



GREATER WHITSUNDAY ALLIANCE
MACKAY ▶ ISAAC ▶ WHITSUNDAY



Annual Report 2016 – 2017

Regional opportunity
strong for generations



Greater Whitsunday Alliance

Chairman's Report

I have been honoured to be the inaugural Chairman of Greater Whitsunday Alliance.

I would like to commend the Mayors of the three Regional Councils – Anne Baker from Isaac Regional Council, Greg Williamson from Mackay Regional Council and Andrew Wilcox from Whitsunday Regional Council for the foresight and commitment they have shown to drive the establishment of a Regional Economic Development organisation to advocate for the Greater Whitsunday Region.

“ The establishment of the Greater Whitsunday Alliance Limited in January this year provides a vehicle and the opportunity for Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday regions to realise their full potential.

From inception, Greater Whitsunday Alliance has championed the entire region, and is a strong advocate to influence all levels of government. This activity is due, in no small part, to the insight, knowledge, commitment

and dedication of the Greater Whitsunday Alliance inaugural Board members.

I would like to thank Board members Anne Baker, Bob Bogie, Paul McLaughlin, Melissa Westcott, Vic Vassallo, Dr Rochelle MacDonald, Jordan Miller and Kylie Porter for volunteering their time and bringing their respective experience and professionalism to the Board.

In the limited time since we were established, the Board has developed a strong governance framework and strategic direction that ensures Greater Whitsunday Alliance is a robust and dynamic organisation that is well respected as the credible economic development vehicle for the region.

The entire Board and CEO, Garry Scanlan have engaged directly with stakeholders and consulted across the region to inform the community of our strategic direction and key priorities. We have undertaken significant political advocacy and engaged directly with local, state and federal governments to ensure that Greater Whitsunday Alliance is recognised as the peak economic development voice for the region.

This engagement campaign has yielded results with Greater Whitsunday Alliance now firmly on the radar of our political representatives.

Despite our young age, we are a growing presence in the media and working with our media partners to highlight opportunities and success in the Greater Whitsunday Region and we look forward to growing this profile in the coming months.

The Greater Whitsunday Region is diverse and one of Australia's strongest regional economies with a gross

regional product of \$22B, making it the highest GRP per capita in Queensland. The regional economy is driven by key, highly innovative and efficient industry sectors: mining, construction, resource services, agriculture, tourism, education and health and Greater Whitsunday Alliance has been forming alliances and collaborating with our industry partners to ensure the region maximises opportunities from these industries.

Greater Whitsunday Alliance has clearly demonstrated agility during its start-up phase and we are well placed to drive sustainable economic growth opportunities across the Greater Whitsunday Region.

We have a strong Strategic Plan for the next twelve months with a clear vision for the region which is supported by key priority areas that will provide our focus to deliver sustainable outcomes for the region.

I am excited with the possibilities for the next twelve months and look forward to leading the Greater Whitsunday Alliance to drive sustainable growth and promote liveability for the Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday Region.

Greater Whitsunday Alliance. Regional Opportunity – strong for generations.

John Glanville

Chair – Greater Whitsunday Alliance



Highlights

GOVERNANCE

- Greater Whitsunday Alliance formed 20 January 2017
Chairman, Board and CEO appointed
- Governance procedures, policies and processes developed and implemented
- Budget development and approval

MEETINGS

- Five Board meetings and two strategic planning sessions and one general meeting
- Two "Meet the GW3 Board" Functions in Cannonvale and Moranbah
- Three Finance, Audit and Risk Committee meetings held

ENGAGEMENT

- Engaged over 110 key industry, government, community and external stakeholders
Key stakeholder engagement continues across the region to inform strategic planning
- Greater Whitsunday Alliance website is established and organisation is growing a social media presence
- First Canberra delegation visit in October 2017 Meetings secured with:
 - Deputy Prime Minister and advisors
 - Minister for Financial Services & Revenue (responsibility for Insurance) Kelly O'Dwyer
 - Tourism Minister Steve Ciobo - advisors
 - Minister Infrastructure and Transport - Darren Chester and roads advisors
 - Regional Institute of Australia
- Secured membership of the Northern Australia Alliance (NAA) and co-sponsored the second annual Northern Australia Statement function at Parliament House Canberra with 100 invited guests
- Presentations to local Rotary clubs; Planning Institute of Australia; Canegrowers; Bowen Collinsville Enterprise; BNI Mackay Chapter; Mackay Region

Chamber of Commerce; Dawson Banking Forum; Civil Contractors Association, Regional Councils

