



Welcome to the **CHDC eNews**

a fortnightly brief to highlight key information in the region.

Regional Highlights and Updates

CHDC Business Breakfast: Future of the Region & CH DVD Launch

The Central Highlands Development Corporation is coordinating a Business Breakfast on **Friday, 5th March 2010** with a 6:30am breakfast for 7:00am start @ \$25pp. Guest Speakers will focus on future opportunities for the business sector in the Central Highlands. Guest Speakers include Hancock Coal, BMA, Industry Capability Network (ICN) & QMI Solutions. In addition, CHDC will be officially launching the highly anticipated DVD which provides a snapshot of the Central Highlands Region (great for use in recruitment to the region). A **FREE** DVD copy will be provided on attendance to the breakfast. **Please RSVP to Robyn Matheson** on 07 4982 4386 or rmatheson@chdc.com.au (**limited spaces only!!**). (Source: CHDC)

Central Highlands Events – Let us know what you have planned!

Central Highlands Development Corporation is compiling a 2010 Events Calendar for the whole of the Central Highlands region. If you have any events you would like included in the events calendar contact Robyn Matheson on 49 824 386 or email the details to rmatheson@chdc.com.au. Please include date of event, a brief description of the event, where the event will be held and contact details for the person responsible for the event. The events calendar will be updated and circulated quarterly with the CHDC Communiqué and will also be available on the CHDC [website](http://www.chdc.com.au).

(Source: CHDC)

CHDC Friday Business Forum

Take the opportunity to network with other business representatives and service providers in the area and join us for our Friday Business Forums in 2010, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm on the following dates:

➤ **Friday, 19th February 2010**

Guest Speaker: Deborah Mead, Regional Manager – CQ
Dept of Innovation, Industry, Science & Research

Topic: 'Financial Assistance Initiatives to Innovate your Business'

Speaker: Aust Ind. Engineering and Manufacturers Network Manager & Directors

Venue: Gossips @ The Western Gateway in Emerald



➤ **Friday, 19th March 2010**

Guest Speaker: Phil Ferenczi, Regional Geologist, Queensland Mines and Energy, Department of Employment, Economic Development & Innovation

Topic: 'Update of exploration & new developments in mines and energy sector'

Venue: The Mayfair Tavern- function room in Emerald

Please **RSVP** to Robyn Matheson on 07 4982 4386 or rmatheson@chdc.com.au (limited spaces available).

(Source: CHDC)

Getting into Supply Chains

At breakfast on **Friday 12th March**, find out how your company can benefit from the wide range of services available to help you to grow and improve your operations. Hear about DEEDI and other State funded services which support:

- Benchmarking of your firm against an ideal supplier
- Support for business planning and improvement
- Improving productivity and profitability workshops
- Financial incentives
- One-on-one productivity improvement support

While there will be a focus on companies interesting in winning more major project work, speakers at the breakfast will also outline services relevant to businesses in the broader economy.

RSVP: Karissa on 49384572

Date: Friday 12th March 2009

Time: 7 to 8:30am

Venue Details: Mayfair Ridge Tavern – Conference Room,
Cnr Gregory Hwy & Mayfair Drive Emerald

(Source: Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation –DEEDI)

Engineering and Manufacturing Network

The Australian Industry Engineering and Manufacturing Network (AIEMnet) has accepted the invitation from CHDC and will be attending the next Friday Business Forum on Friday 19 February. General Manager Peter Gregory and several board members will be in attendance and look forward to working with our members and to help in any way. AIEMnet has a very strong manufacturing and engineering base with capacity to help and is very keen to build supply chains in the Emerald region and to work closer with CHDC and local industries.

Peter and board members from AIEMnet will also be available during the day on Friday 19 February for personal consultations and visits and if you would like to know more about this strong and beneficial industry association, please call Peter on 4121 7856 or 0447 217 856 or email peter@aiemnet.com

(Source: AIEMnet)

Sustainability Declaration Feedback

The completion of a sustainability declaration when selling a house, townhouse or unit became mandatory in Queensland on 1 January 2010. The Department of Infrastructure and Planning is currently seeking feedback on the present form. The Department is keen to receive constructive feedback in relation to any potential improvements that could be made to the form and the accompanying reference guide. To access the sustainability declaration and more information visit www.dip.qld.gov.au/sustainable-housing/sustainability-declaration.html. Please forward your feedback to buildingcodes@dip.qld.gov.au Even if you are not planning to sell your house or you live in another State, it would be worthwhile to download the form and use it to assess your own house. (Source: DIP)

Commercial Businesses Are Not Wanting to Recycle Cardboard?

The Council has introduced residential recycling with a separate wheelie bin (yellow lid) and the take up on recycling has been very encouraging, which is of long term benefit to the community and the environment.

