
- Work with partners to understand and address current and future infrastructure needs and priorities
- Continue efforts to improve the affordability of air services in the north
- Work with partners to ensure adequate planning and infrastructure to support industry, community, First Nations and environmental sustainability objectives

### 3. Safe and secure north

- Work with communities and partners to maximise local benefits from Defence investments in the north
- Continue to work to reduce northern Australia's vulnerability to the impacts of biosecurity threats

### 4. Growing the northern workforce

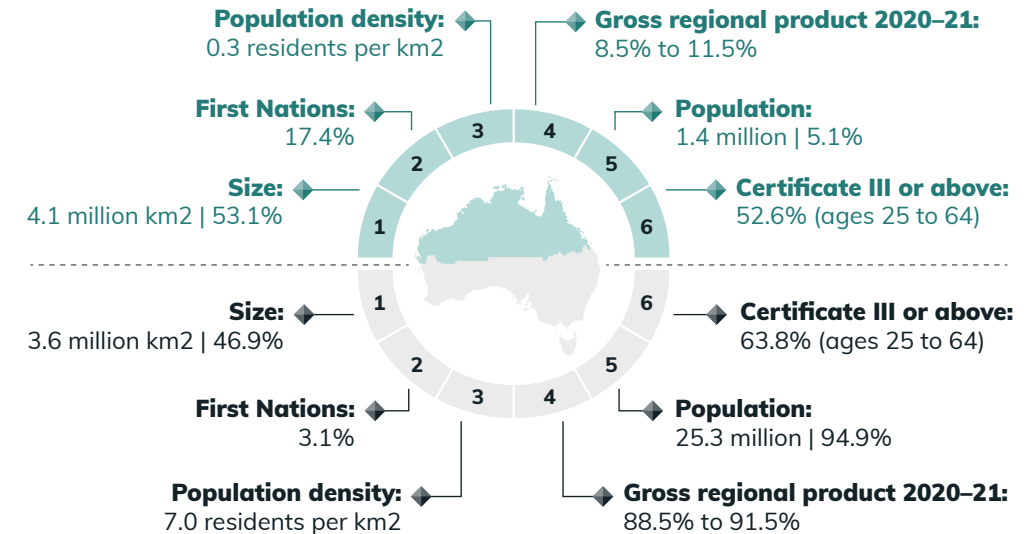
- Work with partners to support northern Australia to access the required skilled workforce

### 5. Liveable, healthy and resilient communities

- Work to overcome challenges to equitable access to Australian Government investment
- Ensure funding and policy decisions consider the north's unique climate adaptation needs
- Work with partners to collectively assist communities undergoing significant economic transition

### 6. Protecting the north's environment and cultural heritage

- Deliver the northern agenda
- Partner with research organisations to develop research priorities for the north



Source: Analysis of Australian Bureau of Statistics data 1/3/5 – LGA, 2023 data, 2/6 – SA2, 2021 data, 4/ – SA4 2020-2021, DITRDCA (BCARR) Analysis. Range reflects inclusion of figures for SA4s which fall wholly within the northern Australia boundary through to inclusion of figures for all SA4 areas which also fall partially in northern Australia.