



NICK DAME T T O M P

MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

Your Voice for Hinchinbrook



WITH the cool change in weather, it's a pleasant reminder to us all about why we choose to live in North Queensland.

The harsh summer has been replaced by clear skies and crisp mornings, with the mercury dipping just low enough at night to enjoy an open fire pit in the backyard. Our reward for the sky-rocketing temperatures in summer is a winter drawcard that brings southerners north to enjoy our mild climate and escape the blistering cold.

Hinchinbrook has been a busy little region of late, with hundreds turning out for the Ingham Show, the Australian Italian Festival and the Cardwell UFO Festival.

There's plenty more on the way over the next few months as well with the North Queensland Elite Rodeo, Ingham Gold Cup, Sugar City Rodeo, the North Shore Night Markets and Maraka Festival all set for bumper crowds.

This time of year is ideal for events which stimulate our local economy.

Events give our little towns a much needed boost on top of the regular natural attractions that are always a hit during tourist season. The sugar crush is also well underway for the Herbert River District, traditionally the busiest time of year as money starts to flow back to our region.

On the political front, it has been a busy six months. We saw Australians reject the industry-destroying policies of Labor at the May Federal election, and return Kennedy MP Bob Katter for his 10th consecutive term as a Federal Member with an increased margin.

Katter's Australian Party is continuing to keep the pressure on both State and Federal governments to deliver for regional Queensland.

The State budget had some good wins for Hinchinbrook, but once again, lacked funding for those visionary big ticket projects that would turbocharge our economy. You can read more about that on page three.

Meanwhile, I make the case for a separate state of North Queensland on page four. It's a certainly a well-tread topic but the divide between the city and the bush has never been greater and it's about time we took control of our own destiny.

Finally, "Nick Around the Region" is back again. Turn to page two to see some snaps of where I've been "hanging" about.

I enjoy nothing more than getting out to as many local events as possible. The time I spend with the community gives me an opportunity to truly understand the problems that matter the most to the people of Hinchinbrook.

NICK AROUND THE *Region*

THERE'S never a dull moment in this beautiful part of the world and I've had an action-packed schedule of events over the last few months.

The community spirit is alive and kicking and as you'll see from some of the photos below, it's important to have a bit of fun along the way.

The second half of this year shows no signs of slowing down as your local Member, you can be sure to see me in the thick of it.

Catch you all soon!



Supporting North Queensland Elite Rodeo's 'Lifting the Outback' Emergency Flood Relief Country Music Benefit Concert at Hervey Range in May.



Just hanging out at the official opening of the Hinchinbrook Community Support Centre's new Plant Room Youth Space.



Celebrating with local residents at the Pioneers of the Townsville Northern Beaches Luncheon at Rollingstone Community Centre.



Joining in the fun with members of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service and "Blazer" the bear at Ingham's Tasman Turtle Picnic Day.



Embracing Reconciliation Week's colour run at the TYTO Wetlands with locals in early June.



Hinchinbrook MP Nick Dametto has welcomed the Budget's spend on projects in the electorate but says more could be done.

BUDGET BRUSHES BIG *projects*

Cyclone Debbie. These are important programs in their own right for producers.

Infrastructure wise, there's \$1 million from the Building our Regions program towards building new bores and water delivery infrastructure to increase the current capacity of the Ingham Deport Water Treatment Plant and a solid investment in roads across Hinchinbrook. That includes \$1.1 million to continue pavement widening on the Bruce Highway between Deep Creek and Bluewater Creek and \$600,000 to continue intersection upgrades along the Bruce Highway at Bluewater Station Road and the intersection of Forestry Road and Toolakea Beach Road.

Small businesses in Hinchinbrook will also benefit from the budget's \$885 million payroll tax initiatives, which will increase the exemption threshold from \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million and a one per cent regional payroll tax discount implemented on July 1 for employers with 85 per cent of their employees outside of South East Queensland.

Whichever way you look at it, a strong North Queensland needs to be underpinned by a network of well-resourced towns and Hinchinbrook's deserves its fair share.

It was good to see June's State Budget deliver a number of funding victories for Hinchinbrook, but big ticket projects that would transform our economy have been sidestepped by Labor.

The State Government did spend sizeably on education, infrastructure and health initiatives. Hinchinbrook has certainly benefitted from that in the core areas but visionary projects like the North Queensland Bio Energy plant and dredging One Mile Creek have once again been neglected.

However, I'm glad to see \$2.33 million go towards five general learning spaces and three specialist learning spaces at Northern Beaches State High School and \$7 million towards completing construction of the new North Shore State School. That's an investment in the future.

