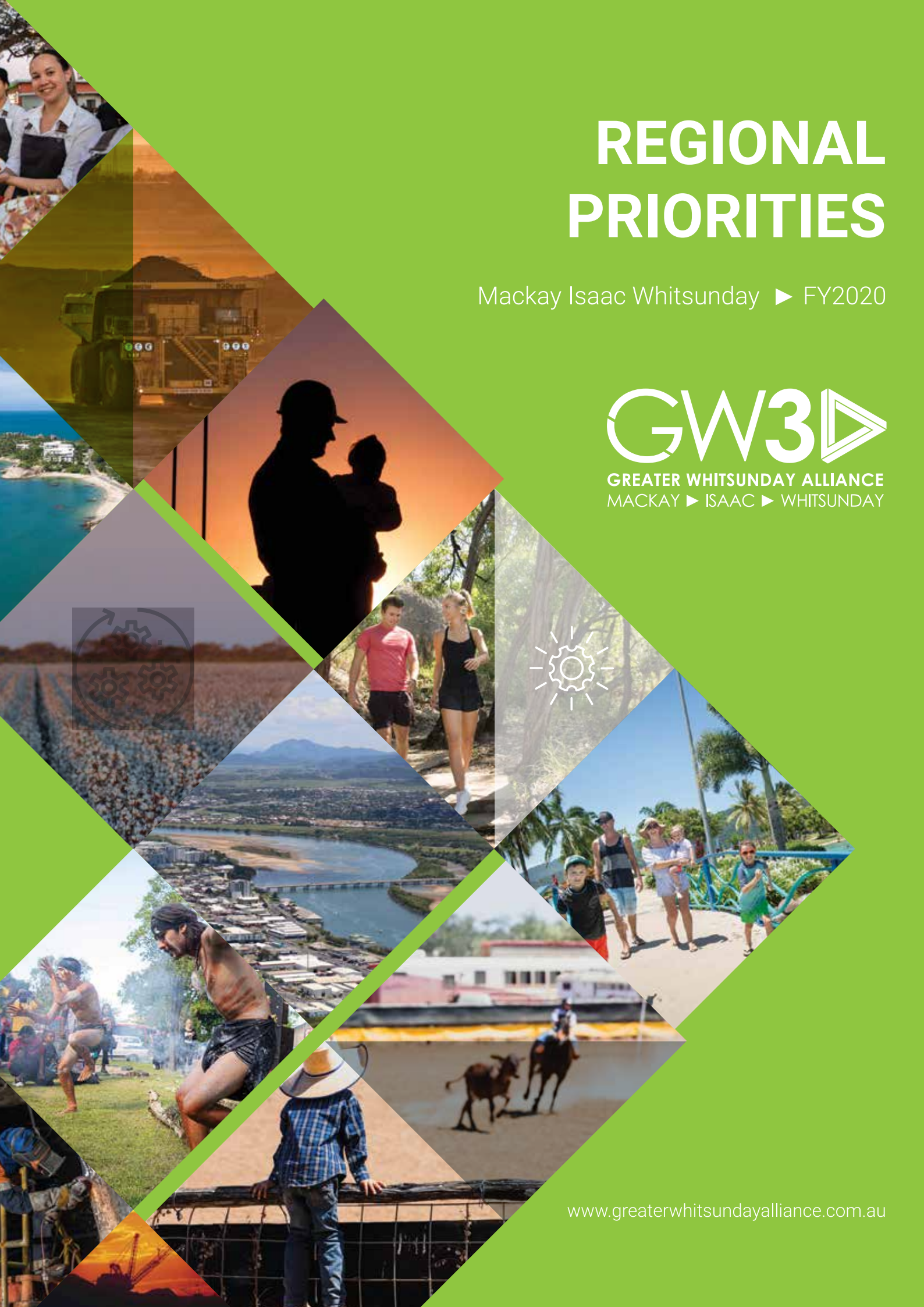


REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Mackay Isaac Whitsunday ► FY2020

GW3►

GREATER WHITSUNDAY ALLIANCE
MACKAY ► ISAAC ► WHITSUNDAY



www.greaterwhitsundayalliance.com.au



Greater Whitsunday Alliance is the peak, independent economic development and advocacy body for the Mackay Isaac Whitsunday region.

Our vision is simple: Making the Mackay Isaac Whitsunday region strong for generations.



