



COMMUNIQUE

Northern Australia Land and Water Taskforce

2 February 2009

NORTHERN AUSTRALIA TASKFORCE MEETS IN BRISBANE

The Australian Government's Northern Australia Land and Water Taskforce met in Brisbane on 2 February to discuss, confirm and accept the midterm report and to plan and assess the scope of work required before releasing the final report at the end of the year.

The Taskforce was established in May 2007 to examine the potential for further developing land and water resources in northern Australia and undertook extensive community and stakeholder consultations from June to September 2007.

This was the second meeting of the current Taskforce membership.

The role of the Taskforce is to develop a better understanding of opportunities for new sustainable economic development in the north that are based on water resource availability, including both the consumptive and non-consumptive uses of water. The Taskforce is also charged with examining the potential system-wide impact of developments on the natural environment, existing water users and the broader community.

Mr Joe Ross, the prominent Indigenous leader from Fitzroy Crossing in Western Australia, as chair of the Taskforce, opened the meeting.

Kerry Olsson from the National Water Commission, provided an update on the work of the Northern Australian Water Futures Assessment, and CSIRO's Richard Cresswell delivered the preliminary findings of the Northern Australia Sustainable Yields (NASY) project.

The Taskforce agreed to meet again in April.

ENDS