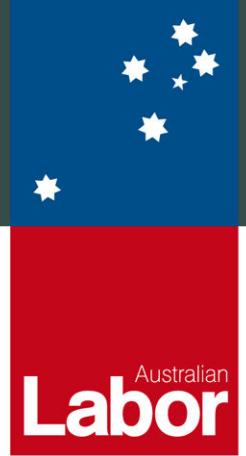




New Leadership.



FACT SHEET

Northern Australia

Representing the north

Federal Labor will establish an **Office of Northern Australia** to provide high level advice to the Federal Minister for Regional Development on achieving sustainable development outcomes, and to provide environmental, economic and social policy expertise.

Regional projects

Federal Labor's **Better Regions** program will include:

- **\$3 million to upgrade the Hidden Valley International Dragstrip** in Darwin. This will make sure the Top End is well on the way to national championship events. Drag racing also makes a significant investment into Darwin's local automotive industry.
- **\$2.5 million to help a Northern Territory team take part in either the South Australian or West Australian AFL league and for the development of junior AFL and netball.** The Northern Territory has been seeking to join a competition, but has not been able to find the funds needed to enter a team. If elected, Federal Labor Candidate for Solomon, Damian Hale will serve as **special adviser on combating the use of illicit drugs in sport.**
- \$10 million toward the staging of a **V8 Super Cars** event in Townsville.
- \$6.5 million towards **Townsville Murray Sports Complex.**
- \$4 million for the **Mackay Aquatic Centre.**
- \$1.5 million towards a **Cooktown Community Events Centre.**
- \$500,000 for the **Red Centre Way** to attract more international visitors to the heart of Australia.
- \$1.7 million for the new **Hegvold Stadium** in Rockhampton.
- \$1.5 million for the **Dysart Sports Centre.**
- \$160,000 for the new **Kele Softball Facility** in Rockhampton.

Transport

Federal Labor's commitments for the Northern Territory so far include:

- \$74 million for the **full upgrade of Tiger Brennan Drive**. The extension of Tiger Brennan Drive will enhance transport links between major business areas including the Darwin CBD, Palmerston, rural areas, Darwin East Arm Port and Rail Terminal, Darwin Business Park and the proposed Defence Hub adjacent to Robertson Barracks.

Federal Labor also will invest over \$50 million over the next four years in **community, beef and mining roads** in the Northern Territory:

- \$10 million towards improving flood immunity on the Port Keats Road, in partnership with the Northern Territory Government – to provide almost year round access to Wadeye (Port Keats) for the first time.
- \$8 million to strengthen and widen the Plenty Highway.
- \$7 million to seal the Buntine Highway in conjunction with planned strengthening and widening by the Northern Territory Government.
- \$15 million for pavement strengthening and widening and crossings on the Central Arnhem Road.
- \$6 million towards pavement strengthening and widening and crossings on the Tanami Road, in partnership with the Northern Territory Government and the mining industry.
- \$3 million towards a high level bridge over the Macarthur River at Borroloola, in partnership with the Northern Territory Government and the mining industry.
- \$2 million to upgrade the Maryvale Road and the Hughes Stock Route to Titjikala and other communities south of Alice Springs, in partnership with the Northern Territory Government.

In Western Australia, a Rudd Labor Government, in partnership with the Western Australian Government, will invest \$160 million to deliver a \$200 million **upgrade of roads vital to the Pilbara mining and pastoral export hub of Port Hedland**.

In Queensland, Federal Labor will invest \$2.2 billion **upgrading the Bruce Highway** from 2009-10 to 2013-14. Projects so far committed to include:

- \$110 million to duplicate from the Flinders Highway to Vantassel Street.
- \$55 million to duplicate the Douglas Arterial.
- \$90 million to realign to Cardwell Range north.
- \$60 million for overtaking lanes between Sarina and Cairns.
- \$40 million towards the Gairloch Floodway near Ingham.
- \$95 million for the Townsville Port Access Road.
- \$55 million to upgrade the Calliope Crossroads near Gladstone.
- \$20 million to upgrade the southern approach to Gin Gin.

Infrastructure and the environment

Federal Labor will:

- Establish a **Western Australian Infrastructure Fund** to help build social and economic infrastructure in Western Australia over the next 20 years. The fund – which will have Commonwealth contributions of up to \$100 million a year – will be created by setting aside 25 per cent of future Commonwealth Petroleum Resource Rent Tax revenue from the Gorgon Gas Development.
- Expand the terms of reference of the **Northern Australia Land and Water Taskforce** to include broader economic development opportunities for northern Australia beyond its current agricultural focus to create economic, social and environmental benefits for northern Australians.
- Invest **\$500 million** in a **National Clean Coal Fund** to accelerate the development of advanced clean coal technologies that will help secure jobs in northern Australia's coal industry.
- Fast track a **Climate Change Adaptation Plan** for Australia's World Heritage and iconic areas, including the Great Barrier Reef, Kakadu National Park and the Daintree Rainforest.
- **Fast track Australia's nomination for World Heritage listing of Ningaloo Reef** – one of Australia's natural wonders that extends 260 kilometres from Point Murat on the tip of the North West Cape to Amherst Point, just south of Coral Bay.
- Implement a comprehensive **\$200 million Reef Rescue Plan over five years** to tackle climate change and improve water quality in the Great Barrier Reef.
- Work with the Queensland Government and traditional owners to pursue **World Heritage listing for appropriate areas of Cape York**, recognising the importance of Commonwealth leadership and the consent of traditional owners.
- Invest \$2 million to develop a **National Cane Toad Plan** under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act to control the spread of cane toads.

