

'Great outcome for new home buyers in... rapidly growing region' Grant to cut cost of homes

By **CAIT BESTER**

cait.bester@dailymercury.com.au

WHEN 4000 homes are built at Plantation Palms over the next four years buyers will save \$20,000, thanks to the Federal Government's \$8.5 million funding announcement yesterday.

Minister for Housing Tanya Plibersek jetted into town yesterday to announce the new \$8.5 million Housing Affordability Fund project for one of Mackay's newest and most modern suburbs. The funding will also create 4000 jobs.

Ms Plibersek was joined by Member for Dawson James Bidgood, Mackay regional Mayor Col Meng and Plantation Palms director Kim Clarke at the Rural View housing development.

The funding would be used by Mackay Regional Council to build infrastructure, undertake investigation and consultation into housing density options and to instigate planning reforms to speed up the new development, Ms Plibersek said.

The improvement into housing affordability was a major priority for the Government especially for the Mackay region, she said.

"The \$8.5 million being provided to Mackay Regional Council under the Housing Affordability Fund will reduce the price of 400 new homes at Plantation Palms by around \$20,000.

"By bringing forward by four years the time taken to complete the estate, it will



Mackay regional Mayor Col Meng, Housing Minister Tanya Plibersek, Member for Dawson James Bidgood and Plantation Palms director Kim Clarke inspect the Rural View subdivision where \$20,000 will be cut from the price of 4000 new homes.

PHOTO: TONY MARTIN 050510/249

also reduce the price of a further 600 homes by \$5000.

"This is a great outcome for new home buyers in this rapidly growing region of North Queensland."

Mackay Regional Council Mayor Col Meng said the money would go a long way towards providing affor-

dable housing.

"With a projected population growth in excess of three per cent over the next 20 years, it's estimated 80,000 more people will be living in the Mackay region in 2031 - that's 80,000 people who will require housing," Cr Meng said. "It's our role

as a council to find ways to accommodate this population growth and the increase in demand for alternate and more affordable housing that results - this partnership is one way of achieving that.

"We are extremely grateful for this funding and the

support from both parties, the Australian Government and Plantation Palms."

Mr Bidgood said the partnership between the Government, the developer and the council proved "affordable living is not out of reach for homebuyers in Mackay". Mr Clarke said the

funding would allow for faster development of the southern end of the estate.

"The funding will create 4000 new jobs with 2800 indirect jobs and 1200 direct jobs," he said.

He hoped to achieve new housing within the \$300,000 to \$420,000 price range.

IS YOUR LOCAL HINO SPECIALIST CARLISLE HINO?



Hino Genuine Oil sets a new standard for super high performance diesel engine oils. Its advanced low ash, soot handling technology breaks the mold for conventional heavy-duty engine oils.

Give your Hino the very best in parts and you will see the results: LONGER ENGINE SERVICE LIFE AND PEACE OF MIND.



HINO GENUINE PARTS See the difference.

From Air Deflectors & Bull Bars to Oil, Filters & Coolants, Hino Genuine Parts, there's nothing better.



Your only local retailer that provides quality genuine parts.



GET YOUR PARTS SUPPLIED AND FITTED AND RECEIVE 3 YEARS UNLIMITED PARTS WARRANTY.



CARLISLE HINO
"Your Truck Specialists"

CITY GATES MACKAY PH 4952 1088
MAIN STREET PROSERPINE PH 4945 2573
WWW.CARLISLEMOTORS.COM.AU

3160732aaH

WIN!
One of 20 x Double Passes to see the Horseman from Snowy River!
Cut out 3 x Coupons and place in an envelope for your chance to win!

1 x COUPON

Professional Service Achieves Results.

If you're buying or selling and want results, make sure you contact **Mackay's leading real estate consultant Eric Rickman** at Vision Real Estate.

Eric Rickman • Ph 0429 421 521

VISION
Real Estate (Qld)

Literary lions ready to roar

THE Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival is fast approaching and organisers are excited about the diverse line-up of presenters who are ready to entertain and inform.

Multi-award winning author and beloved television gardening presenter Jackie French will headline the festival that runs from July 14 to 17. Rugby union legend and writer Peter Fitzsimons will also make an appearance at the Alman Partners Literary Dinner at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre on July 16.

Festival co-ordinator Ellen Reiner said the 2010 festival would deliver some of Australia's best known authors.

"In total, the festival will host 12 celebrated literary artists who will present interactive workshops, performances and book talks to over 5000 students from local schools and remote locations throughout Queensland," she said.

Authors attending the festival include Deborah Abela, who wrote a series of children's books after being caught in a sand storm, harassed by monkeys and thrown in jail; Tristan Bancks, Mackay writer Katherine Battersby and writer and illustrator John Danalis.

More information, a full outline of events and a session timetable is available from www.whitsundayvoices.com.au.

1646018abH