



PORT DOUGLAS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

EMBRACE • ENHANCE • PRESERVE

Member Newsletter May 2008

Welcome to this newsletter which will inform you of some of the activities the Chamber has been involved with in the last few months and will be pursuing in the future. The Chamber has a small committee of voluntary business people and operates without employed staff. There is a limit to the number of issues we can satisfactorily address and we need to be aware of the priorities our members place on the current issues and also any concerns we are not addressing which you consider high priority. To assist us we are asking you to spend a few minutes to provide your opinion in the attached survey. Please click on this link to give us your priorities: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB227R5YRJR5D>

Ensuring the future of Carnivale

As the owner of the Reef and Rainforest Carnivale brand and facilitator for government funding, Port Douglas Chamber of Commerce has been working behind the scenes to ensure the future of the event beyond the current contract which ends this year. The Chamber has met with the Council to discuss practical ways forward for the annual event and is confident it will be continued under the new council.

Meeting the Premier

As a result of a chance meeting at the launch of the FNQ 2025 Plan, Chamber President Ken Dobbs found that he had the ear of Queensland Premier Anna Bligh. Ken seized the day and told the Premier that her Minister's decision to rebuild the police station at its current site was very unpopular across the community. A number of influential locals joined the discussion to support Ken's position and the Premier was genuinely interested in resolving the issue. A meeting between Jason O'Brien, Julia Leu and the minister Paul Lucas was arranged for immediately after the 2025 presentation. Time will tell if anything comes of the chance encounter.

Carnivale survey

Port Douglas Chamber of Commerce has commissioned market research into the number of people that attend Carnivale events and establish a profile of those people. The 20/20 Group Australia will be distributing surveys to accommodation houses and conducting intercept interviews during the 10 days of Carnivale. Please support this initiative that will supply the demographics of the people that attend Carnivale and will ultimately help secure the future of the event.

Icon legislation

The Chamber has been an active contributor to the icon legislation submission that addressed the iconic values of the former Douglas Shire Council, particularly Port Douglas and the existing town planning scheme. The submission, which had input from many community groups, is now with the Queensland Government for consideration.

Tidy Towns Nomination

Being one of the friendliest towns in Queensland, the Port Douglas Chamber of Commerce nominated Port Douglas in the Ergon Energy Tidy Towns Awards with strong submissions in the Friendliest, Sustainability, Environmental Protection and Recycling categories. The judge was escorted by Ken Dobbs and Julia Leu on May 12 and the regional winners are due to be announced in July.

Deputation to Cairns Regional Council

The Chamber presented three issues to the Cairns Regional Council at the first meeting held in the former Douglas Shire. The deputation took place on May 15 and the Chamber had 15 minutes to outline our position on rates, infrastructure and the waterfront. The Chamber also used the opportunity to express concerns about tampering with the water supply and pointed out that we like it just the way it is. All of the councilors and most of the general managers were present and are now aware of our position on these issues. A transcript of the deputation can be found at www.portdouglaschamber.com.au/Info-for-Members.61.0.html

First Chamber event of the year a success

The Port Douglas Chamber of Commerce hosted a Cairns Regional Council candidates' luncheon in March before the local government election. It was the first chamber function of the year and was considered a success with 110 attendees. We thank all the candidates who attended and wish the successful candidates, Julia Leu and Val Schier all the best in their new roles.

Commerce Queensland

The Chamber is a member of Commerce Queensland and attends regional meetings with other Chambers. Commerce Queensland has access to significant amounts of information and employs a number of professional staff with expertise in various areas. Commerce Queensland is the peak body for business in Queensland and regularly meets with the Queensland Government for policy input. A summary of the main issues presented at the last regional meeting is on the Chamber website at www.portdouglaschamber.com.au/Info-for-Members.61.0.html

Waterfront Development

The Chamber is represented on the Project Advisory Group set up to provide community input to the waterfront development. A number of consultants have been contracted by Council to advise on various aspects leading up to the design process which should occur before the end of the year. At this stage the Chamber has met with the traffic and economic consultants.

Chamber Website

The Chamber of Commerce website is now up and running. The aim of the site is to act as a facilitator for the Committee to communicate with the Membership and vice versa. The Chamber encourages the Membership to visit the site from time to time to contribute to current issues and read material the Committee believes to be important for the business community.

www.portdouglaschamber.com.au

Chamber of the Air

Finally, to keep informed about chamber activities tune in to Radio Port Douglas 107.1FM and listen to Chamber President Ken Dobbs talking to Michael Gabour on Wednesdays at 8.40am.