

Media release

December 18, 2019

Advance Cairns announces new chairman

Advance Cairns today announced the appointment of its new chair to replace Trent Twomey, who will step down early in 2020 having served two three-year terms.

Current CEO Nick Trompf is to be appointed as executive chairman, a combined role of both chief executive and chairman.

Mr Twomey stands down as chairman after serving the maximum six years permitted under the Advance Cairns Constitution.

Among the many regional advocacy highlights during his tenure include:

- The largest ever business delegation from the region, the Cairns TNQ Convoy to Canberra
- \$120m to seal the Hann Highway
- \$176m to refurbish and expand the Cairns Convention Centre
- \$127m for the Cairns Shipping Development Project
- \$359m pledged to upgrade the Captain Cook Highway between the CBD and Smithfield as a key leg of a 'ring road' in Cairns
- \$60m promised towards the Cairns Tropical Enterprise Centre as a key step towards establishing Cairns University Hospital
- \$50m towards sealing the remaining gravel sections of the Gulf Savannah Way
- \$40m for the Mossman Mill Daintree Precinct
- \$24m for Cairns slipways upgrades
- \$20m Cairns Innovation Centre
- \$10m for a detailed business case into Nullinga Dam
- Payroll tax relief for regional businesses in QLD
- The passage of legislation in the Federal Parliament (this month) to remove onerous GST requirements on foreign-owned superyachts chartering in Australia

Mr Twomey said the superyacht win underlined the importance of organisations such as Advance Cairns.

"We started advocating for legislative change way back in 2011 – five Prime Ministers and three Premiers later the industry finally gets a win which will create thousands of jobs in Cairns in the next few years," Mr Twomey said.

Advance Cairns

4/16 Minnie Street • PO Box 3065 • Cairns Queensland 4870, Australia

p +61 (0)7 4080 2900

e admin@advancecairns.com w www.advancecairns.com

"Advance Cairns' role is to work beyond political cycles with other key regional stakeholders to advocate for catalytic infrastructure investment and important policy change like the GST on superyachts. I will step down in February proud of the many advocacy wins secured by the region and the fact that membership of Advance Cairns is at record levels at a time when business conditions are difficult."

The Advance Cairns Board of Directors last week appointed Mr Trompf as executive chairman, effective from February 7, 2020.

Mr Trompf joined Advance Cairns as CEO two years ago, having previously served on the Board for six years, in 2009-2012 and again in 2013-2016.

He said: "The need for advocacy and economic development groups such as Advance Cairns working with other key stakeholders to drive economic growth in the region has never been greater.

"The QLD Budget next April and election in October are vital in ensuring increased State investment in our region. To that end Advance Cairns is partnering with the Cairns Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Tropical North Queensland to accelerate the region's advocacy. I'm privileged to work with these and other stakeholders and be given the opportunity to build on the strong foundations of Advance Cairns."

Advance Cairns patron Lt Gen John Grey (Ret'd) paid tribute to Mr Twomey for his efforts and welcomed Mr Trompf's appointment.

"Trent's time as chair has been marked by his astute and articulate advocacy on behalf of Advance Cairns. His ability to address our strategic development issues at federal and state government level, with all sides of the political spectrum, has been instrumental in overcoming many obstacles existing in a tight fiscal environment. He has made an outstanding contribution to Advance Cairns and we thank him for his successful and dedicated contribution," he said.

"Nick brings to the combined role his considerable experience in strategic policy development and marketing, underpinned by his understanding of and strong commitment to growing the region. As CEO he has formed an excellent relationship with the board, staff and membership of Advance Cairns and we are extremely confident that his appointment will enable the continued success and growth of Advance Cairns."

For further media comment:

Trent Twomey, Advance Cairns chairman M: 0412 716 699

Nick Trompf, Advance Cairns CEO M: 0412 786 719