

MEDIA RELEASE

Mackay hosts LGAQ Annual Conference

Tuesday, November 04, 2014

Queensland councils came together in Mackay last week to debate issues of importance to local communities.

Held annually in October, the Local Government Association of QLD Annual Conference provides an important opportunity for councils to not only network and learn but also to debate and vote on new policy.

The Annual Conference consists of three days of full plenary, split plenary and workshop sessions where participants will immerse themselves in the challenges facing local government and their communities.

Hosted at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre over 300 delegates engaged in plenary and breakout sessions, with 70 trade exhibitors also plying their services. The Gala Dinner, attended by over 500 provided ‘the wow factor and surprise’ when guests were led to a large steel “agricultural shed” at the Mackay Showgrounds, which was transformed into a stunning 5 star function room by LGAQ’s Production team, Aideas into a venue which could rival any capital city, featuring music from North Queensland’s Luke Kennedy, winner of The Voice and Dance band RUSH.

The LGAQ Chief Executive Officer, Greg Hallam congratulated the team at the MECC for their flair and uniqueness in staging major conferencing. “Nothing is too difficult for the team in Mackay, there is always a solution. Imagine being offered a showgrounds shed as the venue for your gala dinner! It ended up being really spectacular. A real treat for delegates and the service was second to none. We had no complaints at all which is really quite an achievement when you’re aiming to satisfy over 400 delegates.”

The next event for the calendar is the upcoming Tourism and Events Queensland Annual Conference in early November. Mark Fawcett, Manager Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre is delighted the Centre and Mackay has secured two of Queensland’s major conferences for this year. “Our Centre is perfectly positioned to host these conferences. Delegates will also get to see the commencement of the \$18 million redevelopment of Mackay’s CBD, which will provide a contemporary landscape that compliments new accommodation stock.” Mark clarified how this redevelopment would assist event planners. “With the mantra ‘Mackay is events ready’, the CBD redevelopment includes new iconic public art, three phase power in streetscapes, and pop up bollards at the end of city streets, so events can be undertaken with ease in a magnificent new setting.”

These events coming to Mackay confirm that Mackay has the venues and infrastructure to host large conferences. But they also highlight how our central location and excellent aviation access has strong appeal for conferences which aim to attract delegates from around the State and beyond. These two conferences showcase our excellent convention centre, quality accommodation and also the range of attractions and activities in the region for Business Events.

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