



# The Coalition's Policy

## Key Commitments

The Coalition is investing in jobs and growth through our comprehensive infrastructure plan.

We are making the largest infrastructure investment in our nation's history.

We are investing in infrastructure so that our nation can be more productive, our cities less congested, and our export capabilities more competitive.

Infrastructure investment means more jobs and more opportunities for Australian businesses and regional areas.

The Coalition is investing in infrastructure for Northern Australia.

We are investing billions to fix the Bruce Highway and ensure that the Townsville Ring Road is built. We are also supporting the refurbishment of Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre and local road upgrades.

Nearly 300 local jobs have been generated by the Townsville Ring Road project and further jobs are being created through other local roads projects.

The Coalition has a plan to develop Northern Australia, make the Australian economy more competitive, and support local jobs.

With a population of around 170,000, some 16,000 regional businesses, and regional product of over \$11 billion, Townsville has been touted as a "second capital" for Queensland.

Townsville's location near natural resources, coupled with its relative proximity to Asia, mean that the city can be a major, competitive export hub for Australia.

We will invest \$150 million toward the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor.

The Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor is an eight kilometres rail freight line that will connect the North Coast Line directly into the Port of Townsville.

The project is important to the economic growth of Townsville, local jobs, and the export capabilities of our country.

The Coalition will support infrastructure projects that enhance the competitiveness of our nation.

## Our Plan to Build the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor

The Coalition will invest \$150 million toward the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor.

The Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor is an eight kilometre rail freight line that will connect the North Coast Line directly into the Port of Townsville.

The project is important to Townsville, the regional economy, and our country as it will:

- address emerging bottlenecks in the supply chain to and from the Port of Townsville
- make the Port of Townsville more competitive through the scale economies that arise from being able to utilise longer trains and, subsequently, larger ships
- ensure growing tonnage demand on the Mount Isa Rail System can be met
- improve safety
- remove freight trains from Townsville's suburbs, increasing safety and reducing traffic delays

These benefits are imperative given the Port of Townsville facilitates around \$8 billion in trade.

The Port of Townsville is Australia's largest sugar exporter, exports a diverse range of goods – such as mineral concentrates, mineral ore, and fertiliser – and is an import terminal for fuel.

The Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor will benefit the Port of Townsville, which means more commercial activity for the region and more jobs.

Infrastructure Australia has identified the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor as a priority initiative.

A recent commercial evaluation found that the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor could generate up to \$4.60 in benefits for every \$1 invested.

Our commitment supports local jobs and is part of our plan to develop Northern Australia and to make the Australian economy more competitive.

The Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor is supported by the Queensland Government.

Former Queensland Premier Anna Bligh stated that:

*"...this project is economically viable... Industry would receive huge financial gains from TEARC [Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor] if it was to be built and that's a win for*

*our minerals industry and most importantly, a big win for the economies that depend on it.”<sup>1</sup>*

The current Queensland Government recently noted that the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor would:

*“...improve access for bulk freight traffic to the Port of Townsville and corresponding port expansion works at the Port of Townsville, optimise the Mount Isa to Townsville export supply chain and generate increased economic growth for the region.”<sup>2</sup>*

The Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor is important to the region and to the broader development of Northern Australia.

The Coalition’s \$150 million commitment will help ensure the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor gets built.

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<sup>1</sup> The Honourable Anna Bligh (January 16, 2012) Media Statement, *Bligh: Eastern Rail Ready to Roll*.

<sup>2</sup> Queensland Government (2015) *Budget 2015-16, Capital Statement*, p.14.

## The Choice

The Coalition is creating jobs and growth in Northern Australia.

In Queensland, we are investing over \$3 billion for northern sections of the Bruce Highway and \$208 million for the Cape York Region package; in Western Australia we have committed \$172 million for the Northwest Coastal Highway; and in the Northern Territory \$90 million is being invested in the Northern Territory Regional Roads Productivity package and \$77 million has been provided to duplicate Tiger Brennan Drive.

We have also invested more than \$900 million in infrastructure projects in the Townsville region, such as the Townsville Ring Road, refurbishment of the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre, and local road upgrades.

Nearly 300 local jobs have been generated by the Townsville Ring Road project and further jobs are being created through other local roads projects.

The Coalition's Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with Singapore will see more than \$2 billion spent to upgrade roads, accommodation, light airfields and other infrastructure needed for Singapore troops to train in Townsville and Shoalwater Bay.

These upgrades will begin next year and will draw on local contractors – building and construction workers, electricians, plumbers, road engineers – to undertake the works. This major investment will be focused around Townsville and Shoalwater Bay – helping local workers and businesses make the transition from the mining construction boom.

Further, the number of Singaporean troops to visit north Queensland will more than double – from 6,000 to 14,000 each year – injecting additional jobs and growth to recreational retail, tourism, accommodation and hospitality related industries in Townsville, Yeppoon, Rockhampton and other nearby centres.

The doubling in numbers will also require additional support from local support and logistics contractors, providing a massive boost to local spending across north Queensland.

We are delivering jobs for Townsville, the region, and Northern Australia.

Labor sought to destroy the economies in Northern Australia that depend on the energy and resources industry.

Labor created the Minerals Resources Rent Tax – a tax deliberately targeted at the energy and resources sector.

Labor put in place the Carbon Tax – a tax that the Minerals Industry found would result in a reduction of forecast employment in the minerals industry of 23,500 by 2020, increasing to 63,000 fewer jobs by 2030.

## Costs

The Coalition will invest \$150 million to build the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor.



**THE NATIONALS**  
*for Regional Australia*

For further details of the Coalition's plan go to  
[www.liberal.org.au/our-plan](http://www.liberal.org.au/our-plan)  
[nationals.org.au/our-plan/](http://nationals.org.au/our-plan/)