



TOWNSVILLE
CHAMBER

North Queensland **Chambers of Commerce** 2019



TOWNSVILLE IMAGES



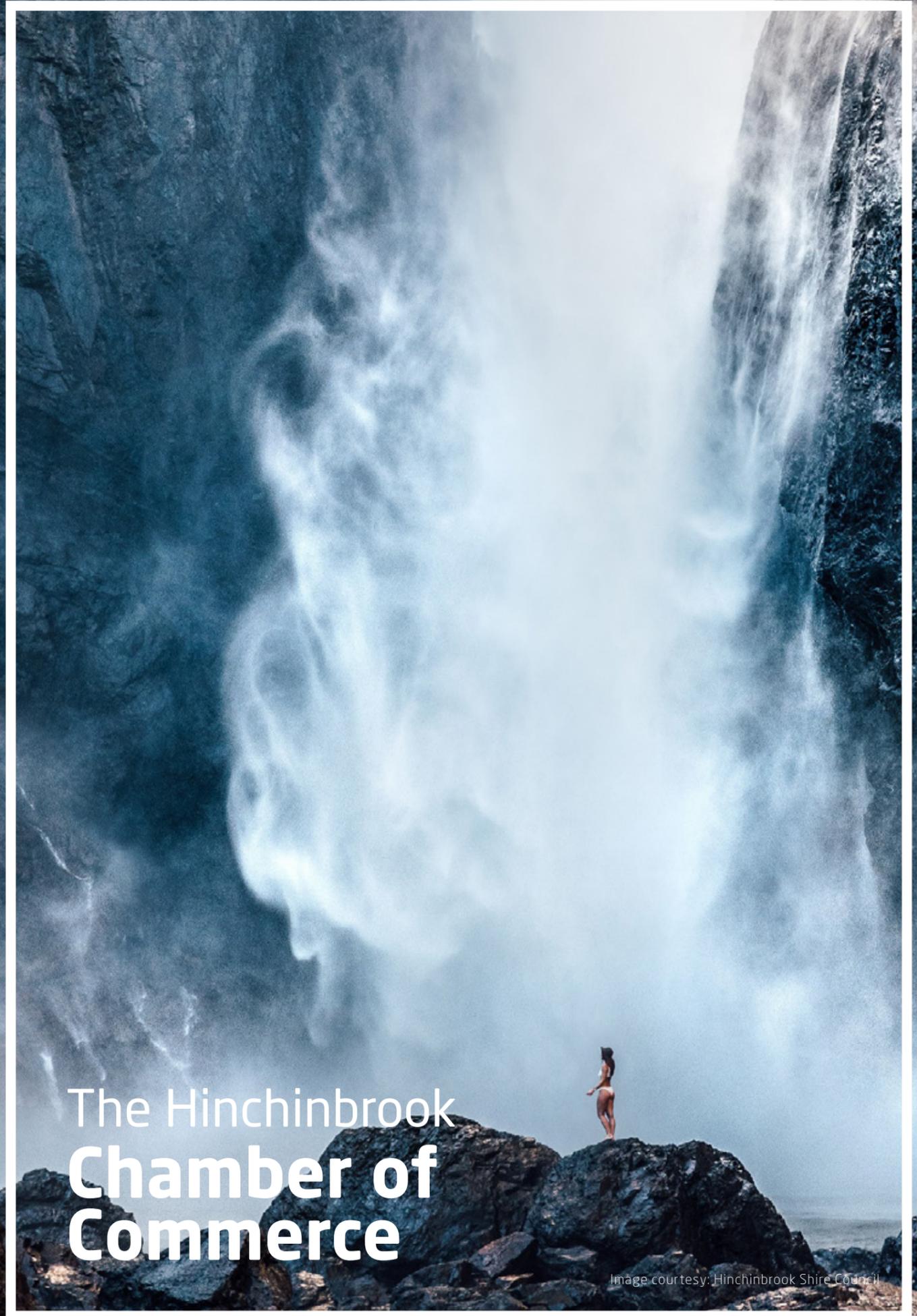
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HINCHINBROOK CHAMBER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

	<p>JONATHAN PAVETTO President <i>Wilmar Sugar</i></p>
<p>PETER REITANO Vice President <i>Felix Reitano Real Estate</i></p>	 <p>PAT LYNCH Treasurer <i>NQ Employment</i></p>
	<p>ADAM DOUGLAS Committee Member <i>Wilmar Sugar</i></p>
	<p>MONIQUE DEVITT Committee Member</p>

