

7 July 2023

Mr George Seymour and Mr Ken Diehm  
Mayor and CEO  
Fraser Coast Regional Council  
77 Tavistock St  
Torquay  
QLD 4655

Dear George and Ken

**Re: The Hervey Bay Library, Resilience Centre and Administration Building Project**

I am writing on behalf of the Hervey Bay Chamber of Commerce members and supporters to express our wholehearted support to deliver, in full, the Hervey Bay City Centre revitalisation, with the key project being the Hervey Bay Library, Resilience Centre and Administration Building. We believe that such a development will have significant economic benefits for the community and contribute to the overall growth and prosperity of Hervey Bay and the Fraser Coast region.

First and foremost, the creation of a revitalised City Centre and the creation of a prominent Central Business District (CBD) around the Hervey Bay Library, Resilience Centre and Administration Building would attract businesses, entrepreneurs, and investors. This concentration of commercial activity would provide an opportunity for local businesses to thrive, resulting in increased employment opportunities for the region. As a result, the creation of new jobs would stimulate economic growth, reduce unemployment rates, and enhance the overall financial well-being of our community.

Moreover, a well-planned CBD will act as a catalyst for further revitalisation of the greater surrounding area creating further urban development, connection infrastructure and attracting new investment. By establishing a CBD around the proposed development site, the area would become a vibrant hub of activity, attracting people from all walks of life. This increased pedestrian and drive traffic would create a demand for retail, dining, and entertainment establishments, further enhancing the local economy.

Additionally, the establishment of a CBD around the Hervey Bay Library, Resilience Centre and Administration Building would have a positive impact on property values in the vicinity. Research consistently demonstrates that proximity to commercial centres enhances property values. This increase in property values would not only benefit homeowners and property investors but also generate

additional Council revenue, which could be allocated towards essential public services and infrastructure development.

Furthermore, the development of a CBD would foster collaboration between local businesses, educational institutions, and community organisations. The Hervey Bay Library and Council Administration Building, in their existing locations, already serve as vital resources for knowledge dissemination and community engagement. By integrating them within a CBD, opportunities for partnerships, knowledge exchange, and innovative initiatives would be greatly enhanced, benefiting both the business community and the general public.

Lastly, the creation of a CBD would increase the city's reputation as a progressive and vibrant community. It would attract attention from neighbouring regions and potentially draw in tourists and visitors, further boosting economic activity through increased tourism spending. A thriving CBD would showcase the city's commitment to growth and development, positioning it as an attractive destination for businesses, residents, and visitors alike.

In conclusion, there is confidence within the business community that the creation of a Central Business District around the Hervey Bay Library, Resilience Centre and Administration Building would have far-reaching economic benefits for both Hervey Bay and the greater Fraser Coast. By attracting businesses, promoting urban development, increasing property values, encouraging collaboration, and enhancing the city's reputation, this project would contribute to the overall prosperity and growth of the Fraser Coast community. We fully endorse this initiative and hope that you will consider our support in your decision-making process.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to witnessing the positive and necessary impact that this development will have on our community and the legacy effect it will have for future generations of families and businesses in the Fraser Coast. To return \$40 million to the Federal Government and waste the cited \$10 million spent to date on this project, would be a travesty for this community.

Yours faithfully



Sandra Holebrook  
President  
**Hervey Bay Chamber of Commerce**