



Speech by

MIKE REYNOLDS

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

Hansard 21 October 1998

TOWNSVILLE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

Mr REYNOLDS (Townsville—ALP) (10.22 a.m.): Stakeholders in the Townsville central business district are reaching consensus on action they believe is needed to revitalise the Cityheart. The CBD has been identified in the Townsville/Thuringowa strategy plan as a key issue needed to be addressed by mall traders, the Townsville City Council, the State Government and other private entities. The CBD decline over the years was caused by residential expansion in outlying areas, prompting retailers to move with the population and transfer to suburban areas, leaving shops in the CBD empty. As I have said in this Chamber before, this is not unique to Townsville.

A model for the redevelopment of the CBD will be finalised by the State Government and the Townsville City Council in the near future. The model establishes a core identity for the CBD, setting it apart from retail centres elsewhere. As the member for Townsville, I have worked solidly over recent months with State Government Ministers and the Townsville City Council to build a suitable model for the CBD redevelopment process. I am delighted that consensus has now been reached on the broad parameters of the model. The key to the model is to build up the CBD's strengths as a centre for tourism, entertainment, cultural and recreational services and as the premiere location for professional offices and business accommodation.

As the Townsville/Thuringowa strategy plan points out, the range of services and the level of employment provided in the CBD must be of a higher order of intensity, scale and function than any other centre in the region. Mixed use and residential development in the CBD must be encouraged in order to maintain the CBD's multifunctional nature. It also makes sense that the regional offices of Governments and the private sector ought to be in the CBD. It is important to get the redevelopment model right, because we all have to live with the outcome for a long time. We need to take a holistic approach and balance lifestyle and social aspects with the important commercial aspects of the model which is required for the Townsville CBD.