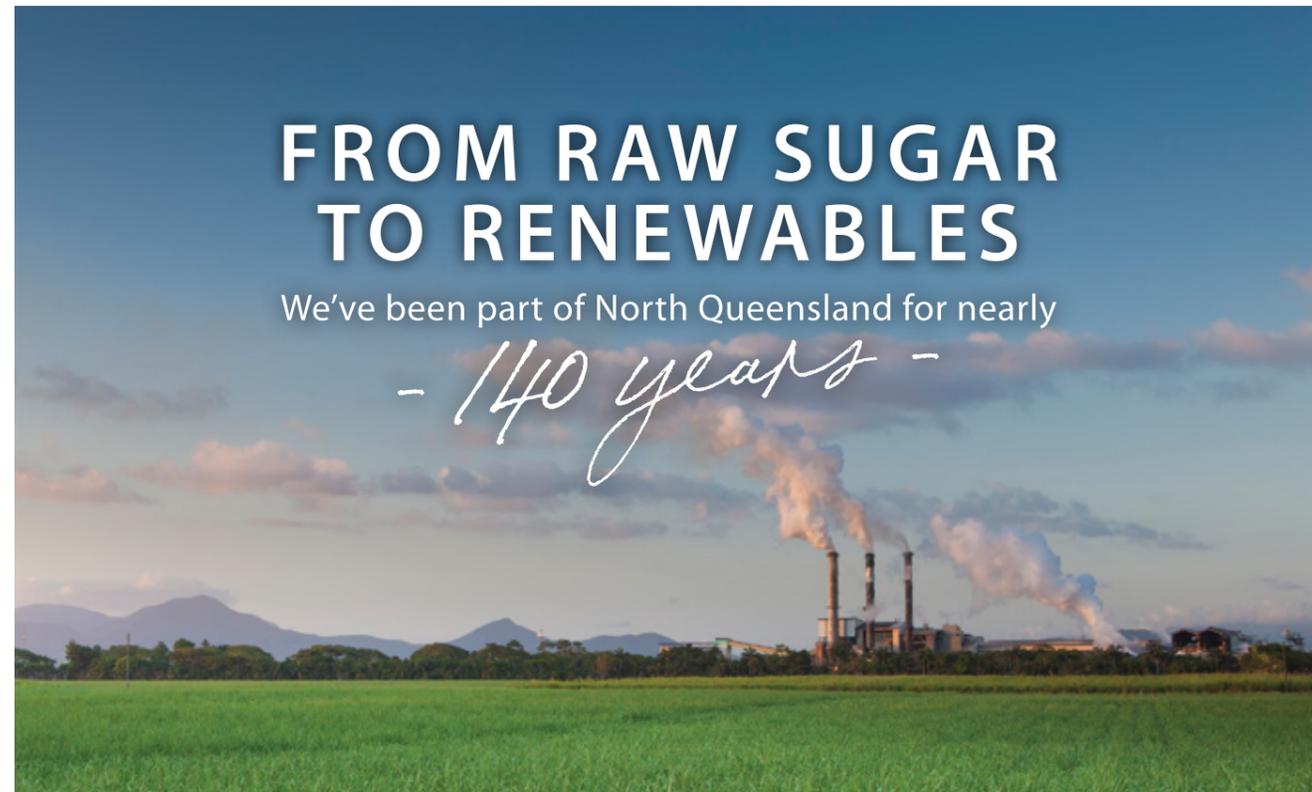



AMANDA COMINARDI
Secretary
Industry & Tourism

RACHAEL COCO
Committee Member
Ingham Building and Roofing

FROM RAW SUGAR TO RENEWABLES

We've been part of North Queensland for nearly
- 140 years -



Proudly supporting the Hinchinbrook, Townsville, Ayr and Home Hill Chambers of Commerce



FROM THE HINCHINBROOK CHAMBER PRESIDENT



With sugar prices on the rise and the 2019 sugarcane harvesting season in full swing, confidence amongst the business community is up and the Hinchinbrook Shire is abuzz with activity.

Similarly, the Hinchinbrook Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism has also been very active in representing the interests of the local business community. This year has seen a number of big firsts for the Hinchinbrook Chamber, as well as a continuation of things we know we do well.

