



# Townsville Chamber of Commerce

Making Business Connections

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Townsville Bulletin  
Tony Raggat  
Business Editor  
[raggatta@nqn.newsltd.com.au](mailto:raggatta@nqn.newsltd.com.au)

**RE: Response to the Letter to the Editor published December 6, 2010.**

I write at the request of several Flinders Street retailers who disagree with the views expressed by one of your correspondents recently that the new Flinders Street is woeful. We believe the street is world-class and delivers the "wow" it promised. It is unfortunate that a more recent photo did not accompany the letter; one that shows the new bitumen, the wide footpaths and the greenery.

As the Chamber of Commerce advocate for CBD businesses impacted by the redevelopment, I also write to correct some inaccurate assertions contained in the letter:

1. No business has closed due to construction which started in February 2010. Four Flinders Street businesses have chosen to relocate within or outside the CBD. Four new retailers have opened their doors in the construction zone during the same period.
2. The redevelopment was not conducted against the wishes of the majority of traders in the mall. There is a very high level of support for the redevelopment of Flinders Street by both existing and new businesses in the affected area.
3. The levels of trade, whilst not fantastic, have not deteriorated to the extent claimed.

The Chamber does not take any pleasure in responding to inaccurate letters of a few disaffected traders, but prefers to support CBD retailers who see the glass half full rather than half empty. The Chamber supports traders who are too busy making a living to squabble; those who take the time to attend our free information sessions in order to be informed about the positive things occurring in Flinders Street; those who thank their loyal customers and look forward to a bright future. Their names are below.

Flinders Street, between Denham Street and Stokes Street, will be revealed before Christmas 2010. There will be celebrations, live entertainment and promotions. We think the people of Townsville should judge the effectiveness or otherwise of the redevelopment.

MARIE-CLAUDE BROWN  
Development Executive  
Townsville Chamber of Commerce