



Welcome to the **CHDC eNews**

a fortnightly brief to highlight key information in the region.

Regional Highlights and Updates

Rendez-Vous: 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
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: Glenlaton Room @ The Maraboon Tavern in Emerald

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

(Source: CHDC)

CHDC Business Breakfast: Future of The Region

The Central Highlands Development Corporation is coordinating a Business Breakfast on **Friday, 5th March 2010** at the Emerald Town hall - 6:45 a.m. arrival for 7:00 a.m. start. \$20 p.p.

Guest Speakers will focus on the future of our mines and industries across the region.

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

(Source: CHDC)

Optic Fibre Project Announcement

On Friday December 4 the Minister for Communications announced the successful tender for the Backhaul Blackspots optic fibre projects. One of the identified projects was additional fibre between Emerald and Longreach. This project will now expand to install new fibre backhaul from Toowoomba through the important gas fields near Roma and the Arcadia Valley, before getting to Blackwater and then heading west to Longreach and on to Darwin. The **\$125 million dollar project** is expected to provide improved access to a range of competitive communication services including mobile coverage, broadband and data services. The announcement is at http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/media_releases/2009/109 and more details including route maps are available through www.dbcde.gov.au/blackspots_program.

The successful tender was submitted by Nextgen who have promised to encourage local participation and to assist communities to take advantage of the availability of new services.
(Source: CHDC)

Interactive Resource and Tenure Maps

The Department of Mines and Energy [website](#) features a useful tool to make Queensland's geological and mining data research easy and accessible to all.

The Interactive Resource and Tenure Maps is an [online service](#) allowing you to zoom, pan, search and display geological data with mining and exploration tenure information for the whole of Queensland. They also provide a spatial search tool for the Queensland Digital Exploration Reports system (QDEX), allowing you to list company reports for your project area based on historic exploration tenure.

Many of the geological, exploration and mining data layers for Queensland can also be downloaded from the IRTM system [here](#).

(Source: DEEDI)

New Practical Guidelines on the Environmental Impact Study Process

The Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP) has proposed to present a **“comprehensive and practical version of guidelines”** on their website to assist the public in understanding the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) process. It is anticipated that the new guidelines be available for access late February 2010.

For more information, please contact the Infrastructure and Economic Development Group on (07) 3224 4736 or visit www.dip.qld.gov.au/projects

(Source: Queensland Government)

Ministerial Press Release: National Resource Sector Employment Taskforce

The Australian Government's National Resource Sector Employment Taskforce met for the first time in Canberra on 20/11/09 to set the framework for how it will help secure skilled workers for about 80 major job-generating projects during the next decade.

The Taskforce, which will help to secure up to 70,000 skilled workers nationally, will be chaired by Parliamentary Secretary for Western and Northern Australia, Gary Gray, and will report to Minister for Resources and Energy, Martin Ferguson and Minister for Employment Participation, Mark Arbib.

The Taskforce is charged with developing a comprehensive workforce plan to assess skill needs and deliver the large number of skilled workers required in the resources sector over the next decade.

The Taskforce will examine projects coming on line over the next 10 years, including the location, type and number of jobs; the skills needed, building on industry skills surveys already undertaken and state skill plans; existing education and training programs; and current industry initiatives to address labour and skill requirements.

For further information, follow the link [here](#).

(Source: EDA Update 20/11/09)

Shale Gas Briefing 2010



The rise in unconventional gas is reshaping the natural gas industry. New technologies coupled with the abundance of resources has seen coal seam gas move from an industry hazard to a major industry in itself in the last ten years.

Attend IIR's [Shale Gas Briefing](#) on the **30th and 31st of March 2010** at the **Sofitel Brisbane** and meet the sector's leading experts and be at the forefront of developments as they happen.

The [Shale Gas Briefing](#) is part of IIR's inaugural Unconventional Gas Week 2010 which unites two key events under the one roof to become an unrivalled meeting point for captains of industry expanding the future of unconventional gas!

For full event details, please visit the Unconventional Gas [website](#) or download the [brochure](#).
(Source: IIR Conferences Pty Ltd)

FREE Seminar: Understanding the Immigration Changes

Predictions of shortages of skilled workers within 6 to 12 months will be a reality with expected employment demands of upcoming major projects. Would you like to find out what employer responsibly is entailed with employing workers from overseas by attending a free information seminar presented by Rockhampton Regional Development?

"Understanding the Immigration Changes: The Employer Viewpoint" will take place on **Tuesday, 8th December 2009** in the Department of Employment, Economic Development & Innovation training room, level 1, 149 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton from 5:15p.m. to 7:00p.m.

This information session will provide details of the range of visa options available and an update on recent changes to the 457 visa program, employer obligations and pathways to permanent residence. This is an opportunity for employers to ask questions and to gain a better understanding of these visa programs.

Representative from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship will also be available by appointment to meet with individual employers who have specific issues to discuss. Please **RSVP** to bookings@rrdl.com.au or call Kelly Wilson on 4927 0292 to make an appointment.
(Source: Rockhampton Regional Development)

Free Tax Seminar

The Australian Tax Office is holding a free tax seminar.

Who should attend?

Small business operators and those just starting or thinking about starting a new business should consider the *Tax basics* seminar.

Why should you attend?

You will learn about tax issues relevant to owning and operating a small business and receive practical tips for your business.

