



TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL

To lead, provide & facilitate a safe, sustainable and culturally vibrant community

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MEDIA RELEASE

THE SUMMIT AND BEYOND

Premier Palaszczuk and the Queensland Cabinet were warmly welcomed by Mayor Yen Loban to Torres Shire on 5th and 6th September 2022. Mayor Loban hosted a meeting of the Premier, Deputy Premier Steven Miles and Member for Cook, Cynthia Lui, at the Council Chambers, where the need for a renewed and collaborative approach between the Queensland and Local Government were seen as critical to successfully addressing pressing issues that included high cost of living, housing and the development of the region.

“On behalf of Council and our Shire I want to express our delight in the Premier not only carefully listening to us but in announcing a regional summit within three months. At last we can come together and address the problems confronting us, not only in the Shire but the region, including a housing crisis, the high cost of living pressures, monopolisation and many more issues”, Mayor Loban said.

On arrival into Horn Island International Airport, Mayor Loban took the opportunity to take the Premier, Deputy Premier and Member for Cook to a site inspection of the Horn Island Affordable Housing Subdivision.

Horn Island Affordable Housing Project

The Horn Island Affordable Housing Project will provide indigenous residents with a local housing precinct to which they can build a home. Creating an opportunity to access an appropriate and affordable residential dwelling. Increasing economic participation of Indigenous residents will provide greater security, control and autonomy to the region whilst increasing their socioeconomic level which in turn provides better access to educational, health and material resources. It covers 2.4 hectares of vacant freehold land (lots 804 on SP292840 and 803 on SP288915) identified in the Torres Shire Council Plan as Residential Zone at Wees Street, Horn Island. The project was granted Development Approval on 21 May 2019, for the creation of 25 lots (23 for houses and 2 for parks). As this project nears completion, it is an exciting time for the project and residents of the region and a positive step by Council to help address the housing shortfalls.

Mayor Loban noted, “Council sought an additional \$1.3m for road infrastructure, a commitment to the development of the Rose Hill boat ramp after the feasibility study is completed in December this year, a combined 10-year Infrastructure Plan and other Planning to prevent duplication in service delivery, and cost shifting and to ensure critical infrastructure such as water may be secured for the future”.

But it wasn’t all talk. Deputy Mayor Bani and Councillor Thomas Loban took the ex-basketballer, Minister Hinchliffe, on a circuit of the exercise stations on Thursday Island and a site visit of Council’s Sporting infrastructure. Mayor Loban concluded, “All in all, a very successful two days and we can’t wait to get stuck into the issues that really matter to our communities at the upcoming Summit. Council is fully committed to making further representation and ensuring our local industry and businesses in our Shire and Region are well represented at the Summit. Both the Palaszczuk Government and Council are driven to ensure that it will lead to real solutions, real action”.

End Release.

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