Mackay Isaac Whitsunday region

The Greater Whitsunday region spans an area of more 90,000 km², has a permanent regional population of more than 170,000 and contributes more than \$16 billion to the national economy. The economy of the Greater Whitsunday region is as diverse as it is wide and has a proven track record as a region for not only growth and prosperity but also resilience.




The Isaac region is home to the Bowen Basin, housing the largest coal mining deposits in Australia. The majority of Queensland's prime coking coal reserves are mined here, including the highest-grade metallurgical coal in the world. Mackay is the centre of one of Australia's most developed Mining Equipment,

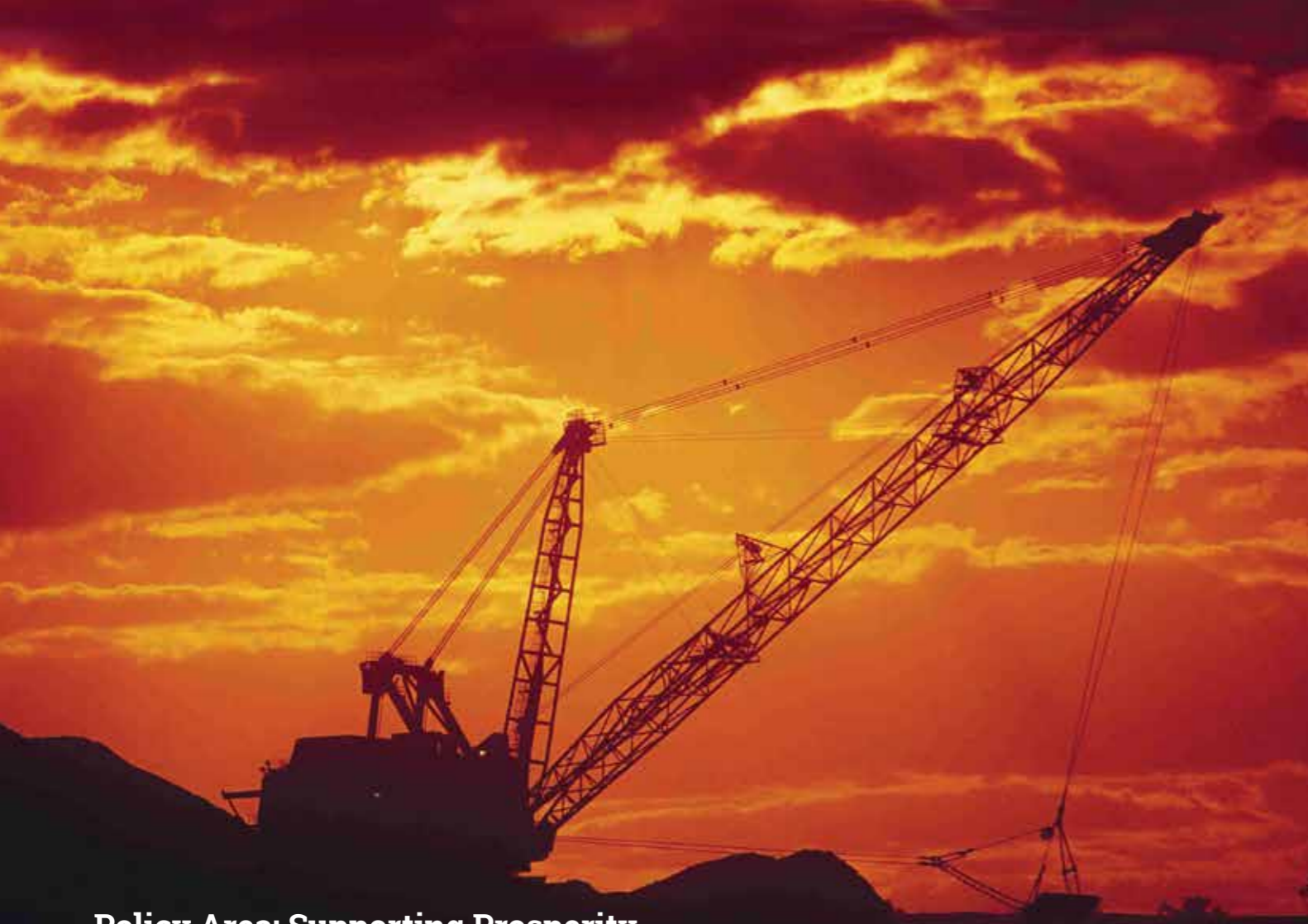
Technology and Service (METS) industries and the Whitsundays is a world-class tourism destination attracting more than a million visitors annually. The Greater Whitsunday region also boasts a strong agribusiness sector and is one of the nation's largest sugar and bio commodity producers.

