



Surfers Paradise-Broadbeach

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

March 2009

A message from our leader



We have entered 2009 uncertain about the short term prospects for local, national and international economies. This will be a challenging year for many businesses, especially small and medium sized businesses, around the country. The global financial crisis has significantly eroded local business, investor and consumer confidence, hampered the ability for businesses to access finance and seen important investment projects put on hold.

Treasurer Wayne Swan advised yesterday that “the global economic environment is clearly very challenging and it is likely that global conditions will get worse before they get better. Nonetheless, Australia is better placed than most other countries to ride out the global economic storm.

Australia's financial system is strong and well regulated. Our banks are well capitalised and profitable. We have not suffered the acute financial stresses that banking systems in many other countries have experienced. Australia's housing sector does not suffer the same kinds of problems being experienced elsewhere in the world.

Our macroeconomic settings provide much more flexibility to respond forcefully and quickly to the global recession, as the Government has done. The Nation Building and Jobs Plan will begin to take effect this month, and the Reserve Bank has already reduced official interest rates by 400 basis points, which will help moderate the downturn and support the recovery when it takes hold.

There are no quick fixes to the global recession, and many of its effects are yet to be fully felt. But the Government is doing everything in its power to cushion Australians from the worst impacts of the global recession”.

Whilst Queensland is not immune, SPBCC believes that most local businesses are well placed to ride out the current uncertainty. Despite the slowing global economy, our economy continues to grow at a rate that most industrialized countries would envy. RBA assistant governor of economics Malcolm Edey agrees, saying that the Australian economy had remained more resilient than its major trading partners.

The Gold Coast continues to enjoy a strong tourism market with a resurgence in the domestic market placing us in the top 5 preferred holiday destinations according to a recent Wotif.com press release.

New Developments



The good news... Major developments for our precincts are going ahead and will help to drive our economy even more.

With Council funding already confirmed, Surfers Paradise will undergo a major facelift on the beachfront to include a plaza of shops and eateries which will front a new esplanade, providing for 24 hour energy and activity. Soul is already committed to this project and the Council will complete the area adjacent to the Iluka Building.

At Broadbeach, the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre has just completed further expansion to cater for larger scale business and sporting events, and Conrad Jupiter has also completed their major refurbishments. The Oracle project has two towers underway and approval has been given to upgrades for both Pacific Fair and The Oasis. Again, GC Council has committed to Foreshore works to revitalise the area.

As a member of the Heart of the City advisory committee, a working group who advise Council on precinct streetscaping, I will be keeping you up to date on what is planned for your area and looking out for business's interests.

Evandale – Cultural Precinct

What is the Gold Coast lacking that could bring jobs, tourists and a whole lot of class to the 6th largest city with one of the fastest growing populations?

A cultural precinct.

The Chamber fully supports the Friends of the Art Centre in its push to have the Evandale site, which currently houses the Gold Coast Art Centre, developed into a Cultural Precinct similar to that of Brisbane's South Bank, complete with a civic reception area and facilities to showcase productions that generally by-pass the Gold Coast for Brisbane.

At a recent management committee meeting Paul Fitzgerald, President of the Friends of the Art Centre asked for the Chamber's support which the committee voted unanimously to give. Paul has been appointed to Council's Evandale Precinct Taskforce and will report to the Chamber on the progress of this committee.

We will keep you up to date with information.

Membership



With our amalgamation has come a renewed interest in membership with many businesses with offices in both Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach taking advantage of the great value one Chamber membership has to offer.

Why join the Chamber?

In these trying economic times it is more important than ever to connect with other business.

Your Chamber membership has never been more valuable.

A strong effective Chamber of Commerce along the beachfront will ensure that the interests of business operators resonate strongly in future planning and policy initiatives of the governments of the day.

Unity - There is strength in numbers - a collective voice is always louder than a single voice. The Chamber represents members as a group on issues affect us all as a whole.

Effective Lobbying - If the Chamber believes that the precinct will be disadvantaged by Local, State or Federal Government decisions, it will lobby on behalf of members.

Referrals – The Gold Coast is a transient population, with new people visiting or moving here every week. Referrals to member services are offered by Chamber staff and via the Chamber website.

This referral system may be to professional services or suppliers, trade services, potential export contacts or to facilitate joint venture links.

The Surfers Paradise-Broadbeach Chamber of Commerce will be offering lots of opportunities to mix and mingle with our members in 2009 with an enticing calendar of events planned including our popular Annual Presidents Cup Golf Day.

