



Media release

CAIRNS CONVOY TO CAPITAL Q CHASING \$1.2B

Thursday January 30, 2020

Fifty business and industry leaders across 12 sectors are headed to Brisbane next month in the largest ever delegation from this region to State Parliament.

The Cairns TNQ Convoy to Capital Q is a joint initiative between Advance Cairns, the Cairns Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Tropical North Queensland.

Modelled on the highly successful Cairns Convoy to Canberra in October 2018, the Brisbane delegation takes on extra importance given renewed economic headwinds for tropical north Queensland.

The group has developed a manifesto which features 17 catalytic infrastructure priorities and will also be advocating for policy change in 16 different areas.

The infrastructure investment sought from the State totals more than \$1.2bn.

Meetings have been secured with 40 MPs, including the most senior in Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet as well as Katter's Australian Party.

Advance Cairns chairman Trent Twomey said: "At a time when this region's economy faces seriously stiff headwinds, the QLD Government has the opportunity - indeed responsibility - to back these priorities, as they will not only greatly benefit this region economically and socially but will also pay back the State in spades.

"With an election in just nine months, we'll be pursuing the same list of commitments from all political parties.

"It's worth remembering that regional QLD voters were the surprise saviour for the Morrison Government last May and they are certain to again be central to the outcome of the State poll in October.

"As well as the \$1.2bn we are seeking in infrastructure investment we will also be pushing for policy reform to get unnecessary red and green tape out of the way of business, to ensure sustainability and growth in our key export industries, to reduce tax and to increase funding for tourism destination marketing and vital services such as health."



The 12 sector teams travelling to Brisbane include Agriculture, Arts, Culture & Sport, Defence & Marine, Education & Training, Energy, Health, Housing & Construction, Great Barrier Reef, SMEs, Tourism & Aviation and Water Security.

Of the extensive infrastructure priority list, the major priorities include Cairns University Hospital, water security including Nullinga Dam, upgrading the Cairns Western Arterial Road and investment in significant new tertiary education facilities.

Cairns Chamber of Commerce president Nick Loukas said: "The secret to the success of the Canberra convoy was the united front shown by TTNQ, the Cairns Chamber and Advance Cairns representing the broader business community.

"Both Scott Morrison and Bill Shorten specifically referenced this unity during their election campaigning.

"With the forthcoming State Election and a deteriorating fiscal position facing the Government, it is critical that we in business again pull together to ensure we won't be silenced or overlooked in Brisbane in the lead up to the Budget and election."

TTNQ chair Wendy Morris said: "With the State Budget being brought forward six weeks to April 28th, the Government will be finalising its Budget commitments during March and early April - hence the timing of our Convoy.

"We will be calling loudly on the Government for some serious backing in the Budget - and expecting the same from all parties in the lead up to the election."

The Cairns TNQ Convoy to Capital Q will be in Brisbane on February 18th and 19th and will culminate with a function hosted by the Speaker of the House and Member for Mulgrave, the Hon. Curtis Pitt MP.

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For further media comment:

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