



CHDC E-News

Central Highlands Development Corporation
Economic development agency for the Central Highlands Region

1st-15th August 2009



Welcome to the first edition of the CHDC E-News, a fortnightly brief to highlight key information in the region.

Regional Highlights and Updates:

Council Land Auctions

Central Highlands Regional Council land Auction in Blackwater successfully sold all blocks with the highest price paid being \$107,000 and an average price of \$86,000 achieved. Another land auction has been scheduled for Blackwater on 11th September 2009, Council now has freehold title over 47 vacant blocks of land in town.

(Source: Blackwater Herald 14/7/09)

The Zamia Views sub-division in Springsure will go to auction Friday 4th September, nine lots in Airport Drive and one in Comet Street will be auctioned ranging from 1029 sqm to 1578 sqm.

(Source: CQ News 5/8/09)

Emerald Airport Expansion

Work has started on the \$7million extension to the Emerald Airport terminal building. The extension will provide security screening requirements that will then allow larger carriers to Emerald.

(Source: CHDC)

Coal Production on the Rise

Queensland Resources Council's CEO, Michael Roche, recently hosted a conference in Rockhampton and reported that production and exports were up and there was no shortage of investment cash to develop a host of new coal mining project in CQ. He also indicated that generally employment in coal is higher than 12 months ago and that the industry has just finished the financial year with record exports of coal – it is anticipated that coal production will double in the next 12 months and that major global forecasts pointed to continued strengthening in China and slow but steady recovery in Europe & Japan.

(Source: CQ News 21/7/09)

Infrastructure Funding for Schools

Schools in the Blackwater have recently received funding from the Federal Government program – Building the Education Revolution. Blackwater Primary School received \$3.2 million for an Arts Centre and Resource Centre, Blackwater Primary School, funding for the construction of a new hall and Blackwater State School received funding for refurbishment.

(Source: CQ News 27/7/09)

Hancock Prospecting

Development of a \$7.5 billion Alpha Coal Project has an estimated output of 30 mt pa of thermal coal. It is planned for the first export shipment in 2013 with a fly in fly out workforce proposed for the project and a production of 30 megatonne per annum.

(Source: CQ news 29/7/09)

Oakey Creek Resumes Cutting

Tieri's Oakey Creek No1 has resumed cutting coal from its longwall from early August. A contract labour force would be imported to start work on the mine site. Production expected from August to end of year and then will be reassessed.

(Source: CQ News 29/7/09)

Better Access to GP Services

The Tieri Medical Centre & Middlemount GP Practice benefit from \$100,000 Government funding provided to improve access to GP services for Tieri and Middlemount residents.

(Source: CQ News 5/8/09)

Outback to Reef

Recent launch of Outback to Reef at Rubyvale Gem Gallery, a Geo-Tourism trail featuring 12 locations along the Tropic of Capricorn to Rubyvale and Longreach. Campaign also includes Blackdown Tableland National Park and Blackwater International Coal Centre. More information available www.digthetropic.com.au

(Source: CQ News 5/8/09)

Commercial Flights for Moranbah

Qantaslink will start commercial flights to Moranbah from the end of September. Initially five return services from Brisbane per week will be offered with an additional one likely to start in October, the schedule will offer daily flights Monday to Friday with an additional service on Thursday possibly in October.

(Source: CQ News 7/8/09)

Greyhound Growth in the CQ Region

Greyhound has announced an increase in operations with an additional three Central Qld mine contracts. The contract demonstrates Greyhound's commercial growth in the region.

(Source: CQ News 7/8/09)

A Possible Two New Major Coal Mines South of Emerald

Coal deposits to the south of Emerald know as Bandanna Energy's 'Golden Triangle', could emerge two major mines within years. Last week the company announced it had engaged an independent consulting group to undertake a concept study for its Arcturus Project, which is strategically placed between Felix Resources' Minerva and Xstrata's Rolleston mines. About 450 million tonnes has already been identified for the Arcturus and Springsure Creek Projects which make these a substantial resource. Bandanna hold a block of five contiguous leases between Emerald and Rolleston including the Arcturus, Springsure Creek, Fernlees, Fernlees North and Denison deposits, referred to as the 'Golden Triangle'.

