

# Case Study

## 2015 NORTH QUEENSLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

August 2015

**Locations:** Bwngcolman Community School, Freedom Park - Palm Island

**Delegates:** 150

**Estimated Economic Value:** \$120,900

**Testimonial:** *"It was a privilege this week to be part of the first North Queensland Local Government Association meeting held in an Indigenous community - Palm Island. What a place".*

- Greg Hallam, CEO  
Local Government Association Queensland

In August 2015 the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community of Palm Island welcomed around 150 delegates attending the North Queensland Local Government Association (NQLGA) Annual Conference.

The NQLGA is the representative body for Local Governments in the North Queensland area, which encompasses the top half of Queensland and extends from Isaac Regional Council on the eastern coast, to Mount Isa City Council on the western boundary, and north to the Cape York Peninsula and the Torres Strait.

The Association convenes two-day conferences each year with the Annual General Meeting of the Association forming part of the programme for the August 2015 conference. The location for each conference is determined on a rotational basis, with the member councils nominating to host the event.

In 2015, the 3 day, 2 night conference was hosted on Palm Island, located 50 kilometres east of Ingham and 65 kilometres north-west of Townsville. The Island is one of 16 making up the Greater Palm Island Group and is situated in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Palm Island consists of small bays, sandy beaches and steep forested mountains and has a resident community of about 5,000 people.



Delegates were welcomed with a traditional Welcome to Country and local dancers, followed by a sunset cruise of the Greater Palm Island Group. The conference program included more than 20 speakers including State and Federal Government Ministers, departmental officers, local government councilors and representatives of the private sector and organisations that do business with local governments. The conference concluded with a 'Paradise under the Stars' conference dinner hosted by Maggie Walsh and Heather Foord and entertained by local and state performers.

The NQLGA's annual conference affords Local Governments in North Queensland the opportunity to meet in one location to discuss current issues. It is also an opportunity for Government Departments and non-government organisations to promote their business and discuss new initiatives with a range of clients.

The NQLGA Executive hailed the conference as a resounding success. The logistics of hosting the conference on an island proved to be seamless and the opportunity to share in the Indigenous heritage and cultures of the island made it stand out.