We started the year with a 'first'. To ensure that we are true to our word as "The voice of business in the Hinchinbrook Shire," we surveyed the business community across the shire to identify their priorities for Chamber. As a result, we remain 100% committed to leading the economic development of the region, as well as being the key consultative body for the Hinchinbrook Shire Council on all matters affecting the business community.

Another 'first' was the hugely successful inaugural Hinchinbrook Business Awards. The sell-out night saw 11 category winners with well-deserved overall winner Subway Ingham and runner-up Liqaforce. The awards were particularly successful in celebrating the diversity of the Hinchinbrook Shire's economy and the inspiring innovation occurring across so many industries.

The Hinchinbrook Chamber has also started a Quarterly Business Confidence Survey, which is showing improved confidence in the local and regional economy. Even in the face of rolling floods at the start of the year and less than perfect cane growing conditions, local business owners are upbeat about their future commercial prospects.

In May, the Hinchinbrook Chamber facilitated possibly the biggest election forum in the Kennedy electorate, hosted a lunch

for the then Minister for Agriculture Minister the Hon David Littleproud MP and shone a light on how the Federal Government could improve business conditions in the Hinchinbrook Shire.

Now the election is over, we continue to push for artificial government costs in electricity, fuel and insurance to be removed and for game-changing infrastructure development in our shire.

We look forward to 2020, where we can ensure that all candidates running for both Local and State Government are aware of the business community's issues and what they would be able to do to solve them.

I cannot end this report without thanking the 2019 Hinchinbrook Chamber Management Committee for their tireless effort and drive to make the Hinchinbrook Shire a better place to invest, work and raise a family.

Thank you also to our members - you are the reason why we are here and I look forward to continuing to work for you in 2020!

JONATHAN PAVETTO
President



FROM THE MAYOR OF THE HINCHINBROOK

Our 2019-2020 Budget reflects Council's continuing objective towards facilitating business activity throughout the community, whilst progressing its ambitions towards industry diversification.

The wide range of initiatives proposed such as refurbishment and revitalisation of the beach areas, parklands and town precincts are designed to not only create employment opportunities for local business and tradespersons, but to also continue with establishing our district as an inviting and experience filled destination of choice.

To ensure Council's aims are achieved, funding continues to be allocated for product development, enhancing opportunities for local business to capitalise and increase visitation to the region, in addition to training and educational opportunities to enable further learning and skills development continues to be a priority.

Council's annual Capital Works Program budgeted for \$19,557,159 coupled with Council's tenacity towards protecting local service provision through local procurement strategies, continues to be regarded as a significant stimulus to works and jobs throughout our district. Program Release is



designed at ensuring continuity of work over the year as a whole, taking into consideration the difficulties associated with the wet season and off harvest periods.