Defence and Defence families

Federal Labor is committed to maintaining defence spending, including a minimum annual 3 per cent real growth until 2016, but is equally committed to ensuring that Defence dollars are spent more effectively and efficiently.

Federal Labor will:

- Provide a 50% Education Tax Refund and a 50% Child Care Tax Rebate to eligible Defence families.
- Establish a GP Super Clinic in Palmerston to ensure local Defence families have access to high quality primary and allied care services.

Health

Federal Labor will provide:

- A \$10 million **GP Super Clinic in Palmerston** which is expected to include a 24 hour a day GP service; chronic disease and complex care management services; outpatient services; allied health services such as physiotherapy, dieticians and podiatry; and dental services.
- **\$8 million to Cairns Base Hospital** for a new MRI machine and a new chemotherapy mixer for the hospital's oncology unit. Currently Cairns families who require a publicly-funded MRI scan are currently forced to travel to Townsville – a four and a half hour trip by car.
- A **\$5 million Bundaberg GP Super Clinic** to help take pressure off Bundaberg Base Hospital and service the Bundaberg-Burnett community.
- **\$5 million in a new GP Super Clinic in Gladstone** that will deliver improved services to the residents of this fast-growing region while also taking pressure off the Gladstone Hospital, especially its emergency department.
- A **Medicare office in Emerald** – families in Emerald and surrounding areas will no longer have to wait up to four weeks to receive their rebates, or be forced to travel 3 hours – and 270 kilometres away – to the closest Medicare office in Rockhampton if they want to claim their rebates in person.
- **\$10 million for remote health clinics** across the Northern Territory to provide a range of important health services to people living in remote communities – particularly including primary care.
- **\$5 million for extra renal dialysis** including the establishment of satellite renal dialysis facilities in the Northern Territory.

Education and child care

Federal Labor will:

- Provide a **50% Education Tax Refund** to help working families across northern Australia meet the growing costs of educating their children, with support for items such as computers, printers, home internet connection, school text books and trades equipment for technical education. This refund will be available to those who receive Family Tax Benefit Part A or Youth Allowance and will provide the families of around 72,600 primary students in northern Australia with an annual Education Tax Refund of up to \$375 per child. The families of around 39,000 secondary students will get an annual Education Tax Refund of up to \$750 per child.
- Give **18,000 four year olds** in northern Australia the right to 15 hours of fun, play-based **preschool** each week, for a minimum of 40 weeks per year, delivered by a qualified teacher.
- Invest around \$550 million over the next decade to set up **Trades Training Centres** in all of northern Australia's 367 high schools.

- Provide a **50% Child Care Tax Rebate of up to \$7,500 per child** to the parents of up to 8,500 Northern Territory children, 126,000 Queensland children and 36,800 Western Australian children.
- Fund the establishment of **new child care centres in Darwin, Palmerston, Townsville and Gladstone** – as part of our commitment to build up to 260 new child care centres across Australia in areas of need and on primary school and community grounds.

Tax relief for working families

Labor's Tax Plan for Australia's Future delivers real relief to working families in northern Australia including tax cuts for all taxpayers earning up to \$180,000 per year.

Community safety

Federal Labor will:

- Fund a \$2.25 million **Safer Suburbs Strategy** targeting violence, including gang activity, theft, graffiti and arson in the suburbs of Darwin and Palmerston, and other areas which provides for upgraded lighting, closed circuit television (CCTV) and security for local school buildings.

Indigenous health and economic development

Federal Labor is committed to close the Indigenous infant mortality gap through an investment of \$261.4 million over four years, comprising \$186.4 million in Commonwealth expenditure, supported by \$75 million from the States and Territories, including:

- \$112 million over four years on **Comprehensive Mothers and Babies Services** to provide universal coverage of child and maternal health services to Indigenous Australians.
- \$10 million capital funding pool for **Indigenous Mothers Accommodation Fund** to establish new hostels and expand existing accommodation facilities in major cities and regional centres to accommodate Indigenous women who need to leave their communities temporarily to have their babies.
- Provide comprehensive nurse-led **Home Visiting Services** of up to 20 visits in the first year and up to 12 visits in the second year of a child's life.
- \$10.3 million to tackle **Rheumatic Heart Fever**, particularly in the Northern Territory, by establishing a National Coordination Unit to coordinate efforts to tackle Rheumatic Heart Fever.
- Establish program sites in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland, which will focus on providing proper diagnosis and improving access to necessary antibiotics.

Economic development will lie at the heart of a Rudd Labor Government's efforts to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians. Federal Labor will:

- Invest \$90 million over five years to train and employ up to an additional **300 Indigenous rangers on Indigenous lands** and waters to undertake environmental services specialising in noxious weed and feral pest eradication, fire management, fencing and vegetation restoration and the protection of endangered species.
- Increase funding to a total of \$50 million over five years to improve and expand the successful **Indigenous Protected Areas Program**.
- Provide opportunities for **Indigenous participation in fledgling carbon markets** by establishing the legal framework for creation of carbon credits from altered fire management and providing \$10 million to build local capacity and partnerships.
- Federal Labor will also implement an **Indigenous Australia AFP Recruitment Strategy**, designed to bring more Indigenous Australians into the ranks of the Australian Federal Police – as part of a \$200 million Australian Federal Policing Plan.