I look forward to catching up with you at our next event. Until then, if there are any issues affecting you and your business and you think the Chamber may be able to help, please contact us on 07 5538 8660 or admin@surferschamber.org.au, president@surferschamber.org.au. Our office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8am to 4pm.

Chamber Functions

East Bar & Restaurant, Broadbeach – 19th February 2009



East Broadbeach hosted the first ever function of the newly amalgamated Surfers Paradise-Broadbeach Chamber of Commerce. And what a success it was, with some 130 business people from Surfers Paradise, Broadbeach and surrounding precincts making valuable connections and networking their way through a very enjoyable evening.

An all-star line-up of political speakers mingled with members and guests addressing a number of key issues and even kept to time during their speeches, mostly.

A charity auction benefiting the victims of the recent Victorian bushfires was conducted with Kelvin Gersbach from Barkel Group out bidding everyone for the prize of a Konica Minolta printer donated by Colin Wheeler from Konica Minolta Gold Coast.

It was a great start to what will be a very successful partnership.

Special thanks to Susan Morgan and Rachell Rogers of Taste of Tamborine for donating our fabulous raffle prize of a gourmet hamper featuring the wonderful produce of Tamborine valued at \$150. The lucky winner was Keith Bond of Harvey World Travel Surfers Paradise.

Business @ Twilight Gold Coast Commerce Club – 26th March 2009



The next Surfers Paradise-Broadbeach Chamber of Commerce function will be a Business @ Twilight event at the Gold Coast Commerce Club on Thursday 26th March from 5.30pm.

Enjoy an informal evening of networking, make important business connections and meet new people.

An invitation to this function is attached. An EGM will be conducted prior to the function for which all current financial members are invited to attend.

16th Annual President's Cup Golf Day - Friday 15th May 2009

Emerald Lakes Golf Club

Relationships aren't only made in the office.

A well organised golf day is a 10 hour sales call. Compare this to the average 20 minute appointment with a harried client and you will begin to see that a golf day can do wonders for your client relationships.



Put a team together and join us for a day of golf, networking and a 'hole' lot of fun.

This is a great opportunity to court and treat your clients or staff. You can maximise your exposure on this day by securing one of our sponsorship opportunities – your company name and logo will reach our entire database before, during and after the day. Contact our office for details on 07 5538 8660 or admin@surferschamber.org.au

Small Business and General Business Tax Break - Draft Legislation



As part of the Government's \$42 billion *Nation Building and Jobs Plan*, draft legislation and explanatory materials for the Small Business and General Business Tax Break announced has been released for public comment.

The Tax Break the Government has announced is a crucial part of the measures designed to support economic activity and Australian jobs in the face of the global recession.

It will provide a temporary 30 per cent investment allowance to small businesses for eligible capital investments of \$1000 or over, and for other businesses for capital investments of \$10,000 or more.

The Government is delivering this Tax Break because it will give businesses a vital incentive to invest for the future with confidence.

It is anticipated that this, in turn, will stimulate economic activity and support Australian jobs.

After public consultation has been completed the Government will look to finalise the legislation for introduction in Parliament.

Treasury has also produced a series of frequently asked questions to assist businesses in understanding how they can benefit from the Tax Break.

The Treasury is seeking submissions from interested parties on the exposure draft legislation and explanatory material by close of business on Tuesday, 10 March 2009.

Copies of the consultation materials are available from the Treasury website (www.treasury.gov.au) or by telephoning 02 6263 4382.

Written comments on the consultation materials may be submitted by mail, facsimile or email to:

Small Business and General Business Tax Break – Consultation
Business Tax Division
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Fax: 02 6263 4466

Email: investmentallowance@treasury.gov.au



Tom Tate – Regional Chairman Gold Coast & Hinterland

As I write this month's newsletter report, Premier Bligh has announced a State election for March 21st.

Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland Gold Coast have already developed our key lobbying issues for the Gold Coast & Hinterland Region for representations to candidates.

Business conditions have changed substantially over the past 18 months and new strategies are required for Gold Coast business to survive and grow. The construction industry is currently feeling the effects of lack of investment at all levels. As current projects are completed, there is a lack of projects to take their place. This is the time for all levels of Government to bring forward much needed infrastructure projects as soon as possible.

It is pleasing to hear that the Gold Coast City Council have announced up to \$100 million allocation for projects that can be commenced in 2009.

Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland Gold Coast & Hinterland is advocating that three major projects are funded and commenced to assist in filling the investment gap, to substantially improve the Gold Coast Tourism asset and provide investor confidence into the future.

We will therefore be seeking funding commitments in 2009/10 from the major political parties for:

- the Gold Coast Rapid Transit System (to supplement Local and Federal contributions) to complete the Helensvale to Burleigh Heads Stage 1 section
- the establishment and funding of a Gold Coast Waterways Authority - made up of local stakeholders - to oversee the long overdue refurbishment and maintenance of all of our Gold Coast Waterways
- a funding contribution for the Carrara AFL Stadium (in conjunction with AFL , Local and Federal Government contributions) to ensure the Gold Coast -Australia's 6th largest city- is showcased with its own AFL team, and build on our growing Sports Tourism industry.

At a whole of State level, Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland has also developed a Business Blueprint listing the needs of business State wide. This blueprint will be announced on the Gold Coast on the 10th March.

This is a time for all of us to work together to build for a better future.

Noel Millers Regional Manager Gold Coast & Hinterland

I have spent most of February out and about talking with members. There is one major theme I am discussing that I think is quite relevant for 2009.

Get the ship in order – we have sailed into the eye of the cyclone and it is time to make good the damage for the other half of the journey.

- Industrial Relations Legislation is on notice for significant change in 2010. Ensure all employment instruments (agreements, contracts, and sundry letters of engagement) are in order and all employees are being paid correctly. Back pay claims can be a significant drain on available cash. Ensure personnel policies are in place and relevant to the operational needs of your workplace
- Workplace Health and Safety may have been neglected as you focused on other parts of the business. Perhaps it is time to review your risks and take action to restore a safe working environment. Workplace injuries can be quite expensive (notwithstanding the wellbeing of your employees) via loss of productivity, penalties, increased Workcover premiums and exposure to common law claims.
- Water, Waste and Energy costs have risen over recent years and are predicted to increase even more as infrastructure and environmental costs are transferred to end users. Review your consumption of these utilities for possible savings.
- Now is the time to excel in customer service before your competitors do. Ensure all staff are skilled (trained if necessary) to practice what is often taken for granted by management in good times.
- Build solid relationships with your bank by providing the information they require to satisfy their revised risk assessments. You need to know that you have room to move financially for the unforeseen as well as enabling you to act on acquisitions that might present themselves.

- Look for efficiencies in your business – possible systems and process improvement that will position you well - as conditions improve.

Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland are running free “Surviving in Hard Times” seminars in March 2009 on the Gold Coast. The above issues and more will be discussed. You can register online via our Website www.cciq.com.au

Now, more than ever, is where membership of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland is most valuable. Our information, business support, networks and collective business knowledge can assist you survive these hard times.

A WORD FROM OUR ELECTED MEMBERS

Disclaimer: *Below are statements to the Surfers Paradise-Broadbeach Chamber of Commerce from elected sitting members at the three levels of government. Surfers Paradise-Broadbeach Chamber of Commerce is not aligned to any political party. Its allegiance is always to the business community and the continued growth of free enterprise. We have invited our regular contributors who are the current seated members for our area to write articles for this newsletter as usual. The inclusion of these articles should not be seen as the Chamber giving support or allegiance to any particular political party.*

We remain, as always, committed to giving our members a strong voice. If the Chamber believes that the precinct will be disadvantaged by Local, State or Federal Government decisions, it will lobby on behalf of members.

GOLD COAST CITY COUNCIL



Councillor Susie Douglas
Division 7
Chair of Economic Development & Tourism Committee
Gold Coast City Council

Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach Chamber of Commerce must be congratulated for this historic union. Good on Laura Younger for using her excellent negotiating skills to pull this off.

The Surfers Paradise Foreshore upgrade is soon to begin, with works to commence on the northern urban area between the Soul building and the southern side of Cavill Avenue. Work will commence within weeks and will cause a lot of traffic, pedestrian and events disruptions.

I was successful in obtaining funding for the remaining works south of Cavill Avenue (Stage 2) to Trickett Street. A \$25,000,000 loan has been approved by Council which is hoped to be paid off using developer contributions.

The new Heart of the City Advisory Committee will have a representative from your Chamber and decisions will be made on the selection of street-scaping, public art and furniture.



The Beach Road Transport Triage Solution is progressing to provide a safe precinct for taxis and buses to take late night revellers home.

