

MEDIA RELEASE

21 JULY 2009

Big support for city's economic future

The council will continue to pursue business and tourism opportunities for Townsville through funding to drive economic development.

Initiatives include \$740,000 support for Townsville Enterprise Ltd, the North Queensland Small Business Development Centre and Mount Isa Townsville Economic Zone.

A further \$110,000 has been set aside to create a new CBD master plan to guide development in the inner-city stretch from Reid Park to the Breakwater.

Deputy Mayor and Economic Development Committee chairman Cr David Crisafulli said the city had to be proactive to attract opportunities during the global financial crisis.

"Now more than ever we need to be doing all we can to secure major projects and investment for Townsville to add more strings to our economic bow," Cr Crisafulli said.

"The Dunlop Townsville 400 and our success in lobbying for government funding for a number of big local projects showed just what we can achieve when the city and the community is prepared to go after an opportunity.

"Support for TEL to promote the city and secure funding and investment for projects is important for jobs and economic growth.

"Just as importantly, developing a new master plan is essential to guide and stimulate development in the CBD with the Flinders St redevelopment about to begin."

The Planning and Economic Development budget also features \$30,000 to help promote local tourism spots.

Funding will be used to develop local tourism destination plans for Magnetic Island, The Strand and CBD, Northern Beaches and Paluma.

Other highlights include:

- North Queensland Economic Development Conference
- \$90,000 to develop an Economic Development Strategic Plan for the city
- \$60,000 for Industrial Land Development Strategy for industrial land at Shaws Rd, Townsville State Development Area, and Woodstock

Media information: Cr David Crisafulli 0419 197 947