



18 August 2020

Michael Thomson
Chief Executive Officer
Mackay Regional Council
PO Box 41
Mackay QLD 4740

BY POST/EMAIL – council@mackay.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Thompson,

RE: Appointment as Chief Executive Officer

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Mackay Regional Council (council). The Urban Development Institute Australia Queensland Mackay Branch (the Institute) plays a vital role in the Mackay region, lending our expertise to council whenever required for the benefit of the region.

As you may be aware, the economic contribution of the development industry to the Mackay Whitsunday region is significant, including:

- Delivering \$290.8 million into the pay packets of local families each year
- Employing 7.3 percent of the region's workforce
- Providing 4,226 direct jobs and supports a further 4,982 jobs indirectly
- Contributes \$1,191 million to Gross Regional Product¹

What our research demonstrates is that there is a clear link between a strong and healthy Mackay economy when the property development industry is active. Our members deliver housing to accommodate the region's population growth, build communities, and contribute to the livability of the region. For these reasons, we believe it is crucial that the Institute maintains our longstanding engagement and positive relationship with council, particularly as we emerge out of COVID-19.

A key tool to support this relationship is the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) currently in place between council and the Institute. The MOU allows for open and transparent discussion surrounding the local property development industry. We urge you to become involved in this working group and look forward to working with you in this forum.

¹ Report prepared by Urbis for the UDIA Queensland, March 2018

If you have any questions relating to the Institute's or our local branch's advocacy, please contact Policy Executive, Robert Tily (rtily@udiaqld.com.au) on (07) 3229 1589. We look forward to engaging with you.

Yours sincerely,
Urban Development Institute of Australia Queensland

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark McGrath', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark McGrath
Mackay Branch President