To keep moving in a positive direction, continued investment in infrastructure, liveability projects and new projects is vital. This region is not looking for handouts but rather, hand-ups to create a positive, strong future for our important regional communities.

Executive Summary

 To ensure the continued growth and development of the Greater Whitsunday region, Greater Whitsunday Alliance is seeking commitment from both the State and Federal Governments for the following Supporting Prosperity and Enabling Infrastructure projects:

- Continued mining exploration in the region
- Adoption of a clearer definition of 'local' to support regional communities
- Mackay Waterfront Priority Development Area
- Superyachts
- Flood mitigation of the Bruce Highway at Goorganga Plains
- Flood mitigation of Proserpine Shute Harbour Road at Hamilton Plains
- Upgrades to the Peak Downs Highway
- Urannah Water Scheme



Policy Area: Supporting Prosperity

The future of the Resources Sector

Summary:

Greater Whitsunday Alliance urges all levels of government to support continued investment into resources exploration and projects to create sustainability and prosperity for communities in the Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday region. Exploration is fundamental to the future of the mining and resource industry but also provides confidence to the thousands of regional Queenslanders whose jobs, business and community relies on continued exploration and expansion of the resources sectors.

Background:

The Greater Whitsunday region is critical to the future of the resources sector given the proximity to the Bowen and Galilee Basins. The Mackay Isaac Whitsunday region is recognized as a regional economic powerhouse and requires continued support in order to achieve future growth for the benefit of all Australians.

Opportunity:

In addition to the thousands of direct and indirect construction and operational jobs which will be created by multiple projects across future resources sector projects there are a range of other important considerations including:

- The METS sector will directly benefit resulting in more jobs and increased innovation and investment in R&D across the sector.
- Improvements to supply chain enhancement roads and other major infrastructure in the Greater Whitsunday region.
- Investment in regional communities for social and economic development.
- Increased business opportunities in the resources sector through research and development.
- Potentially opens up Abbot Point State Development Area to new and existing industry and agricultural providers across the region through multi-use rail and port agreements



Action:

Continued support for the resources sector to create sustainability and prosperity for communities in the Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday region.

Policy Area: Supporting Prosperity

Better practice definition of local

Summary:

Greater Whitsunday Alliance recommends State and Federal Governments, and industry adopt and implement a better practice definition of local and associated local content policy.

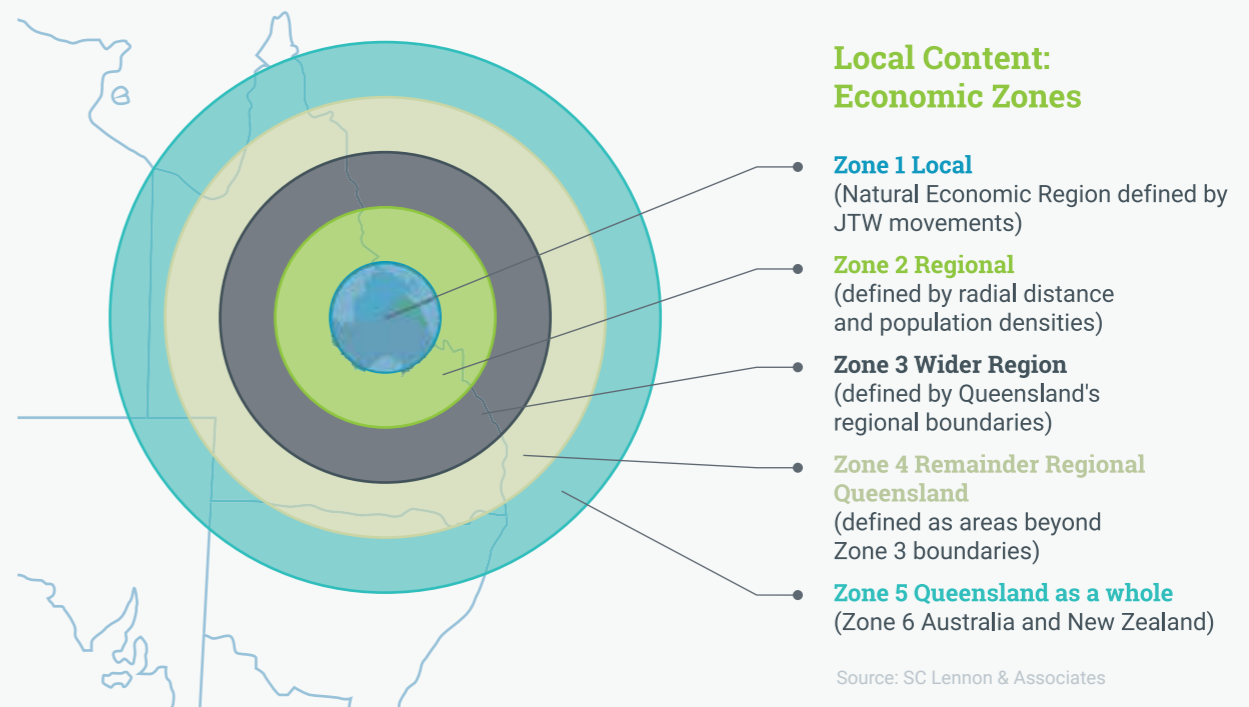
Background:

