

BUNDABERG - BARGARA - CORAL COVE



MEDIA RELEASE

Updated FEBRUARY 2017





Table of Contents

RELEASE DATE

More than 120 solar jobs - Bundaberg	11th February 2017
Change at Port to detonate explosion in jobs	10th February 2017
Massive plan for Bundy Port “Game Changer”	10th February 2017
South Bank style Swimming Lagoon for Burnett Heads	1st February 2017
Council approves commercial and industrial Hub	31st January 2017
Investors are lining up to buy into Bundy	25th January 2017
800 new jobs coming with NDIS to Bundy	23rd January 2017
Port exports show Growth	10th January 2017
23 new things happening in Bundy 2017	2nd January 2017
Multimillion Dollar Bundaberg Rum Visitor centre now open	11th August 2016
First Jobs advertised for Plasterboard Factory	26th August 2016
Work Begins on new \$31 Million Shopping Complex	26th July 2016
Is Elliott Heads the next Byron Bay?	29th July 2016
\$10 Million for Mon Repos to be revamped	10th June 2016
Construction helping job prospects	5th June 2016
Domestic Tourist Numbers up for the Reef - Bundaberg	16th June 2016



Table of Contents

RELEASE DATE

International Tourism Injects \$113 Million into local economy	6th June 2016
Market Regains Stability	18th June 2016
New Flights for Bundy?	25th May 2016
Aviation and Aerospace Precinct	May 2016
Why this sand is important to the Region	25th May 2016
Development Looks good for the Region	6th May 2016
Coal Mine Opportunity we can't miss	23rd April 2016
Bundy the best place to see the Barrier Reef	20th April 2016
Hundreds of Jobs in the Pipeline	16th February 2016
Gas Pipeline Makes Exciting Time for Bundaberg	16th February 2016
Bundaberg Rental Market Tightens	6th February 2016
\$70 Million Dollar Plasterboard Plant announced for Bundaberg	29th January 2016

NEWS

More than 120 solar jobs up for grabs just south of Bundaberg

11th Feb 2017 5:30 AM



solar panel. Photo: Trevor Veale / The Coffs Coast Advocate.

TREVOR VEALE/ The

A \$216 MILLION solar farm project has created more than 120 jobs and the spots are filling fast.

Starting at the end of February, about 126 people will begin construction of the Teebar Clean Energy project; a solar farm run by Australian and international companies.

The solar farm and employment project is a result of two years of work from the Fraser Coast Training Employment Support Service and Maryborough MP Bruce Saunders.

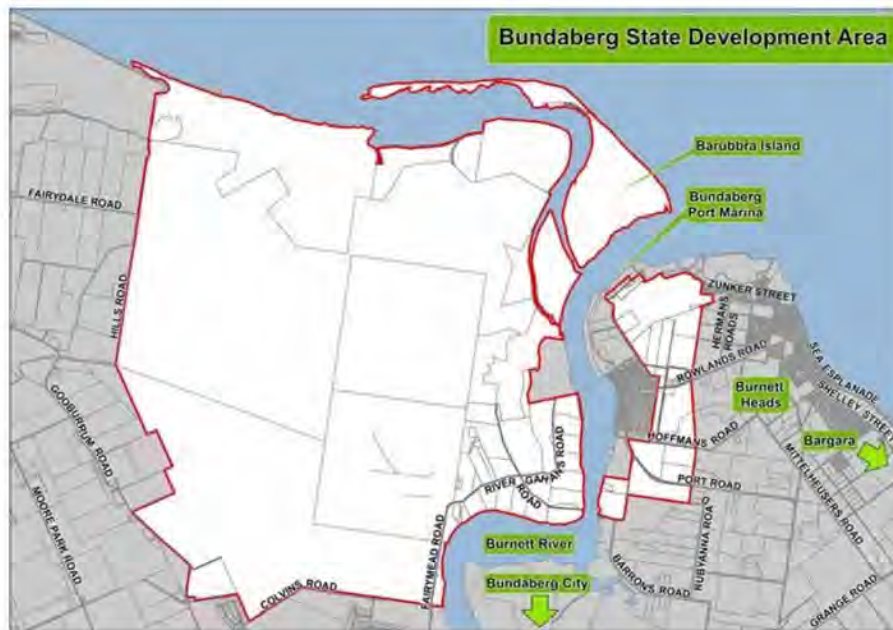
An information day was held in Maryborough yesterday for possible employees to learn more about the jobs on offer.

While TESS had expected about 20 people to attend, more than 50 jobseekers squeezed into a room, desperate to find out more about but Mr Saunders says two new, bigger projects run by the same companies will be starting in Maryborough later in the year.

Energy from the plant will help power Wide Bay.

Change at port to detonate explosion in jobs

10th Feb 2017 5:09 PM



PORT MAP: The area in white is the huge tract of land set aside for industrial development at the port.

TWO mystery men watched on while State Development Minister Anthony Lynham announced a 6000ha industrial precinct around the Port of Bundaberg today.

The men, investors from Victoria, were at the port to investigate relocating their manufacturing business to Bundaberg.

Dr Lynham said the inter-state interest was just the start of turning the port into an industrial powerhouse and Bundaberg into Wide Bay's economic growth hotspot.

"It's about jobs, jobs, jobs," Dr Lynham said.

The State Development Area announcement includes land on the southern side of the Burnett River as well as a massive tract of agricultural land on the river's northern side.

Barubbra Island, at the entry to the port, has also been earmarked for development.

"This will make Bundaberg an attractive destination for new and existing business and industry looking to expand and invest," Dr Lynham said.

The declaration allows the Co-ordinator-General to provide business with a one-stop shop to cut red tape speeding up government approvals to fast track development.

Member for Bundaberg Leanne Donaldson said the SDA would build on the many economic success stories coming out of the Wide Bay Burnett.



PORT POWER: State Development Minister Anthony Lynham, Employment Minister Grace Grace, Bundaberg Mayor Jack Dempsey and Bundaberg MP Leanne Donaldson at the port for yesterday's game-changing announcement.

Craig Warhurst

"With the Bundaberg Gas Pipeline and the Knauf plasterboard plant, our city and our region are starting to roll economically," she said.



SHIPPING NEWS: Action at the Port of Bundaberg.

Zach Hogg BUN010914WB51

Bundy's SDA is one of 10 around the state. Another is Port of Gladstone.

Peta Jamieson, a director of Gladstone Port Corporation, which also controls Bundaberg Port, said it was great news.

"It's fantastic for the future growth of the port and I have been happy to work with the State Government on the move," she said.

"It is a huge catalyst for Bundaberg and the region as a whole."

The decision, two years in the making, follows technical investigations and public consultation last year.

Government officials now expect an increase in minerals and bulk commodity trade through the port, including sugar, silica sands and wood pellets, as well as new industries wanting to be near existing operators like Knauf.

The next step is establishing a development scheme for the area to guide decisions about land use and planning controls.

This is expected would be completed before the end of the year.

Business Bundaberg consultant Neil McPhillips said the announcement was another step in the right direction for boosting the region's economy.

"It was very coincidental that whilst the State Development Area announcement was being made by Minister Lynham and Mayor Dempsey this morning, I was showing the owners of a Melbourne-based manufacturing company the port facilities and infrastructure, as they are looking at establishing their business here," he said.

"We are getting more and more enquiries like this and today's announcement will enable us to market and promote these opportunities even further afield.

"The company owners were surprised and thankful to be in a position to personally meet the Minister for State Development.

"It really is good news for our region."

NewsMail
CORRECTING OUR COMMUNITY

AUSTRALIAN
REGIONAL
MEDIA APN

© The Bundaberg Newspaper Company Pty Limited 2017. Unauthorised reproduction is prohibited under the laws of Australia and by international treaty.

Massive plan for Bundy port 'game changer' says mayor

10th Feb 2017 11:00 AM Updated: 11:33 AM



Minister Grace Grace with Leanne Donaldson, Jack Dempsey and State Development Minister Dr Anthony Lynham.

A-6000 hectare industrial precinct has been created to turn the Port of Bundaberg into an economic growth hotspot for the Wide Bay.

State Development Minister Dr Anthony Lynham today announced a new state development area around the Port of Bundaberg, including land near the port on the eastern side of the Burnett River as well as agricultural and rural land on the river's western side.

[>> View a map of the proposal](#)

inRead invented by Teads

"This will make Bundaberg an attractive destination for new and existing business and industry looking to expand and invest," Dr Lynham said.

"The Coordinator-General can provide business and industry in this area with a one-stop shop to speed up government approvals and really get industrial development moving around the port."

Member for Bundaberg Leanne Donaldson said the new state development area would build on the many economic success stories coming out of the Wide Bay Burnett.

"With the Bundaberg Gas Pipeline and the Knauf plasterboard plant, our city and our region are starting to roll economically," she said.

Bundaberg's state development area becomes one of 10 around the state, ranging from major public infrastructure sites, like Brisbane's Lady Cilento Hospital to industry hubs like the area around the Port of Gladstone.



A map of the development area.

The decision follows technical investigations and public consultation last year.

Dr Lynham said the government expected an increase in minerals and bulk commodity trade through the port, including sugar, silica sands and wood pellets, as well as new industries wanting to be near existing operators like Knauf.

"Within the state development area,

the Coordinator-General can make doing business simpler for investors, by doing up-front detailed land-use and infrastructure planning, resolving any potential land use issues and coordinating government approvals, and gaining access to land if necessary," he said.

