

27 September 2019

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: Northernaustralia.sen@aph.gov.au

To the Secretary,

Select Committee on the effectiveness of the Australian Government's Northern Australia agenda

The Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union represents over 70,000 workers who create, make and maintain. Many of our members live and work in Northern Australia and have felt the impact of the governments ineffective policy to deliver jobs and economic growth in their communities.

The AMWU supports the submissions made to this inquiry by the AMWU's Western Australian and, Queensland & Northern Territory Branches.

More needs to be done to drive growth in regional communities around Australia, including in Northern Australia. For too long the government has neglected these communities and under invested in training, skills and infrastructure that they need to compete on the global stage. The Northern Australian Infrastructure Fund was meant to address this, but it has proven to be woefully inadequate.

More work needs to be done in this vital region to support emerging industries, as well as to assist existing ones to grow, particularly in the manufacturing industry. Manufacturing is vital as it creates a significant multiplier effect not seen in many other industries common to regional Australia. Manufacturing has been a historical source of good quality jobs, which are the life blood of many regional towns around Australia.

We would also like to draw the committee's attention to our recent submission to the Senate inquiry into the future of jobs in Regional Australia as we believe that the analysis contained in that submission is relevant to the committee's current deliberations.

If you require any further information, please contact Adam Weiladek in the first instance (adam.wieladek@amwu.org.au).

Kind regards,

Paul Bastian
AMWU NATIONAL SECRETARY