

NORTHERN AUSTRALIA INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

TOPROC seek your commitment to:

- Provide ongoing funding support for infrastructure in TOPROC Council areas to continue to develop Northern Australia
- Retain the Local Government Financial Assistance Grant Program and restore indexation to Financial Assistance Grants
- Meet with TOPROC Councils to discuss major infrastructure projects

BACKGROUND

The Northern Territory is forecast to be Australia's fastest growing economy. Infrastructure projects in TOPROC Councils are playing a key role in driving the Territory's future. In the past few decades, the Northern Territory has experienced unprecedented economic and population growth underpinned by a strong resources sector and large-scale construction projects. As a result, TOPROC Councils require suitable infrastructure to keep pace with economic growth and fluctuations. Funding that supports infrastructure projects has an added benefit of providing employment during phases of volatility and fosters the realisation of Council's long-term planning.

There has been strong bipartisan support to continue to develop northern Australian infrastructure. Important developments include opening the Office of Northern Australia in Darwin, providing a \$5 billion loan facility to promote infrastructure across northern Australia and investing in northern Australia's water infrastructure.

Local Government plays a significant role in delivering many of these key projects and TOPROC Councils are committed to continuing to implement vital infrastructure projects.

TOPROC seek your commitment to provide ongoing funding support for infrastructure in TOPROC Council areas. This commitment will provide the foundation for a strong and prosperous future for all Territorians. In addition, TOPROC seek your commitment to retain the Financial Assistance Grant Program and restore indexation. The decision to unfreeze indexation years will result in Councils gaining more than \$300 million funding per year in real terms.

KEY FACTS

- Darwin is the gateway to Asia and access to Australia's largest trading partners
- TOPROC Councils comprise of over 60% of Northern Territory's population
- In 2015/2016, Northern Territory local governments have received over \$16 million in funding through Financial Assistance Grants