The recent Queensland Local Content Leaders Network (QLCLN) Local Procurement Model Positioning Paper, states local content policies, are an important regional policy tool

to help establish and grow local supply chains and develop regional economies for the benefit of industry, workforce and the community. Currently there is a loose and inconsistent definition of local and a need for clear definitions of both 'local' as a business and 'local' in terms of a region. For some industry and governments, local can be defined as 'Australian and New Zealand' whilst others will determine a strict, arbitrary geographical boundary. Research shows that having a broad definition of local dilutes the benefits for regional areas.

Opportunity:

Adopt a more refined definition of 'local' and a better 'local' geographical region. A stronger and more robust definition of 'local' and associated local content strategies, will build local industry and business capabilities and capacities for regional communities.



Supporting a more defined local definition has many benefits including:

- Sustainable regional communities
- Increased employment opportunities
- Increased R & D investment
- Improved retention of young people within in the regions.



Action:

Adopt, implement and champion better practice definition of local and local content policy for both government and industry.

Policy Area: Supporting Prosperity

Mackay Waterfront Priority Development Area (PDA)



Summary:

Greater Whitsunday Alliance calls on the State and Federal Governments to support the development and delivery of public realm improvements and economic initiatives in the Mackay Waterfront PDA through direct and grant application funding.

Background:

The Mackay Waterfront PDA is centrally located within the Mackay urban area and includes land and water along the southern side of the Pioneer River, including the City centre core, and extends east to the coastal frontage along Binnington Esplanade (Town Beach). The PDA development scheme facilitates preferred development outcomes to support economic and community outcomes sought by the PDA and the public realm vision and concepts shown in the Mackay Waterfront master plan.

Opportunity:

The Mackay Waterfront PDA provides many opportunities to improve the region's liveability, attract investment, skills and residents, and revitalise the inner city through the redevelopment of the waterfronts; fostering and supporting innovation and knowledge industries; promotion of the city centre as a key regional business hub; and providing exciting, activated and people-orientated streets, places and attractions. The redevelopment of the waterfront areas will set the scene for significant urban transformation for the city, that establishes Mackay as a nationally recognised destination of choice to live, work, invest, do business, study and holiday.



Action:

Greater Whitsunday Alliance calls for the State and Federal Governments to commit to significantly funding the development and delivery of the public realm improvements and economic initiatives in the Mackay Waterfront PDA.

Policy Area: Supporting Prosperity

International superyachts



Summary:

The Greater Whitsunday region is home to a number of world class marinas. However, current legislation prohibits foreign flagged superyachts from chartering in Australia. Greater Whitsunday Alliance calls on the Federal Government to change current Charter legislation or develop new Charter legislation to allow foreign flagged superyachts to charter in Australia.

Background:

The inability for foreign flagged superyachts to charter in Australia is the biggest inhibitor to growth in the Australian superyacht industry. The Whitsundays is regarded as a world class sailing destination however Australia is unable to compete with neighbouring international destinations of Fiji and New Zealand due to current legislation.