(Source: CQ News 14/8/09)

Newly Released Draft Local Government Regulation

The exposure draft of the Local Government (Beneficial Enterprises and Business Activities) Regulation has been released and is available from the DIP website:

<http://www.localgovernment.qld.gov.au/Laws/LocalGovernment/LocalGovernmentLegislationReview.aspx>

This is the first of three proposed regulations under the *Local Government Act 2009*. The regulation provides more detail on requirements for local government beneficial enterprises and competitive business activities. The regulation includes i) approval process for certain beneficial enterprises ii) National Competition Policy application to local government significant business activities, including water and sewerage iii) process for complaints about competitive neutrality, including referral to and accreditation by the Queensland Competition Authority. The due date for submissions is Monday 14 September 2009 and information on how to make a submission is on the website.

(Source: CHRC)

Benchmarking your Business Success

What is Probe Manufacturing - Microscope Benchmarking tool?

The Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (www.deedi.qld.gov.au), has a program available for small and medium manufacturing companies to assist them to become world class and achieve high performance. The program begins with the delivery of a tool that benchmarks the company indicating how well the company is performing compared to its competitors, what could be done better, how to change the way things are done to improve performance in relation to competitors and where to start?

The delivery of the tool is fully funded by the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI). To be eligible for the program you must be committed to becoming world class, be in the Manufacturing Sector, be Queensland based, have been operating for at least 3 years, have a minimum of 10 employees and have an annual turnover between \$1 million and \$65 million. For further information contact Luisa Gorski at the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) on (07) 4971 2302.

(Source: DEEDI)

New Date for Multicultural Festival

With a crowded 2009 social calendar in the usual spots of March and April for this event, it was a necessity to move this festival to another month. The organizing committee and council have decided to stage the **Emerald Multicultural Festival** on **Saturday 12 September at the Emerald Showgrounds** this year in the hope of encouraging travellers to come to, or stay on, in the area. Numbered wristbands given out at the entrance will provide a more accurate head count of attendees which will assist when seeking future funding. It is hoped that a good percentage of the audience will participate in a short survey which will give organizers some idea of where they reside and what they have enjoyed at the event – all vital information to assist the organizing team. (Source: CHDC)

National Economic Development Conference 2009 - "Collaboration for Job Creation"

The registration details for the National Economic Development Conference 2009, being held in Melbourne at the Sebel Albert Park Hotel, on September 29-30, are now available for anyone who wishes to register for the conference. Please go to <http://www.halledit.com.au/ed09> (Source: EDA)

FREE Business Breakfast

Owners, operators and managers of Agricultural, Horticultural, Banking, Accounting and Financial Service businesses are invited to a **Business Breakfast**. The first in a series of industry breakfasts where the aim is to find out more about workforce issues. The business development breakfast is hosted by ETAN and the FREE breakfast is courtesy of the Central Highlands Skills Formation Strategy, CHDC & Anglicare CQ. To RSVP please phone (07) 4982 4386 or email robinson@chdc.com.au by Thursday 20 August 2009. The Business Breakfast will be held at Explorers Inn, Gregory Highway, Emerald on Friday, 21 AUGUST 2009 7:30am to 9:00am. (Source: CHDC)

Succession Planning Workshop

Workshop to be held on 10th Sept 2009, for further information contact CHRRUP-Rolfe Ellem on 49822996. (Source: CHRRUP)

Healthy Grass, Cattle & Soil Workshop

Workshop to be held in Emerald, for more information contact Mick Alexander 4938 3919. (Source: CHRRUP)

Adult Learners' Week - Emerald

Nightly activities are being held for Adult Learners' Week from the 1st through to the 4th of September to showcase adult hobby and learning pathways. Evening Session are Tuesday 1st Sept from 5-7pm at CQ TAFE, Wednesday 2nd Sept from 5-7pm at Emerald Library, Thursday 3rd Sept from 5-7pm at CQ University/AACC (Ag College)...lots of activities and information available - plus a digital camera to be won each day! More information can be obtained at the stand display at Centro Emerald Village, Shopping Centre.

(Source: ETAN)

Workplace Health & Safety officer Training



Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland, are offering a 5-day Workplace Health & Safety (WHS) Officer course specifically for businesses in the Emerald region to meet their safety and compliance obligations. By law, businesses with 30 employees or more must have a Workplace Health & Safety Officer.

For more information check the website www.cciq.com.au or for bookings call 1300 138 470

(Source: CCIQ)

Free Info Sessions

Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland will be conducting free information sessions in Emerald on a range of aspects of the legislation, including:

- Fair Work Act Information Sessions 29 September 10.00am - 1.00pm
- Unfair Dismissal Information Seminars 8 December 10.00am - midday

For further information please call 1300 138 470 or email events@cciq.com.au.

(Source: CCIQ)

