



Welcome to the **CHDC eNews**

a fortnightly brief to highlight key information in the region.

Regional Highlights and Updates:

New Rendez-Vous: The CHDC Friday Business Forum

The Central Highlands Development Corporation is launching The Friday Business Forum. The first Forum will take place on **Friday 16th October 2009** from 5.30pm to 7.30pm at the Route 66 Motor Inn, 2 Opal Street, Emerald. Guest speaker Reuben Lawrence will present:

- The Economic Impact of January 2008 Floods on Central Highlands Regional Business & Industry
- The Central Highlands 2009 Economic Profile

Take the opportunity to network ,from 6.00pm to 7.30pm, with other business representatives and service providers in the area (nibbles provided and drinks available from the bar). Limited spaces available!

Please **RSVP** to Robyn Matheson on 07 4982 4386 or rmatheson@chdc.com.au

(Source: CHDC)

Date Claimer - FREE Business Breakfast

The Central Highlands Regional Council in partnership with the Central Highlands Development Corporation are coordinating a FREE Business Breakfast as part of the three day celebration for the Emerald CBD opening. Come and hear what the QLD Resource Council has to say about the future for the region at 7.00 am on **Friday 6th November 2009** at the Emerald Library Park. Get in early to guarantee your attendance. Numbers limited!

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

(Source: CHDC)

2009 Economic Profile

CHDC have released the 2009 Economic Profile which is now available electronically on the CHDC website [here](#).

For information that supports your business development including:

- A Report on the Central Highlands' Major Projects including community and transport infrastructure, tourism, energy and mining developments
- Regional demographic data
- Labour market, employment and income data
- Construction and housing data
- Business and productivity reports
- Visitor and tourism data

(Source: CHDC)

2008 Flood Impact Assessment Report

Central Highlands Development Corporation has just release the highly anticipated Central Highlands 2008 Flood Impact Report. Lawrence Consulting was commissioned by CHDC to undertake an assessment of the economic impact of the January 2008 floods on regional business and industry. The core objective of the study was to identify and quantify the three main types of impact stemming from a natural disaster such as the 2008 flood, specifically:

1. Direct impacts caused during the actual event;
2. Indirect impacts in terms of flows of effects that occur over time after the event; and
3. Repercussions for macroeconomic variables.

To view the report please visit the CHDC website [here](#).

(Source: CHDC)

WorkAway Central Highlands - EOI

Expressions of interest are being sought for this innovative project that job-matches travellers and itinerant workers with employers in the Central Highlands region. With a website www.workaway.com.au, a range of WH&S tools for employers and an on-line induction for employees, WorkAway offers potential in many aspects. Expressions of interest close on 15 October 2009: for more details please phone Tony Robinson on (07) 4982 4386 or email trobenson@chdc.com.au.

(Source: CHDC)

Date Claimer - Central Highlands Jobs Summit

Emerald will be host to a Jobs Summit targeting the agriculture, civil construction, transport and mining industries.

To be held on **Friday 6th November**, the forum will examine ongoing strategies for workforce development in the region.

Further summit details will be released soon, if you have any questions in the interim please contact Tony Robinson on (07) 4982 4386.

(Source: CHDC)

Mining Lease for Macarthur Coal's Middlemount Project

Macarthur Coal has received a mining lease for its Middlemount Project in Central Queensland – this will significantly increase production in the next few years. Macarthur can now have its contractor, Sedgeman, press ahead with the \$65million development of the mine's coal handling and preparation plant. Macarthur is targeting the second half of next year for first production from Middlemount, with initial production set to be 1.8 tonnes a year of run of mine coal. Construction of the coal handling plant and other infrastructure will start shortly and is expected to generate up to 160 jobs.

(Source: Courier Mail 15/09/09)

Blackwater Auction Proves to Be a Success

Central Highlands Regional Council raised \$565,000 gross selling 7 out of 14 blocks put up for auction in Blackwater on Friday. Council was pleased with the result coming so soon after the sale of 15 blocks in a July auction raising more than \$700,000 net. The purchasers were a mix of locals and investors who planned to build more housing to ease the current housing shortage.

