



MEDIA RELEASE – GREATER WHITSUNDAY HOUSING SUMMIT POSTPONED

1 June

The Greater Whitsunday Housing Summit, originally scheduled for 6 June, has been rescheduled to take place on 15 August.

Greater Whitsunday Communities (GWC) and Regional Development Australia, Greater Whitsundays (RDA GW) announced today the new date for the highly anticipated summit.

Carol Norris, GWC Executive Officer said the decision to postpone the Summit was influenced by the unavailability of necessary data for meaningful discussions.

“The consultants engaged for the project encountered challenges and the research report is not yet in a suitable state for sharing and utilisation as intended,” Ms Norris said.

“Together, we are committed to delivering a quality report that can be used to engage with key stakeholders before the rescheduled Summit in August,” she said.

“This will allow all attendees the opportunity to review the data and consider their potential role in relation to the identified opportunities.”

Recognising the current circumstances, GWC expressed that proceeding with the Summit in June would not lead to meaningful outcomes for the region.

Rob Cocco, RDA GW CEO, reiterated some positive aspects of the rescheduling.

“The State Government's budget is set to be released on 13 June, providing a clearer understanding of their commitments,” Mr Cocco said.

“Additionally, holding the summit in August, may encourage greater industry participation,” he said.

“The extra time will also allow for the research report to be shared with key stakeholders, giving them an opportunity to digest the data.”

Preliminary research and stakeholder engagement have revealed that the Mackay, Isaac, and Whitsunday region, like the rest of Australia, is experiencing a housing crisis.

However, the causes and solutions for this crisis differ from other areas.

Mr Cocco said factors such as inadequate investment in social housing, lack of confidence in the private market, and property owners selling rental properties have contributed to a shortage of housing stock to buy and rent, and increased prices.

“The region has also faced challenges stemming from the COVID-19 recovery, including supply constraints and rising costs.”

Ms Norris reassured GWC's determination to ensure that the Greater Whitsunday Housing Summit produces an Action Plan enriched with various sub-projects.

“We trust that stakeholders understand the postponement but we want to make sure that we use everyone’s time effectively and in a valuable way.”

For more information and to register for the Summit in August visit:

<https://www.greaterwhitsundaycommunities.org.au/events/greater-whitsunday-housing-summit>

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