Learning from Nations Norths

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The Institute builds on the strength of its connections to remote, regional and urban contexts and focuses on issues of importance around the intersections of people, policy and place. Its research program and activities aim to:

• provide evidence for policy development
• generate informed debate
• build the capacity of social researchers in the region
• respond to the needs of agencies and communities in the region.
• Bring knowledgeable and skilled people together to consider complex issues related to social and public policy research in regional and remote contexts.
Northern Regions

- Sparsely populated
- Remote communities
- Dependent on distant decision making structures
- Poorly understood
- Indigenous and diverse populations
- Resource development opportunities
- Mobile populations
- Accessibility issues
- Part of developed countries experiencing change

(Carson, Ensign, Rasmussen and Taylor 2011)
D’s at the edge

- Different
- Distant
- Dependent
- Dynamic
- Diverse
- Detailed (need to be understood)
- Delicate

(Carson, Ensign, Rasmussen and Taylor 2011)
Economic Development

• Goal – economic, socially, culturally and environmentally sustaining communities
• Opportunities for development through mining, construction, agricultural partnerships
• Cross-compliance (incentive based measures to reconcile conservation and development (Ulvevader and Housner 2011)
• Incentives for joint ventures (NAEB 2012)
• Co-benefit systems (Robinson 2013)
Governance Systems

• Value and recognise knowledge systems
• Systemically address barriers to development
• Sophisticated engagement processes
• Recognise and articulate understanding of different forms of authority
• Investment decisions are made as close as possible to those impacted on
• Coordinated decision making across departments
Governance systems

- Economic/Royalties recognise actual costs
- Tax incentives
- Policies support co-investment and assist in managing risk
- Place based planning
- Invest in governance structures
- Build the competence of all partners
- Celebrate success
- Provide investment structures
Challenges for Northern Australia

• Building long term governance capacity in the region
• Scalability of approaches
• Identifying structures that can support co-benefit systems
• Learning from mistakes
• Decision making structures that assess pre and changing conditions.
Thank you

For more information

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www.cdu.edu.au/thenortherninstitute

http://www.cdu.edu.au/centres/groundup/