

MEDIA RELEASE

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Indaba focus groups maintains attention on regional economic priorities

Greater Whitsunday Alliance (GW3) is this week hosting a series of Indaba focus groups across the Greater Whitsunday area to ensure alignment across the region for economic development priorities.

The first Regional Indaba, (an African word meaning gathering of community) was hosted in late September 2017 and the small focus group Indabas is a continuation of the engagement process.

Greater Whitsunday Alliance CEO, Mr Garry Scanlan said the smaller Indaba focus groups are important activities as it allows GW3 to understand the visionary economic development projects each region has identified.

“The Greater Whitsunday region is incredibly strong in terms of GRP and delivers almost \$15 billion to the national economy.

“We know that by understanding what the priorities are of each individual region, we can work together to achieve a huge range of positive outcomes for the entire Greater Whitsunday area,” said Mr Scanlan.

Mr Scanlan said increasingly, governments and major industry are looking for whole-of-community support for projects before they back projects or commit funding.

“Regional collaboration is a key indicator for both governments and industry and when we work together, we are in a better position for growth opportunities,” said Mr Scanlan.

Through a partnership with BHP, global shared value consultants FSG is working with GW3 to facilitate the Indaba process and to guide strategic visioning work. FSG are experts in community collaboration projects and bring a wealth of knowledge from across the globe.

“FSG brings a depth of experience to each Indaba event and ties the outcomes of each discussion to not only GW3’s strategic plan but also each region’s individual Economic Development Strategy.

“These stakeholder gatherings inform the individual strategies and ensure we are all singing from the same hymn sheet,” said Mr Scanlan.

Indaba focus groups have been held in Moranbah and Proserpine and will conclude in Mackay on Wednesday March 28.

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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For more information please contact Kylie Porter at GW3 on 0417 705 245.