



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Issued Day, date month 2007**

### **Candidates speak out on TEL's future**

The future of Townsville Enterprise as the region's peak Economic Development and Destination Marketing body is in safe hands as candidates for Saturday's local government elections voiced support for the organisation's current structure.

Townsville Enterprise Chief Executive Officer Glenys Schuntner said the organisation plays a vital role in North Queensland.

"Townsville Enterprise is playing a strong independent role in the development of jobs, lifestyle, business and tourism activity in North Queensland. We have continued to do this for 16 years with the strong support of our principal sponsors Townsville City Council and Tourism Queensland, and major sponsors Thuringowa City Council, NQ Water, Townsville Airport, Ergon Energy, Townsville Port Authority and more than 300 financial members," she said.

"We believe it is in the best interest for the new city of Townsville for us to continue in this role."

Townsville Enterprise approached mayoral candidates for their position on the organisation's future direction.

Current Townsville and Thuringowa Mayors, and candidates for the position in the new super city Tony Mooney and Les Tyrell are both long term board members of the organisation.

Cr Mooney voiced his full and ongoing commitment as the key organisation for the marketing, promotion and catalyst for economic development for Townsville.

"Townsville Enterprise replaced the fragmented under resourced approach to development promotion of the 1980's. It was established with independent leadership and resourced to do the job of proactively promoting the City's interests properly. My Council, unlike some other players, has increased our contribution and support for TEL over the years as we see it as a crucial

investment in the City's prosperity. It has paid results for the whole community in terms of jobs, income and growth," Cr Mooney said.

"This City needs to be represented as a strong, progressive, professional and united community in our dealings with Government, major investors and our regional competitors. TEL has done this with distinction and has my support in going forward."

"My Council will work closely and cooperatively with TEL. It needs to remain a key driver of our prosperity."

Cr Tyrell is committed to a regional approach to Economic Development.

"As one of two inaugural TEL board members still serving on the board I have had a long affiliation with our peak marketing and development group. I am committed to maintaining a strong and independent TEL," Cr Tyrell said.

"I am a strong believer in regional economic development planning and have been working for some time as chair of the North Queensland Regional Development Strategy Group to bring forward a model plan to take us forward as a proactive and sustainable region."

"Townsville Enterprise will have a strong role in the planning and execution of this document as will the State Government through its Centres of Excellence programme."

"In my view the role of TEL will need to be strengthened in the area of economic development," Cr Tyrell said.

Larrikin candidate Rolando Taviani also gave the organisation his full support.

"Townsville Enterprise will have my complete support when I'm Mayor, as long as I get an invite to all the luncheons. One of most important jobs as Mayor will be, to let other people do their jobs," Mr Taviani said.

Independent candidate Francis Pauler said that while he does not support certain key economic development projects – Chalco, the V8s and the proposed redevelopment of the Flinders Street Mall – he will look to the organisation for guidance on the city's future.

"As far as I'm concerned that in the case I am elected to be mayor in Townsville, I do not have any plan to dismantle your Enterprise Limited or any other organisation connected with Townsville City Council. Even though I do not like your decision or others on some project decisions," Mr Pauler said.

"Any change in Townsville will be done with very careful consideration and advice from your organisation and others."

Community Voices mayoral candidate Jenny Stirling did not rule out working with Townsville Enterprise.

“Community Voices will review the relationship between Townsville Enterprise and Townsville City Council if elected to office. We can also, in principle, that we support the activities of Townsville Enterprise to the extent that this organisation facilitates projects and business opportunities which are assessed in terms of their impact on the whole community and accord with the principles of sustainability: that is the economic, social/cultural and environmental implications of these developments,” Ms Stirling said.

“We look forward to establishing a relationship with Townsville Enterprise which facilitates the development of an Indigenous Chamber of Commerce as part of our platform creating a safer, more inclusive and sustainable city.”

**ENDS**

**For more information contact Nathan Campbell on (07) 4726 2753 or 0434 182 765**