



Surfers Paradise-Broadbeach
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

May 2009

A message from our leader



The need for careful financial management has never been greater as the world responds to the challenges created by the global economic slowdown.

With the handing down of the 2009-10 Federal Budget last week, the question remains - will it be enough and will business benefit?

One important item the Surfers-Broadbeach Chamber were keen to see Federal Government funding for is the Rapid Transit project, an essential piece of infrastructure for the Gold Coast. We are pleased to see a commitment of \$365 million towards this project and hope this will spur the project on. The Chamber has long been a supporter of Rapid Transit and it's benefits for local business.

Treasurer Wayne Swan has described small businesses – a description of the majority of business on the Gold Coast - as “the backbone of the economy”.

Small business owners are to receive an extra tax break on their spending in an attempt to prop up falling levels of business investment. There will be a 50 per cent tax deduction for spending on capital assets, a 20 per cent increase on the previous tax break scheme.

The change means business owners can claim a "bonus" deduction on new capital assets bought for more than \$1000. Eligible spending could include computers, cars or upgrades to equipment. The benefit applies to assets bought between December 2008 and the end of this year.

Businesses with turnover of less than \$2 million will be able to use the benefit.

Council of Small Business of Australia (COSBOA) CEO Jaye Radisich supports the latest measures which include a small business tax break, a support line, an online program, R&D tax concession along with infrastructure and national building investments.

Ms Radisich said that it is “good to see that small business is clearly back on the agenda at the Federal level” and that overall, “small business are winners in the budget.”

Below are some initiatives included in this year's budget aimed at assisting business:

New programs and initiatives

A Small Business Support Line will be established to help businesses manage better during the global financial downturn.

A Small Business Online Program will assist small businesses in developing an online presence and taking advantage of e-business opportunities.

A new R&D Tax Credit will come into effect from 1 July 2010, to replace the R&D Tax Concessions scheme.

A Commonwealth Commercialisation Institute will be established to support research commercialisation and early stage company development by small and medium enterprises.

A number of projects will receive funding under a new Super Science initiative, intended to boost infrastructure and research capacity in space science and astronomy, marine and climate science, and future technology.

A Clean Energy Initiative will assist in encouraging innovation in clean energy generation and low emissions technologies.

Funding will be provided to the Tax Office to assist small businesses experiencing financial distress to remain viable and stay engaged in the tax system.

Funding for the Textiles, Clothing and Footwear industries will be retargeted, with a new package aimed at innovation and renewal.

Existing programs

There will be an increase in the Small Business and General Business Tax Break for small businesses that acquire eligible assets by the end of 2009.

Additional funding will be allocated to the Export Market Development Grants scheme for 2008-09.

Parental leave

A government funded Paid Parental Leave scheme will come into effect as of 1 January 2011, providing up to 18 weeks of paid leave at the Federal Minimum Wage.

Employment

Fair Work Australia and the Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman will commence on 1 July 2009 to help implement the Government's new workplace relations arrangements.

Funding will be provided to Registered Training Organisations to help deliver off-the-job completion of training where an Australian Apprentice cannot complete training with an employer.

There will be an extension of employer incentives for the commencement, recommencement and completion of apprenticeships, employing out-of-trade and mid-career apprentices, and employing apprentices in skills shortage occupations.

The Chamber is doing its part to try and help business in these difficult times as well. You will no doubt have received our emails about our Survival Sessions series, offering your business the opportunity to sit down with experts in their field to get advice on matters affecting you, your staff and your business. Please take advantage of this opportunity; the sessions are free to chamber members and only \$25 for non-members.



Interest in membership with many businesses with offices in both... of the great value one Chamber membership has to offer.

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.

Jobs Fund

This is a new \$650 million Australian Government Initiative to support and create jobs and skills development through projects that build community and social infrastructure. Priority will be given to projects in regions experiencing high levels of disadvantage and most affected by job losses (Logan/Ipswich in Queensland). The Jobs Fund has the following three streams:

- Local Jobs - \$300 million of funding is available over two years. Funding will be available for community infrastructure projects with a focus on the promotion of environment-friendly technology and heritage.
- Get Communities Working - \$200 million of funding is available over two years. Seed capital will be available for self-sustaining projects which create jobs and provide activities and services to improve community amenity.
- Infrastructure Employment Projects - \$150 million over two years. Projects under this stream will provide for investment in infrastructure projects which generate jobs in regions affected by the economic downturn.

