



## **TropLinks welcomes Tropical MPs to new Queensland-Papua New Guinea Government Exchange Taskforce**

Ian McLeod, President of northern Australia's peak body promoting tropical expertise has welcomed the appointment of a number of tropical Members of Parliament to the new Queensland-Papua New Guinea Government Exchange Taskforce.

Commenting on today's announcement in Brisbane, Mr McLeod said the taskforce was a critical link in the relationship between Australia and our nearest neighbour.

Mr McLeod said the inclusion of the Member for Cairns Gavin King, Member for Cook David Kempton, Member for Barron River Michael Trout, Member for Thuringowa Sam Cox and Member for Townsville John Hathaway would help to further ensure that tropical considerations would be high on the Taskforce's mind.

"These gentlemen have long been strong advocates for the North, and we know PNG is the focus of a huge amount of business and development focus for northern Australia. This encouraging step by the Queensland Government will further cement our warm and fruitful relationship."

Mr McLeod said TropLinks research showed the global tropical economy is projected to reach US\$40 trillion by 2025, some 20 times greater than Australia's overall economy. PNG has to remain a focus for Australia.

He believes that this huge increase in the tropical economy will drive parallel expansion in knowledge intensive industries supplying products and services in areas including tropical health, environment, agriculture and community development.

"With our excellent tropical research and expertise and our vast tropical footprint, Australia has the potential to secure an increasing slice of this tropical market, and working alongside partners like the Queensland Government through bodies like the Exchange Taskforce and businesses we are well placed to deliver."

"But it won't happen until we connect the researchers, companies, investors and entrepreneurs required to build the industries that will create and deliver the goods. Then we need to connect our industries more effectively with the rest of the tropical world."

TropLinks is a network of research bodies, companies, industry groups and economic development organisations working together to build the critical mass needed to promote Australian expertise into the global market. Within the network, members maintain their own corporate identity but benefit from the synergy of like-minded others and the complementary skill sets that TropLinks offers.

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