

## NQ conference unveils research project on economic and industry outlook

For years, state, national and international industry and government entities have been looking north to capitalise on our region's many valuable assets. Now, North Queensland has the chance to embrace the world's changing economy with vigour, to seek out new opportunities, create strength in our local economy and enhance the competitiveness of our established and emerging industries alike.

To allow for the most thorough identification of opportunities in our northern economy, a specially-commissioned research project will be unveiled at this year's North Queensland Economic Development Conference.

The North Queensland Economic and Industry Outlook aims to build an understanding of prospects for the North Queensland region from the industry level up and the consequences for economic development in the region.

Townsville City Council's Planning and Economic Development Committee chairman, Cr David Crisafulli, said this is a key paper which will give North Queenslanders an insight into their local economy, assisting them with planning for the future.

The 2009 North Queensland Economic Development Conference

will be held in Townsville on October 21 and 22, 2009.

The conference is expected to provide direction on global, national, state and regional economic drivers and their impact on North Queensland, with a view to understanding what it means for the region and what should be done about it.

The key research will be presented by BIS Shrapnel chief economist and director, Dr Frank Gelber.

Dr Gelber is a forecaster who frequently speaks on prospects for the economy and property markets. The focus of his research will be on how things will change, what that means for different market participants and what they should do about it.

The conference promises to address a range of topics relevant to North Queensland, including building resilience, clustering and collaboration, visionary opportunities and enterprise opportunities for a competitive North Queensland, with an overarching theme of Looking North: Opportunities of a Changing Economy.

Registrations for the conference are now open and places can be secured by phoning 4727 9000 or visiting [www.townsville.qld.gov.au](http://www.townsville.qld.gov.au).

## Contractors bid for Townsville International Sports Centre



Four contractors have been shortlisted to tender for construction of the 2,000 seat Townsville International Sports Centre.

The centre will include three indoor air conditioned multi-sport courts with seating capacity up to 2,000, meeting rooms, a fitness area, cafe, and other supporting amenities.

Expressions of interest from construction companies were called for earlier this year, with the four short-listed companies now tendering for the job.

This competitive process ensures council secures the best value and price for the \$13.65 million project.

A recommendation for the preferred contractor is anticipated to be made to council's ordinary meeting in October, with the successful contractor being engaged in November.

Construction of the International Sports Centre is due for completion by the end of 2010.

The Murray Sports Complex is the sports hub of the region and is being redeveloped as a partnership between Townsville City Council, the Australian and Queensland Governments, and local sports groups.

The redevelopment includes the new Townsville International Sports Centre and upgrade of sports facilities for 11 sports.

The Queensland Government has committed \$10 million, the council \$8.5 million, the Australian Government \$6.5 million and local sports groups \$460,000 to the entire Murray Sports Complex redevelopment, including the new centre.

### Tell us what you think of CityLibraries

CityLibraries is conducting a survey of our customers to gather feedback about library hours and programmed events offered. We invite you to participate in this survey.

All feedback will be used to improve facilities and services offered to our community.

To complete the survey, please go to: [www.townsville.qld.gov.au](http://www.townsville.qld.gov.au).

If you are unable to access internet facilities, please contact the Customer Service Centre on 4727 9000 for assistance.



## Townsville Civic extension takes form

Construction of the \$12.73 million extension to the Townsville Civic Theatre is off to a flying start.

The project site is a hive of activity with the structure of the rehearsal space, located at the rear of the building, already taking form, and completion of the entire project due by July next year.

The extension will almost double the current footprint of the theatre, providing a rehearsal room, function facilities, increased foyer space and additional lift access.

Local contractors TCS Constructions were awarded the tender.

Lifestyle and Community Development Committee chair, Cr Jenny Lane, said the Townsville Civic Theatre extension would transform the theatre into a modern, multi-purpose arts centre that will encourage far greater community use.

"Townsville's Civic Theatre has

been one of the best regional arts venues in the State for 30 years and the time is right to bring it up to 21st century standards," Cr Lane said.

The extension works will nearly double the footprint of the theatre.

Facilities will include a new rehearsal space, function room, meeting room and kitchen, more space for technical staff, workshop, additional toilet facilities, lift access to the two upper doors, improved disability access and improved box office and administration area.

The extension is jointly funded by council and the State Government through the Q150 Legacy Infrastructure Program.

The Townsville Civic Theatre opened in 1978 and attracts more than 110,000 people each year. With the city's population undergoing rapid expansion and more groups seeking to use the theatre, the expansion is vital.