For more information [CLICK HERE](#). Applications close May 22nd 2009.

No Leave No Life

Tourism Australia's No Leave, No Life program aims to unlock Australia's staggering 123 million days of stockpiled annual leave. Providing employees and employers the tools they need to take leave.

A great initiative that will help support the flagging domestic tourism industry.

More information may be found at www.noleavenolife.com

Tides of Change

The Spit at Main Beach has been a much-loved part of the Gold Coast for many decades. It attracts locals, day-trippers from South East Queensland, as well as interstate and international travellers who take advantage of its natural beauty and recreational opportunities.

Gold Coast City Council wants The Spit to be embraced. But as our city grows so does the need to consider the future of our iconic locations. Council unveiled a draft concept plan for The Spit in late January that aims to make sure the coastal icon remains sustainable into the future.

http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/attachment/communityconsultation/vision_for_future.pdf

Chamber Functions

Q-Deck, Surfers Paradise – 23rd April 2009



On a clear and warm night we ventured to the highest point on the Gold Coast – QDeck at Q1 for a great night of networking with a view. And what a view it was.

Nigel and his team looked after us at our EGM to pass the new Constitution and after the meeting at our April Business @ Twilight function.

70 people attended this evening which included a number of new faces, new members and long time supporters.

Our next Business @ Twilight Drinks function will be on Thursday, June 11 from 5.30pm to 7.30pm – venue to be advised.

If your venue would like to host a future chamber event, please contact our office on 07 5538 8660 or admin@surferschamber.org.au

President's Cup Golf Day – 15th May 2009



The 16th annual Surfers Paradise-Broadbeach Chamber of Commerce President's Cup Golf day was held on Friday 15th May, 2009 at Emerald Lakes Golf Course, Carrara. The course was thoroughly enjoyed by all 90 golfers in perfect sunny conditions. The day was a success with new friendships and business relationships forged.

A special thank you to our major sponsor [Nitro](#) SuperGP. Thanks must also go to our hole and competition sponsors and all those who played on the day.

Winning teams:

- 1st – Konica Minolta Gold Coast – 50.375
- 2nd – Oxygen Mobile – 51.75
- 3rd – Gold Coast Commerce Club – 51.875
- 4th – Consulting Hall – 53.75
- 5th – Bennetts-SAS – 53.875
- 6th – Brook Personnel – 55.25
- 7th – Leigh Bernhardt Corporate Consulting Services – 55.375
- 8th – Old Time Photos – 56.375
- 9th – Wyndham – 56.5
- 10th – Broadbeach Alliance – 58.125



- Last – NAB – 66.125

Hole

competition winners:



Paradise Alliance & Yasha Watkins, RCI



- 1st Hole, Inflatable Darts (sponsored by **Digital Dreams**) – Konica Minolta Team - 173
- 4th Hole, PCYC Speed Cop (sponsored by **Gold Coast Commerce Club & Vegas in Paradise**) – Sandra Calabretta, Group RCI & Markus Solomon, Colonial Golf Course
- 6th Hole, Longest Drive (sponsored by **Niecon Plaza**) – Sean Hughes, Surfers Paradise Alliance & Yasha Watkins, RCI
- 8th Hole, Nearest the Pin (sponsored by **Group RCI**) – Kathryn Wilden, NAB & Rod Prove, Konica Minolta
- 12th Hole, Business Card Draw (sponsored by **Surfers Paradise Alliance**) – Matthew Brown, Josman Financial Services
- 15th Hole, Longest Drive (sponsored by **East Broadbeach**) – Sandra Calabretta, Group RCI & Michael Evans, Oxygen Mobile
- 17th Hole, Nearest the Pin (sponsored by East Broadbeach) – Sue Harvey, Old Time Photos & Michael Groves, Stratamax

Thank You To Our Sponsors:

- Nitro SuperGP – IMG World
- ATHOC
- Centro Surfers Paradise Shopping Centre
- Cocktails & Dreams
- Colonial Golf Club
- Digital Dreams
- East
- Enact Business Architects
- Gold Coast Commerce Club
- Gold Coast Turf Club
- Group RCI
- HostPlus
- Islander Resort
- Jetstar Gold Coast Titans
- Konica Minolta
- Lakelands Golf Club
- Lee & Pete's Factory Golf Outlet
- Lucy Cole Prestige Property
- NAB
- Niecon Plaza
- Surfers Paradise Alliance
- Timezone Funtasia
- Vegas in Paradise
- Wyndham

