



AN EMERGING ROADMAP

**FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS
INDUSTRY IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA**





NORTHERN AUSTRALIA HAS EXTENSIVE FOREST RESOURCES

\$80
million annual
production
value & 1200
direct jobs

48%
of Australia's
total forests

13
million hectares
of native forest
with commercial
potential

22
million
hectares of
private native
forest

100,000
hectares of
plantation forest

REGIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT



FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

(excluding Cape York) Of all of Australia's plantation regions, Far North Queensland has the largest area of land on which softwood plantations may be potentially viable. Largest plantation resource = softwood pine.



CAPE YORK

Has an extensive area of Indigenous owned or managed forest. The communities are seeking economic activity to create business and jobs. In general, the forests of Cape York are large and valuable.



EAST ARNHEM LAND

Comprises vast indigenous owned and managed native forests. A Gumatji owned hardwood mill provides sawn products to local markets.



TIWI ISLANDS

Acacia plantations providing export chips for pulp and bioenergy markets, with interest in transferring to more productive eucalyptus species. Woodchip processing and wharf facilities on Melville Island.



DOUGLAS DALY & KATHERINE

These regions include African mahogany and Indian sandalwood plantations that are moving into harvest age and sale into markets. There are opportunities for projects exploring the benefits of silvopastoralism with cattle.



NORTHERN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Has the world's largest commercial Indian sandalwood plantation in the Ord River Irrigation Area, which is also home to commercial African Mahogany plantations.





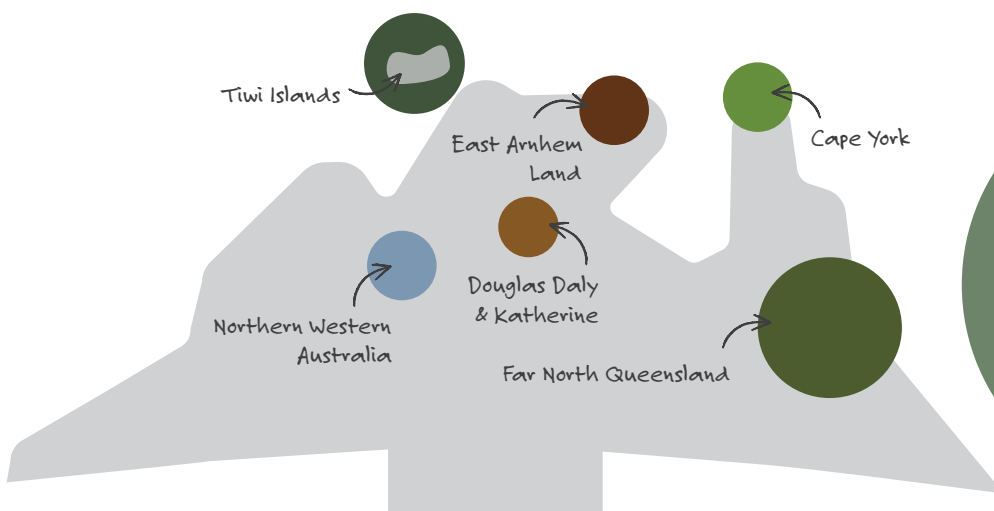
NORTHERN GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Despite the regional diversity, the opportunities to grow forestry and forest products industries are consistent across northern Australia, with strong domestic and international demand for forest and timber products.



SIX RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Build on the newly formed industry and cross-jurisdictional agency alliance to promote forest sector development across Northern Australia.
2. Promote indigenous forestry development through better engagement models and commercial arrangements between industry and indigenous landowners, and build indigenous forestry capacity and understanding of commercial forest resources, including forest resource inventory.
3. Develop secure access arrangements for supply from crown native forest land (i.e. leasehold) in northern Queensland.
4. Develop a market research study into the potential supply and demand for wood products from Northern Australia, including key markets and supply chain needs (e.g. regional infrastructure).
5. Assess silvopastoral opportunities (i.e. integrated forestry and livestock production) as a vehicle for new commercial tree plantings.
6. Review Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) barriers to carbon market access for forestry activities, with priority on the 'water rule' requirement for new plantations.



Over the next decade, the industry could treble in production value to over \$300 million per annum and create 600 new direct jobs.

OVERARCHING NEEDS TO ADVANCE NORTHERN AUSTRALIAN FORESTRY

Improved stakeholder engagement and participation to identify all needs, opportunities and knowledge

Improved carbon accounting research and access to carbon markets

Ongoing forest inventory and silvicultural information especially for native forests



NEXT STEPS FOR DEVELOPMENT

An Industry Development Alliance comprising of CRC NA Forestry and Forest Products Industry Situation Analysis project partners and a number of relevant state departments, industry bodies and companies will work with relevant key influencers to identify new research and development proposals, offer targeted briefings at key policy forums and meetings and ensure greater industry collaboration and partnerships in northern Australia.

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CRCNA Government Partners



Business
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Project Participants & Contributors

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