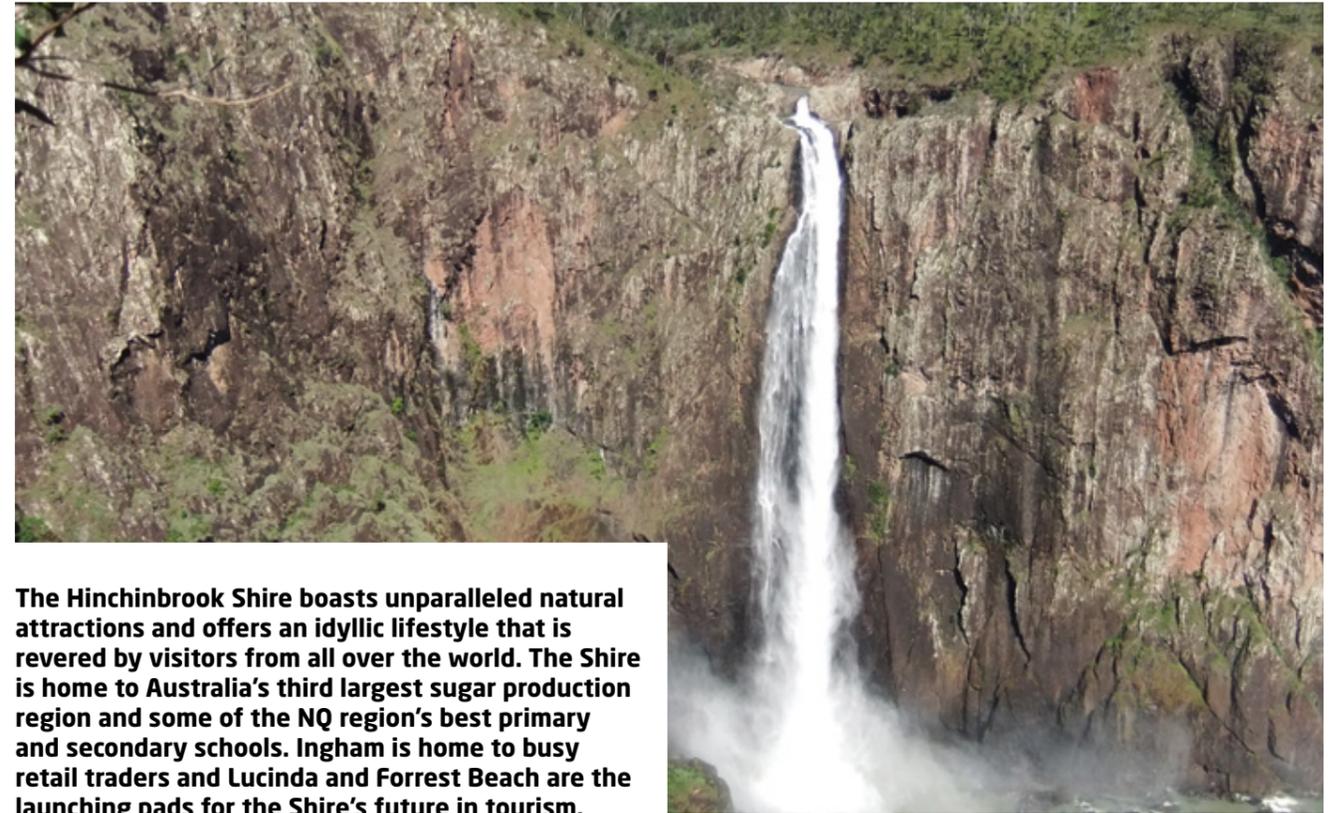
A new initiative this year also aimed at providing economic stimulus and encouragement of growth is a two (2) year waiver of general rates associated with new residential houses approved for construction after 1 July 2019.

For more information on Council's business diversity and economic development strategy, please visit Council's website, *Economic Development Page*.

CR RAMON JAYO
Mayor of the Hinchinbrook Shire Council

" We continue with establishing our district as an inviting and experience filled destination of choice."

ABOUT THE HINCHINBROOK SHIRE



The Hinchinbrook Shire boasts unparalleled natural attractions and offers an idyllic lifestyle that is revered by visitors from all over the world. The Shire is home to Australia's third largest sugar production region and some of the NQ region's best primary and secondary schools. Ingham is home to busy retail traders and Lucinda and Forrest Beach are the launching pads for the Shire's future in tourism.

The stunning scenery is as diverse as it is spectacular; including Hinchinbrook Island and Channel, World Heritage National Parks, beaches, waterfalls, wetlands, rivers, rainforests and everything in between.

Natural attractions and experiences are plentiful. The Hinchinbrook Shire is renowned for its world class fishing, abundance of wildlife and marine life, nationally recognised wetlands and breathtaking scenery. From Australia's highest single-drop waterfall, Wallaman Falls, to the majestic Herbert River that flows through the region and offshore to the largest island on the Great Barrier Reef, Hinchinbrook Island, there are wonders to be discovered around every corner.

History is preserved and celebrated in various locations around the shire and can be witnessed in heritage buildings, agricultural displays and other tributes. Vibrant artworks including sculptures, murals and mosaics and local cultural experiences showcase the multicultural background, agricultural heritage, natural wonders and unique attributes of the Hinchinbrook Shire.

Situated between Townsville and Cairns, the Hinchinbrook Shire is ripe with opportunities for new and emerging businesses

who leverage technological advancements and the National Broadband Network. The shire is the perfect home base to commuters, Fly In / Fly Out and Drive In / Drive Out workers and their families.

Health services are provided at Ingham Hospital, a 28-bed in-patient facility with emergency, maternity, X-ray facilities, pharmacy and allied health services, in addition to a variety of private health professionals, dental clinics, pharmacies and other allied health services.