Survival Sessions

The Surfers Paradise-Broadbeach Chamber of Commerce have put together a calendar of informative boardroom briefings hosted by our member companies to help business weather the current economic storm. These sessions are free to members and only \$25 for non-members. If you have not received a complete calendar, please let contact our office on 07 5538 8660 or at admin@surferschamber.org.au

Surfers Paradise Police



Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach Police have received new Rhino all terrain vehicles to continue regular patrols of the beachfront areas from The Spit to Nobby's Beach. High visibility Police patrols are conducted on the beachfront, in dunes and adjoining car parks to deter and reduce instances of stealing from the beach and from motor vehicles. Police also assist Surf Lifesaving Queensland performing patrols on the shoreline outside the flagged areas. These patrols are performed all year round." Sergeant David Joachim Surfers Paradise Police.



Councillor Susie Douglas
Division 7
Gold Coast City Council

It is good to see that the Chamber is attracting a lot of attention now that it incorporates both Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach. I have been busy in the past few weeks as the budget for 09-10 is being prepared. Surfers Paradise has had a few wins with the stimulus package including the foreshore redevelopment and the toilets for Cavill Avenue. The \$25,000,000 project will create a world class beach destination. We expect that the works will cause quite a bit of havoc for the locals as the Esplanade becomes a construction site.

The Hilton is back in town and there has been an audible sigh of relief. Special Precinct Status is soon to be given to Surfers. What this means for you and your business is that there will be special laws that apply only to Surfers which cover issues such as noise attenuation, increased litter patrols, commercial activity on public space etc.

Great news for Jazz Radio 94.1. They have been given a fabulous new home thanks to Manny from The Temple Bar and Grumpies. The community radio will be in the refurbished Grumpies now called " Marina Village". They are opening a jazz venue on the river end of Cavill Avenue.

I hope you are all weathering the downturn and are beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel.



Councillor Eddy Sarroff
Division 10
Chair Corporate Governance & Finance Committee
Gold Coast City Council

Rapid Transit Project

The federal government's announcement this month of a \$365 million contribution towards the light rail project is a significant boost to the Gold Coast overall and particularly for the Surfers Paradise, Broadbeach and Southport precincts.

I consider the funding commitment as an insurance policy and a guarantee that the project will be fast-tracked and this funding will enable early works to commence. Further the light rail funding was as the result of strong lobbying by the Council which had been pursuing federal support for the project since last December. This had included a delegation to Canberra last December and meeting between Treasurer Swan, the Mayor and me in Brisbane earlier this year.

The project would create more than 6,000 jobs and act as a catalyst for further business activity on the Gold Coast.

Importantly, it dovetails with Council's own economic stimulus package which will see major foreshore

redevelopment at Surfers Paradise and further work at the Broadwater Parklands.

The light rail will link these areas, as well as Broadbeach where an important foreshore makeover is currently underway. This will result in a significant boost to our tourist industry.

If any members of the Chamber have an interest in this project or you require further details feel free to contact me or the Rapid Transport team on 5555-4605

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

Regards
Cr Eddy Sarroff



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

The Federal Government has kicked off Budget season, handing down the Rudd Government's second budget this week. While there appeared to be some good news for the Gold Coast with \$365 million promised for the light rail project, the fine print casts doubt on the Federal Government's commitment to Gold Coast Rapid Transit. Canberra's cash depends on the State Government, council and business picking up the rest of the \$1.67 billion bill. The Gold Coast City Council has already committed to \$150 million, yet the Bligh Government won't reveal how much they are willing to put on the table.

As an in-principle supporter of rapid transit, I believe it is crucial that we get the proposed route right and secure funding now so that it doesn't take another decade to build. With proper consultation, a sound plan and appropriate funding, light rail will improve public transport in key business areas like Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach.

The Bligh Government still has a lot of work to do before rapid transit starts moving. Reviewing the proposed route – particularly in areas where it has a damaging impact on residential areas – must be a priority, along with committing State Government money towards the project. As Leader of the Opposition I will do my best to lobby the Government to secure the necessary funding for the rapid transit system. Until this happens, we won't see a single cent from Canberra.

