



30 June 2023

Ken Diehm,
Chief Executive Officer
Fraser Coast Regional Council
PO Box 1943
Hervey Bay Qld 4655

BY EMAIL – ken.diehm@frasercoast.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Diehm,

RE: Letter of Support for the Hervey Bay Library and Administration Centre

The Urban Development Institute of Australia Queensland Fraser Coast Branch (the Institute) writes to strongly support the Fraser Coast Regional Council (Council) in awarding a building contractor to construct the new Hervey Bay Library and Administration Centre.

As you may be aware, the Institute is Queensland's leading development industry association with a unique regional structure covering 12 regional branch areas ranging from Cairns in Far North Queensland to the Gold Coast in South-East Queensland.

Independent research undertaken by Urbis for the Institute has highlighted the importance of the development industry's contribution to the Fraser Coast. This research indicates that the development industry directly accounts for **7.8%**¹ of direct regional employment whilst delivering **\$154.4 million** into the pay packets of local families each year across the region. In addition, the research highlights that the Fraser Coast property development industry:

- Provides **2,497** direct jobs and supports a further **2,621** indirectly
- Contributes **\$606.7 million** to Gross Regional Product (GRP).

The Institute has been involved in the Community Consultation Group for the Hinkler Regional Deal and acknowledges the clear relationship between the health of the local development industry and the success of our local economy and community.

The Fraser Coast region is experiencing significant population growth, particularly in Hervey Bay, and it has been clearly identified that the existing library does not adequately meet the needs of the community. The Institute reiterates our support for a building contractor to be awarded to enable the construction of the new Hervey Bay Library and Administration Centre (incorporating a Disaster Resilience Centre) as it will provide the following benefits to the region:

¹ The Institute's Research Foundation - The Contribution of the Development Industry to Queensland, Urbis, Nov 2022

- It will provide a catalyst for the revitalisation of the city centre including connection to the existing City Park, Regional Gallery through to the Esplanade
- It provides opportunity for University of Sunshine Coast to expand their course offering through an expanded campus therefore providing greater attraction for younger people to come to or stay in the region to further their education
- The current Council Chambers and Administration facility are run down and in poor condition. Council provides a service to the community and their employees' ability to work in appropriate facilities is vital in achieving great outcomes for our community. It will also act as an attractor for talent to join Council, knowing that they will have a modern, state of the art workplace with a focus of community as well as the ability to collaborate across the organization.

If you require any further information, please contact Marianne Hocking on (07) 3229 1589 (mhocking@udiaqld.com.au).

Yours sincerely,

Urban Development Institute of Australia Queensland

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Kraft', written in a cursive style.

Megan Kraft

Fraser Coast Branch President