Section Contributions

Tom Brewer, Allan Dale, David Williams, Ainsley Archer and Michael Douglas
Valuing the Idiosyncratic: A case based discussion on the disjuncture between federal development policy and local values in Northern Australia

Allan Dale, Gaye Crowley, Tom Brewer, Kate Andrews, Karen Vella and Ruth Potts
Governing the Community Based NRM Domain in Northern Australia: Challenges and Opportunities

Karen Hussey, Andrew Campbell
Future of Energy in the Region
Valuing the Idiosyncratic: A case based discussion on the disjuncture between federal development policy and local values in Northern Australia

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Outline

• The southern development paradigm
• Non-market values
• Darwin Harbour case study
• Non-market values in the development narrative
The southern development paradigm

A very long history of applying inappropriate models for development

• Major projects to capture the minds and votes of southern audiences, but not made to endure northern realities

‘...one of the largest under-developed areas in the world’, and stated that ‘there are extensive regions where the natural resources are capable of supporting a considerably increased population’

H. C. Coombs. 1947. Development of Northern Australia

Green Paper on Developing Northern Australia

• A dominant focus on market values in policy directions
• Does not clearly define ‘development’
• What type of ‘development’, and for who?
Non-market values

Goods and services that are valued, but their value is not revealed to the market

• Challenged by complexity and subjectivity

Examples:
• Recreation
• Wilderness
• Aesthetic

Non-market values contribute to our quality of life

Darwin Harbour

- The ‘Jewel in the Crown’ of the Northern Territory
- Darwin harbour epitomises much of the debate around Northern Development
- Diverse, and competing, market and non-market values
Engaging the Community

A questionnaire was sent to 2000 randomly selected households in the Darwin Harbour catchment.

Questionnaire Components:

- Darwin Harbour health and management
- Mapping exercise
- Socio-demographic profiles
Darwin Harbour health and management

It is important to plan for the future use of Darwin Harbour and foreshore.

It is important for the community to be involved in planning for the future use of Darwin Harbour and foreshore.
Darwin Harbour health and management

Maintaining a healthy harbour is necessary for the long-term quality of life for people living in the Darwin Harbour catchment.

Sacrificing natural environments in the harbour and along the foreshore is necessary to increase quality of life for people living in the Darwin Harbour catchments.
(a) Aesthetic/scenic value – I value these places for their attractive scenery, sights, smells, or sounds.
(e) Economic value – I value these places for economic benefits such as tourism, industry, services, or other commercial activity.
(r) Recreation value – I value these places because they provide outdoor recreation activities.
(L) Life sustaining value – I value these places because they help produce, preserve, and renew air, soil, and water.
(k) Learning value (knowledge) – I value these places because we can use them to learn about the environment.
(b) Biological diversity value – I value these places because they provide for a variety of plants, wildlife, marine life, or other living organisms.
(s) Spiritual value – I value these places because they are spiritually special to me.
(i) Intrinsic value – I value these places for their own sake, no matter what I or others think about them or whether they are actually used.
(h) Heritage value – I value these places because they have natural and human history.
(f) Future value – I value these places because they allow future generations to know and experience them as they are now.
(t) Therapeutic value – I value these places because they make people feel better, physically and/or mentally.
(w) Wilderness value – I value these places because they are wild.

(nd) No development – Use these dots to identify areas where you think any future development should be permanently prohibited.
(rd) Remove development – Use these dots to identify areas where you think existing development should be removed permanently.
(Rd) Residential development – Use these dots to identify where you think residential development could conditionally occur with a good plan.
(Td) Tourism development – Use these dots to identify where you think tourism development (e.g. accommodation and tourist attractions) could conditionally occur with a good plan.
(Id) Industrial development (e.g. port facilities, agriculture, energy infrastructure) – Use these dots to identify where you think industrial development could occur with a good plan.
Mapping Exercise: Landscape Values

- To date 136 questionnaires have been returned
- A total of 2519 landscape value sticker dots have been digitized from 80 questionnaires
Mapping Exercise: Individual Landscape Values

Aesthetic Value: ‘I like seeing areas in a natural or well cared for state. It gives me a sense of continuity and well being: expanse of beach, crabs in mangroves.’

Life Sustaining Value: ‘East Point Mangroves - shoreline stabilisation, carbon sinks, stormwater filtering, nurseries, biodiversity.’

Spiritual Value: ‘keeps people sane and able to maintain perspective on important issues.’ biodiversity. mangroves.’
Mapping Exercise: Development Preferences

- A total of 647 development preference sticker dots were placed on the supplied maps by 80 respondents.
- ‘No development’ was, by far, the highest scoring development preference.
Socio-demographic profiles

- Respondents tended to be older, more educated, and earning higher incomes
- More targeted sampling will be conducted to increase representativeness and overall sample to ~300.
Uses of data to improve quality of life in North

General

• Highlights the importance of non-market values to residents of the catchment
• Increase sense of place and stewardship among residents
• Retaining residents during economic ‘pauses’

Specific

• Density mapping of values and development preferences for land-use planning
• Demographic projections
• Scenarios planning
A Maturing Narrative

The winds are changing

- Significant consultation
- Pivot North Inquiry into Development of Northern Australia
  - Many submissions across diverse jurisdictions
  - A large number of recommendations

Some useful outcomes

- Northern food bowl/basket deemed a basket case
- A lot of people talking, consciously considering the future for the north
Forward

For development to be viable in the long-term we must

- Incorporate non-market values into the narrative
- Reveal non-market values, to the market, where doing so will improve the quality of life of residents
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