



MEDIA RELEASE

Issued Friday, 11 July 2008

Now to the future

With the Townsville City Council's decision on funding for Townsville Enterprise drawing nearer the marketing and economic development organisation has conducted a study into the value of the projects they are pursuing to the region's economy.

Base load power generation in North Queensland and transmission to Mount Isa, the construction of the Townsville Ocean Terminal, attracting industry investment including more fly in fly out mining operations and continued tourism and event development are the organisation's top priorities.

The Local Government amalgamations folded three principal sponsors of Townsville Enterprise into one entity – and a decision on future Townsville City Council funding of the organisation is expected prior to the release of the Council budget.

The report follows a successful 2006/07 fiscal year for Townsville Enterprise where several key projects were secured – and marks the organisation's next step.

Townsville Enterprise Chief Executive Officer Glenys Schuntner said the organisation's priority projects have kept in line with the strategic plan handed down by the board.

“Townsville Enterprise's mission is to pursue projects and infrastructure development that will deliver sustainable growth to North Queensland.”

“In the past year a number of big ticket items have been ticked off our to do list, including the Port Access Corridor, and the Reid Park redevelopment.”

“Chalco's recent decision to pursue opportunities in Bowen has altered our focus from securing their operation to securing business from Chalco for local companies and suppliers.”

“We’re in a position where we have to consider what’s next for the region – and what’s next for Townsville Enterprise.”

“Base load power generation in North Queensland remains a priority for us and for local energy users. We need to provide a commercial rationale for energy companies and we believe new industry investment into the region and connecting an energy transmission line to Mount Isa will create an attractive opportunity for an energy generator.”

“New base load generation will in turn create opportunities for the expansion of existing operations like Sun Metals – and help us attract new operations to North Queensland,” Ms Schuntner said.

The economic impact study used up to date Australian Bureau of Statistics information and respected economic models to conservatively estimate the value of these major projects which will form part of the focus for Townsville Enterprise in coming years.

Report Findings

400-600 MW Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT), base load power station
Construction phase: 18 months, 400 direct employees, 1120 jobs created (direct and indirect), estimated total economic impact of \$297.52 Million
Operational phase: 20 full time staff, total annual economic impact \$20.92 million

Mount Isa Transmission Connection

Construction Phase: 300 employees, estimated economic impact of \$223.1 million, 840 jobs created (direct and indirect)

Estimated economic impact of 300 fly in fly out miners living in Townsville - \$16.3 million per annum

Tourism growth – According to Tourism Queensland figures spending by domestic and international visitors to North Queensland increased by \$143 million between 2005 and 2007. Assuming a ratio of expenditure of 65% accommodation, restaurants and cafes, 20% retail, 15% cultural and recreation services – the impact would have been 1893 new jobs spread proportionally across those three sectors.

ENDS

For more information contact Nathan Campbell on (07) 4726 2753 or 0434 182 765