One thing that is not so pleasing is that some commercial businesses that use the Emerald transfer station are not making the effort of placing cardboard in the special containers for its disposal. Many are throwing the cardboard boxes into the general waste stream. All that is required is a few minutes a day to flatten the cardboard boxes and when visiting the transfer station take another minute to put the cardboard into the cardboard containers which in turn is recycled. This practise would be gratefully appreciated in the spirit of recycling.

(Source: CEO-CHRC)

Purchase Goods & Materials at a Cheaper Price!

Council has established a recycling shop immediately before entering the Emerald Transfer Station, where the general public can purchase second hand goods and materials at a cheaper price. It would be appreciated if users of the transfer station would patronise this facility to assist with recycling.

(Source: CEO-CHRC)

Commercialisation Australia is Now Open to Receive Applications

Commercialisation Australia is an Australian Government initiative that assists researchers, entrepreneurs and innovative companies to convert ideas into successful commercial ventures. The program offers a suite of tailored assistance measures including:

- **Skills and Knowledge** support to access specialist advice and services to build the skills, knowledge and linkages required to commercialise new ideas. This includes funding of up to \$50,000 to engage specialist advice and services
- **Experienced Executives** provides up to \$200,000 over two years to assist in the recruitment of experienced CEOs and other executives
- **Proof of Concept** grants will provide funding from \$50,000 to \$250,000 to test the commercial viability of a new product, process or service
- **Early Stage Commercialisation** repayable grants will provide funding from \$250,000 to \$2 million to undertake activities that enable a new product, process or service to be developed to the stage where it can be taken to market.

Each successful applicant will be assigned a Case Manager to guide them through the commercialisation process and facilitate access to Volunteer Business Mentors. Fact Sheets with further information on each of these measures can be found on the *Commercialisation Australia* website at www.commercialisationaustralia.gov.au If you would like to discuss this program, please call Deborah Mead on 07 41510660 or email deborah.mead@innovation.gov.au

(Source: Dept of Innovation, Industry, Science & Research)

Jobs Assist – A Business Support Initiative

Queensland has moved towards a preventative approach to job losses, focusing on helping businesses to be resilient through job creation and economic growth. The Queensland Government provides assistance and support to help businesses to help themselves – strong, resilient businesses help to protect jobs which ensures that the Queensland economy is in a strong position to take advantage of future growth. The Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) has implemented the Jobs Assist program that provides strong support for businesses that have been identified as requiring support services.

The eligibility criteria under this activity are that your business must:

1. be one of the following:
 - located within a Priority Employment Area under the Federal Government's Keep Australia Working strategy
 - fall within key sectors and be considered to be of critical or strategic importance to the State, region, industry or in a significant sectoral supply chain
2. employ 10 or more FTE's
3. have an established operating base in Queensland
4. have an ABN number and be registered for GST

Please contact Eslyn Dooley, eslyn.dooley@deedi.qld.gov.au or phone 49 384979 for more information.

(Source: DEEDI)

Greyhound helps the miners in Central Queensland

Greyhound Australia has come to the rescue of Central Queensland miners by introducing a new service between Emerald and Blackwater to cater for increased demand. The new service began on Monday 18 January with two services returning daily between the two mining hubs stopping at Emerald Airport, Emerald Railway Station, Emerald Hospital, Comet and Blackwater. Chief Executive Officer Robert Thomas said the new service would be well priced. "Catching a Greyhound bus between Emerald and Blackwater will cost a flat rate of just \$10," Mr Thomas said. "The early morning service will depart Emerald for Blackwater at 3.30am and then return to Emerald at 8am while the afternoon service will depart Emerald for Blackwater at 3:10pm and head back at 7:30pm. "Just one full Greyhound coach means there are at least 16 fewer cars on the road," Mr Thomas said. "Greyhound is one of the most environmentally efficient travel operators in Australia, offering passengers the opportunity to offset their carbon emissions for just \$1 per booking." For further information and to book please visit www.greyhound.com.au or call 1300 GREYHOUND (1300 473 946).

(Source: Greyhound Commercial)

Workshop for Mental Health Carers

Workshop topics covered will include: 'Caring for the Carer', 'Recovery – what does it mean' and 'Setting Boundaries'.

When? Tuesday 9th February 2010, At either 1pm till 4pm or 6pm till 9pm

Where? Anglicare Central Queensland, 44 School Lane, Emerald

Cost? There is no cost for family carers to attend the workshop, however a voluntary contribution towards resources would be appreciated, suggested **\$5.00**. The cost to service providers is **\$10.00**.

To register phone Anglicare Reception on 4982 4062 by Tuesday 2nd February 2010.

(Source: Anglicare)

Central Highlands Toolkit for Rural Women

A two day forum will be held with workshops and guest speakers which will act as a toolkit for rural women in the Central Highlands. So come along on the 4th -5th March 2010, at the Assembly of God Church, Gladstone St, Emerald and don't be afraid to enjoy the social activities at night as well!