As a tourist Mecca, the Gold Coast must be encouraged in its efforts to boost our tourism industry. Yet the Rudd Government has slashed \$13 million in tourism funding, despite the tourism industry already hurting from the global recession. While local businesses are suffering from the economic downturn and with unemployment on the rise, now is not the time to cut funding to the heart of our City's economic prosperity.

Gold Coasters will pay a high price for the latest Rudd budget and Labor's reckless spending. As the implications of the Federal budget become clearer, the focus will now be on the Bligh Government to make up the shortfall and deliver on their election promises.

The Queensland Young Volunteer Award Nominations

The extraordinary work young volunteers do in our community is often undertaken so selflessly that their contributions go unnoticed. It is those young people, with a drive to get involved with the community, that we must encourage and reward. So to recognise the great work these people do for our community, Gold Coasters have the opportunity to nominate a young volunteer for The Queensland Young Volunteer Awards.

If you know a volunteer aged 12 to 25 and would like to see their efforts recognised, I would encourage you to download a nomination form from www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au. Nominations close 10 June 2009.



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

New Shadow Cabinet

With the Liberal National Party (LNP) announcing their new Shadow Cabinet I was pleased to be given the key portfolios of Tourism, Fair Trading and Racing on top of my responsibilities to my new electorate of Mermaid Beach which was renamed from Robina.

Tourism Industry

The Tourism industry is going through what would have to be one of the most critical economic downturns that we have seen. This means that the State Government needs to focus on the Tourism Industry in Queensland to do everything in its power to support new and creative initiatives to help the industry through this difficult time. I am committed to meeting and listening to industry stakeholders and bringing their voice to the Parliament and the media to make sure the State Government acts on the industry's concerns.

Federal & State Budgets

The Rudd Labor Government delivered the Federal Budget recently with a national debt of \$58 Billion. Although the global financial crisis has had an effect on our economy the Prime Minister would not have been able to deliver his stimulus package without the Howard/Costello prudent fiscal management of recent years, leaving the current Government with Billions in surplus to utilise.

I am concerned about the impact the Federal Budget will have on the looming State Budget that will be handed down next month on June 16th. I sense the Bligh Labor Government will hand down a shocking State Budget which will further erode the capacity of Gold Coast businesses to ride out this global economic storm.

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.mermaidray.com or contact my office on ph 5592 0071 if you have any State issues you might like to discuss.

Best Wishes
Ray Stevens MP



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

Labor's failed to understand Small Business is Key to Economic Recovery

Australian small businesses are the engine room of the economy, the biggest employer in the nation, and are the key to driving our economic recovery. However Labor has missed the opportunity to assist Australia's 2.4 million businesses in this difficult economic period, leaving out important measures in the Budget to assist employers to keep staff on the payroll.

Labor's failure to understand the important contribution of small businesses to the Australian economy and employment may cost thousands of Australian jobs. After inheriting the strongest economy in the world, Kevin Rudd and Labor are recklessly spending money and failing to properly assist small business, which employs 3.8 million Australians.

Labor has lost control of this nation's finances, racking up record debt of at least \$188 billion by 2012/13 – double its previous record peak under Paul Keating. Two thirds of this debt will be due to spending decisions taken by the Rudd Labor Government over the past 18 months.

According to the NAB SME Cash Flow survey, nine out of ten small businesses are under some sort of cash flow stress, and now they have the added burden of paying back Labor's massive debt with nothing in return.

The Coalition understands that if jobs are going to be generated in Australia, they are going to be generated by small business. The Coalition has provided a *Plan for Recovery* for Australian small businesses that are job-focused and practical in this difficult economic period.

The Coalition would cut small business red tape, provide additional cash flow support, put money back into the pockets of small businesses with operating losses by enabling them to reclaim up to \$100,000 of tax from the ATO that they had paid in the previous three years, and help employers keep apprentices on so Australia is well prepared to meet skills shortages.

To stimulate economic growth, Kevin Rudd and Labor must invest in small business so they can employ more people and become more profitable. The Coalition has made the tough decisions to protect small business and create jobs for all Australians. Labor has failed to do this and Australians will suffer as a result.



broadbeach
distinctly different

It's almost here! The eighth annual Blues on Broadbeach Music Festival will be held from Thursday the 28th of May up until and Sunday the 31st of May 2009.

The annual Blues on Broadbeach Music Festival has attracted over 250,000 people since its inception in 2002 making this a world class event.