We've got some \$71,000 for the fight against noxious weed *Navua sedge* and \$137,000 for the Halifax Flood Mitigation Levee for recovery from

Bridge back UP AND RUNNING

In late June, we were able to announce the re-opening of Alice River Bridge to traffic, two months ahead of schedule.

Local residents were relieved to see the re-opening of the bridge after major flooding severely damaged it earlier in the year. This forced them to take a costly and inconvenient detour to Townsville while repairs were underway.

I was proud to have sponsored a parliamentary

e-petition from local resident Mary-anne Yardley calling for Transport and Main Roads to fast-track repairs to the bridge. Locals got right behind it and it was tabled in parliament in early June.

This achievement is further proof that people power can work and we would also like to thank Transport and Main Roads, the Federal Government, who contributed significant funding, and the crews who worked tirelessly on this important project.

Most importantly, I would like to acknowledge those who have worked tirelessly over the last few months rebuilding the Alice River Bridge, from design engineers to civil construction workers, these men and women are the reason this project was delivered ahead of schedule.



IF there's anything this year's Federal election result has told us, it's that regional Queensland is fed up with being told how to live and what to say and think.

Taking that lesson to its logical conclusion, it's time for the North to break away.

The State Labor Government is devoid of ideas when it comes to creating viable alternative industries when trying to wholly replace the jobs generated by mining in Queensland. According to the Queensland Resources Council, mining was worth \$1 billion in Gross Regional Product to North Queensland and \$1.7 billion to North-West Queensland in the 2017-18 financial year alone.

The fact is for an economy to flourish in the north we need to do all or either of three things - mine and export, farm and export or manufacture and export.

The bottom line is Labor lost an election trying to shut down the state's agriculture and mining industries without providing any tangible plans to replace those jobs.

Let's unleash the power of this great region by breaking away.

Hospital needs **DIALYSIS SERVICES** **LIFE**

for residents in Ingham requiring life-saving health services like dialysis means doing a 250 kilometre round trip three times a week to Townsville Hospital.

Local community groups are willing to help joint fund a local service at Ingham Hospital but we need the State Government to pitch in.

During a Question Without Notice in parliament earlier this year, I asked State Health Minister Dr Steven Miles whether he would commit to working with the community to bring dialysis services to Ingham Hospital.

The Minister responded that he would be willing to work with the community on the issue, as well as Townsville Hospital and Health Service (THHS).

The community has established a fundraising group to raise the necessary funds required to assist with purchasing a dialysis unit and peripheral equipment. All we ask is that Queensland Health would consider matching local fundraising efforts dollar for dollar.

With a growing ageing population in the Herbert River District now is the time for Queensland Health to plan ahead and ensure that services which benefit the elderly, such as dialysis, are readily available at Ingham Hospital.

SAVE THE DATE

Aug 16 & 17

North Queensland Elite Rodeo

Where: Hervey Range Rodeo Grounds, Alice River
When: Gates open from 5:30pm Fri and from 9:30am Sat
Cost: Head to townsvilletickets.com.au for all options

Aug 31

Ingham Gold Cup

Where: Herbert River Jockey Club, 69 Marina Parade, Ingham
When: From 11am till late
Cost: \$20

Sept 6 & 7

Ingham Sugar City Rodeo

Where: Ingham Showgrounds, Cooper Street
Cost: Adult - \$15, Child \$8, Concession - \$8, Family - \$35

Oct 25

Bluewater State School Country Fair

Where: Buckby Street, Bluewater
When: 5pm to 9pm

Oct 26

Ingham Maraka Festival Mardi Gras and Procession

Where: Rotary Park, Ingham

Oct 27

Paluma Dam Good Trail Run

Where: Paluma Village, Mount Spec Road
When: 7am to 12pm
Register first at outerlimitsadventure.com.au

CAN WE HELP?

The Hinchinbrook Electorate Office can provide the following services:

- Letters of support for grant applications by community organisations.
- Requests for a Queensland flag by community groups.
- Letters of congratulations from the Queen, Prime Minister or Premier for wedding anniversary milestones (subject to various criteria).

Refer to the contact details at the bottom of this page to get in touch.

HINCHINBROOK CENTRAL, 86-92 HERBERT STREET, INGHAM QLD 4850
PO BOX 399, INGHAM QLD 4850

Phone: 07 4765 4700 • Email: hinchinbrook@parliament.qld.gov.au • Visit: www.nickdametto.com

Nick Dametto MP @DamettoMP @nicktrip18