

Cleaner seas challenge



Water works: Engineers Australia president Julie Hammer says the tropics poses unique engineering challenges.

THE engineering going into the \$180 million Cleaner Seas project in Cairns involves technology that will see the city's waste treated as well as anywhere in the country for some time, according to one of the country's leading engineers.

Julie Hammer, president of Engineers Australia – the 82,000 strong organisation that represents the country's engineers – made the comments after inspecting some of the works involved in the costly upgrade of the Cairns sewage treatment system.

Ms Hammer said the project was an example of how vital

civil infrastructure had long been ignored in Australia until it reached the point where hundreds of millions of dollars had to be spent to bring it up to scratch.

The establishment of the Infrastructure Australia Fund by the Labor Government was recognition of the importance of spending money on vital projects, she said.

However, Ms Hammer said one issue facing regional areas such as Cairns and Townsville was attracting the amount of money needed for the scale of projects required.

"This is a regional area, but it is not remote and it is not easy to convince the

community of why these type of projects are critical and why so much money has to be spent," Ms Hammer said.

Her inspection of Cleaner Seas projects brought home some of the issues engineers faced in the tropics.

"There are issues with design and scheduling to be dealt with in the tropics which don't apply in other areas.

"For example, scheduling of works has to fit in around the wet season.

"And there are local issues as well. The site you are working on may well flood during the wet which means design criteria have to be different."

Bells ringing for a world of weddings

CAIRNS specialist wedding company South Pacific Bridal Cairns believes a new venture with Japan's leading bridal firm will enable it to overcome the loss of direct flights from Japan and the economic downturn.

Owners Phillip and Peter Ford have entered into an exclusive sales agreement with World Bridal Co. Ltd. Japan to market and promote Cairns' two wedding chapels to the Japanese, Korean, Hong Kong and Taiwanese markets.

World Bridal is a major player in the overseas wedding market with chapels in Hawaii, Guam, Bali, Korea and Japan.

Its Crystal Chapel in Guam was the most popular chapel in the world last year, with 1800 Japanese weddings.

Phillip Ford said he and son Peter had recently spent some time

with the owners of World Bridal and "came away feeling very excited about our new partnership with this young, vibrant team."

"We are very confident that our new venture with World Bridal, coupled together with a weaker Australian dollar, will see an improvement in wedding numbers from Japan," Mr Ford Sr said.

"World Bridal is already working hard coming up with sales strategies to try and maximise this market.

"We are also very excited to be marketing our chapels, and Cairns in general, to the Korean, Hong Kong and Taiwanese markets for the first time."



Phillip Ford

South Pacific Bridal Cairns is Australia's biggest wedding company.

It injects about \$19 million a year into the local economy through international, interstate and local weddings.

As a result of the venture with World Bridal, South Pacific's association with Bridal Cube Japan will end on March 31.

To reflect that, the company structure in Cairns will change from April 1.

"We will still market our weddings and products to the non-Japanese, Korean, Hong Kong and Taiwanese markets under the SPB banner," Mr Ford Sr said.

"For our Japanese, Korean, Hong Kong and Taiwanese markets we will be known as World Bridal Cairns and our signage and documents will reflect this."

Tourism on the breakfast menu

ISSUES facing tourism in Queensland and their impact on business in Cairns will be the topic at the Australian Institute of Company Directors annual end-of-year breakfast next week.

Minister for Tourism, Regional Development and Industry, Desley Boyle, will speak to business leaders at the forum next Thursday.

As well as speaking about tour-

ism issues, Ms Boyle will discuss her career.

Before her election to Parliament, Ms Boyle was a clinical and organisational psychologist. She holds Masters degrees in business administration and psychology.

The event is from 7am to 8.45am at the Cairns International Hotel.

The institute will also hold end-of-year functions in other regions.

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Winds of Change

An evening not to miss! Brothers League Club
Thursday, 6 November at 6.00pm

How the sub-prime crisis and the finance meltdown will affect every home owner – home buyer – and first home buyer in Cairns.

Hear leaders of industry in Cairns and the State Manager of one of the biggest world banks.

ING DIRECT

Andrew White

State Manager of ING Bank – one of the largest banks in the world with over 75 million customers, Andrew will present their bank's view on how all this will affect you – and your future. Their specially prepared report is not to be missed.

CEC GROUP

Roy Lavis

Managing Director of CEC Group, Roy will talk about his vision for the future of Cairns. Roy has been a major driver in the growth of the property market and development of FNQ.



David Row

Tom Hedley has been one of the visionaries and prime movers in the recent development of our city. David Row who will tell us their vision for the future of Cairns. Hedley has set the bar at a high standard in property development in Cairns for all others to follow.



Toby Sciacca

Introducer and presenter of the speakers is Toby Sciacca, commercial solicitor in Cairns for 37 years and mortgage broker for six years. He will also summarise the changes made recently to First Home Owners Grants.



Herriots
Certified Practising Valuers

Natalie Bond

Natalie is one of FNQ's most respected valuers. How the economic downturn has affected local property values. She will give her opinion on future property values.

BMT Tax Depreciation
QUANTITY SURVEYORS

Hugh Boyd

Hugh, a specialist from BMT Tax Depreciation will demonstrate the benefit of having a tax depreciation report completed on your investment property and how you can potentially save thousands of dollars in tax depreciation deductions.

Lifestyle

Dane Robertson

State Manager of Lifestyle Insurance. This is a partnership of Tower Insurance and Allianz. Dane will show how economical it is to insure our mortgage debt and why we should.

**Admission is free. To reserve your seat call Rhonda
Ph: 1800 515999**

or email: reception@choicefinancecairns.com.au