

# MEDIA RELEASE

---

**For release 9 September 2011**

The Townsville Chamber of Commerce has submitted its response to the State Government regarding vital plans and strategies that will influence Townsville's growth and development into the future.

The consultation period for major studies including the *Townsville Futures Plan*, the *Queensland Regionalisation Strategy*, the *Bruce Highway Upgrade Strategy* and the *Queensland Infrastructure Plan* finished today.

"We were pleased to see the State Government consultative approach with these four major plans and believe their coordination was effective." said the Chamber's Executive Officer Ms Marie-Claude Brown.

"The Chamber consulted with its members to confirm their priorities and that helped inform the State Government about the issues vital for business in our city and region.

"Important issues for Chamber members include the development of Townsville's inner-city; the focus on regionalisation and the relocation of State government agencies to the North; the development of infrastructure, including roads, water, energy and telecommunication; as well as training and the retention of skilled staff.

"While the Chamber supports the development of a shared vision for the North, we are concerned that some of the priorities don't reflect more immediate or pressing issues.

"For example the long-term projects like the design of the Ingham to Cardwell Range deviation may detract from short-term practical projects such as the upgrade of the Blackey Street crossing," said Ms Brown.

For the Chamber, the *Townsville Futures Plan* is positive because of its central drive to establish Townsville as Queensland's second capital. "The Chamber was a member of the State taskforce which drafted the plan and we strongly feel that the success of all other proposed plans and strategies, whether its regionalisation or infrastructure, rest on the successful implementation of the Futures Plan."

Ms Brown said the Chamber was also critical where plans lacked details around implementation.

"Our view is that a cross-sectoral Advisory Panel be established to oversee the implementation of the Futures Plan, supported by an officer and reporting to a Government champion, like the Treasurer."

**Media contact: Marie-Claude Brown, (07) 4771 2729, 044 789 5525**