(Source: Blackwater Herald 15/09/09)

Warratah Coals' \$1.25billion Galilee Plan is Given the Green Light

Warratah Coals announced plans for the \$1.25Billion Galilee clean coal power station has been given the green light by state government. CEO Peter Lynch said construction of the 900-megawatt coal-fired facility, pending approvals, could start within 3 years, generating 60 permanent jobs.

Hancock Coal has commenced an environment impact study for its nearby Alpha Coal Project, which in conjunction with adjacent Kevin's Corner tenement has a potential output of 60Mt a year.

(Source: CQ News 23/09/09)

Tough New Laws to Make Queensland Pools Safest in Australia

Acting Premier Paul Lucas has announced that the first stage of the nation's strictest pool safety regulations would be in place on December 1st with the second stage scheduled to start in late 2010.

The new regulations would be implemented in two stages so current pool owners and the industry would have time to adjust. Stage one will apply immediately to all new residential swimming pools from December 1st, 2009. A more comprehensive second stage will follow a year later and all affected Queensland pools are expected to meet the new pool safety standards within five years, or sooner if sold or leased first.

Because children are at a greater risk of drowning or immersion injury in the first six months of moving to a property with a pool, one of the key changes in the second stage will be mandatory safety inspections before a property with a pool is sold or leased. Inspections are expected to cost between \$90 and \$130. The State Government will have a register of newly licensed pool safety inspectors so that property owners could easily obtain an inspection. Those inspections will be provided by either local councils or private inspectors.

To obtain more information about the new regulations visit the Queensland Government's website [here](#).

(Source: Sustainable Housing CQ n.119 newsletter 23/09/09)

New Wheelie Bin & Recycling Bin Reminder

Please keep in mind that the old GREEN lid wheelie bins will not be collected after Monday 5th October 2009, and the new bins are not to be used prior to 5th October. If you believe your property has been missed in the Sept bin rollout, please contact the Central Highlands Regional Council Waste Contract Coordinator on (07) 4982 8304. Providing you with more information on recycle, the new recycling awareness campaign is now on radio and TV!

(Source: CHRC)

The New Research and Development Tax Incentive

On the 18th September 2009, the Australian Government released [The New Research and Development Tax Incentive](#) on the Department of Treasury's website for the new [R&D Tax Credit](#). Government are now seeking views from small, medium and large enterprises likely to claim the new R&D Tax Credit announced in the 2009-10 Budget. This is an opportunity for Australian industry to assist the Government develop a new research and development initiative to set the foundations for a productive and competitive Australia.

Meetings to inform small, medium and large enterprises of details in the Consultation Paper will be held in September and October 2009.

The **Brisbane** session will be held on **Wednesday 30th, September 2009** from 9.00am to 12.00pm at the Sebel & Citigate King George Square, Cnr of Ann and Roma Streets.

For more information, please call AusIndustry's hotline on 13 28 46 (Monday-Friday), email hotline@ausindustry.gov.au

or book online [here](#). Consultations close on **26th October 2009**.

(Source: Australian Government)

150 Years of Queensland Statistics

Since 1859, statistics have recorded our history in detail, and provide a wealth of historical information about the State we live in. But public access to old and rare statistical documents can be difficult.

To celebrate Queensland's 150th birthday, the Office of Economic and Statistical Research has put together the Q150 Statistical Collection. The collection brings together a wide range of digital books, historical documents, artefacts and statistical tables from 1859 to the present day for use by communities, agencies and individuals for research or general interest purposes. It also contains stories revealing some of the unique history about the collection of statistics and our state's statistical office, from the time of Queensland's separation from New South Wales to the present day, and will help Queenslanders discover more about our state's history and provide the community with valuable information to help them write and share their own stories.

The Q150 Statistical Collection is now available on the OESR website in the Q150 section [here](#)

(Source: Queensland government)

CONTACT US

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