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AUSTROPEX CONFERENCE, 12 AUGUST 2011



Advance Cairns' tropical expertise project supports and connects tropical specialists across ten industry groups including Aviation, Mining and Energy. Known as Austropex, the project includes industry home pages, a data - base of tropical specialists, professional development workshops and industry networking events.

As part of Austropex' vision to position Tropical North Queensland as the home of Australian Tropical Expertise, the inaugural Austropex Conference will be held on August 12, 2011. The Conference will bring together key note speakers from many of the Austropex Industry Groups.

This conference will be built around the themes of tropical innovation, sustainability and expertise. Austropex coordinator Nicky Swan described the conference as a vital part of the region's move towards a sustainable regional future.

"Advance Cairns' role is to diversify Tropical North Queensland's economy and we believe by supporting, promoting, connecting and celebrating tropical expertise, we are doing that in spades," she explains.

"Austropex tropical specialists represent a diverse range of people and businesses, from tropical food producers to landscape architects; from energy specialists to education and training providers."

"Austropex is positioning Tropical North Queensland as the home of tropical expertise by bringing this diverse range of talent together on the Austropex site – the next step is to bring that talent together at the Austropex conference."

"The conference matters on a number of levels: it will link tropical specialists and businesses across the ten industry groups and identify key issues, challenges and opportunities both within the discrete industries and across the tropical expertise sector as a whole."

The conference which includes key note speakers, forums and an industry trade show will run from 9 am until 5 pm on August 12. The evening will feature the second annual Cairns Regional Council Tropical Innovation Awards. For the first time, people from the tropical zone have been invited to submit their inventions and innovations and there should be a real international flavour at this year's awards.

"August 12 will celebrate tropical innovation and expertise and showcase exactly what makes Tropical North Queensland the home of tropical expertise," Nicky Swan says

If you need a tropical specialist head to www.austropex.com/members

If you are a tropical specialist you are warmly invited to become a member of Austropex. Head to www.austropex.com/register to register your details

Please contact **Nicky Swan** on info@austropex.com or ring **07 4080 2907** for information about Austropex and the Austropex conference.

Check out the Advance Cairns May eNewsletter by clicking on the Advance Cairns banner at www.cairns.com.au/business

Find out more about the Tropical Innovations Awards at www.tropicalinnovationawards.com