

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND

There is need for a serious regional discussion on renewable energy. Leaving aside the climate change debate, it's unarguable that fossil fuels are dirty and finite resource. It's also unarguable that Tropical North Queensland needs reliable and affordable electricity in order to continue to develop and evolve. Where that power should be sourced from is, and will be, one of the major issues for our region over the coming decades. Advance Cairns acknowledges that there are no easy answers; however that should not stop us from asking the hard questions about what's best for our region when it comes to energy.

There is no clear consensus at the moment on where our region wants to go on this issue. Nevertheless, right now, there are a series of renewable energy projects planned for the region, valued at \$500M - \$1B. The regional community needs to have a united voice on this issue if we want to reap the rewards of these investments. Our local councilors and state members will be hesitant to provide the required approvals unless there is clear community support for renewable energy development in this region. In turn, if we put up too many barriers, there is a significant risk that these investors will head elsewhere.

Advance Cairns believes that renewables offer a whole suite of benefits for Tropical North Queensland. We would like to lead community

support for these projects because we believe that it is in everyone's best interest to make Tropical North Queensland a world leader in renewable energy generation.

Growing our renewable energy sector would allow us to:

- Brand Tropical North Queensland as a Smart Energy Hub; attract investment and research funding to develop this industry; seed new jobs and assist to diversify the region's economy
- Market ourselves as a clean green region, which supports the tourism industry
- Become a net exporter of renewable energy to the rest of Australia
- Reduce Australia's overall carbon emissions

Advance Cairns wants a clean energy future for Tropical North Queensland. Tell us what you think at advancecairns.com/renewables.



Advance Cairns CEO Stewart Christie

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

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