- Established strategic relationships with Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise; Townsville Enterprise; Central Highlands Development Corporation; Advance Cairns and Capricorn Enterprise
- Delivered a Regional Indaba Event with CQU, RDA and DSD - 21 September 2017 with over 70 stakeholders attending

FUNDING

- Seed funding provided by Isaac Regional Council, Mackay Regional Council and Whitsunday Regional Council for a period of three years
- Appointed the Lead Applicant for the MIW Region for the Advancing Regional Queensland Innovation Program - \$500K over 3 years to grow the Innovation Ecosystem in the Region
- Successfully lodged Hail Creek Community Development Fund submission for the Regional Economic Profiling Project
- Secured \$120,000 from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science – Building Better Regions Fund for Regional Economic Development Strategic Plan Study

PROJECTS

- Centre for Defence Industry Capability
Review opportunities for Mackay to secure some of the LAN400 Defence work
- Growing Greater Whitsunday Agribusiness
Strategy and stage 2 implementation transferred to GW3
- Study Greater Whitsunday
Secured \$30,000 from Trade and Investment QLD for the feasibility of establishing a study cluster in the Greater Whitsunday Region
- Traditional owner + Adani Project awareness
Educate local industry leaders to understand the importance of early engagement with traditional owners with regard to Indigenous Participation Plans

The Year Ahead

Greater Whitsunday Alliance will continue to focus on 5 strategic outcomes for 2018:



Voice
Be the region's strongest voice for regional economic development opportunities and be recognised and politically strategic.



Connected
Connecting people, opportunities and ideas with key stakeholders to amplify investment in the region. Our role is to connect the dots of economic development.



Reputation
Transform and promote our region into one that is known for being easy to do business with has the will to make things happen.



Sustainable
Grow the influence and strength of Greater Whitsunday Alliance through diversification of income streams and a focus on a clear, future-oriented, apolitical plan.



Growth
Create a region which is economically robust, resilient, and values liveability as key priorities to ensure future sustainability.



"Making the Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday Region strong for generations"

The Year Ahead

Greater Whitsunday Alliance has identified 6 key priority areas:

Development, Infrastructure and Trade

Collaborate with key stakeholders across the region to enable infrastructure planning and development in ports, road, rail and aviation.

- **Pursue commitments for regional road funding:**
Mackay to Bowen Basin Service Link (Walkerston By-pass)
Ring Road Stages 2 and 3
Alpha-Clermont Road (essential to the development of the Galilee Basin)
Bruce Highway – North and South of Proserpine (Flood immunity)
Shute Harbour Road / Hamilton Plains
- **Pursue commitment of funds to complete the Urannah Dam feasibility study**
- **Secure commitment to review the feasibility of a coal-fired power station in the region to alleviate increasing energy costs**

Liveability

Development and promotion of critical social infrastructure and community.

- **Participate in the ACCC Insurance Affordability Inquiry and maintain pressure on Government to address issue of insurance affordability in Greater Whitsunday region**
- **Mackay Priority Development Area – riverfront and beachside redevelopment**

Knowledge Industries

Enhance the education and technology sectors.

- **Pursue establishment of a Resources Centre of Excellence at CQU in collaboration with regional partners**

Resources

Harness and maximise the potential of our resources sector.

- **Pursue Hinterland to Port supply chain opportunities and improvement**
- **Pursue defence contract opportunities to maximise the region's METS sector potential**

Tourism

Capitalise on and grow the brand success of the Greater Whitsunday Region.

- **Reef 2050 Plan - Direct funding for Councils to support management measures to ensure the Reef is preserved now and for generations to come**
- **Whitsunday Coast Airport investment**
- **Bowen Marina upgrade (Cyclone Debbie damage repairs)**
- **Advocate for major regional events: i.e Red Bull Air Race**

Agriculture, Aquaculture and Bio Futures

Drive the region as a peak primary producing economy.

- **Progress opportunities identified in the growing Greater Whitsunday Agrifood Action Plan - "Cultivating Opportunity"**

Greater Whitsunday Alliance + C-Res

Delivering the Local Buying Program for BHP Minerals Australia across Australia.

C-Res is a wholly owned subsidiary of Greater Whitsunday Alliance. In 2017, the Local Buying Program was determined to be the local procurement model of choice for BHP Minerals Australia after an independent review by Price Waterhouse Coopers.

Already operating in Queensland and New South Wales, C-Res and the Local Buying Program has now expanded to Western Australia and South Australia servicing BHP Minerals Australia Port Hedland, Newman and Olympic Dam sites.

As the Local Buying Program continues to grow, so too does the opportunities for small businesses across regional Australia to connect with the 'Big Australia' BHP.





GW3

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