



NQACC
 NORTH QUEENSLAND
 AREA CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Cr Lyn McLaughlin
Mayor Burdekin Shire
June 29 2008

The North Queensland Area Consultative Committee, as part of the Australian Government's ACC (Area Consultative Committee) Network across Australia, has been tasked to consult with regional communities on issues regarding future regional development. The Government is considering a number of new regional initiatives (including the transition of ACC's to Regional Development Australia on 1 January 2009) to ensure that investments in regional Australia promote sustainable economic growth, benefit the community as a whole and demonstrate their strong commitment to regional Australia.

Our three broad objectives are:

1. to improve the engagement of regional communities with the Australian Government via Regional Development Australia (see attached map).
2. during the transition to Regional Development Australia (RDA), to determine the principles and priorities for the new Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program that was announced in the 2008 Budget, and
3. to ascertain the priorities for the types of local community infrastructure that could encourage economic development in our local communities, and promote regional development through the *NQ Regional Investment Strategy*.

The NQACC / RDA regional investment strategy is strongly supported in this endeavour by component regional plans and strategies;

- *Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC)* – Queensland Government (QLD Infrastructure and Planning) has RPAC processes underway in the north and northwest of the State – NQ RPAC and the NW RPAC
- *Northern Economic Triangle* - QLD Infrastructure and Planning, QLD Tourism, Regional Development and Industry;- targeting major infrastructure and services for the region with *Centres of Enterprise*;
- *Townsville Enterprise Ltd* – facilitating pathways for major infrastructure development in the Townsville City, Burdekin, Hinchinbrook, and Charters Towers Council areas;
- *MITEZ* (Mount Isa / Townsville Economic Zone) - MITEZ Inc, a regional local Government and service agency grouping with common economic and social objectives and an interdependency, both commercially and administratively, funded jointly by State and local Government members;
- *Mount Isa Economic Development Group* (Mount Isa City Council, QLD Tourism, Regional Development and Industry, Xstrata, NQACC) via the *Mount Isa Vision 2033* plan;

Self Sovereign Development

Executive Officer - North Queensland Area Consultative Committee (NQACC)

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- *Charters Towers Business Retention and Expansion Project* – Charters Towers Regional Council, Chamber of Commerce, and QLD Tourism Regional Development and Industry, via the *Charters Towers Regional Economic Development Strategy*
- *NRM Regional Investment Strategy* - Burdekin Dry Tropics Natural Resource Management Ltd, The Southern Gulf Catchments Natural Resource Management Ltd, and the Wet Tropics Natural Resource Management Ltd, (all 3 programs funded by the Australian Government under *Caring for Country*); and
- *Blueprint for the Bush* - QLD Office of Rural and Regional Communities, QLD Local Government, Sport and Recreation with regional Community Ministerial Forums.

The NQACC Business Plan is to operate under the RDA model with 7 regional Boards under NQACC / RDA, accommodating the important range of diverse economic and social opportunities in the region.

Several high-priority issues, infrastructure project areas, and service needs are currently under scrutiny or development:

- Mining infrastructure – road, rail, port handling (including the Townsville port access corridor);
- Energy supply for industry and domestic use - the cost and availability of energy supply highlights a need for base-load power generation in the region;
- Opportunity for alternative energy sources and as a priority for a sustainable energy supply resource;
- Climate change impacts on sustainable lifestyles in the tropics;
- Improved telecommunications and broadband/internet capability for regional areas;
- Better utilization of water resources in mining, grazing, and urban areas through infrastructure, resource allocation, and recycling strategies;
- Road and rail infrastructure;
- Social and community livability infrastructure:
 - community services;
 - affordable housing;
 - land for housing;
 - a safe living environment; and
 - enhanced road, rail, and air travel services;
- Vast exploration and development potential in the west, north west, and eastern mineral provinces;
- Workforce skills – training, retention and shortages;
- Business and employment development in Indigenous communities;
- Tourism and eco-tourism industry development; and
- Youth development and remote education

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MEMBERSHIP REGISTER As at 1 January 2008			
MEMBER	POSITION	ORGANISATION	ADDRESS
Cr Annie Clarke	Chair NQACC	Mayor Burke Shire Council	Burketown
Cr Ross Lewis	Deputy Chair NQACC; Burdekin Regional Board Chair	Councillor Burdekin Shire Council	Burdekin
Richard Samwell	Treasurer	HillRoss Group	Ayr
Kathryn Logan	Chair Gulf Regional Board	Zinifex	Century Mine, via Mt Isa
David Glasson	Chair Mount Isa Regional Board	Chairman MITEZ	Mount Isa
Cr John Wharton	Chair Mid West Regional Board	Mayor Richmond Shire	Richmond
Cr Frank Beveridge	Chair Charters Towers Regional Board	Councillor Charters Towers City	Charters Towers
Glenys Schuntner	Chair Townsville Thuringowa Regional Board	CEO Townsville Enterprise	Townsville
Raymond De Lai	Chair Hinchinbrook Regional Board	Manager Herbert Resource Information Centre	Ingham
Peter Arlett	Member Special Skills	Chair North Queensland Electricity Council	Townsville
EX OFFICIO			
Michael Kitchener	Northern Regional Manager	Infrastructure	Townsville
Peter Mellor	Regional Director	Qld Dept of Tourism, Regional Development, Industry	Townsville

Contact Details

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NQACC Regional Boards