The next step is establishing a development scheme for the area to guide decisions about land use and planning controls.

Dr Lynham said this would involve public consultation starting later this year.

Bundaberg Mayor Jack Dempsey said the new State Development Area to be built around the Port of Bundaberg will be a 'game changer' for the region, ensuring more local jobs and business opportunities.

"The development of a State Development Area means that the port will be further developed to increase trade and throughput," Mayor Dempsey said.

"I'm delighted that the potential of our port will finally be realised. We have been working with all levels of government to promote greater use of the Bundaberg Port and today that hard work has paid off.

"The Bundaberg Region has so much to offer in terms of exports. We produce quality products that are in world demand. Currently, the port exports raw sugar, some molasses, wood pellets and silica sands but following today's announcement, there'll be the potential to export so much more.

"We're talking about increasing throughput from an average 254,000 tonnes a year to an estimated 1,000,000 tonnes a year.

"Today's news builds on a string of positive announcements and growing business confidence. Council's Open for Development initiative alone has stimulated building activity and generated about \$165 million in local development.

"We are already reaping the benefits of the development of the Knauf plasterboard factory and soon we'll welcome the completion of the \$19 million gas pipeline that will provide a direct source of energy to new industry at the port.

"I'm heartened by the rapid increase in infrastructure projects and major capital works being undertaken in the region. I thank the State and Federal Governments for their cooperation in working with Council to identify opportunities that can create real jobs and grow our local economy."

South Bank style swimming lagoon could be on its way



Crystal Jones | 1st Feb 2017 3:04 PM



Artists' impressions of the proposed changes.

Crystal Jones

A PLAN to develop a tourism hub at the Port of Bundaberg could be a step closer following a change to the port's lease agreement.

And those who have been calling for a water park-like facility could be rejoicing if the master plan comes to fruition.

The Port of Bundaberg foreshore redevelopment plan includes a swimming lagoon - and if the artist's impression is anything to go by - it looks a lot like something you'd see in South Bank.

>> See the master plan

The proposed master plan would see new attractions including two to six-storey residential units, canoe and paddleboat hire and a boardwalk leading to a bird-watching trail.

A new, bigger marina, in addition to the present one, would form part of the changes.

Tourist accommodation could also receive a boost, with a six to eight-storey hotel proposed.



Artists' impressions of the proposed changes.

Crystal Jones

The change will also give the Gladstone Ports Corporation the power to carry out dredging works in the Boat Harbour area.

"This master plan for the Burnett Heads Riverfront and Boat Harbour Precincts offers a world class precinct that, once completed, will prove to be yet another jewel in the crown of

the Bundaberg region," Bundaberg Mayor Jack Dempsey said.

"The master plan proposes improved riverfront and marina access and new shopping and business areas to complement new residential opportunities.

"Tourism precincts, a public square and lagoon are all included in the master plan concept. This project has been planned for some considerable time but it appears the momentum that is currently sweeping our region may be stimulating this development."



Artists' impressions of the proposed changes.

Crystal Jones

Division 6 Councillor Scott Rowleson said the it was exciting to see things going ahead in the region.

"It's a win for the port, a win for developers and a win for council, so it's win-win for everyone," he said.

The land is owned by the State Government, administered by the

council and leased perpetually by the Gladstone Ports Corporation.

At an ordinary council meeting yesterday, the council offered no objection to the State Government's call for a change of lease conditions which would allow reclamation of the land.

The application for the change was made by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines for an additional clause to be added to the perpetual lease document governing property at the proposed development site at Burnett Heads.



Artists' impressions of the proposed changes.

Crystal Jones

Cr Dempsey said the council was playing its role in progressing development in the Burnett Heads area with significant investment in water and sewerage projects.

"We are also undertaking a streetscape design project to enhance the Burnett Heads CBD," he said.

"The master plan and streetscape will go hand in hand to ensure we provide a desirable location where Burnett Heads residents will be even more proud to live and where many other people will want to visit or to make their homes.

"With the \$71 million Knauf plasterboard plant now under construction, the pre scuttling work on the Tobruk being progressed and the announcement impending of a State Development Area at the Port all the signs are there for Burnett Heads to show its immense potential."

Council approves commercial and industrial hub



Jim Alouat | 31st Jan 2017 4:24 PM



EXCITED: Bundaberg Mayor Jack Dempsey.

Paul Donaldson BUN091216ROAD4

UP TO 14 businesses will become part of an exciting new commercial and industrial precinct including an agricultural supplies store and a wholesale nursery.

At its ordinary meeting today, Bundaberg Regional Council approved a Material Change of Use for the development of a number of businesses and industrial sites at 59 Cummins St, North Bundaberg.

The applicants, listed as Tech Park, have indicated plans to develop the area for a range of industries as well as an agricultural supplies store; wholesale nursery; hardware and trade supplies; outdoor sales; bulk landscape supplies; and a transport depot and warehouse.

The good news for the North Bundaberg region comes as Northway Plaza sold last month for a whopping \$14 million.

"It's great for North Bundaberg in particular in that it's all about jobs and development," Bundaberg Mayor Jack Dempsey said.

"It will add to the economic benefits of the area."

Cr Dempsey said the approval came after the installation of a flood levee in the vicinity of the site, which provided "a level of flood immunity and resolving the majority of flood issues".

"By council and industry working together, we have come up with a solution that will lead to further investment and more jobs for the Bundaberg region," Cr Dempsey said.

"(The) council's work to protect the community from flooding has delivered the added benefit of providing more suitable land for development.

"The applicants can now realise their goal to build agriculture and hardware stores, warehouses and industrial hubs."

Council planning and development spokesman Ross Sommerfeld said the land would be reconfigured for a range of uses.

"The opportunities for this site are endless," Cr Sommerfeld.

"This is an exciting prospect.

"Today's result is certainly a win for the community and a win for development."

NewsMail
CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY



© The Bundaberg Newspaper Company Pty Limited 2017. Unauthorised reproduction is prohibited under the laws of Australia and by international treaty.

Investors are lining up to buy into Bundy, says agent

Carolyn Booth | 25th Jan 2017 4:33 PM



LIVING THE DREAM: Louise Cole and Gary Peat have bought the Innes Park Country Club after visiting Bundaberg on holidays.

Craig Warhurst

THE real estate agent who sold the Innes Park Country Club says the Bundaberg region is extremely appealing for investors and he's looking for more commercial property here.

Selling the 18-hole golf course, clubhouse and four-bedroom house for \$925,000, Sunshine Coast Colliers International senior executive Tony Nioa said there was a significant amount of interest in the Innes Park property, which had a lot going for it, but the region as a whole was ticking a lot of boxes for commercial investors.

"It (Innes Park) was a very attractive lifestyle property," he said.

"It also had other opportunities - we had a town planning report done - and it had opportunities there for additional services like RV or caravans could stop there, so it was quite a good multi-purpose property.

"We had people look at it for a variety of uses from purely as a residence-hobby farm to continuing on as it was.

"We had international inquires, inquires from Asia as well as local inquires and from across Australia."

Mr Nioa said he noted Bundaberg was definitely on the radar as a good place to invest.

"We have got property up this way (Bundaberg) but we're looking for more properties based on the success of this, we are looking for further commercial properties to market

"There's a lot of strong interest in good commercial property, both owner-occupier and for investment."

Mr Nioa said some the factors attracting investors to Bundaberg included a vibrant CBD, its status as a food bowl and the fact that the region hadn't felt the mining downturn as much as other areas.

"Maybe part of it is when people came up to have a look at it, the Bundaberg main street has a very vibrant feel to it," he said.

"It's in a nice little investment pocket.

"All the talk at the moment is on food production and here we are in the food bowl of Queensland.

"It (Innes Park) really met a lot of strategic investment criteria from our investors."

NewsMail
CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY



© The Bundaberg Newspaper Company Pty Limited 2017. Unauthorised reproduction is prohibited under the laws of Australia and by international treaty.

NEWS

800 new jobs coming with NDIS to Bundaberg

23rd January 2017 8:04 AM



FLYING FREE: The NDIS will help people with a disability live life to the full.

SrdjanPav

by Jim Alouat

THERE'S an economic explosion just around the corner for Bundaberg and it's happening in an unlikely industry.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is to create a jobs boom for Bundaberg with government figures projecting a massive investment from the \$50 million spent on the disability sector now to \$150 million by June next year.

The NDIS workforce is estimated to employ about 400-450 workers which will triple to almost 1250 as the NDIS is rolled out across the region.

THE Bundaberg NDIS Community Preparedness Group is made up of local community service providers, the Primary Health Network, Bundaberg and Districts Chamber of Commerce, and local business consultants whose aim is to increase awareness of the scheme's potential in the region.

"If we are to capitalise on the projected \$100 million boost to the local economy, we have to get the word out to the entire community," chairman Damien Tracey said.

"The NDIS represents an enormous opportunity for the local business community."

But it is the participants of the scheme who are set to reap the most. The National Disability Insurance Agency estimates 1500 residents rely on the NDIS now, which will increase to 3300 people by June next year.

"According to the NDIA's market position statement there are potentially 1800 people with disability living in our community

for whom the state system does not currently provide funded support," Mr Tracey said.

"This lack of support can limit people's ability to access education, employment, health care, recreation and sport - the very things most people take for granted," he said.

To help businesses better understand the NDIS and what it could mean for them, a breakfast will be held by Bundaberg and District Chamber of Commerce next month.