Educational institutions include several state and private primary schools and three secondary schools, two private and one state. These secondary schools cater to the needs of all academic abilities, have strong programs focusing on tertiary and vocational education pathways, work closely with local businesses to facilitate work placement and possess trade training centres within their facilities.

If you're looking for somewhere to live, invest or do business, the Hinchinbrook Shire really is the natural place to be.

BUSINESS INNOVATION SCHEME

At Hinchinbrook Shire Council we are committed to securing the attraction of new industry and innovative business to the district.

If you have a business idea that will add value or significantly expand upon existing business then Council's *Business Innovation Scheme* may be able to assist you.

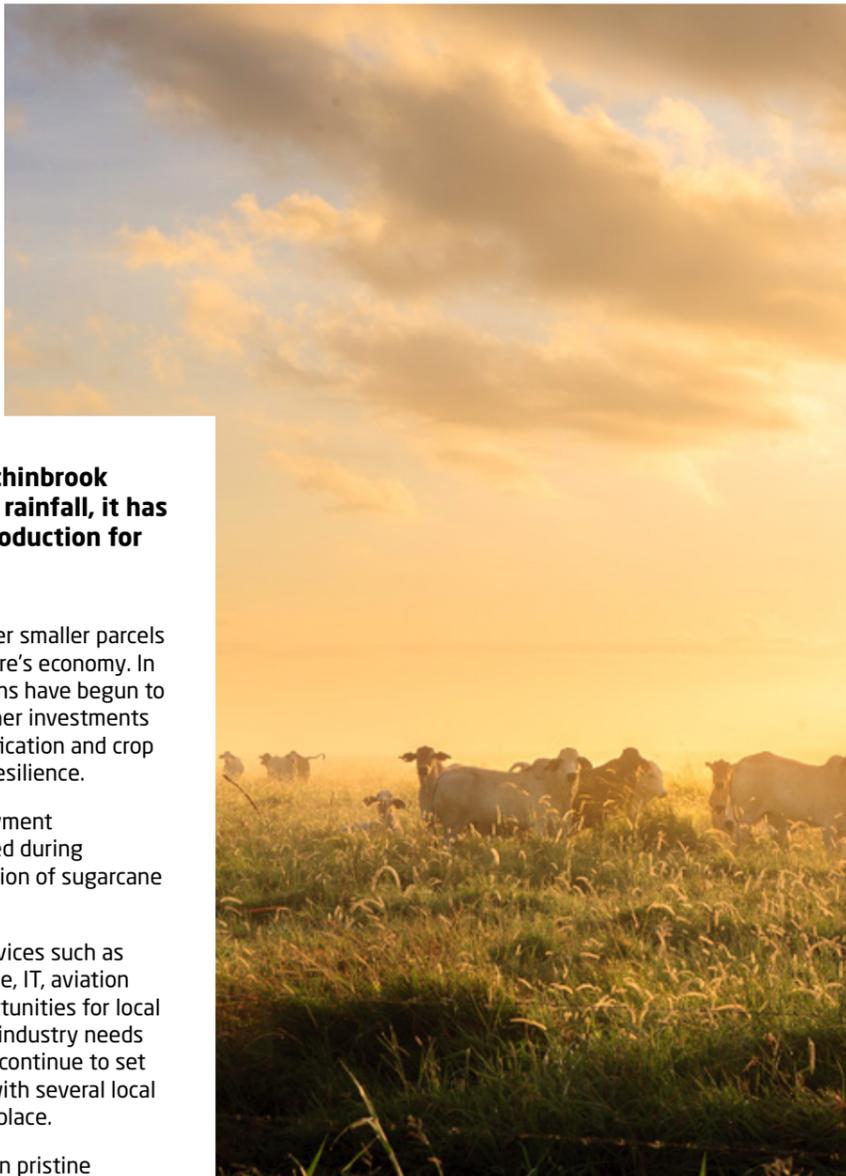
Find out more bit.ly/HSC_Business.

CONNECT WITH COUNCIL
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HinchinbrookShireCouncil



HINCHINBROOK.QLD.GOV.AU

HINCHINBROOK ECONOMIC OVERVIEW



Sugarcane is the backbone of the Hinchinbrook Shire. With fertile soils and consistent rainfall, it has supported the district's agricultural production for over a century.

