



## *The current situation and state of knowledge*

*Based on a literature review and some initial feedback*



Project Number  
A.1.1718122



The CRCNA acknowledges the support of our investment partners.



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# What we will discuss right now

1. Major themes from existing literature
2. Inputs from consultations to date
3. Next steps



# Some major themes emerge for northern Australia

- Vast areas of land available for plantation expansion
  - But not all is suitable for growing trees
- Significant areas of native forest available, including private native forests
  - Certainty of resource security is required
- Silvopastoral systems can operate to mutual benefit
- Major information gaps
  - Native forest inventory (inc. private native forest)
  - Silvicultural knowledge
- Carbon incentive schemes can provide incentives for all sectors
- Infrastructure needs are very significant
- Engagement across the potential supply-chain needs to improve



## STRENGTHS

- Significant areas of native forest
- Strong desire by traditional owners to manage their land and resources
- Supply local markets that are distant from other sources of building materials

## WEAKNESSES

- Remote locations with lack of infrastructure
- Consistent rainfall
- Large areas of conservation tenures
- Limited forestry skills amongst land owners

**Northern Australia, as defined by the Tropic of Capricorn in Queensland and Western Australia and all of the Northern Territory, encompasses 52.7% of Australia's land mass, accounts for 5.5% of the Australian population, and includes approximately 25% of the national Indigenous population.**

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Vast areas of land available for plantation expansion (eg. Douglas-Daly / ORIA / Tiwi Is.)
- Mining land rehabilitation
- Development of sandalwood, hardwood pulp fibre, and softwood plantations

## THREATS

- Lack of collaboration between Government, Traditional Owners, Pastoralists and Miners
- Climatic factors (tropical cyclones; fires)
- Lack of long-term investment security

*Regionally specific SWOTS included at end of slide deck*

# Are these the main opportunities in northern Australia?

- Sandalwood industry development
  - Plantation expansion, but where?
  - Is local processing an option?
- Hardwood pulp fibre plantations
  - Other than the Tiwi Islands?
- Climatically suitable plantation expansion
  - What species and where?
- Softwood plantation expansion
  - Is North Queensland the only option?
- Effective utilisation of crown leasehold lands
  - Silvo-pastoralism





## STRENGTHS

- Well established softwood plantation resource
- Access to two relatively large sawmills
- Industry priority to increase estate and improve efficiency

## WEAKNESSES

- High seasonal rainfall
- Log geometry from African mahogany plantations

Far North Queensland (excluding Cape York). Of all of Australia's plantation regions, North Queensland has the largest area of land on which softwood plantations may be potentially viable.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Industrial planting of African mahogany
- Expansion of Softwood Plantation estates
- Removal of long-standing regulatory burden offers new market opportunities

## THREATS

- For commercial production in the dry tropics, either irrigation or a good source of groundwater appears to be essential

*Does this seem right for North Queensland?*



# Priming the pump - known action and research needs

- Native forests, including private native forests
  - More complete forest inventory (literature)
  - Improving silvicultural awareness (stakeholders, literature)
- Silvo-pastoral systems
  - Establishing trial opportunities (stakeholders)
  - Developing baseline co-benefits data (stakeholders)
- Plantation species and genetics
  - Which species? (eg Pine, African Mahogany, other)
- Carbon incentive schemes (literature)
- Improving engagement across the supply-chain (literature, stakeholders)
- Planning and integrating infrastructure needs (stakeholders)



# Get in contact

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