Preparing for the Post Mining World: Towards New Directions in Western Cape York

Allan Dale – Regional Development Australia FNQ&TS

Supported by: Ruth Wallace – CDU
Dean Carson – CDU
Sharon Harwood – JCU
Jeanie Govern - CDU
The northern Australian landscape is contested, but political, finance and population drives a south to north dynamic.

- Resource-exploitation themes.
- Resource preservation themes.
- Indigenous development themes.

These cultural conflicts need to be reconciled to secure the future and to guide future investment priorities.
Where To Without Reconciling South and North

Development that diminishes the foundation economic assets

Regulatory creep without considering social justice

Indigenous land reform without genuine support for community development
Complexity of the Traditional Owner Landscape

By Werner Schellmann (Own work) [CC BY-SA 2.5](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5)], via Wikimedia Commons | https://goo.gl/images/qd3rma

By Summerdrought (Own work) [CC BY-SA 4.0](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0)], via Wikimedia Commons | https://goo.gl/images/WKuDX2
Broad Regional History and Its Legacy

- **The Mission Period:** Early 1900s scramble for territory between the Presbyterians, Moravians, Lutherans and Anglicans.

- **The Bauxite Development Period:** Dispossession and disempowerment for Aurukun, Mapoon & Napranum.

- **The Land Rights Reforms:** John Koowartha, Eddie Mabo and the Wik Case drive native title recognition.

- **Advancing in the Post-Determination World:** Agreement making and the limits of Traditional Owner governance capacities.

- **The Post Mining World:** Preparing for the future.
Mining’s Limited Legacy

• **Pre Native Title:** No impact assessment required in Special Agreement Act – Actual dispossession, cultural impacts, little employ/commercial benefit.

• **Post Native Title:** Technical settlement under the native title act but no reconciled settlement.

• **Systemic outcomes:** Limited institutional governance capacity, ongoing chronic unemployment, health and social dysfunction and low community resilience.

• **Potential Futures:** No significant and durable benefits and future sub-regional collapse.
Our Aims: Important New Directions

• **Contextualising Reality**: Quantitative research demonstrating the actual legacy issues, positioning the stark realities of the future.

• **Beyond the Company Town**: Building key sub-regional partnerships to sharpen the future of the Western Cape Economy for Federal/State reform.

• **Towards a New Deal For Indigenous Led Northern Development**: Supporting the northern Australian Indigenous leadership for major reform that fundamentally builds TO-led development.

• **Learning Locally – Understanding Internationally**: Our expectations of the MinerAL network.
Thank you

For further discussion visit:

www.facebook.com/DevelopmentintheTropics?ref=hl

OR

https://www.facebook.com/NorthernInstitute/