While sugarcane is the dominant industry, other smaller parcels of agricultural production contribute to the shire's economy. In recent years, these boutique farming operations have begun to receive recognition and acclaim, inspiring further investments into this sector. A push for agricultural diversification and crop rotation will continue to build local economic resilience.

Agriculture provides a diverse range of employment opportunities in the Hinchinbrook Shire, created during production, harvesting, milling and transportation of sugarcane and other farming products.

Additionally, the industry requires support services such as scientific research, financial, legal, maintenance, IT, aviation and manufacturing, delivering abundant opportunities for local businesses. Entrepreneurs have responded to industry needs and challenges with innovative solutions that continue to set benchmarks for best practices in agriculture, with several local businesses identified as leaders in the marketplace.

Tourism is an emerging industry, capitalising on pristine attractions and experiences that appeal to lovers of nature, culture and adventure. Investment into necessary infrastructure, marketing, product and skills development has seen an increase in visitation that is injecting significant money into the local economy.

Environmentally significant and breathtakingly beautiful locations, rare and endangered wildlife and marine life, unique adventures, world class fishing and meaningful cultural experiences are attracting visitors to the district. Welcoming locals, mild winters, an idyllic lifestyle, gourmet food and boutique retailers are securing repeat visitation and valuable word-of-mouth referrals that will see visitation continue to increase into the future.

The Hinchinbrook Shire is well positioned to deliver niche eco-tourism and edu-tourism products to a growing, increasingly captive domestic and international audience. With a focus

Image courtesy: Hinchinbrook Shire Council

on sustainable planning and growth, low impact operations, environmental conservation and personalised, experienced-based products, local tourism operators and attractions are beginning to secure the recognition they deserve.

Events form an integral part of the local tourism industry, which has a strong focus on regional visitor attraction. Local festivals showcase and celebrate the shire's rich culture, colourful heritage and liveability, with gourmet food, inspiring art, local entertainment and culture taking centre stage.

For find more information, local businesses or links to Council and community information, visit www.hinchinbrookchamber.com.au.

