



# ADVANCE CAIRNS CELEBRATES ITS 10TH BIRTHDAY

On 27 October 2011 Deputy Premier Andrew Fraser stood up in Parliament and congratulated Advance Cairns on a decade of leadership:

Mr Speaker;

This morning I wish to congratulate Advance Cairns, Chairman Russell Beer and all board members on the organisation's tenth anniversary.

In 2001, Advance Cairns was formed to forge links between the Cairns business community and the emerging Chinese market.

As Advance Cairns grew, it began to pursue and deliver broader regional economic development projects, and brought the major local economic development groups together under one umbrella.

Advance Cairns has been integral in working with the State Government, in particular the members for Cairns, Barron River, Mulgrave and Cook who represent the region in this place, to deliver outcomes for the people of the Far North.

In particular, the Government and Advance Cairns have worked together on initiatives like the Cairns Economic Future Plan and the Tropical North Queensland Regional Economic Plan.

I recently attended the launch of Advance Cairns' Tropical North Queensland Regional Economic Plan, which used widespread consultation to formulate a 20-year economic vision.

Together with the five-year action plan, this provides



Hon. Andrew Fraser MP  
Deputy Premier; Treasurer  
Minister for State Development and Trade

a blueprint for coordinating the region's economic efforts for mutual, long-term prosperity. Last year, the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation partnered with Advance Cairns to capture export opportunities for marine maintenance and refitting.

The Marine Services Business Matching project resulted in six local contracts worth nearly a million dollars being won – a great achievement in a difficult economic environment.

This year, we are partnering with Advance Cairns to deliver the Tropical North Queensland Mining Strategy and ICT Industry and Network Development.

Advance Cairns has also been integral in promoting and growing Tropical Expertise in the region and has established the Austropex industry group.

It must be said that are regions in Queensland that often talk about having a peak business body who can represent them locally and across the state. Well Cairns has certainly got one.

I look forward to partnering with Advance Cairns to achieve their goal of seeing tropical North Queensland become the world's leading sustainable tropical region in 2031.

They can today be recognised for a decade of leadership, of ensuring Cairns speaks with one voice – a united voice of leadership.

**Check out the Advance Cairns November eNewsletter by clicking on the Advance Cairns banner at [www.cairns.com.au/business](http://www.cairns.com.au/business)**

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