



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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The Whitsundays enjoys completion of major developments

The Whitsunday region is flourishing with the reopening of exclusive Hayman Island Resort now under one of the world's leading hotel companies InterContinental Hotel Group. Hayman Island Resort has just completed its massive \$135 million refurbishment ensuring the highest standards of luxury are returned to this iconic Whitsundays resort.

Greg Shaw, CEO, Mulpha Australia Limited, stated:

"Hayman Island is an iconic Australian resort destination in the heart of the world-famous Great Barrier Reef. The resort created a new benchmark for the Australian market upon opening and our investment of \$135 million to reposition and relaunch Hayman will create a new standard for luxury resort travel in the region and in the Australian market."

Tourism Whitsundays CEO Tash Wheeler believes the Whitsundays is definitely back on the map for holiday makers.

"It no secret that our region has had a tough 18 months however seeing all these redevelopments come to fruition over the past couple months and with many more still to come it really is reinvigorating our region; this is an exciting time for the Whitsundays!"

The region has reveled over the past few months as the \$100m Daydream Island Resort redevelopment, the \$6.3m Airlie Beach Foreshore Revitalisation and the \$135m Hayman Island restoration have all been completed. The Whitsunday Coast Airport is in the final stages of their \$40m runway and terminal upgrade which is due for completion in September 2019.

Mayor Andrew Willcox said the Council were delivering over \$200 million of new and improved infrastructure across the region to cater for the region's next growth boom.

"We have just opened the \$6.3 million Airlie Beach Foreshore Revitalisation and the \$40 million Whitsunday Coast Airport runway and terminal upgrade is also nearing completion.

"We are famous for our 74 tropical islands and it is brilliant to see three of our biggest island resorts up and running.

"From the outback Pit Pony capital of Australia at Collinsville, to the beautiful bays and beaches of Bowen, the Barra fishing mecca of the world at Lake Proserpine and Airlie Beach where the adventure begins, The Whitsundays in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef really is a unique part of the world."

Tourism Whitsundays CEO Tash Wheeler commends the Whitsunday Regional Council on their commitment to redevelopment and infrastructure.

“It’s great to see the Whitsunday Regional Council under the helm of Mayor Andrew Willcox are committed to the development and redevelopment of local infrastructure, they continue as a council to have a strong focus on the investment of tourism. We believe this will only help to enhance our visitors’ experiences in the Whitsundays.”

In a Great Barrier Reef Marine Park first the Whitsundays Underwater Public Artwork Project will also see its completion in the coming month. At just over a \$900,000 investment from the Tourism Recovery Fund, the artwork will provide an exciting new experience for tourists to the Whitsundays. Over the past 18months renowned Australian and local artists have been working on their incredible marine sculptures which will be installed in key locations around the Whitsundays.

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About Tourism Whitsundays: *Tourism Whitsundays (TW) is the organisation responsible for destination marketing and visitor attraction for the Whitsunday region. It is the lead agency recognised by Tourism and Events Queensland and the Whitsunday Regional Council to lead the promotion of the region as a tourism destination. Tourism Whitsundays markets all aspects of the region including the Great Barrier Reef, Whitsunday Islands and Coast, accommodation, boating and sailing, fishing, touring, recreational activities, adventure, dining, shopping, weddings and honeymoons, conferencing and business events.*

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