

A Northern Perspective

CRN Northern Australian Development Conference 2014

Darwin (NT) 25 November & Canberra (ACT) 27 November

From Myth to Reality: New Pathways for Northern Development

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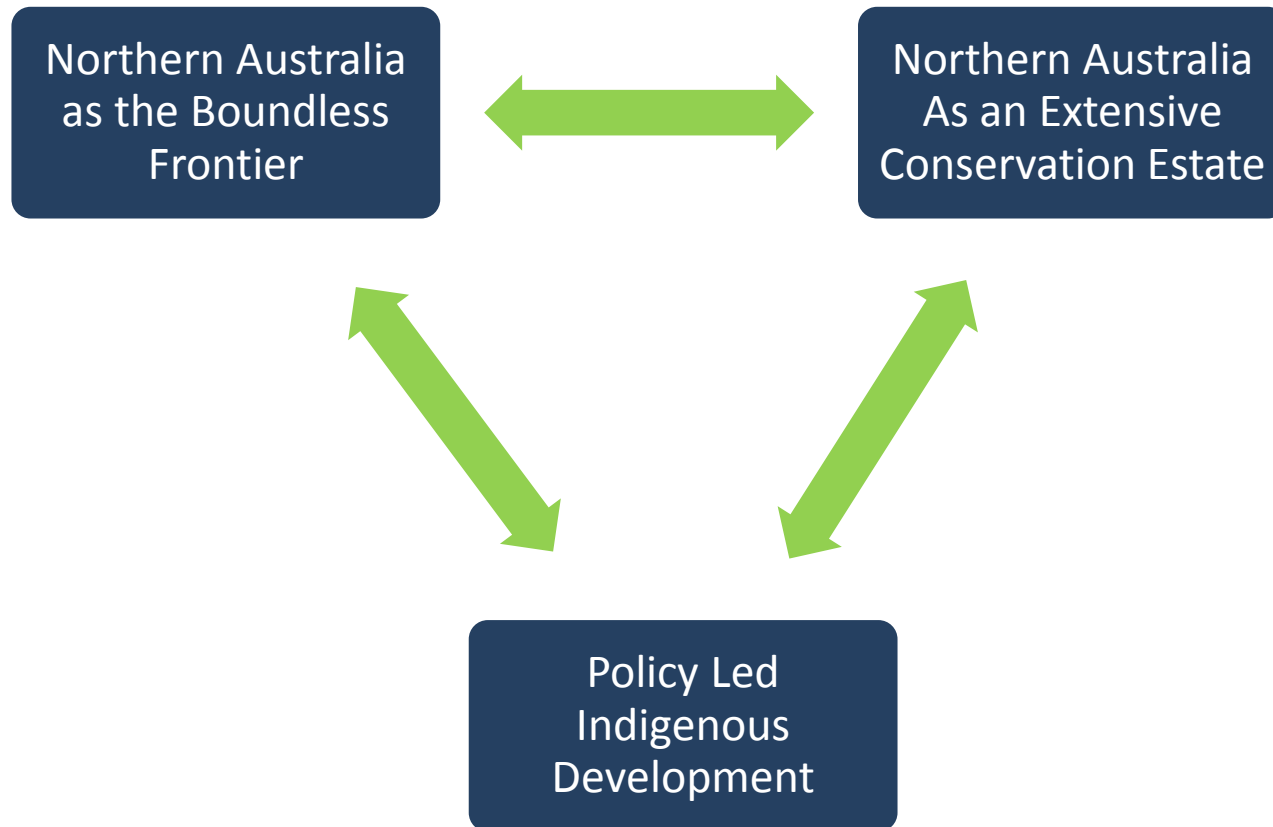
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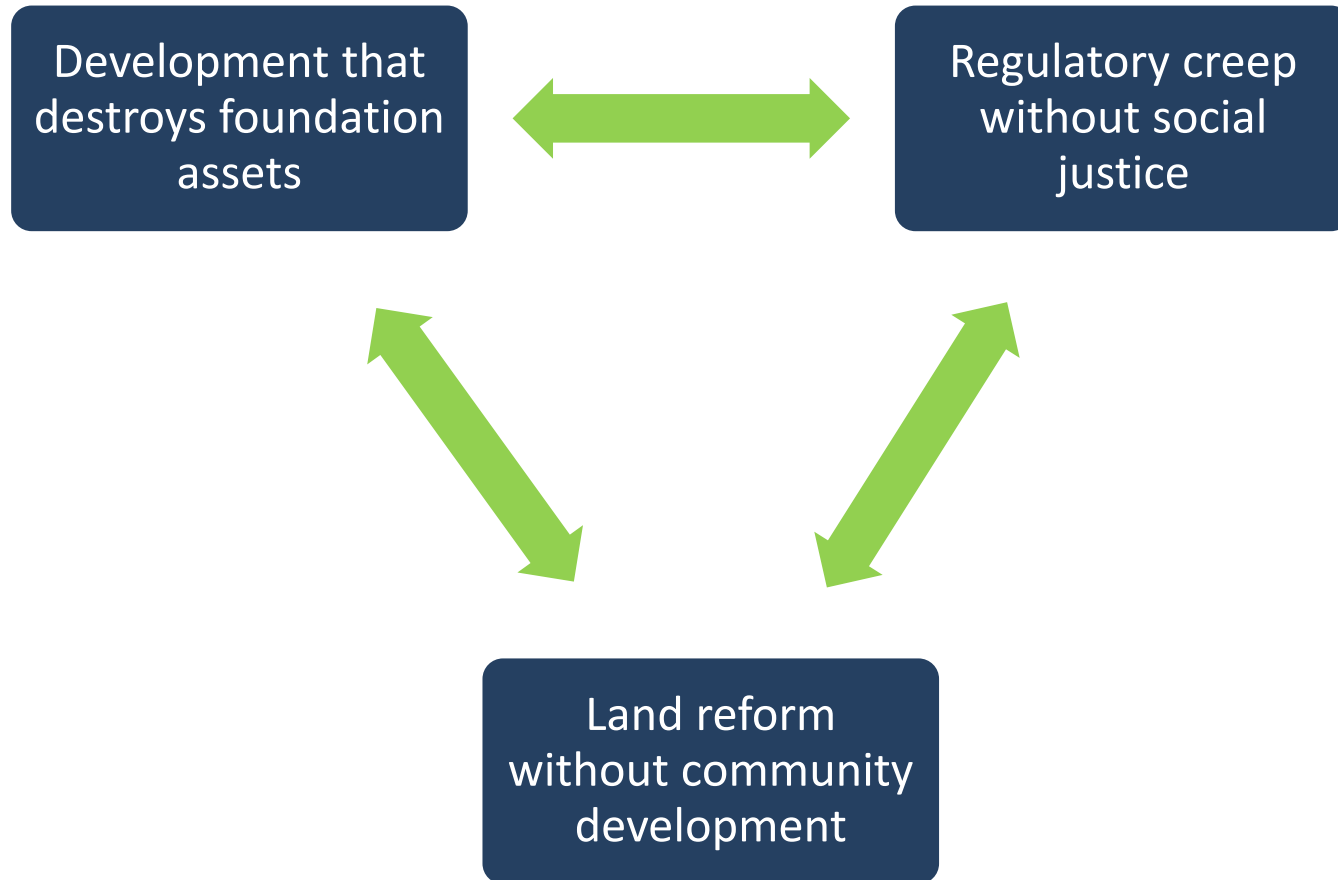
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Three Broad Northern Narratives



