

# Action plan in motion to help redefine Ingham

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Morganne Kopittke

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The experts have compiled an action plan of suggestions given by more than 100 local stakeholders who attended a council business development seminar on the weekend.

Ideas included how to encourage residents to shop locally, bringing the Baby Boomers back to town to buy and park, programs to train local staff, a careers adviser for council, assisted bus tours for older people and more tourism opportunities.

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Forum facilitators former state minister David Crisafulli and business adviser Wayde Chiesa will present their suggestions to council this week to help liven business up in the region.

Council will choose three priority projects from the recommendations, with a timeline of three months to implement their chosen ideas.

Mr Crisafulli said the forum's popularity showed the community was ready to drive for change.

"There were some great suggestions put forward for the Shire to have some immediate wins but it will only work if the business community help drive it," he said.

"Council has agreed to choose three priority projects in the next three weeks and have them implemented in the next three months.

"Such a tight timeline shows that everyone agrees the time for talk is over but it will only be a success if everyone embraces what gets put forward and helps make it work."

Mr Crisafulli said despite tough times, he could feel a real sense of optimism in the crowd.

"They don't want another report talking about ideas years into the future. What they will get out of this is a line in the sand where things can start happening immediately," he said.

"I'm sure a lot of the other ideas will happen in time but right now we all have to support the top three that Council chooses to get the immediate economic lift the town needs.

"This is a real line in the sand moment.

"Ingham has so much to be proud of and we want this event to be the circuit breaker that allows it to realise its potential."

Hinchinbrook Shire Mayor Ramon Jayo said they expected to receive the list of suggestions shortly.

"Once we get the information back from the consultants we will take a look and consider the recommendations," he said.

"Then we will have a meeting and talk about implementing the ideas and progressing further."

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Tabled ☒

By Leave ☐

MP: Hon Miles

Clerk's Signature: [Signature]