Guests speakers are:

- Rachael Robertson *(Station Leader Australian Antarctic Division)*
- Robyn Moore *(one of Australia's most in-demand speakers)*
- Steve Francis *(a leading educator, author, executive coach and professional speaker)*

Workshop topics will include:

- Time Management
- A balanced lifestyle - Work/Life Balance
- Understanding and Facing the problems - key issues affecting rural women
- Identifying personal challenges and understanding your strengths: group consultations

To RSVP or for more information please contact Rachael Reeves on 0427 954 012 or email:

rfreeves@bigpond.com

(Source: Central Highlands Rural Women's Leadership Network)

Workshops for Rural Women

The Fitzroy Basin Association(FBA) will hold a series of two-day workshops for rural women at four CQ locations in March. The workshops are designed for women interested in learning more about natural resources management, networking with other women and becoming more active in their communities. They will be held at:

Middlemount---2 & 3 March

Emerald-----4 &5th March

Rockhampton---8th & 9th March

Biloela-----11th & 12th March

Expression of interest forms are available from Alisha Penrose on 49992815 or email

alisha.penrose@fba.org.au.

(Source: Rural Weekly 20/01/10)

New Weather Radar Tower

A \$4M federally funded Bureau of Meteorology weather radar tower was structurally completed in January and will be operational in March 2010. It will be a valuable tool for the council to prepare for disaster management, and it will allow businesses such as painters, concreters, brickies, mining companies and farmers to run more efficiently with state of the art, up-to-date weather information. The radar in combination with the installation of a \$311,00 flood alert warning system, will offer a new level of weather security. The new tower is located on Foley Road, east of Emerald.

(Source: CQ News 20/01/10)

Billion Dollar Expansions Commended

The commitment of more than half a billion dollars to the expansion of the export coal industry in Central Queensland has been commended by the Queensland Resource Council. QRC Chief Executive Michael Roche said "On the day that the coal industry's outstanding export contributions has been recognised by the Federal Government, this level of new investment by Australia's biggest coal miner, BHP-Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA), confirms growing confidence in the global economy's recovery and the future of coal. It also adds weight to forecasts that coal mining will be among the industries requiring an additional 23,000 new employees by 2020". The resources sector's ageing workforce profile coupled with the slow growth in the availability of suitably skilled employees is dampening the state's prospects of taking full advantage of the next 'supercycle' of global minerals and energy demand, according to a survey of sector chief executives released recently.

(Source: CQ News 20/01/10)

Prospect of Soaring Petrol Costs

Just as the world is starting to recover from the global financial crisis and the local economy is picking up, consumers face a dim prospect in 2010. A senior economist with a major banking institution has told southern media he's predicting petrol prices could rise to as much as \$1.50 a litre this year. A more immediate problem than the possibility of surging petrol prices, according to Colin Goodsell RACQ Regional Manager for CQ, was the trend of manufacturers to stop providing normal unleaded fuel. "Thirty per cent of cars on the road can't use E10 so if unleaded is taken off the market, they'd have to buy premium," he said. "We think six cents should be the maximum difference in price between normal and premium unleaded, but in Central Queensland the difference is up to 15cents a litre".

(Source: CQ News 20/01/10)

Kestrel Mine Community Development Fund

Rio Tinto Coal Australia has committed \$750,000 for the Kestrel Mine Community Development Fund to distribute to eligible projects between January 2009 and December 2011. Application for Road One close 5pm, 22 February 2010. Important Dates for the future 2010 funding rounds are: Round Two - 24 May, Round Three - 23 August, Round Four - 8 November. For an application kit, or to start the application process, please contact: Executive Officer, Maureen Tutton, Kestrel Mine Community Development Fund-Emerald, ph) 49847694 or email maureen.tutton@riotinto.com.

(Source: CQ News 20/01/10)

Power Station on Cards for CQ

Central Queensland will be the focus of an extensive environmental impact study, due to start in February, that could see the construction of Australia's first low-emission, coal-fired power station. ZeroGen says it hopes to have a 530 megawatt power plant operational inside five years. The \$4.3 billion project which could create 700 construction jobs and 200 full time operational jobs was originally planned to include a smaller demonstration clean-coal power station at Stanwell by 2012. But that plan was scrapped when Mitsubishi Heavy Industries joined the project. It had already proven the viability of the technology in Japan and it was considered there was no need to create a demonstration plant with a limited lifespan. Scientist are studying a massive area stretching from Biloela west towards Springsure and Emerald to find the right geological location, close to coal mines. Some places being considered include Dingo, Blackwater, Comet, Banana, Moura, Baralaba and Woorabinda.

(Source: Blackwater Herald 26/01/10)

CONTACT US

For more information about **Central Highlands Development Corporation** contact

(07) 4982 4386 or e-mail enquiries@chdc.com.au

www.chdc.com.au

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