When Evidence and Engagement Fail the Narrative



Stories: The Resources Exploitation Agenda



Image Sources:

- Craig Hodges.

Stories: The Resource Preservation Agenda



Image Sources:

- ABC



Stories: The Indigenous Development Agenda



Some Extreme Scenarios

The failed-state scenario:

- Economic colonialism and a fragile boom and bust economy.
- An insurance red-line across the north.
- Growing Indigenous and regional disadvantage across multiple generations.
- Low livability and very high costs.

A federation of dynamic regional economies:

- Multiple and nimble northern region's.
- Highly connected governance systems.
- Genuine engagement with both the south and our near northern neighbours.
- Tropical expertise/services export economy.



Some Important New Directions

- Building endemic regionalism, effective regional land use planning and assessment.
- Towards co-regulation, genuine structural adjustment and ecosystem markets.
- Cohesive community development, Indigenous led-land reform and major reforms in integrated services delivery.
- Building tropical expertise to lift productivity and to export services internationally.
- Cohesive reform in northern governance.



Final Key Messages

- Taking a strategic approach to building the evidence base to overcome some of the north's biggest tyrannies (distance and access to markets, limited soils, failed business models, labour, climate, knowledge, capacity, water availability, etc.).
- Building effective and long-term partnerships and seriously engaging with northern regions, communities, enterprises, industries and people.



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Thank you

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