Opportunity:

Allowing foreign flagged superyachts to charter in Australia requires revision of the Coast Trading (Revitalising Australian Shipping) Act 2012 and/or new Charter legislation. Benefits to changing or developing new legislation include:

- No requirement for Government investment to secure large economic benefits through legislation change.
- Increase in superyacht visitation has a direct correlation on visitor length of stay and associated expenditure, therefore providing a huge boost to Whitsunday region tourism.
- Increased direct and indirect jobs in the tourism and professional marine industries.



Action:

Greater Whitsunday Alliance calls for the Federal Government to revise the Coast Trading (Revitalising Australian Shipping) Act 2012 and/or develop new Charter legislation.)

Policy Area: Enabling Infrastructure

Bruce Highway flood mitigation, Whitsundays



Summary:

Flood proofing the Bruce Highway in the Whitsunday region, Queensland's major north-south corridor, is imperative for community safety, accessibility and business continuity. Greater Whitsunday Alliance's recommendation is that the Federal Government works closely with the Queensland Government to develop a flood mitigation plan for the Bruce Highway by the end of 2019.

Background:

The Bruce Highway is Queensland's major north-south corridor connecting coastal communities with Brisbane and spans some 450km in the Greater Whitsunday region from south of St Lawrence to north of Gumlu.

Goorganga Plains is an eleven (11) kilometre stretch of the Bruce Highway in the Whitsunday region, south of Proserpine, which is prone to regular seasonal flooding. There are

approximately 10,500 daily vehicle movements on the Bruce Highway at Proserpine, therefore indicating that the economic impact of stranding motorists and freight companies is significant.

Opportunity:

Fast track planning for flood mitigation works for the Bruce Highway to deliver the regional community a range of benefits including:

- All weather continuity of business to ensure the movement of critical freight including food, water, mail and resources.
- Maintenance of the critical tourism link between Whitsunday Coast Airport and Airlie Beach and the Whitsunday Islands.
- Significant community safety impacts (access to hospital and medical services).



Action:

State and Federal Governments to develop a flood mitigation plan for the Bruce Highway in the Whitsunday region as a matter of urgency.

Policy Area: Enabling Infrastructure

Hamilton Plains flood mitigation



Summary:

Greater Whitsunday Alliance recommends all levels of government commit construction funds to flood proofing the Proserpine to Shute Harbour Road at Hamilton Plains.

Background:

Hamilton Plains on the Proserpine to Shute Harbour Road is a notorious flood plain and prone to seasonal flooding. The Proserpine to Shute Harbour Road connects to the Bruce Highway and is the key service route for thousands of residents living in Airlie Beach and other key communities.

Opportunity:

Hamilton Plains experiences regular periods of submergence every wet season, isolating coastal communities. Flood proofing Hamilton Plains has immediate and direct impact including:

- Ensuring connectivity between Proserpine and Airlie Beach.
- Protecting the world class tourism industry of Airlie Beach.
- Significant community safety impacts (access to hospital and medical services).



Action:

State and Federal Governments to commit construction funds to flood proofing Hamilton Plains section of the Proserpine Shute Harbour Road.

Policy Area: Enabling Infrastructure

Peak Downs Highway upgrades

Summary:

As a high value supply chain route with major impact on the national economy, Greater Whitsunday Alliance recommends the State and Federal Governments invest in improving the Peak Downs Highway as a matter of urgency.

Background:

The Peak Downs Highway is one of the most valuable supply chain routes in Queensland and is estimated to contribute some \$7 billion of GRP annually. Improving the Peak Downs Highway has not only direct economic impacts across the regional supply chain, but most importantly, has significant safety implications to the thousands of workers travelling every day.

Opportunity:

Broadly there are three main projects on the Peak Downs Highway. Widening of sections between Mackay and Nebo and widening of sections between Nebo and Clermont. Additionally, replacement of eight narrow bridges between Nebo and Clermont is also required. The total approximate cost of these three projects is \$50m over the next ten (10) years.

