



**MEDIA RELEASE - 01<sup>st</sup> November 2013**

**TropLinks Inc. active in Northern Australia Strategy**

TropLinks hosted a private meeting between Senator Ian Macdonald, Warren Entsch MP and representatives of the TropLinks board to discuss synergies between our ongoing activities to promote Northern Australian tropical expertise and the Federal Government's new 2030 Vision for Developing Northern Australia.

As head of the taskforce charged with developing the White Paper to drive northern development, Warren Entsch clearly understood the role TropLinks has played in promoting the region and paid tribute to the volunteers who have kept the organisation vital and active in the absence of external funding. Senator Macdonald also restated his commitment to developing the region.

In coming weeks, the task force is expected to establish a secretariat to progress consultation with key stakeholders as the first step in developing the White Paper which will guide regional development over the next decade. TropLinks actively lobbied for the secretariat to be established in northern Australia rather than Canberra, and is actively positioning us as a significant contributor to the process.

President Ian McLeod, David Donohue, Graham Poon, Secretary Les Searle, and Tony Neil agreed the meeting was fruitful and gave a direction for both parties to begin work.

“Northern Australia has some of the world’s best tropical expertise in terms of energy innovation, agricultural practice and research, health, , disaster management, built environment and so many other areas. Business up here is living and thriving through the challenges facing other nearby tropical economies. We are in the right spot, at the right time and have the right frame of mind to exploit the situation.”

“TropLinks is continuing to kick goals where others have stumbled because the issues and opportunities are still very real, and because our business-focussed membership can see the real benefit in getting and doing things rather than just engaging in talk-fests.”

“We see incredible synergy between what Senator Macdonald and Mr Entsch have been tasked to achieve and what we have been doing to promote northern Australian business expertise. We want to be a, if not the, major player in developing the White Paper to ensure that regional interests are effectively integrated and the document is developed as an operational plan which will support the region rather than a dusty tome on a shelf as so many have been in the past.”

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“TropLinks will continue to do what we’ve been doing to support and grow northern Australia, and we know that forging an effective partnership with Senator Macdonald and Mr Entsch to develop the Vision for Developing Northern Australia is the way forward.”

For more information on the Federal Government’s vision for northern Australia, please refer to the pre-election policy document at <http://www.liberal.org.au/2030-vision-developing-northern-australia>

END

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