Transcending the barriers of age, gender and culture Blues on Broadbeach is one of Australia's iconic Blues Festivals. The Blues on Broadbeach Music Festival is unique as it feeds on the unique village like atmosphere and relaxed ambience that is Broadbeach.

The Blues on Broadbeach Music festival nurtures Australian Blues talent as well as provides a stage for international acts. The festival provides a musical experience like no other in Queensland, remaining a FREE event.



Blues music is food for the soul and this festival combines the best of blues with the cream of Gold Coast cuisine in a guaranteed recipe for success.

For the artist line-up and program visit www.bluesonbroadbeach.com or www.broadbeachgc.com

Surfers Paradise
ALLIANCE

How quickly time flies... We're already entering the final stages of the first ever Blend Festival with only two weekends to go. This year's event has received a hugely positive response and looking to 2010, I'm really excited about Surfers Paradise Alliance working with local businesses and the Gold Coast City Council in helping to establish

the festival as a major annual cultural event.

Blend Festival has utilised Surfers Paradise itself as its canvas. Its venues, restaurants and the streets themselves have been interwoven to form the eclectic Event Program. With quality offerings of music, film, fashion, art and food, the prospect of growing Blend Festival into a premier event of its kind on the Gold Coast is something to look forward to, year-in year-out.

Blend's marquee event was, undoubtedly, 'The Centro Surfers Paradise Chalk the Walk Festival'. Securing the Queensland leg of the Southern Hemisphere's largest outdoor art festival, Chalk the Walk is a major coup for Surfers Paradise to be staged (and grow!) over the next five years. Located on the beachfront at Eileen Peters Park, the art and the environment in which it features will act as a spectacular showcase for Surfers, complemented by the art-loving crowds, live music and artistic market stalls also on offer.

We are proud to be putting together events such as Blend Festival, that focus on the long-term establishment of Surfers Paradise as a significant cultural contributor to the Gold Coast's growing arts scene.

The Gold Coast as a city is maturing and establishing events such as BLEND Festival, that bring together such diverse cultural elements, is a reflection of this. I am already really looking forward to working on next year's event, but first things first; I'm excited about seeing the artists 'Chalking' it up this weekend and seeing the largest urban art event of its kind make its home in Surfers Paradise.

The 2009 Inaugural Blend Festival

May has seen the inaugural BLEND Festival hit Surfers Paradise. The month long festival of Music, Film, Fashion, Art and Food has offered a program of cultural events throughout the precinct. BLEND Festival has featured five separate cultural weekends over a month that saw Surfers Paradise at the forefront of the Gold Coast's creative renaissance.

First up was BLEND Live, on the first weekend of May. One of Australia's most famous nightlife districts was home to an incredible array of music acts, from the ladies from Maske (one of the world's leading classical crossover groups) performing live in Cavill Mall to big name DJ's performing in one of Australia's premier nightclub districts. Second off the rank was BLEND Film, a retro film festival held at Queensland's largest outdoor screen (and one of its premier piazzas) Circle on Cavill. BLEND Fashion comprised Gold Coast Fashion Week, one of Australia's most dynamic forums for new and visionary designers.

BLEND Art has seen, 'Chalk The Walk', (the sister event to Sydney's famous Urban Art Festival – the Southern Hemispheres largest, with over 120,000 people attending in 2008) make its Queensland debut and home in Surfers Paradise. The Centro Surfers Paradise Chalk The Walk Festival was an incredible 4 days. Surfers Paradise Alliance wishes to thank Centro Surfers Paradise in assisting in putting together such an innovative event. BLEND Food On Sunday May 31, will see the Swingin Safari, blending together a sensational mix of Music, Wine and Food to celebrate the welcoming of Blend Festival to the annual Surfers Paradise Events Calendar. A gourmet BBQ dinner featuring the very best Gold Coast produce completes the eclectic cultural canvas the Swingin Safari is set to paint in the old Queenslander we've all grown to love in Surfers Paradise.

The Surfers Paradise BLEND Festival is the start of something exciting in the streets of Surfers. It is the face of a maturing Gold Coast, a city that is embracing its youthful energy, cultural diversity and creative and fun nature. The City Centre has been transformed over the successive weekends into a place buzzing with activity as both locals and visitors check out the events and get involved with the festivities. Surfers Paradise Alliance are already looking forward to 2010 and bringing to the Gold Coast one of its most innovative events yet.

For more information visit www.surfersparadise.com

Rowena Howe
CEO
Surfers Paradise Alliance