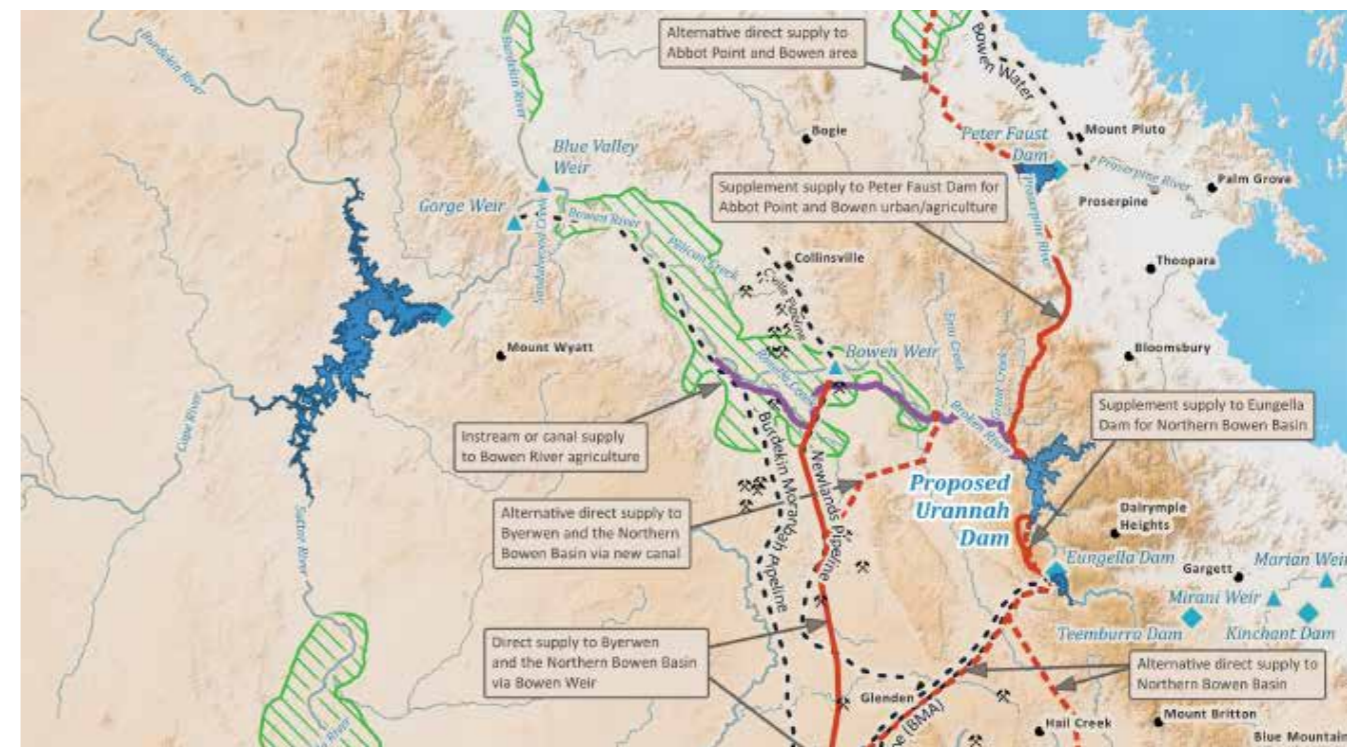


Action:

Greater Whitsunday Alliance recommends to the State and Federal Governments to commit construction funds to widening and bridge replacement program on the Peak Downs Highway to maintain investment in a nationally significant supply chain route.

Policy Area: Enabling Infrastructure

Urannah Water Scheme



Summary:

Long term regional water security to community and industry is a key concern for North Queensland communities and industry proponents. Providing long term commitments to the future of water security in regions is necessary for continued investment and GRP output.

Background:

The Urannah Water Scheme is a new large-scale, irrigation precinct and renewable energy (Hydro power) generation scheme located approximately 90km west of Mackay in North Queensland.

Urannah Dam was first proposed in 1956. Since 2015 lead project proponent, Bowen Collinsville Enterprise (BCE) has prepared reports and sought funding from the Australian Government National Water Infrastructure Development Fund. In 2017, BCE granted \$3 million to undertake an examination of the economic feasibility of Urannah Dam. In 2019, BCE was allocated a further \$10 million by the Australian Government for the financial investment case.

Opportunity:

The Urannah Water Scheme has a broad range of community impacts including:

- Over 40,000 hectares of irrigation land would be supported.
- Over 100mn of renewable energy production.
- 1.5m mega litre storage capacity.
- Ability to gravity feed water to the Bowen and Galilee Basins.
- Offers water security for farming, agricultural and industrial land across the Mackay and Whitsunday regions.



Action:

Greater Whitsunday Alliance urges the State and Federal Governments to consider the strategic importance of establishing long term water security for the region by committing to funding the Urannah Water Scheme.

Po Box 1076
Mackay Qld 4740

Shop 12, The Dome,
134 Victoria Street, Mackay Qld 4740

www.greaterwhitsundayalliance.com.au



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