

Sharing our tropical know-how

THE inaugural Austropex Conference is set to take the tropical expertise sector into the limelight on August 12.

The conference brings together industries from across the regional tropical expertise sector including built environment, food, mining, energy, tourism and agriculture.

The conference, at the Shangri-La Hotel in Cairns, has been organised to provide the opportunity for cross-industry and inter-industry exchange.

It will offer networking opportunities, focus on the key industries that make up the region's regional tropical expertise sector, link tropical specialists and businesses, connect the private and public sectors and identify key issues, challenges and opportunities within discrete industries and across the tropical expertise sector as a whole.

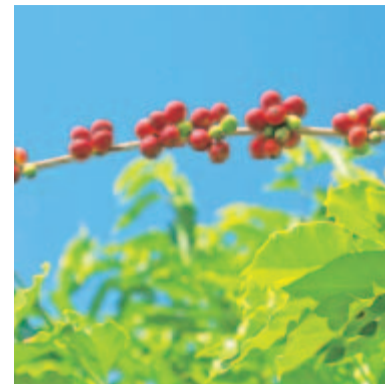
"This is an opportunity for industry to promote market-ready solutions to the tropical world,"

says conference co-ordinator Nicky Swan of Advance Cairns. "There will be nine different industry groups represented and this will be a chance for participants to engage with people in their fields and with others. It's all about opportunities."

The conference will bring specialists together to share knowledge and network as part of the Advance Cairns mission to diversify the Tropical North Queensland economy.

"This is also a chance to profile some case studies of what's already happened in the industry and to provide people with a chance to see what opportunities might be out there," she says. "It is open to the public and anyone in business can benefit from the networking opportunity, especially those who want to sell a product domestically and internationally with a tropical focus."

There will be different sessions and presenters throughout the



day. The final session, entitled Our Region's Future, features a panel of regional leaders sharing their visions for the economic future.

One of the items under discussion will be the Tropical North Queensland Regional Economic Plan (TNQREP).

The TNQREP provides a 20-year economic vision and five-year action plan for the four local government areas.

Stewart Christie, CEO of

Advance Cairns, says the final session will provide an economic snapshot of the region's future.

"The session brings together the people and the plans that will guide our region into the future," he said. "Advance Cairns, through "Our Region's Future", is bringing leaders together to show Tropical North Queenslanders that communication, collaboration and co-operation are key factors in securing a diverse, sustainable and

- Do you have a question for the Regional Leaders Panel about the economic future of TNQ? Send your questions, full name and address to cco@advancecairns.com and we'll put a selection of your questions to the panel.
- There is limited seating at the Conference. Do not miss out - buy your tickets at www.austropex.com/conference.

robust regional economy."

Advance Cairns is all about supporting, promoting and connecting industry. The Austropex Conference is an exciting new way of fulfilling this brief, Nicky says.

"We're looking at the diversification and innovation picture. It's about business for business and it will also be a really good, fun day."

Visit www.austropex.com.au/conference for more information.

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