



Cape York Peninsula Development Association Inc.

Media Release

Tuesday 22 January 2007

CYPDA Board Look to the Future

Cape York Peninsula Development Association Inc (CYPDA) committee members will travel from all corners of Cape York Peninsula to attend a board retreat in Cairns on 28 and 29 January, 2007, held to determine how to best meet the needs of Cape York Peninsula communities.

CYPDA operate with a management committee of twelve, who represent Cape York's major interest sectors - primary production, local government, tourism, community, industry and commerce.

The committee identified the need to hold the retreat to review the direction of CYPDA in relation to its existing strategic plan, determine priorities and so committee members can learn more about their roles and responsibilities as elected representatives for Cape York.

The board will also discuss the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer after the retirement of Tom Gilmore from the role in January.

Joy takes this opportunity to thank Mr Gilmore for his dedication and commitment, saying "Tom took CYPDA through a tough transition stage. Under his direction, CYPDA grew from a struggling organisation to one that is now relevant to Cape York and its residents."

Following negotiations with state and Australian government investors in 2006, the organisation undertook the role of interim service provider for Cape York based Natural Heritage Trust (NTH) natural resource management projects, on behalf of the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Water.

This added to funding already obtained through the Queensland Department of State Development and Trade.

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CYPDA are currently administering or managing eight NHT projects including installing 10 UHF radio towers to cover communication black spots, supporting the work of the Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals and Coastal and Marine programs in the Cook Shire, monitoring predation rates of feral pigs on turtle nests and assisting land managers to develop fire management plans for their properties.

Joy Marriott, President of the CYPDA says that the programs being delivered are vital to Cape York's future in regards to managing natural resources but that more needs to be done to address issues of immediate community concern including rubbish management, roads and basic infrastructure for residents and visitors.

Joy said, "Cape York residents are very keen to see this committee take up issues of community concern and work with government on their behalf to get the best possible return for tax payer funded investments. It is important that we maintain an independent voice for residents."

Peter Thompson and Trish Butler are sharing the role of CEO until the best person is found - Peter is well known to many people on the Cape through managing the Cape York Fire Management Program and Trish brings a wealth of business experience to the role.

Joy said, "We are taking our time in finding a new CEO to ensure that we appoint a person to the role who is capable of handling a range of views from a diverse community and who shares CYPDA's vision of improving the quality of life for residents of Cape York. They will have considerable experience in developing projects that bring on the ground benefit to communities and will share our passion for this incredible part of the world.

The Association has the support of state and Australian government agencies and believe that through encouraging broad community input, CYPDA is now well-positioned to provide authentic advice to government agencies and deliver real results to the region.

Media Contact: ***MaryBeth Gundrum on 0429 385 567***

Interviews: ***Joy Marriott, President of CYPDA – please phone MaryBeth to arrange***

Vision: ***Head shot of Joy Marriott can be supplied.***