IPWEAQ in partnership with Engineers Australia, the Australian Institute of Architects and Planning Institute of Australia recently hosted a luncheon and mayoral debate at the Cairns Colonial Club. It was an opportunity for the incumbent and challenger to outline their visions for the region and respond to five questions on the theme, Engineering, Planning and Design in FNQ: Macro to Micro.

The two hottest issues for the candidates were a proposed major dredging operation in the Trinity Inlet and the proposed Aquis Great Barrier Reef Resort at Yorkeys Knob – Australia’s largest tourism development.

Planning is underway for our primary conference to be hosted by Hinchinbrook Regional Council mid-year. For delegates visiting with their families, the area offers a unique array of attractions such as Mission Beach and Dunk Island which is just four kilometres off the coast. Day trips are possible to Cairns, the Great Barrier Reef and/or Port Douglas.

We invite members to suggest initiatives or activities for the NQ Branch via the form on our website.

Announcements of our plans for the year ahead will come to you soon via the new IPWEAQ fortnightly eNews, Connect. In the meantime, please make a diary note to expect the Date Claimer for the NQ Branch conference, to be held in the Hinchinbrook Shire, to arrive in your Inbox by late April.

Bruce Gardiner
NQ BRANCH PRESIDENT