The Bundall Park and Ride has been funded for the next three years with asphaltting of the Members Carpark at the Turf Club to begin soon.

The Centre Improvement Program will see a complete transformation of Thomas Drive Chevron Island. The traders who are on the Committee are thrilled with the concept designs which will see much wider footpaths and traffic calming. Works will most probably begin in April 2010. For further information please contact Council's Patrick Duigan on (07) 5582- 8068.

Councillor Eddy Sarroff
Division 10

Chair Corporate Governance & Finance Committee Gold Coast City Council

Congratulations again on the amalgamation of both the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach Chambers of Commerce. I look forward to working with you.

This is a great opportunity for businesses in Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach to work together to promote the city's number one tourist destinations.

This year Council will be revitalising both the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach foreshore precincts and I am hoping that in conjunction with Councillor Susie Douglas to present the master plan for these areas which will allow businesses to appreciate the magnitude of the refurbishment and the flow on benefits. This will also be an opportunity to present to the Chamber the various projects that are in the pipeline.

Another project which is vital to the continuing success of both precincts is the Rapid Transit System. I am keen to receive your ongoing feedback on this project and no doubt this will be a topic of much discussion. I will endeavour to attend the regular Chamber meetings to field questions in relation to the project as well as provide you with regular updates.

Recently the Evandale Precinct Task Force was established by Council which is intended to assist Council through an active and efficient process to develop a master plan deriving a combined and enhanced cultural heart and civic presence at Evandale. This task force is chaired by Councillor Susie Douglas and the membership of the committee includes the Chair of the Gold Coast Arts Centre, the Chair of the Friends of the Gold Coast Arts Centre and three councillors including myself. I believe all chambers of commerce should take an interest in this significant project and should offer ideas and comments to ensure an outstanding cultural precinct is established.

The broad object of the task force is to include:

- 1) integration with a whole of site civic and cultural precinct;
- 2) workplace of up to 25,000 square metres GFA;
- 3) enhanced and/or new pedestrian linkages to Surfers Paradise;
- 4) commercial car parking;
- 5) adequate opportunities for community feedback and consultation in the design process.

Feel free to contact me at the office on 5581 6171 or via email at Division10@goldcoast.qld.gov.au

STATE GOVERNMENT



**From the desk of John-Paul Langbroek
State Member for Surfers Paradise
LNP Shadow Education Minister**

Queensland is a great place to live. As Queenslanders, we have built our businesses here, raised our families here and we enjoy a lifestyle that is unparalleled anywhere else in the country.

Our Queensland is currently experiencing great change. As the global economic crisis and climate change hits home, it is clear Queensland will face great challenges over the next few years. The decisions our government makes will be critical to your future.

As your local Member of Parliament, I am committed to getting the priorities right for Queensland. I believe in a Queensland where our kids get a first-rate education, where hospitals have enough beds and doctors to treat the sick, and where roads and infrastructure are built now to meet our future needs. Together with Lawrence Springborg and the LNP Team, I am working hard to deliver the Queensland we all want.

For too long our great state has been dogged by poor decision-making and bad management by the 11-year-old Labor Government. As a result, Queensland's finances are in an abysmal state. The Beattie-Bligh Government squandered a

decade of good times thanks to the mining boom and the GST windfall. Last month Queensland was stripped of its AAA credit rating as a result of burgeoning debt levels and a drying up revenue stream. Our children and our grandchildren will be paying for Labor's bad management for decades to come. With your help, we can put Queensland back on the right track.

I fought hard to bring in new laws to crack down on underage binge drinking, ban smoking in cars with children present and outlaw dangerous drug implements. I have been a vocal opponent of the current rapid transit route and I will continue to fight for a better deal for the Coast. This includes:

- More hospital beds and better health services for the Gold Coast, including retaining the Southport campus of the Gold Coast Hospital;
- Better roads and infrastructure to ease congestion and cater to our growing population;
- More police for the Gold Coast, particularly around the party precincts;
- An education system where our children are taught a relevant curriculum by the best teachers in a safe learning environment;
- A public transport system that will get residents to where they want to go.

With your support we can make the change needed to get the job done!



Ray Stevens MP
Shadow Minister for Housing Accessibility & Public Works
State Member for Robina

State Election

With the 2009 State Election called one would have to question why the Premier would call an election six months early when it should have been their priority to deal with the global economic crisis and run the full term as she promised she would.

