



building designers'
association of
queensland inc.

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To Whom It May Concern

Re: Support for Undergraduate and Postgraduate courses in Tropical Design at James Cook University (JCU), Cairns.

The Building Designers Association of Queensland Inc. (BDAQ) supports the development of undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Tropical Design at JCU Cairns campus.

BDAQ represents Building Designers licensed under the Queensland Building Services Authority. It has been estimated that building designers are responsible for the design of 70% to 80% of housing and over 40% of non-residential buildings in Australia.

Many BDAQ members in North Queensland are highly regarded for the quality and appropriateness of their design for local conditions and we as an association are well aware of the special issues involved in designing buildings in tropical areas.

It is crucial that the design skills specific to buildings in tropical areas are passed down to the next generation of designers. The development of courses specific to tropical design would fill a gap in the delivery of building design education in Australia and could be expected to attract international interest.

Regional Queensland struggles to retain local young people seeking to study building design as all universities and institutes offering such courses are located in South East Queensland or offer courses by external study.

The BDAQ NQ Branch has proudly supported the INTAD Interschool Design Award for Graphics students for the North Queensland Region for the past 10 years. It has been interesting to note the number of award winning senior school students who have an interest in studying Architecture and Building Design. Courses at JCU would offer incentive for these talented locals to study close to home but would also be popular with any potential students throughout Australia and in the Asia Pacific Region with an interest in buildings in tropical areas.

BDAQ believes that Tropical Design studies under the same parent as the Cyclone Testing Station would provide an ideal learning experience for both postgraduate and undergraduate students.

We are pleased to support the development and introduction of courses at James Cook University, Cairns.

Kind Regards

Arthur Martin
Queensland State President