



Australian Government



Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility

Investing for impact across the north

About the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF)

NAIF works with project proponents to encourage and ensure that NAIF's financial support will help bring a positive impact to local communities, provide positive Indigenous outcomes, and support the region and northern Australia as a whole.



NAIF Key Facts

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- Since the last series of reforms to NAIF in 2018, we have offered more than **\$2.2 billion in loans** to projects across northern Australia.
- In the last financial year, NAIF made **11 Investment Decisions** worth more than **\$1.4 billion** that will lead to a broader economic benefit to northern Australia of **\$4 billion** and more than **3500 jobs**.
- Since inception, NAIF's offers of funding have been spread across the north, with **\$567m to Western Australian** projects, **\$697m to Northern Territory** projects, and **\$989m to Queensland** projects.
- Since March 2020, NAIF has supported the region to create jobs and **stimulate economic opportunities as the economy recovers from the COVID-19** pandemic by:
 - Approving **loans to seven projects** worth \$574m including \$76m to help Central Queensland University's economic recovery with support for over 400 direct and indirect jobs, helping save another 200 jobs in regional areas, and future-proofing remote learning.
 - Achieving **contractual close on a further seven deals** providing **\$609m** in NAIF investment.

Indigenous Engagement

- All proponents applying for NAIF financing are required to provide an **Indigenous Engagement Strategy (IES)** which set out objectives for participation, procurement and employment. Positive examples of IES outcomes achieved to date are at **Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia, Onslow Marine Support Base and Humpty Doo Barramundi**.
- **Memorandum of Understanding** has been signed between NAIF, Indigenous Business Australia and the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation to explore development opportunities.

NAIF Act and Mandate Change

The reforms announced by the Minister provide NAIF with a set of additional "financing tools" including:

The ability to lend faster

- NAIF will have the option to lend directly to project proponents in certain circumstances without reference to the states.
- This change also permits NAIF to establish on-lending partnerships with local financiers to improve access to NAIF finance for smaller project proponents.

Expanding eligibility

- NAIF was previously restricted to funding physical construction works only. The reforms will make NAIF finance available to additional elements of infrastructure construction, such as equipment purchases or leasing, training, and the expansion of existing business operations.
- The definition of public benefit used by the NAIF will also change to include factors such as jobs, regional income, opportunities for local suppliers, and the involvement of Indigenous businesses and communities. The new definition of public benefit will simplify the application process for projects applying for NAIF finance.
- The definition of northern Australia will be extended to include the Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku in Western Australia.

Increased risk appetite

- The changes include removing the prohibition against the Commonwealth assuming the majority of risk in any project.