MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE STATE OF QUEENSLAND

-AND-

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
IT IS AGREED by THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEENSLAND and THE NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT as follows:

1. OBJECTIVE

1.1 The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to foster a closer working relationship between the two governments to:

1.1.1 develop protocols and a framework to facilitate coordinated development and investment in major cross-border infrastructure projects;

1.1.2 implement a joint approach to develop the Townsville to Darwin railway corridor;

1.1.3 facilitate the efficient development of the Mt Isa to Tennant Creek railway as the next step in the development of the national rail network; and

1.1.4 promote the development of a more competitive national freight transport market.

2. WORKING TOGETHER

2.1 The two governments acknowledge that cross-border coordination and cooperation is critical to developing nationally significant infrastructure and to grow Northern Australia. It is also acknowledged that this would build on the strong relationships already established between cross-border communities, such as Mt Isa and Tennant Creek.

2.2 The two governments agree that the North East Gas Interconnector project demonstrates how coordinated cross-border infrastructure can benefit both the regional areas of Queensland and the Northern Territory and how a cross-border infrastructure corridor could benefit the development of additional infrastructure in the future.

2.3 The Queensland and Northern Territory Governments acknowledge that the two governments may have different policy, economic and commercial considerations in respect of the Townsville to Darwin rail corridor.
2.4 The two governments have already established a Joint Working Group of government officials to understand the technical requirements for the Mt Isa to Tennant Creek railway to proceed.

2.5 Queensland and the Northern Territory agree to develop a joint investment framework that considers the priorities of each government to determine the optimal rail investment in the Townsville to Darwin rail corridor.

3. STATUS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

3.1 The Queensland and Northern Territory Governments acknowledge that the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding are not legally binding. Final policy decisions remain the responsibility of the respective governments.

4. TIMEFRAME, MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION

4.1 This Memorandum of Understanding is for a period of five (5) years, unless otherwise modified or terminated.

4.2 Any modification of this Memorandum must be in writing and signed by both parties.

4.3 A party may terminate this Memorandum at any time by giving the other party thirty (30) days written notice.

EXECUTED AS A MEMORANDUM on this 11th day of December 2015

The Honourable Annastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier of Queensland
for and on behalf of the
State of Queensland

The Honourable Adam Giles MLA
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory
for and on behalf of the
Northern Territory of Australia