Chamber president Yale Morgan said the breakfast was a great opportunity for businesses to learn about the scheme via a joint presentation from local, state and federal government representatives.

"From the point of view of businesses, they've got a whole new opportunity to market into and we need to capitalise on it," Mr Morgan said.

"In terms of national spending, the NDIS will be second only to Medicare."

Across the state, the scheme could create up to 36,000 new disability sector jobs, according to the State Government.

Once the NDIS rollout is complete, it will inject about \$4 billion into the state economy each year.

But a Productivity Commission review announced by the Federal Government on Friday has the state fearing the scheme could be watered down.

Disability Services Minister Coralee O'Rourke said: "Once fully rolled out in mid-2019, the NDIS will support more than 90,000 Queenslanders with disability and create up to 19,000 new jobs in the state's disability sector."

"The NDIS is a vital reform for people with disability, giving them the choice and control to live the life they choose, and that is something that can't be taken away from the thousands of Queenslanders who will enter the scheme." Disability Services Minister Coralee O'Rourke said.

"It's simply not good enough and I have written to (federal) Social Services Minister Christian Porter to stress that the true intent of the NDIS cannot be compromised."

The Chamber breakfast will be held on February 14 at The Waves.

To book, visit [www.bundabergchamber \(http://www.bundabergchamber/\). com.au](http://www.bundabergchamber.com.au).

NewsMail (<http://www.news-mail.com.au/>)

Port exports show growth



Jim Alouat | 10th Jan 2017 5:49 PM



EXPORT QUALITY: Silica for loading at the Bundaberg Port. Photo: Mike Knott / NewsMail

Mike Knott BUN120516SILICA2

THE latest export figures for the Port of Bundaberg show a bustling economy ready to boom in coming years as the port reaches its full potential.

Last year 400,117 tonnes of bulk sugar was exported from the Port of Bundaberg, 66,831 tonnes of silica sand and 34,368 tonnes of wood pellets.

Indonesia was our biggest market for sugar accepting 168,653 tonnes.

South Korea was our largest recipient of silica sand at 55,066.

In total, the Port of Bundaberg exported 501,316 tonnes of cargo compared to 455,304 in 2015 and 315,759 in 2014.

Federal Member for Hinkler and Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Keith Pitt said the Port of Bundaberg was vital to the economy of the Hinkler electorate.

"The Port of Bundaberg is the export point for sugar and has recently commenced export of wood pellet and silica sands.

"We have seen steady increases in export volumes from the port over the past three years and I believe with our three Free Trade Agreements gaining traction now, the port has not only the potential to expand but the trade environment in which to do so."

Last year saw the first anniversary of the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement and the second anniversaries of the Korea-Australia FTA and the Japan-Australia FTA.

Under KAFTA tariffs for silica sand (formerly a 3% tariff), sugar (formerly a 3% tariff) and wood pellets (formerly a 2% tariff) were all eliminated on day one of the agreement.

"However FTAs are also beneficial to local food processors and manufacturers like Bundaberg Distilling Co, Bundaberg Brewed Drinks, Farm Fresh Fine Foods, Austchilli, Australian Ocean King Prawn Company and Schulz Fisheries," Mr Pitt said.

"While these businesses may not yet use the port as an export point, the sugar industry does and South Korea is Australia's biggest export market for sugar," he said.

Member for Bundaberg Leanne Donaldson said Earth Commodities had conducted five trial shipments of silica sand into Asia since July 2016, and hopefully these trials would secure longer term contracts.

"Atlas Renewables have also developed a "wood pellet" export market and undertaken a shipment in the second half of 2016," Ms Donaldson said.

"I meet regularly with the port to discuss their plans as it is a great hope for much needed jobs in Bundaberg."

Bundaberg Mayor Jack Dempsey said the latest export figures for the Port of Bundaberg were yet another tangible example of ballooning economic growth in the Bundaberg region.

"Council has worked hard with the State Government as part of the recent investigation into potentially proclaiming the Port of Bundaberg a State Development Area (SDA)," he said.

NewsMail
CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

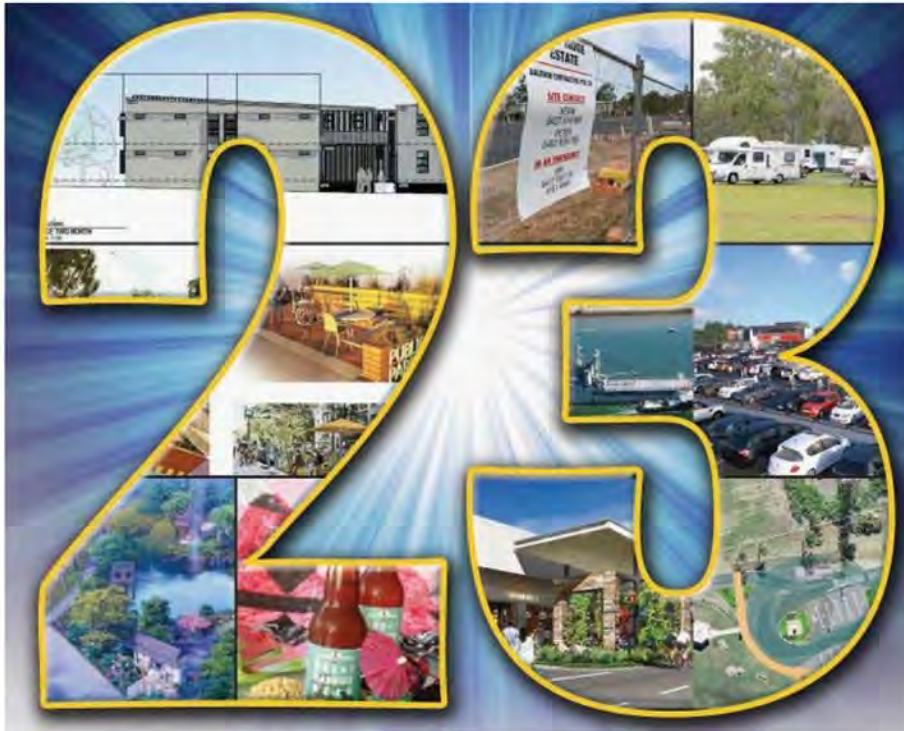


© The Bundaberg Newspaper Company Pty Limited 2017. Unauthorised reproduction is prohibited under the laws of Australia and by international treaty.

23 new things happening in the Bundy region in 2017



Ashley Clark | 2nd Jan 2017 11:30 AM



THE saying "new year, new you" will ring especially true for Bundaberg in 2017 with plenty of things being introduced to the region.

From produce markets, a CBD revamp, new shops, the launch of tasty local beer and more, Bundaberg is set to have a lot more to offer in the new year.

Here is a list of just some of the things we can look forward to in 2017.



An artist's impression of the new markets.

1. Lana's Farmers Markets

It's been described as Bundaberg's newest social hub, eatery and produce market and it will be opening very soon.

Creator's Cliff Crampton and Kellie Sheehy said they wanted to provide a unique space that offered two distinct types of markets: fresh produce and food during the day and an Eat Street-style during the night.

night.

Positioned on 8800sq m, the markets will be all-weather proof and will feature stalls in large shipping containers, entertainment and plenty of parking.

Initial plans are to operate every Saturday.

The area, which is situated on Stancer Crt behind Spotlight, is in its final stages of construction and will open to the public in the new year.



The new neighbourhood shopping centre, to be known as Stockland Kensington, will occupy approximately 3ha of land south of Sugarland Shoppingtown, with access off Takalvan St. WORK BEGINS: An artist impression of the new Stockland Kensington, which is being developed on the site of the former Bunnings Warehouse off Takalvan St. Photo Contributed

Contributed

bar.

2. Stockland Kensington

The \$30 million Stockland Kensington complex, situated in the former Bunnings building on Takalvan St, is on schedule to open in late March, 2017.

The new centre, located adjacent to Sugarland Shoppingtown in Bundaberg West, will be anchored by a full-line, 4500sq m Coles supermarket and a 150sq m Liquorland outlet.

It will also feature The Reject Shop plus a cafe, sushi train, noodles, kebab shop, beautician and nail



Work on the gas pipeline at the Bundaberg Port.

Craig Warhurst

3. Bundaberg Port Gas Pipeline

The \$19.8 million, 28.5km Bundaberg Port Gas Pipeline to Bundaberg is set to be open in 2017.

The multi-million-dollar project is part of a development agreement between the Queensland Government and Australian Gas Networks for the delivery and operation of the pipeline.

The Queensland Government has

estimated the project's construction would create 45 jobs, including about 15 local construction jobs.

The pipeline will have the capacity to deliver 0.7 terrajoules of gas per day above that required to meet Knauf's needs of 925 terrajoules per day, it also had the potential to fuel new businesses and industries, and create further additional jobs in the area.

The pipeline is expected to be operational in early 2017.

4. Knauf Plasterboard

The world-leading plasterboard manufacturer announced its approval for the construction of the facility at the Bundaberg Port last January.

Knauf Plasterboard Limited is a subsidiary of the Knauf Group and manufactures plasterboard, modern insulation materials, plasters and accessories.

The family company has 225 facilities and 70 mines in five different continents with more than 25,000 employees worldwide.

The Bundaberg facility will hire 70 new employees.

Commissioning will be at the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION: A skeleton of the Knauf plasterboard factory is beginning to take shape at Bundaberg Port.

