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## Plenty of Rooms in Mackay!

Organisers of the Planning Institute of Australia (QLD) Conference in Mackay were impressed to find that the accommodation situation in Mackay has improved for event organisers. “It was also great to see that now ‘Mackay’s got rooms!’. Recent changes in the mining economy means there isn’t the shortfall in accommodation there had been in Mackay.” explained Kaye Duggan, from Harmony Solutions International.



Mackay’s CBD now has six quality hotels of 4.5 star rating within 2.5km of the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC), including the new Quest on Gordon, and the soon to be opened Oaks Apartments. Availability is much better than in recent mining boom years. A major benefit of the mining boom in the Central Queensland region has been the development of a range of high quality accommodation options in Mackay. With mining industry demand now significantly reduced, ready availability and attractive room rates in Mackay are now an appealing feature of the destination.

Helped along by the mining boom, Mackay now boasts a host of modern, professionally-equipped meeting venues, and an attractive variety of surrounding amenities for leisure and recreation after business. The MECC is a large dual purpose convention and entertainment centre offering world-class facilities and services with small town hospitality and excellence in customer service.

***“The MECC offers quality facilities and services as you would expect of a capital city with that fantastic easy going regional hospitality and flexibility. The staff bent over backwards to help us throughout the lead up and during the actual conference and the catering was nothing short of superb.”***

***Kaye Duggan, from Harmony Solutions International***



Mackay's central location, and ease of access by air, road and rail, also makes the destination accessible and attractive to potential delegates and exhibitors happy to ‘meet in the middle’.

Mackay has really emerged as an intriguing new destination for meetings and events and this market will continue to grow. “Our CBD revitalization project will see Mackay's City Centre an even more welcoming and relaxing environment for delegates embracing the vision for Mackay as a walkable city that embraces its climate and heritage.

Lagoon really does work politically as the event welcome site. It is close

It’s about the CBD being ‘events ready’ too, with inclusions like pop up bollards for ease of traffic control.” said Mark Fawcett, Manager Convention Precinct and Events.

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