

Key Findings – Second Draft Overview & Opportunities Report

Context and size of northern Australia forestry

Northern Australia, as defined by the tropic of Capricorn in Queensland and Western Australia, and including all of the Northern Territory, encompasses 52.7% of Australia's land mass and contributes 11.7% of Australia's GDP. Northern Australia has:

- 48% of Australia's forests (or 63 million hectares, with 73% under indigenous land ownership or management)
- 13 million hectares of native forest with commercial potential
- 22 million hectares of private forest
- 82,000 hectares of commercial wood plantations



Darwin Stringybark in native forest, Cape York

Given these extensive resources, and the potential to target climatically and otherwise suitable expansion of plantation forest assets, the opportunities are broad.

Key regions for further growth or development include:

- Tiwi Islands
- Douglas Daly & Katherine areas of the Northern Territory
- East Arnhem land
- Cape York & Far North Queensland
- Ord River district in northern Western Australia



Gumatj sawmill hardwood truss being used for local housing

Emerging Roadmap

Given the broad opportunities, the draft report has identified an emerging [roadmap](#) for further development of the industry.

Key priority opportunities include:

- Improve security of access to supply of resource
- Further domestic processing & value adding
- Build better engagement models with stakeholders
- Generate sustainable local employment and incomes
- Increase supply of wood products from northern Australia locally and globally

This project is funded by CRCNA who acknowledge the support of their investment partners.



Project Fact Sheet



A number of key actions have also been identified to deliver concrete outcomes. These include but are not limited to:

- Deliver clear and 'investible' resource security for native forests and plantations
- Expand plantation development into suitable regions
- Extend silvicultural knowledge for native forests and plantations
- Develop silvopastoral opportunities
- Leverage existing mine site rehabilitation activities
- Targeted training and forestry extension



Cattle in African mahogany plantation, NT

Overarching Needs



Young softwood pine plantation, FNQ

Numerous regulatory, research, development and market needs which respond to opportunities identified in the project are outlined in the draft report.

In summary the overarching needs are:

- Improved stakeholder engagement and participation to identify all needs, opportunities and knowledge
- Ongoing forest inventory and silvicultural information, especially for native forests
- Improved carbon accounting research and rules for native forests and plantations

Feedback & Next Steps

Comments and feedback on this project's [second draft overview and opportunities report](#) are welcomed and should be submitted to lead project participant Timber Queensland by 31 October 2019. The final report will be submitted to CRCNA by mid-November 2019.

As part of this project an Industry Development Alliance comprising relevant state departments, industry bodies, companies and landowners has been established to ensure identified growth opportunities have a life beyond the project. The Alliance will work to identify new R&D proposals, targeted briefings at key policy forums and greater industry collaboration and partnerships in northern Australia.

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