Mike Knott BUN250816KNAUF6



SOLAR PLAN: Jack Dempsey and Adam Wyatt at the Rubyanna Waste Water Treatment Plant site. Photo: Eliza Goetze / NewsMail

Eliza Goetze

5. Rubyanna Waste Water Treatment

The \$71 Smillion Rubyanna Waste Water Treatment Plant is the single-largest infrastructure project undertaken by Bundaberg Regional Council.

The plant, which will have a construction footprint of about 3ha, is on a 126-ha site and will be built with state-of-the-art technology with a focus on odour control and environmental outcomes.

Rubyanna, as a greenfield site, would incorporate the latest technologies that would provide the best community and environmental outcomes.

Mayor Jack Dempsey said all being well, the Rubyanna project should be nearing completion about November next year.



Tenders have gone out for stage 2 of the multiplex development.

Mike Knott BUN191016MULTIPLEX3

6. Multiplex

The Multiplex, at 1 Civic Ave, is part of the redevelopment of the old showgrounds.

The \$15 million facility will also accommodate the PCYC, a three-court arena, gymnastics hall, gym, group fitness area and food preparation facilities and will be used as a major evacuation centre during natural disasters.

Stage two of the multi-purpose facility

project is currently being constructed and includes the construction of the sports hall, stage and green rooms, main entry foyer, commercial kitchen, plant rooms, landscaping, bathrooms and function rooms.

The project is expected to be complete in October next year.

7. Tobruk

Tobruk docked for the last time in December in preparation for two years of work that will allow her to be sunk off the coast of Elliott Heads and turned into a world-class dive site.

Work will begin next year with the Tobruk to provide a new tourism attraction to the Wide Bay region and a rise in domestic and international visitors to the region.

It will also provide much needed long-term, sustainable jobs for locals.

8. Bargara Beach Estate

A new estate in Bargara has officially launched, offering the perfect lifestyle for those lusting after luxe coastal living close to the city.



SKY HIGH: Trevor Walden captured this unique view of the ex-HMAS Tobruk being towed into the Burnett River from his helicopter. Photo: Trevor Walden



NEW ESTATE: Charlie Winter, Councillor Greg Barnes, Ron and Caress Lowe, David Cupit and Member for Burnett Stephen Bennett open the Bargara Beach Estate on Moodies Road.

Paul Donaldson BUN091216EST2

Bargara Beach Estate is situated just 600 metres from Kellys Beach on the corner of Moodies and Watsons Rds and, once all complete, will include 181 lots over seven stages.

The first stage of Bargara Beach Estate is now open with the second stage to be released early next year.



NEW LOOK: An artists impression submitted as part of a development application for new food outlet and seating area at Stockland Sugarland. Photo Contributed

Contributed

within Stockland's master-planning for the shopping centre since taking full ownership in April 2016.

9. Sugarland dining precinct proposed

Stockland has revealed plans for a two stage outdoor dining precinct development at Sugarland Shoppingtown, featuring new food eateries, landscape planting and all-weather seating for alfresco and after hours dining year round.

The proposed development fits



HUMMOCK REVAMP: A \$165,000 Hummock Lookout Restoration project is underway. Photo Contributed

Contributed

Lookout Upgrade Program, set up to help local council's revitalise existing lookouts across Queensland.

10. Hummock Lookout

A \$165,000 Hummock Lookout Restoration project involves vegetation removal including weeds and invasive species of trees that was blocking a large section of the view.

The final stages include road widening, installation of a new shelter and picnic facilities, interpretive signage, new bollards and new seats.

The project is part of the State Government's \$3.2 million Scenic



HE'S BACK: New Bundaberg Regional Council CEO Stephen Johnston is currently the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Local Government, Infrastructure and Planning.

Chris Ison

11. New council CEO

Bundaberg will have a new CEO when the year begins.

Former Bundaberg Regional Council deputy CEO and Isis Shire Council CEO Stephen Johnston has been appointed in the role, taking over from outgoing Peter Byrne who will retire next year.

12. Pathway network

A 2.5KM EXTENSION to the region's pathway network is underway with six location in Bundaberg included in the project.

Extensions to existing pathways will be made in Avoca, Milbank, Burnett Heads, Moore Park Beach, Bargara and Svensson Heights.

Cr Dempsey said local contractor Christensen Industries had already started work on the \$500,000 pathway program.

It is scheduled to be completed by May 2017, weather permitting.



RV FRIENDLY: RV homes, Caravan and Campers at Bargara Beach Caravan Park. Photo: Paul Donaldson / NewsMail

Paul Donaldson BUN150716RV3

13. RV Park and rally

The Bundaberg region is set for massive national exposure and a financial windfall in October with the announcement that the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) will be holding its national rally at the Bundaberg Recreational Precinct.

The event is tentatively booked for October 9 to 16.

The council is also

currently looking at sites in Bundaberg to locate an RV friendly park.



ROCK OUT: Di Wills, Laura Lingwood and Christie Marshke are looking for people to join Bundaberg's first Pub Rock Choir. Photo Jim Alouat / NewsMail

Jim Alouat

January 22.

Visit www.creativeregions.com.au/events for more information.

14. Pub Rock Choir

This month, a group of music lovers will meet at the Globe Hotel for the city's first Pub Rock Choir rehearsal.

Creative Regions producer Di Wills said the impetus for the choir came out of Bundaberg in Voice, a mentorship program where local singers and performers developed a cabaret show.

The first rehearsal will be at the Globe Hotel at 4.30pm on



OFFICE VIEWS: Rahel Clarke, Eleanor Carey and Dan Willersdorf at the new Generator Bundaberg Coworking Space.

Paul Donaldson BUN101116OFF3

15. The Generator

Bundaberg will get its own taste of New York start-up culture next year now that The Generator, a co-working space, has locked in a lease from Australia Post.

The space allows people to work in the 332sq m of floor space, 100 seat, 20 desk facility.

The Generator will start up next Sunday.



CBD INNOVATION: Council is looking for businesses keen to be part of an initiative to install small, relocatable platform structures called parklets. Photo Contributed

Contributed

16. Parklets

Transforming areas in the CBD, such as Targo St, into alfresco hubs could be on the table with Bundaberg Regional Council set to trial parklets in the new year.

The small, relocatable platform structures provide an extension to the footpath space that could be used for outdoor dining, entertainment or other approved activities.

17. Emergency services station

The construction of a new fire station, combined with an ambulance station, has started in Bundaberg.



Ambulance generic

Trevor Veale

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Cameron Dick said the \$12.6 million facility at Wyllie St, Thabeban, would accommodate a co-located ambulance and fire station that would be immune to future floods.

Practical completion is expected in mid-2017.



NEW INVESTMENT: A 288-bed world-class hostel will be built in Gin Gin in 2017. Photo Contributed

Contributed

18. Gin Gin hostel

Stage one of a multi-million dollar backpacker hostel accommodating up to 288 guests is due to open in 2017.

Mulgrave Investments is behind the project, which it says will be a "world-class" facility catering to "both Australian and international backpackers".

The 4960sq m property will feature 144 beds and will be built at 2-4 Alpin Terrace, Gin Gin.



The city of Nanning in China has gifted Bundaberg \$1.6million for a new Chinese gardens.

Craig Warhurst

19. Chinese gardens

Bundaberg's sister city Nanning has gifted an extra \$1 million to the region to remodel the Chinese gardens at the Bundaberg Botanic Gardens.

The money comes on top of \$600,000 already promised for the project.

Stage one will include a new entry gatehouse, upgraded path and alterations to the bridge

including a new balustrade.

20. Great Barrier Beer

With the popularity of their first fundraising beer skyrocketing, The Good Beer Co and Bargara Brewing Company have joined forces for a second time to produce the next round of Great Barrier Beer which is set to further aid conservation of the reef.

Melon Honey Kolsch is the second brew in the Great Barrier Beer repertoire, following the mid-strength IPA which was released earlier this year.

The beer is set to be released early next year with 50% of sale profits would go towards the Australian Marine Conservation Society.



BEERY GOOD: Bargara Brewing Company head brewer Andrew Clark with the second Great Barrier Beer creation for The Good Beer Co.



AMENITIES BLOCK: Cr Greg Barnes and Federal Member for Hinkler Keith Pitt at Christsen Park Bargara.

Mike Knott BUN071016PARK9

21. Christsen Park funding

The long-awaited funding for the second stage of the Christsen Park Bargara upgrade was recently announced and will see the construction of an amenities block, four shelter sheds, landscaping and play areas.

The park is situated at the Basin.



The Bundaberg CBD.

Crystal Jones

22. CBD revamp

BUNDABERG Regional Council is embarking on an ambitious project to revitalise the Bundaberg CBD and establish a premier commercial hub for the Wide Bay.

Cr Dempsey said the council had a vision to create the "most vibrant CBD in regional Queensland".



NEW DEVELOPMENT: Land on Hughes Road, Bargara where residential development will go ahead.

Paul Donaldson BUN270916DEV3

23. Hughes Rd estate

A low density residential development in Bargara featuring a total of 86 detached houses has been given approval by the council in a bid to attract more people to the suburb.

Cr Dempsey said the Hughes Rd development would be built in eight stages, with the lots ranging in size from 602sq m to 994sq m, covering an 8ha block of land.

