

12th March 2010

MEDIA RELEASE

Financial Planning, Retraining and Employment Assistance Is What Residents Want

The results of the recently completed Resident Confidence Survey, compiled by the Regional Economic Development Corporation (REDC), has found that residents in the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac area would utilise financial planning, retraining and employment assistance services if offered for free.

Released today, the results were compiled from the responses of 172 residents from Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac, between 9th and 26th February.

Almost 90% of respondents were confident about their current economic situation and 29% of residents felt that their job security is stronger now than it was twelve months ago. When asked whether or not they were confident about their employment opportunities in 2010, 58.5% of respondents indicated that they were.

REDC CEO, Narelle Pearse, attributes a rise in confidence to the rising rate of development and projects in the region.

“We have seen a number of projects resume construction and residents are beginning to feel more secure in their chosen profession.”

Close to 80% of respondents felt that their financial situation is the same or stronger than this time twelve months ago.

“Locally we have witnessed a few changes to the status of projects and it is hoped that many more will begin construction this year, reassuring residents that our resilient economy will continue to move forward.”

REDC will release the survey again in six months to monitor the changes throughout the first half of the year.

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