

## *MEDIA RELEASE*

Tuesday December 19, 2017

### **Greater Whitsunday Alliance holds AGM and appoints new directors**

Greater Whitsunday Alliance recently held its 2016 – 2017 Annual General Meeting and appointed two new Directors to the board.

Greater Whitsunday Alliance Chairman, Mr John Glanville said the AGM was an opportunity for the organisation to reflect on the eleven months since the organisation was formed.

“In the eleven months since we launched, Greater Whitsunday Alliance has made some great inroads both in terms of foundational activities such governance, process and systems, but also in our key focus area, economic development,” said Mr Glanville.

“We have engaged with over 110 key industry, government and community stakeholders; led a delegation to Canberra and secured meetings with key Ministers and advisors; presented the 2017-2018 Strategic Plan in hosted the first ever regional Indaba to discuss priorities and opportunities for the region.”

Mr Glanville also said that two new directors were appointed at the Annual General Meeting to replace outgoing inaugural directors Kylie Porter and Melissa Westcott.

“After a comprehensive Expression of Interest process, we are very pleased to announce the appointment of Melissa Green and Carolyn Fritz as non-executive directors of Greater Whitsunday Alliance,” said Mr Glanville.

“Melissa Green is a long term resident of Mackay and is the owner operator of BOQ Mackay. She will bring her years of finance and broad business experience to the board and we are excited to welcome Melissa to Greater Whitsunday Alliance.

“Carolyn Fritz is based in Moranbah and is the Director of Moranbah Discount Tyres and Mechanical and brings with her a unique and personal perspective of the opportunities and challenges facing the Isaac region.

“On behalf of the Greater Whitsunday Alliance board, I would like to extend my thanks to Kylie Porter and Melissa Westcott for their energy and commitment and warmly welcome Melissa and Carolyn to Greater Whitsunday Alliance.”

2018 will be an important year for the organisation with a range of initiatives taking priority.

“Developing the innovation eco-system will be a critical component of our focus in 2018, because we know that this region is a host spot for innovation and development. In addition, we will be lobbying government hard for funding commitments on vital projects including the Urannah Dam feasibility study; Stage 2 of the ring road; Mackay Priority Development Area and Whitsunday Coast Airport investment.

“Indications are that 2018 will be a very positive year for the region and Greater Whitsunday Alliance looks forward to doing its part to deliver even more positive outcomes,” said Mr Glanville.

Greater Whitsunday Alliance is the region's peak, independent economic development body committed to making the Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday region strong for generations.

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