Work begins on new \$31 million Bundaberg shopping complex



Carolyn Archer | 26th Jul 2016 11:37 AM



The new neighbourhood shopping centre, to be known as Stockland Kensington, will occupy approximately 3ha of land south of Sugarland Shoppingtown, with access off Takalvan St. WORK BEGINS: An artist impression of the new Stockland Kensington, which is being developed on the site of the former Bunnings Warehouse off Takalvan St. Photo Contributed

Contributed

STOCKLAND has begun construction on a new \$31 million project to expand its retail precinct on land adjacent to Sugarland Shoppingtown in Bundaberg West.

The new shopping centre will be named Stockland Kensington and will sit on about 3ha of land south of Sugarland Shoppingtown, with access off Takalvan St.

Stockland Kensington will be developed on the site of the former Bunnings Warehouse and also includes an adjoining parcel of land.

Stockland will develop a new, full-line, 4,500 square metre Coles supermarket, a 150 square metre Liquorland outlet and 1,370 square metres of specialty retail floor space accommodating up to 10 additional shops on the site.

The new shopping centre will also offer approximately 260 car parki spaces.

Construction started this week, with the project scheduled for completion and ready to open in March 2017, subject to favourable weather conditions.

Stockland Group Executive and Commercial Property CEO John Schroderat said Stockland were very happy with its acquisition of Sugarland Shoppingtown and saw great potential to enhance its offering for the benefit of the local community through this new lan acquisition and development opportunity, with a full-line Coles supermarket as the anchor tenant of this site.

"We'll complement the introduction of the new Coles supermarket v retail service providers that will appeal to customers' every day need

"We hope the local community will welcome the addition of a new neighbourhood shopping centre and we're looking forward to announcing all retailers closer to the launch of Stockland Kensington Shopping Centre."

Stockland expects the project to generate approximately 73 jobs during construction and around 70 new, local retail jobs in perpetuity once the new shopping centre is open and actively trading from early next year.

Stockland will work collaboratively with neighbours and adjoining land owners to minimise any possible disruptions during the nine month construction period.

NewsMail
CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY



© The Bundaberg Newspaper Company Pty Limited 2016. Unauthorised reproduction is prohibited under the laws of Australia and by international treaty.

Is Elliott Heads the next Byron Bay?



Emma Reid | 29th Jul 2016 4:48 PM



Hayley Nissen

COULD Elliott Heads be the next Byron Bay or Noosa Heads?

According to Sydney-based developer Stan La Vin, it will be.

Mr La Vin believes interest is about to spike in the billion-dollar coastal development.

The Elliott Heads project was approved in August 2013 but Mr La Vin said "the market fell into a hole with the end of the mining boom" and interest was lost.

Mr La Vin said the time was now right, especially with international parties looking at the area for the past two months.

"We have seen increased interest recently from overseas investors coming to Queensland," he said.

"They are looking at places where food can be produced - and Bundaberg is a huge food bowl area."



YOU BEAUTY: Developer Stan La Vin is ecstatic that Bundaberg Regional Council is approving the Elliott Heads Estate project. Photo: Max Fleet / NewsMail

Max Fleet

He said the estate was the largest masterplan on a coastal area in Queensland and would appeal to a lot of people, especially those wanting a sea change away from the major cities.

"There is plenty of evidence saying residential properties in the south have plateaued," he said.

"Southern states will start to realise homes have stopped increasing in value and head north.

"I believe people are stepping away from the high-rises in the cities as they are declining in popularity."

The 248ha estate will see 3200 residential lots, which will vary in size.

Mr La Vin said with the development there would be a need for "major investment" in the way of a shopping centre and a petrol station to set up at Elliott Heads.

"This is beyond our control, but a compact Coles express or IGA will help boost the whole area," Mr La Vin said.

"I mean it's a unique area and we are looking at the next Noosa Heads or Byron Bay here.

"It's environmentally sustainable and a modern development waiting to happen."

He said it took 40 years for the 37 individual lots to be consolidated by three separate parties and was hopeful in the next 12 months things would hit the ground running for the new estate.

Mr La Vin also applauded the Bundaberg Regional Council for its decision to waive the infrastructure fees for new developments.

Council Planning and Development portfolio spokesman Cr Ross Sommerfeld said the council had been approached by numerous developers interested in taking advantage of the potential benefits of the scheme and was supportive of the development.

"The approval granted for Mr La Vin's major development at Elliott Heads in 2013 included a convenience store and council would welcome the addition of local shopping facilities to service the needs of existing and future residents of Elliott Heads," he said.

Bundaberg commercial property agent Tom Ahmet agreed saying it would help push along developments, not only in Elliott Heads, but the whole of Bundaberg.

"It's making it feasible to produce new developments here," Mr Ahmet said.

Bundaberg North Burnett Tourism general manager Katherine Mergard said as the gateway to the Southern Great

Barrier Reef and being only four hours' drive north of Brisbane, the region had "fantastic potential for growth as a

destination".

NewsMail
collecting our community



© The Bundaberg Newspaper Company Pty Limited 2016. Unauthorised reproduction is prohibited under the laws of Australia and by international treaty.

\$10m for Mon Repos to be turtle-y revamped



Eliza Goetze | 10th Jun 2016 3:04 PM



TOURISM BOOST: Leanne Donaldson with a life-size loggerhead replica at the Mon Repos Turtle Centre.

Eliza Goetze

IT BRINGS in 30,000 visitors between December and March, and now the State Government wants to boost that figure all year round with the announcement of \$10 million to expand the Mon Repos Turtle Centre.

Member for Bundaberg Leanne Donaldson was at the centre to announce the "world class" upgrade from the 2016 State Budget.

"I'm thrilled this project has been recognised front and centre in this year's budget," Ms Donaldson said.

"Other than the roof over the amphitheatre, this building hasn't had any work done to it since (its construction in) 1994.

"It will be a fantastic redevelopment that will allow more people to enjoy and learn about turtles, and also enhance the research capabilities."

The plan is now in the concept stage but the existing centre is set to be transformed into a bigger facility with additions including a cafe.

"The money it will bring from tourism will help local hospitality and accommodation providers and hopefully it will encourage people to stay that extra couple of days to enjoy our other facilities.

"All of our other attractions will benefit here from tourist numbers."

The building will be sustainable, Ms Donaldson said, ensuring minimal lighting in line with turtle safety guidelines.

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection will work with the Planning Department on the design.

Ms Donaldson said she would not reveal any other budget announcements ahead of next week, saying "I'm very hopeful and very positive".

"We've already seen significant funding for domestic violence and other services."

The Mon Repos upgrade has been in the pipeline for years, with community workshops held and an artist's impression produced in 2014.

This year, Flight Centre billed Bundaberg as No. 6 in its Australia's top ten destinations, saying "more Aussies are taking advantage of Bundaberg's laidback appeal and easy access to the country's largest concentration of nesting marine turtles".

NEWS

Construction helping to turn around job prospects



Jim Alouat | 5th Jun 2016 3:08 PM



UNDER CONSTRUCTION: Australian Gas Networks chief operating officer Andrew Staniford, APA's Matthew Sawyer and Minister for Agriculture & Fisheries Leanne Donaldson. Photo: Mike Knott / NewsMail

Mike Knott

BUOYED by major construction, the Wide Bay has had its unemployment rate drop, bringing smiles to the faces of Bundaberg jobseekers.

Data from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office showed the average Wide Bay unemployment rate, for the year ending April 2016, dropped 2.6% to 8.7% from the previous year.

Meanwhile, the number of employed people in the region shot up by 10.9% to 112,000 people for the same period.

The participation rate was 51.2%

Wide Bay economic consultant Neil McPhillips said the greatest multiplier for economic development was construction.

"We can zero in on all the stuff locally with construction of the Multiplex, gas pipeline, Knauf and some of those major projects coming to fruition," Mr McPhillips said.

He said there had been reasonable economic growth in the region, through agriculture and horticulture.

"That generates activity in its own right," he said. "I think overall there is more confidence in the region."

That sentiment was echoed by Bundaberg MP Leanne Donaldson.

"These figures are great news for our local community," Ms Donaldson said.

"Seeing our unemployment figures drop and the number of people working on the rise is good news for Bundaberg and the Wide Bay," she said.



Neil McPhillips MC for the Students Futures Forum Event last Wednesday. Photo Contributed

Contributed

I know there is still a lot to do but we should be celebrating the good news that thousands more people have found work in the past year.

Bundaberg Mayor Jack Dempsey said it was encouraging to see data reflecting more people were finding employment but added the figure was still too high.

"(The) council supports the NewsMail's Fair Go for Bundy campaign and would like to see state and federal governments working with the community, council and local business to identify genuine job creation programs," Cr Dempsey said.

While excited about the future, Mr McPhillips said the number of people trying to find work in the Wide Bay was still low.

"We have, to some degree, created a welfare society, and I think governments at all levels need to turn that around."



UNDER CONSTRUCTION: The first stage of the multiplex, a \$14.5m sports centre, under construction on Kensington St.

Eliza Goetze

NewsMail
CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

AUSTRALIAN
REGIONAL
MEDIA APN

© The Bundaberg Newspaper Company Pty Limited 2016. Unauthorised reproduction is prohibited under the laws of Australia and by international treaty.

Domestic tourists numbers up for Great Barrier Reef

16th Jun 2016 6:37 PM



FLIPPING GOOD NEWS: More visitors are coming to the Southern Great Barrier Reef region, and they're spending more.

MORE Australians are choosing to visit the Southern Great Barrier Reef driving growth and jobs in the region, according to Member for Bundaberg Leanne Donaldson.