Payroll Tax Relief

The LNP is committed to providing payroll tax relief to small to medium sized businesses who have a payroll between \$1 Million and \$5 Million. This will encourage growth and help businesses through the tough times we are experiencing.

Retention of the Gold Coast Hospital

It is imperative that the Southport Campus of the Gold Coast Hospital is retained to help provide the necessary medical services for the Gold Coast region. I have sponsored a petition to retain the Gold Coast Hospital as a substantial acute medical and surgical in-patient and out-patient facility for public usage in addition to the new Gold Coast University Hospital after the new Hospital is completed in 2012.

Three Ministers on the Gold Coast

If the Liberal National Party wins the State Election on March 21 the Gold Coast would have three Ministers, with John Paul Langbroek (Education & the Arts), Jann Stuckey (Child Safety & Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island Community Development) and myself (Housing Accessibility & Public Works) This would be fantastic for the Gold Coast because finally the region would have a loud voice in Cabinet rather than the current lone voice under Labor.

Commitment to encouraging and helping business on the Gold Coast is a high priority of mine along with luring more of the tourism dollar to the region. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Surfers Paradise/Broadbeach Chamber of Commerce for inviting me to contribute to this newsletter.



Please feel free to visit my website at www.robinaray.com or contact my office on ph 5592 0071 if you have any State issues you might like to discuss.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
Steven Ciobo MP
Federal Member for Moncrieff
Shadow Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors, Tourism and the Arts



broadbeach distinctly different

This year is shaping up to be a great year for Broadbeach with more events and promotions to showcase the fabulous precinct and all it has to offer.



With some of the best shopping in Queensland, multi-award winning restaurants and world class entertainment Broadbeach invites you to come into the precinct anytime to experience why it is distinctly different.

Broadbeach Alliance has just released the line-up for the eighth annual Blues on Broadbeach Music Festival which will be held from May 28th-31st. It is set to be the best year yet with more than 45 acts consisting of more than 200 performers if you haven't experienced the

Blues yet, 2009 is certainly the year to do it. For the full artist line-up and program visit the website www.bluesonbroadbeach.com



Broadbeach will be launching more brand new events this year that will showcase the city on the world stage, make sure you stay up to date with the latest information by visiting the official Broadbeach website www.broadbeachgc.com

Surfers Paradise ALLIANCE

Over the last couple of months some great developments and initiatives have occurred in Surfers Paradise. Firstly one of the big announcements has been the Gold Coast City Council coming forward and fast tracking \$25 million to assist in the next stage of the foreshore redevelopment. This initiative showcases Councils understanding of the importance of the project in the resurgence of the precinct and shows leadership and foresight in what are adverse economic conditions. Additionally at the same time the Soul by Juniper development is rapidly taking shape. The project is recreating its section of the esplanade contributing to what will be an iconic entry to the beach while at the same time establishing one of the nation's most iconic buildings. These projects are going to define Surfers Paradise for decades to come and will assist in recasting the precinct as the hub of the greater Gold Coast area. It will give us an entrance to Surfers Paradise Beach that will be on par with some of the world's great beach side cities such as Santa Monica in the United States and Barcelona in Spain.

February saw one of Australia's biggest cultural festivals hit Surfers Paradise as the Movie Extra Tropfest was simulcast live from Sydney's Domain to the big screen at Circle on Cavill. The Movie Extra Tropfest has an audience of over 150,000, showcasing the best up and coming film talent Australia has on offer. 2009 saw for the first time in the event's history, Tropfest broadcast live across the country with Circle on Cavill joining outdoor partner locations in Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Canberra, Adelaide and Hobart. What has always been a focus of the Movie Extra Tropfest is its outdoor, festival like

atmosphere, with al fresco dining and bars both playing a big part in the event's character – making Circle on Cavill the perfect location for its Gold Coast home.

The foreshore redevelopment and the attraction of events such as Tropicfest are pieces of the overall resurgence of Surfers Paradise. The foreshore redevelopment will recast the already iconic Surfers Paradise Beach onto the next level of fame with the centerpiece a public space almost the size of King George Square in Brisbane. The attracting of events such as the Movie Extra Tropicfest signals the maturation of Surfers Paradise as a cultural hub for the Gold Coast. The combination of these both and what they mean in the long term is what gets me excited. They signify the continued creation of a diverse, cosmopolitan urban hub that just happens to be next to one of the great beaches on earth.

Rowena Howe
CEO