Seminar topics:

- Getting started in business, including Australian business number (ABN), and business structures
- Income tax and deductions
- Goods and services tax (GST), including activity statements (BAS), and pay as you go (PAYG)
- Reporting and paying
- Record keeping
- Budgeting for tax

Seminar details:

- **Emerald: Tuesday 8 December 2009**

12.30pm – 3.30pm

Mayfair Ridge Tavern, Cnr Gregory Hwy and Mayfair Dr, Emerald.

➤ **Rockhampton: Wednesday 9 December 2009**

12.30pm – 3.30pm

Dreamtime Cultural Centre, Bruce Hwy (opposite Yeppoon turnoff), Rockhampton.

➤ **Gladstone: Thursday 10 December 2009**

12.30pm – 3.30pm

Gladstone Entertainment Centre, 58 Goondoon St, Gladstone

Bookings are essential as numbers are limited.

To register online, click [here](#) and complete the registration form or phone **1300 661 104** (When registering by telephone please advise name/s of those attending, which seminar and session/s you wish to attend, your contact details: postcode, email address, phone number)

(Source: Australian Government)

Women's Leadership Forum

Running on 18th February at Rockhampton Plaza Hotel, the [Women's Leadership Forum](#) represents a powerful opportunity for networking and for planning for future career success and happiness.

Funding has been used to dramatically reduce the cost of attendance to just \$88 per person. Please feel free to invite friends and colleagues along to share this rewarding and thought-provoking experience. For more information or to register, follow the link [here](#).

(Source: Women and Leadership Australia)

Become a Volunteer at the Central Highlands Visitor Information Centre

Do you have some free time? Then become a volunteer at the Central Highlands Visitor Information Centre in Emerald!

The Central Highlands Visitor Information Centre is looking for volunteers to join its fantastic team of volunteers and staff. The Centre is managed by Capricorn Tourism, a non-profit member based organisation who market tourism, business and events across the Capricorn Region. Volunteering is a great way to learn new skills, meet new people, give back to the community and have a great time in the process! The Capricorn Region is full of wonderful things to see and do, so why not come along and help us promote the region to visitors?

For more information on volunteering, contact the Visitor Information Centre Supervisors, Nicole Travis or Maureen McMartin on 4982 4142, email emerald@capricorntourism.com.au or pop in and see us at 3 Clermont Street in Emerald.

We hope to see you soon!

(Source: Central Highlands Visitor Information Centre)

Scholarship Program

The Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Scholarship Program is now accepting applications from students about to enter their first year of tertiary studies. Rural and Regional student across Australia are encouraged to apply. The scholarship Grants can be used to contribute to student accommodation and study related expenses. Successful applicants that have been offered a full-time place at an Australian university or college campus, will initially receive funding for 1 year and depending upon academic performance the scholarship renewed. Application close at 4 pm, Friday 29 January 2010 and will be assessed in early 2010. For more information please visit www.bendigoadelaide.com.au

(Source: QLD Country Life 3/12/09)

BOW Energy Announces Reserve Upgrade

BOW Energy has announced a further reserve upgrade of 454 petajoules for its Blackwater coal seam gas field. The announcement comes as the company commences investigations for pipeline access and routes from the Blackwater CSG field to the Port of Gladstone. BOW will also build and operate a 30 megawatt power station, to be located adjacent to the Blackwater CSG field.

(Source: Blackwater Herald 01/12/09)

Ensham Cuts Back Contractors

Ensham Mine will cut contractor numbers by around 200 over the next 2 months as it transitions from open cut to underground mining. Ensham's stable workforce swelled to around 1000 workers in the wake of the flood in January 2008 and the massive repair operation that followed. Numbers will stabilize back around 640 to 700 workers. Technical General Manager, Colin Moffatt said some of the mines exiting workforce had expressed interest in following operations underground.

(Source: Blackwater Herald 01/12/09)

Emerald Shopping Complex to Create over 500 Jobs

Lascorp Development Group is progressing its retail flagship in Emerald, with 8 local businesses expressing interest in the 30 specialty shops available. Construction on the shopping complex will begin in February, generating 150 on-site jobs. With plans to open Easter 2011 there will be employment opportunities for upwards of 500 staff.

(Source: CQ News 02/12/09)

CHRC Land Auction

Central Highlands Regional Council put 47 parcels of land under the hammer (27.11.09) with 18 properties being sold at the auction at prices ranging from \$120,000 to \$147,500 and a further 11 sold since. Stage 2 of the estate (33 lots) will be put on the market next year. Council has just purchased land in Capella that will be developed for the future. Mr Col Dziewicki or Marnie Wills can be contacted on 49828320 for further information on blocks still available.

(Source: CQ News 02/12/09)

Emerald Airport Development Update

Stage 1 of the \$7.7million terminal redevelopment at the Emerald airport is due for completion late January with a proposed handover to CH Regional Council 18 June 2010. An ATM is also due to be installed once stage 1 is operational.

CHRC recently held a meeting to discuss a review of the Airport Landside Masterplan to discuss a future concept of an airport business park.

(Source: CQ News 25/11/09)



CHDC would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Notice

The CHDC Office will be closed from Friday, 18th December until Monday, 4th January. Please note that the next eNews will be released on Monday, 18th January 2010.

CONTACT US

For more information about **Central Highlands Development Corporation** contact
(07) 4982 4386 or e-mail enquiries@chdc.com.au

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