Ms Donaldson said the latest Tourism Research Australia figures showed the Southern Great Barrier Reef region was continuing to benefit from Queensland's growing tourism industry.

"The Southern Great Barrier Reef region welcomed two million Australian visitors in the year to March 2016, an increase of seven per cent, resulting in more than 7.7 million visitor nights," she said.

"The record number of domestic visitors is a great reflection of our growing reputation as a tourism destination."

Queensland welcomed a record 20.3 million domestic visitors in the year to March 2016 with domestic visitor expenditure increasing 5.5% to \$14.6 billion.

Ms Donaldson said the income from tourists was benefiting local businesses.

"Tourists are not only coming to our region in record numbers, they are spending a record amount in the region," she said.

"Australian domestic visitors spent more than \$947 million in our region over a 12-month period.

"This is great news for our local businesses and tourism operators who are seeing the benefits of a booming domestic tourism market."

Ms Donaldson said the Palaszczuk government was committed to growing the tourism industry in the Southern Great Barrier Reef region and throughout Queensland.

"The Palaszczuk government is committed to growing Queensland's share of the tourism market," she said.

"We are investing in the industry and seeing the benefits as more Australians are choosing to visit Queensland than ever before.

"We are determined to create more tourism jobs in our region.

She said they were working hard to grow our tourism offerings and bring the best events to the area.

International tourism boom injects \$113 million into economy



Ashley Clark | 6th Jun 2016 10:08 AM



Crowds watch a turtle return to the water after laying eggs on Mon Repos Beach.

contributed

INTERNATIONAL tourists have spent more than \$113million dollars in the region this year.

Despite the cooler weather, visitors are continuing to flock to Bundaberg and the Southern Great Barrier Reef regions, which means great things for our local businesses.

According to the latest International Visitor Survey, the region's businesses benefited from more than \$113 million in international tourism expenditure in the year to March 2016.

Also, the International Visitor Survey released recently by Tourism Research Australia reported the Southern Great Barrier Reef region showed a 13% increase in international visitor nights spent in the destination, resulting in an extra 311,000 people visiting.



Member for Bundaberg Leanne Donaldson said the ongoing tourism growth was supporting more jobs than ever.

"We've seen a 24% growth in international visitor expenditure, which means more money is being spent in local businesses," she said.

Kayaking at Bargara.

2.6 million and our tourism operators are reaping the benefits."

Ms Donaldson said the numbers were a reflection of state-wide growth in the tourism industry.

"We've committed to growing the tourism industry in Queensland and I'm excited to see our region benefiting from our approach," she said.

"We are working hard to bring the best events to the state, which will drive visitation and support our local businesses."

"International visitor nights grew 13% to



Lady Elliott Island Photo: contributed

contributed

annually.

"These figures are a great reflection of the direct contribution that tourism and visitation bring into the region which adds to the local economy," she said.

"It really highlights community pride and with this pride comes greater cohesion and understanding that tourism is everybody's business".

General manager of Bundaberg North Burnett Tourism (BNBT) Katherine Mergard said each year, 6,200 jobs in the Bundaberg region were generated through tourism.

From this, Bundaberg tourism contributed \$600 million to Queensland's Gross State Product



WORLD'S BEST RUM: Bundaberg Rum's senior brand manager Duncan Littler shows off their world famous rum. Beating all the competition to be named the world's best rum.

Photo: Max Fleet / NewsMail

Max Fleet

great attractions and superb lifestyle continue to reverberate around the world."

Bundaberg Mayor Jack Dempsey said he was pleased with the results

"It's great to see the rewards being reaped from the effective marketing of the beautiful Bundaberg Region," said Mayor Jack Dempsey.

"Our region has so much to offer as a destination and, in conjunction with BNBT, council intends to ensure the message about our

Live, work, play, invest in the Bundaberg region



Tourism facts:

- Bundaberg has long established itself as the home of turtles and in 2015 it was made global with a successful marketing strategy that was rolled out on a state and national level.
- In peak turtle season, Miss Universe Australia, Monica Radulovik anchored a live Sunrise weather broadcast from Mon Repos in January.
- More recently, Sir David Attenborough filmed the majority of his last ever documentary in the Southern Great Barrier Reef, just off the coast of Bundaberg, the gateway to the Southern Great Barrier Reef and featured islands in his documentary, such as Lady Elliot and Herron Island.
- In the year to March 2016 international visitor expenditure across Queensland reached more than \$5 billion for the first time.
- The number of international visitors also grew 10% to 2.4 million, with China becoming Queensland's largest tourism market.



Fishing at Riverview.

PROPERTY

Market regains sense of stability after Bundaberg floods



Geoff Egan | 18th Jun 2016 6:07 AM



Brett Wortman

THE spectre of the Bundaberg floods haunted the real estate market for years. But things are finally returning to "normal" one of the city's leading realtors believes.

New Real Estate Institute of Queensland data for the 2016 March quarter show 72 fewer houses were sold in the period than in the same time frame in 2015.

Despite that the median house sales prices remained steady - increasing 0.4% on the previous quarter to \$276,000.

Acreage median sale prices increased 7.8% on the previous quarter to \$345,000 - on par with prices five years ago.

REIQ Bundaberg zone chair Le-Anne Allan said the market was regaining a sense of stability.

"Towards the end of last year and early this year we were going through a change in the region. We're actually getting back somewhere near normal," she said.

The REIQ figures show Bargara was a standout across the Bundaberg region with the median house sale price increased 3.7% on the previous quarter to \$381,000.

Ms Allan said Bargara would continue to be one of the region's top performing areas with new developments expected to open soon.

But she said the opening of a number of infrastructure projects, especially near the Port of Bundaberg, would continue to strengthen the local market.

She said developments like the Bundaberg Port gas pipeline and the plasterboard factory would provide jobs and economic certainty in the region.

"I am quietly confident about the next six to 12 months," she said.

Could this mean flights to other places are coming to Bundy?



Carolyn Archer | 25th May 2016 1:07 PM



Bundaberg Airport Photo: Zach Hogg / NewsMail

Zach Hogg BUN190813AIR2

BUNDABERG Regional Council has released a draft masterplan encapsulating a long-term vision for the Bundaberg Regional Airport.

Mayor Jack Dempsey said he's keen to hear the community's views on the draft masterplan, which provides a planning framework for the airport's future use.

"It's important that the Bundaberg Regional Airport has sufficient infrastructure that will support growth during the next 10 years and beyond," he said.

"Through this masterplan, we want to ensure that we are facilitating the airport's potential to meet any future demand. But most importantly, we want to ensure that the community has the opportunity to provide input to this process."

Tourism and Regional Growth spokesman Greg Barnes said the masterplan considered commercial growth potential and the best technical standards in airport design and development.

"In addition to regular public transport, the airport hosts a much-valued base for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the RACQ Careflight helicopter.

"There are also aviation businesses operating on airport land and there is a planned commercial aviation precinct next to the main runway earmarked for development in the future, subject to demand.

"All of these elements and their potential for economic benefit to the community need to be properly planned and managed."

Residents are invited to find out more about the proposed Bundaberg Regional Airport Masterplan 2016-2026 and to have their say during the consultation period from now until June 17.

The masterplan can be viewed via the Bundaberg Regional Council website at www.bundaberg.qld.gov.au/files/Bundaberg_Airport_Master_Plan_May_2016_combined.pdf.

Why this pile of sand is important for the region



Emma Reid | 25th May 2016 9:28 AM



EXPORT QUALITY: Silica for loading at the Bundaberg Port. Photo: Mike Knott / NewsMail

Mike Knott

MORE good news for Bundaberg as another shipment of Coonarr sand has left our port heading to South East Asia's glass factories.

The high quality of the sand has again enabled a successful shipment to South East Asia's Glass industry.

Following the first export late last year the company received unprecedented interest from overseas; resulting in the securing of new clients with long term opportunities.

It was selected for its unique mineral and silica content and proved superior in its consistent sizing due to their significant processing plant investment.

Earth Commodities group general manager Darren Wardle said the mine was well positioned for additional capacity.

"Upon approval Earth Commodities Bundaberg will look to establish a larger permanent stockyard at the Port of Bundaberg to satisfy ongoing customer requirements," Mr Wardle said.

"The assistance, guidance and support of the Port of Bundaberg have again been pivotal in securing these export ventures; and are greatly appreciated.

"The prospect of consistent shipping for the Port of Bundaberg provides the opportunity for further activity and job creation for the Port and surrounding areas."

It took two years of discussions and negotiations for the Bundaberg sand mining operation to achieve a major coup for the region.

Mr Wardle said Australia supplied 90% of the silica sand used to produce the world's flat TV screen and smart phone market.

The sand mine operates on 416ha at Coonarr.

The company says the product is a pure white material from the upper and lower levels of the site.

It consists of silicon dioxide at about 99.8% of the sand, with traces of aluminium oxide and iron oxide.

OUR SAY: Development looks good for region



Craig Warhurst | 6th May 2016 5:00 AM

A NEW development application submitted to council this week is set to be a boost for the Bundaberg region.

The \$70 million, 36.9ha coastal Headlands development is, hopefully, the next in a long line of economic stimuli for the region.

After two years on the drawing board developer Bill Moorhead is right to be excited about the project.

If what Mr Moorhead says is true it should be a development we can all be proud of.

Measures are in place to protect the environment including best-practice water run-off design, turtle-friendly lighting and native vegetation areas.

