

Media Release

Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce

PORT MACQUARIE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SAYS THE FUTURE LOOKS GOOD!

The recent focus on doom and gloom has hidden much of the good news for Port Macquarie. People in the greater Port Macquarie area should be very confident about our strong future.

“There really are some wonderful things happening at the moment that are going to provide jobs and long-term security for Port Macquarie” said Hadyn Oriti, executive officer of the Chamber of Commerce. “Let’s think about it. We’ve got Sovereign Hills, the Glasshouse, the development of Woolworths in the centre of town, the Foreshore master plan, redevelopment of the existing marina, the industrial land developments at Kew, Sancrox and elsewhere, upgrade of the Pacific Highway south of Port, the Oxley Highway upgrade – all of these initiatives and more are happening or coming on line. In addition, the recently released state government’s [mid north coast regional strategy](#) predicts phenomenal growth for the region over the next 20 years” he said.

The Chamber of Commerce welcomes the strategy and notes with interest some of the points made in relation to Port Macquarie. For example, the strategy identifies an additional 48,500 jobs in the Mid North Coast Region. Port Macquarie’s share of those jobs will be significant.

Consistently with the Chamber’s CBD policy, the strategy document says that fragmentation and out-of-centre retailing will need to be resisted in order to maintain the healthy retail and service functioning of all centres in the Region. The Chamber encourages Council support to ensure Port Macquarie’s sense of place as a vibrant and interesting town for residents and tourists is retained and enhanced.

The report says that there will be significant industrial growth opportunities that will occur in industrial and commercial areas. “We welcome that and the broadening of our economic base” said Mr Oriti.

In relation to industry growth, the Chamber’s industrial sub-committee will host Matt Rogers from Council when it meets on 1 April to explore those opportunities. The zoning of industrial land, including in the Sancrox area, will be on the agenda for discussion.

The Port Macquarie region has been identified as requiring a minimum of 84 hectares of additional industrial land over the life of the strategy to cater for the anticipated employment growth. The strategy identifies significantly more land than this, to support the development of possible new industries and new job opportunities, to make land more affordable and to establish an employment land bank for the future.

“We recognise that while the economic circumstances prevailing at the moment are hurting many businesses, it is important to appreciate that we are looking at a strong future for the region as

exemplified by the range of current projects” said Mr Oriti. “Port Macquarie is well placed to ride out much of the turbulence affecting other parts of the world. Let’s not lose sight of that.”

Media contact:

Hadyn Oriti, Executive Officer
Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce
Chamber Office: 02 6583 4412
Mobile: 0410 602 779
Email: executive@portchamber.com.au