HINCHINBROOK CHAMBER ACTIVITIES 2018/2019 IN ACTION

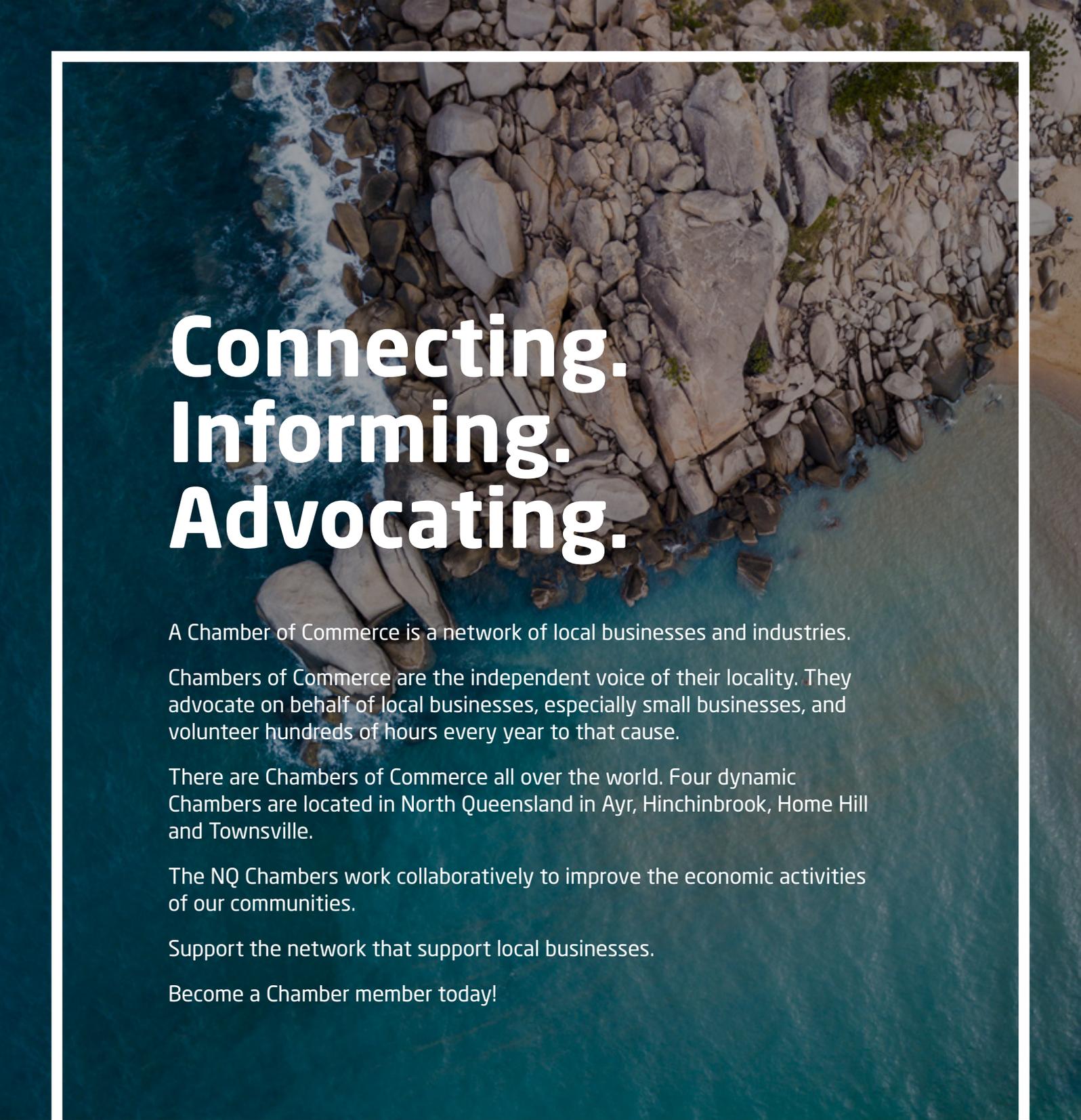


CAPTIONS

1. Dianne Griffiths, Mandy Cominardi, Rachael Coco, Tracey Castles, and Nick Dametto MP attend the opening of their New Youth Space "The Plant Room". | 2. Hinchinbrook Chamber Annual General Meeting Dinner. | 3. David Littleproud MP, Minister of Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management and formerly Federal Minister for Agriculture, with Mario Porta and Jonathan Pavetto. | 4. Pat Lynch, Rachael Coco and Madeleine D'Urso at the luncheon for Mr Littleproud MP.

The inaugural Hinchinbrook Chamber Business Awards

5. Sponsor and shortlisted nominees for the Halifax Hotel Innovation in Agriculture Award. | 6. Sponsors and shortlisted nominees for NQ Employment Hinchinbrook Employee of the Year. | 7. Shortlisted nominees and sponsor for Felix Reitano Furniture & Real Estate Young Entrepreneur of the Year. | 8. Shortlisted nominees for Wilmar Excellence in Customer Service Award. | 9. Shortlisted nominees for LiquaForce Hinchinbrook Employer of the Year. | 10. Adam Douglas with Mayor Ramon Jayo - Mayor presenting Adam, on behalf of Wilmar, with Winners trophy for Heart of Hinchinbrook Community Spirit Award. | 11. Two generations of the Liddle family, owners of LiquaForce, Runner-Up for the Auditors Builders Hinchinbrook Business of the Year 2019; and Hinchinbrook Adventures, Winner of MAMS Group Excellence in Tourism Services Award. | 12. Hinchinbrook Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Tourism Committee Members with Winner of Auditors Builders Hinchinbrook Business of the Year 2019 - Peter Reitano, Monique Devitt, Amanda Cominardi, Rachael Coco, Trina Gonzalez (Winner), Jonathan Pavetto, Kieran Volpe, Adam Douglas.



Connecting. Informing. Advocating.

A Chamber of Commerce is a network of local businesses and industries.

Chambers of Commerce are the independent voice of their locality. They advocate on behalf of local businesses, especially small businesses, and volunteer hundreds of hours every year to that cause.

There are Chambers of Commerce all over the world. Four dynamic Chambers are located in North Queensland in Ayr, Hinchinbrook, Home Hill and Townsville.

The NQ Chambers work collaboratively to improve the economic activities of our communities.

Support the network that support local businesses.

Become a Chamber member today!

Townsville Chamber
www.townsvillechamber.com.au

Hinchinbrook Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism
www.hinchinbrookchamber.com.au

Ayr Chamber of Commerce
www.ayrchamber.com.au

Home Hill Chamber of Commerce
www.homehillchamber.com