In my book the best part is that the beachfront won't be built on allowing all residents in the region the chance to enjoy the coastline.

Apparently meetings with the council about the approval of the project have been positive.

Let's hope the council and state do all the checks and balances needed quickly so the development can proceed as soon as possible.

This will allow jobs and wealth to be generated in the region.

OUR SAY: Coal mine an opportunity we can't miss



Hayley Nissen | 23rd Apr 2016 5:00 AM



JOBBS. It's the topic on the lips of our polities as we head towards a federal election and one at the forefront of the minds of Wide Bay residents.

Which is why it is imperative our council joins with Fraser Coast in its push to encourage Regional Development Australia Wide Bay Burnett to secure Bundaberg or Hervey Bay airports as potential FIFO hubs for the Adani Carmichael Coal mine?

Estimated to create about 7000 jobs, the mega mine is welcome news for Bundaberg job-seekers.

Our region is perfectly positioned for fly-in, fly-out workers, who can continue to live here and enjoy our beautiful surrounds while engaging in full-time employment.

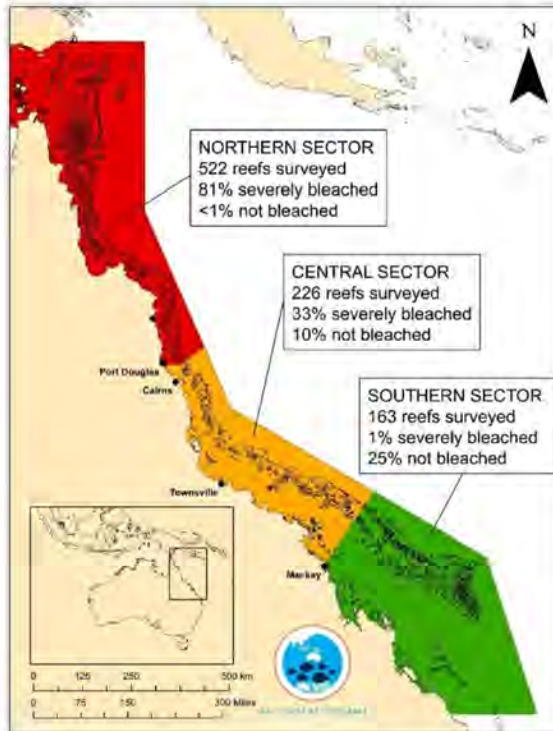
More jobs means greater prosperity and confidence in the region, which have positive flow-on effects for everyone.

We have the largest population base outside south-east Queensland and a pool of 28,000 skilled workers ready to sink their teeth into a new project.

We cannot afford to overlook the importance of this project on regional families.

Want to see the Barrier Reef? Bundy is the best place for it

20th Apr 2016 10:28 AM Updated: 10:28 AM



AUSTRALIAN scientists have revealed today the full extent of the coral bleaching that is unfolding on the Great Barrier Reef, off the coast of Queensland - but the Bundaberg region has had a lucky break.

While the northern sector of the reef has been 81% severely bleached and the central sector suffering 33% severe bleaching, the south sector has had just 1% severe bleaching. Twenty-five per cent of the southern sector, which includes Bundaberg, has not been bleached - but the northern and central sectors have -1% and 10% unbleached areas respectively.

The final results of extensive aerial and underwater surveys reveal that 93% of the reef has been affected.

It's a mixed picture of very severe, moderate and little damage that changes dramatically from north to south along the 2300km length of the Reef.

Meanwhile on the west coast of Australia, researchers are also discovering large-scale bleaching caused by elevated temperatures on both sides of the Australian continent.

"We've never seen anything like this scale of bleaching before. In the northern Great Barrier Reef, it's like 10 cyclones have come ashore all at once," says Professor Terry Hughes, convenor of the National Coral Bleaching Taskforce that is documenting and studying the event.

"Towards the southern end, most of the reefs have minor to moderate bleaching and should soon recover."

"We have now flown over 911 individual reefs in a helicopter and light plane, to map out the extent and severity of bleaching along the full 2300km length of the Great Barrier Reef. Of all the reefs we surveyed, only 7% (68 reefs) have escaped bleaching entirely. At the other end of the spectrum, between 60 and 100% of corals are severely bleached on 316 reefs, nearly all in the northern half of the Reef."

Underwater, teams of scientific divers have confirmed the accuracy of the aerial surveys, and are continuing to measure the ongoing impact of the bleaching.

"The bleaching is extreme in the 1000km region north of Port Douglas all the way up to the northern Torres Strait between Australia and Papua New Guinea," says Prof. Andrew Baird from the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, who has spent the past 17 days at



Bleaching is worst in the Great Barrier Reef's remote north. Morgan Pratchett/ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies,

old, slow-growing corals that once lost will take decades or longer to return."

More modest bleaching is now reaching its peak in a 600km central band of the Great Barrier Reef, between Cairns and Mackay. According to the scientists, reefs further south have escaped damaging levels of bleaching because water temperatures there were closer to the normal summer conditions over recent months.

The severity of bleaching in the central section is less, and closer to the intensity of the first two mass bleaching events on the Barrier Reef, in 1998 and 2002," says Prof. Hughes. "Thankfully, many of the corals there are more moderately bleached, so we expect that most of them will survive and regain their normal colour as temperatures drop over the coming months."



AAP

Winston, after it passed over Fiji and came to us as a rain depression. The 2016 footprint could have been much worse."

Australia's tourism industry has a longstanding commitment to protecting its most valuable natural asset, the Great Barrier Reef. Reef tourism generates an annual income of \$5 billion, and employs nearly 70,000 people. The Australian government has long recognised that climate change is the biggest threat to the Reef and the people who depend on it for their livelihood.

"Thankfully, many parts of the reef are still in excellent shape, but we can't just ignore coral bleaching and hope for a swift recovery. Short-term development policies have to be weighed up against long-term environmental damage, including impacts on the reef from climate change," says Daniel Gschwind, Chief Executive of the Queensland Tourism Industry Council.

On the west coast of Australia, researchers from the national taskforce are now also documenting extensive bleaching on the coastline and on offshore atolls. "The coastal area that I study north of Broome has huge tides, and we thought the corals there are tough "super corals" because they can normally cope with big swings in temperature," says Dr. Verena Schoepf from the University of Western Australia.

"So, we're shocked to see up to 80% of them now turning snow-white. Even the tougher species are badly affected".

sea.

"Tragically, this is the most remote part of the Reef, and its remoteness has protected it from most human pressures: but not climate change. North of Port Douglas, we're already measuring an average of close to 50% mortality of bleached corals. At some reefs, the final death toll is likely to exceed 90%. When bleaching is this severe it affects almost all coral species, including

The scientists have found that the huge footprints of the three mass bleaching events in 2016, 2002 and 1998 are different. "In each case, the location of the most severe bleaching coincides with where the hottest water sits for the longest period," says Prof. Hughes.

"This time, the southern third of the Great Barrier Reef was fortunately cooled down late in summer by a period of cloudy weather caused by ex-cyclone

Hundreds of jobs in pipeline

16th Feb 2016 5:00 AM



AGN pipes leaving Brisbane headed for Bundaberg. Photo: contributed

contributed

PIPES for the Port of Bundaberg gas pipeline are finally on their way from Brisbane.

The pipes will be used to construct the \$19.8 million, 28.5km Bundaberg Port Gas Pipeline to Bundaberg.

The high-pressure gas pipes that will form the much-anticipated pipeline yesterday started their near-400km journey from Brisbane.

About 1900 lengths of piping - each 15.3m and bundled in packs of 10 - were despatched from the Port of Brisbane by trucks bound for Bundaberg.

The pipes arrived in Australia late last month and have been thoroughly examined in preparation for transportation.

The multi-million-dollar project is part of a development agreement between the Queensland Government and Australian Gas Networks (AGN) - the country's largest gas distribution company - for the delivery and operation of the pipeline.

The Queensland Government has estimated the project's construction would create 45 jobs, including about 15 local construction jobs.

The pipeline will support the development of the new \$70 million Knauf Plasterboard facility, which is expected to deliver 200 construction jobs and 40 operational jobs.

AGN's chief operating officer Andrew Staniford, said this major infrastructure project, which was expected to deliver significant economic benefits to the Bundaberg region, was progressing well.

"Initial pipeline construction - which will be undertaken by the Zinfra Group and overseen by AGN's long-term operator, APA Group - is expected to commence in mid-March and take about six months to complete," he said.

"Once that happens, tie-ins to station facilities will occur followed by commissioning and handover for operation, which is expected to occur in December."

Mr Staniford said not only would the pipeline have the capacity to deliver 0.7 terrajoules of gas per day above that required to meet Knauf's needs of 925 terrajoules per day, it also had the potential to fuel new businesses and industries, and create further additional jobs in the area.

The pipeline is expected to be operational in early 2017 and is set to be the catalyst for further job creation in the Wide Bay and Burnett.

Mr Staniford said transportation of the 2000-odd pipes to Bundaberg would take about a week to complete, with up to five trucks a day making the journey from the Port of Brisbane to AGN's Kensington Gate Station at Bundaberg.

Work has also started at the port of the Knauf plasterboard factory.

Work on the factory started about two weeks ago.



© The Bundaberg Newspaper Company Pty Limited 2016. Unauthorised reproduction is prohibited under the laws of Australia and by international treaty.

