



the voice of the industry

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## Housing Industry Leaders to Descend on Cairns

Members of Australia's residential building sector will converge on Cairns next week when the Housing Industry Association holds its annual National Policy Congress and Australian Housing Awards.

Regional Executive Director for North Queensland John Futer said he was looking forward to the leadership of the housing industry coming to Cairns to debate many of the key policy issues facing the home building sector.

"Typically, the housing industry puts almost 400,000 people into new homes each year, creating thousands of jobs along the way and contributing over \$70 billion to the economy, said Mr Futer.

"Yet we are chronically under building across Australia, which obviously impacts on jobs, access to housing and affordability."

"It's essential that federal and state governments implement policies that support the housing industry, which is why meetings such as this are so important for informing the political process to address the needs of industry."

Mr Futer has highlighted the current challenges facing builders in Northern Australia, with recent land sales – which are an important leading indicator for building activity – still in need of improvement.

"Land sales in the Far North, and predominantly Cairns, have improved steadily over the last few quarters but volumes remain low so we are not out of the woods yet," said Mr Futer.

"In terms of lot prices, there has been a much needed decline, which is likely to reflect severe discounting by developers as they try to get things moving – which is good news for consumers."

However, Mr Futer noted that it won't be all work, with over 700 guests joining to celebrate the best in build quality and design excellence that the industry has to offer from across Australia.

"The Australian Housing Awards are about recognising the outstanding achievements of HIA members across Australia, and attendees will no doubt leave with an appreciation of what is being achieved in all parts of the country."

*The National Policy Congress is on Thursday 17 May, while the Australian Housing Awards will be held on Friday evening 18 May. Both events are being held at the Pullman Reef Hotel Casino.*

### **For further information please contact:**

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