OPINION: Gas pipeline marks exciting time for Bundaberg

16th Feb 2016 5:00 AM

FINALLY it's happening, the gas pipeline to bring gas to the Port of Bundaberg.

Trucks loaded with the surprisingly thin pipes will drop off the first lengths today.

Pipes that will bring much-needed energy and jobs to the Bundaberg region.

The multi-million-dollar project is part of a development agreement between the Queensland Government and Australian Gas Networks for the delivery and operation of the pipeline. It's estimated the project's construction is expected to create 45 jobs, including up to 15 local construction jobs.

The pipeline will support the development of the new \$70 million Knauf Plasterboard facility, which is expected to deliver 200 construction jobs and 40 operational jobs.

It's great to see this happening, too often projects like these are promised but never eventuate.

Now we can be assured that Bundaberg will have a boom 2016.

The pipeline will inject millions into the economy but the best thing is it should be the catalyst for more industry at the port.

Bundaberg rental market tightens

9th Feb 2016 9:55 AM

THE REIQ Rental Report has revealed an easing of the vacancy rate in inner Brisbane and a tightening in Bundaberg as the supply of new apartments edges the 0-5km ring into weak territory for the December quarter.

The inner Brisbane vacancy rate reached 3.8%, up from 3.4% in the September quarter.

REIQ CEO Antonia Mercorella said the December quarter was historically high and then traditionally dropped again in January.

"Twelve months ago, in December 2014, the vacancy rate was 3.8% - exactly the same as it is in this survey, December 2015 - and in the March quarter it returned to 3.1%.

"In December 2013 the vacancy rate rose to 4.1% and then the next quarter it fell to 3.1%.

"So we can see the December quarter has a history of easing before vacancy rates return to normal in the new year, probably as people relocate over the Christmas period, and we expect the March quarter 2016 will follow this trend," Ms Mercorella said.

In contrast, the more affordable middle ring of 5-20kms tightened as the more affordable dwellings attracted residents, going from 2.4% to 2.1%.

Overall, the Brisbane City vacancy rate was in the tight-to-healthy range, easing slightly from 2.8% to 3.1%.

"We can see from the data that the Brisbane rental market continues to perform well," Ms Mercorella said.

Ipswich City eased from 1.3% to 2.5% and Logan City similarly eased from 1.9% to 2.9%.

"Ipswich and Logan have been very good markets for investors, with good rental returns of up to 6% in some cases," Ms Mercorella said.

"It's clear the demand for rental accommodation is steady and the population growth in these two cities is driving that demand."

Moreton Bay remained relatively unchanged and tight, going from 1.6% in the September quarter to 1.9% in the December quarter.

The Gold Coast vacancy rate fell to its lowest on record, at just 1.1%.

"As we get closer to 2018 and the Commonwealth Games our expectation is that more accommodation will become available and that rate will ease slightly.

"However, the Gold Coast is a really vibrant, busy part of Queensland at the moment and even after the Games have finished we expect its popularity to remain strong, attracting interstate investors and residents in a steady stream," Ms Mercorella said.

The tightest rental market in Queensland is the Noosa market, with just 0.7% vacancy rate.

"In many regards, the story of Noosa is a fairytale, with the area really struggling through the GFC years, and now is thriving, with good growth in median house prices and also low vacancy rates, showing that investors have great opportunities if they buy in the right price bracket," Ms Mercorella said.

The Sunshine Coast held steady at 1.3% and Caloundra relinquished its low vacancy rate of just 0.9% last quarter to ease towards 1.7%.

Toowoomba, one-third of the so-called 'Golden Triangle' also eased slightly, although at 3.2% is still within the healthy range. The September quarter vacancy rate was 2.7%.

"We know there are a lot of good infrastructure projects and jobs-creation initiatives going on in Toowoomba and, like the Sunshine Coast, is a thriving real estate market at the moment," Ms Mercorella said.

Outside the southeast corner, vacancy rates were weaker as regional markets continued to find their feet.

"The weak markets throughout the coastal centres have all stabilised, to a degree, and we are optimistic that the bottom has been met in most areas," Ms Mercorella said.

"We know that the resources downturn will continue to be felt while those cities and towns find new sources of revenue on which to base their economy, but we are confident that will begin to happen soon," she said.

Bundaberg tightened slightly from 4.6% to 3.9% while Gladstone eased from 7.1% to 10.0%. Mackay continued to hover around 9%, up to 9.3% from 9.1%. Rockhampton nudged slightly higher from 4.5% to 6.1% and Townsville moved from 5.6% to 6.4%.

Cairns continues to be the standout performer outside of the southeast, with a slight tightening of the vacancy rate which edged it from a healthy 2.6% to officially being classified as a tight market at 2.5%.

"Cairns is benefitting from increased tourism numbers at the moment, along with the foresight to host regional conferences that attract visitors and raise the city's profile on the regional stage," Ms Mercorella said.

"With a number of significant proposals in the pipeline, specifically Aquis Resort, there is clearly much confidence in the Cairns market at the moment and that has flowed through to the rental market," she said.



Knauf Australia announces the construction of a new Plasterboard Plant in Bundaberg, Queensland

29 January 2015

Knauf Plasterboard Limited, a subsidiary of the Knauf Group, a world leading manufacturer of plasterboard, modern insulation materials, plasters and accessories, today announced that it had approved the construction of a new plasterboard manufacturing facility at the Port of Bundaberg, Burnett Heads, Queensland, subject to satisfactory finalisation of approvals and agreements including the gas transmission agreement.

The Project comprises the construction and operation of a state-of-the-art plasterboard manufacturing facility at the Port of Bundaberg, including gypsum handling and processing facilities to support plasterboard production and for on-sale of gypsum into the agriculture sector.

The project has been made possible by the Queensland Government's commitment to fund the construction of a new 26 km gas pipeline from Australian Gas Network's Wide Bay gas transmission line at Bundaberg to Burnett Heads. This critical piece of gas infrastructure provides additional gas supply capacity for Knauf's plasterboard manufacturing plant facility and other existing and new industrial users in the region.

Knauf's CEO of Asia Pacific, Murray Read, said that the Bundaberg plant was a great investment for Knauf as it expanded Knauf's plasterboard manufacturing network into Queensland to better serve its customers, create additional trade through an under-utilised port facility, support regional development, and, in partnership with the State Government, helped to develop critical infrastructure for Knauf and other industrial users in regional Queensland.

Mr Read said "Knauf is very pleased to be playing its part in working collaboratively with the State Government to help build new industries and boost regional and state economies."

The plant is expected to create up to 200 jobs during the construction of the plant and around 55 new positions when operational.

Queensland Premier Campbell Newman said Knauf's announcement was testament to the LNP Government's strong plan to attract investment to regional Queensland and create jobs.

"We have a strong team in the Bundaberg region with Jack Dempsey and Stephen Bennett; both of whom have been working incredibly hard to see this project come to fruition," Mr Newman said.

"This exciting announcement is a real vote of confidence in Bundaberg's future, providing jobs and opportunities for local residents and businesses."



Bundaberg Regional Council Mayor Mal Forman said the economic benefits that will flow into the region as a result of the project will be felt throughout central Queensland.

“Securing a project of this magnitude is a massive coup for the Bundaberg region and I thank Knauf’s Murray Read for his leadership and dedication in working so successfully with the Council and the State Government on this initiative,” Cr Forman said.

“A development of this size will not only bring jobs to the region but bring forward upgraded roads, water and waste water infrastructure which will help our local communities to grow and attract more business to regional Queensland.”

Knauf’s Group Managing Partners, Mr Manfred Grundke and Mr Alexander Knauf commented that: “The confidence to proceed with the project was underpinned by the support from Queensland State Development, Bundaberg Regional Council and the Gladstone Ports Corporation.”

About the Knauf Group:

The Knauf Group is a private family company established in 1932 in Saarland, Germany by the brothers, Dr Alfons and Karl Knauf. Since then, the Knauf Group has grown into a global operation with more than 220 facilities, operating in 60 countries with more than 23,000 employees. The company is now one of the leading plasterboard, plaster, insulation and accessories manufacturers in the world producing more than 1 billion square metres of plasterboard per year with annual sales in excess of € 6 Billion.

Knauf Plasterboard Australia operates two manufacturing facilities in Matraville (Sydney) and Altona (Melbourne) and is a major supplier of plasterboard and associated products to the light weight construction industry in Australia.

For more information:

Bryan Tisher – Media Enquiries

Ph: (0481) 310-714



Development

HOME » AVIATION AND AEROSPACE PRECINCT

AVIATION AND AEROSPACE PRECINCT

Aviation and Aerospace Precinct

Capitalising on the aviation and aerospace industry base of the region, and complementing the recent upgrades to core Bundaberg Regional Airport infrastructure, Council is currently developing an industrial/commercial subdivision at the Aviation and Aerospace Precinct. The proposed subdivision has detailed designs, with development approval pending.

The subdivision consists of 34 lots totalling approximately 10.9 hectares with an average lot size of 3195 square metres. The development aims to capitalise on the existing industry base of the region and further encourage aviation-related development and knowledge transfer to the region. The proposed mixed use of allotments with Airport Drive and Loop Road frontages for others. Council is considering both leasehold and freehold sale of the proposed allotments.

The development of this land will provide the region with employment, skill enhancement, business development, global opportunities and technological advancements; and further develop the existing aviation and aerospace supply chain. Construction and release of the land will be in stages to ensure expenditure is closely linked with sale revenue.

