PO Box 952, Edge Hill,
QLD, 4870
Ph: 07 4053 1274
Fax: 07 4032 5431
Mob: 0417 713634
www.tgbn.org.au
admin@tgbn.org.au
www.greenbuild.com.au
admin@greenbuild.com.au

Margaret Darvenzia
Regional Development Officer
Advance Cairns
51 The Esplanade
Cairns
QLD 4870

30th November 2012

Dear Margaret,

RE: Tropical North Queensland Regional Economic Plan

In reference to our reporting obligations as a stakeholder in the TNQREP, we are pleased to report to Advance Cairns the 2012 activity of the Tropical Green Building Network.

The Cairns Regional Council 3 year grant paying for our project officer that the Cairns and Far North Environment Centre has auspiced over this period for a 10% fee is ending in 3 weeks. The project Officer has worked for 8 hours a week and all work has been directed in an overarching way by the TGBN Steering Committee that has met once a quarter since March 2011. The daily work has been facilitated by GreenBuild.com.au and GreenBuild.com.au has in-kind sponsored an additional 14 hours a week work on TGBN matters as well as sponsored costs.

GreenBuild.com.au are founders of the TGBN and is set to play a greater role in the TGBN going forward. We have promoted our region and the expertise of the construction industry using a collective marketing platform for over 250 businesses and products in North Queensland. The TGBN and GreenBuild.com.au now Google ranked top 5 worldwide in the category of Tropical Green Build.

A subscription to GreenBuild.com.au includes the following benefits:

- Tropical Green Building Network Membership
- Contribution towards the employment of the TGBN project Officer, Jane Kennedy

- Administration of the TGBN
- A GreenBuild.com.au account
- Up to 50 free advertisements on GreenBuild.com for business and products promotions
- Regular promotion of business online, at events and as part of regular promotions in newspaper and magazines.

2012 has been a year of achievements as we list below.
Thank you for the opportunity to share our work with you. We would be pleased to contribute further information should it be required.

Yours faithfully,



Emma Thirkell

Facilitator Tropical Green Building Network
Director Exner Investments PL trading as GreenBuild.com.au

TROPICAL GREEN BUILDING NETWORK

REPORT ON OUR ACTIVITES and ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2012:

- Jan to Dec 2012: Cairns Life Magazine

GreenBuild.com.au has had a series of monthly full page advertisements in the magazine. Each month a number of logos of the businesses' with have been published. We have focused on a different area each month including painting, water, recycling, Sustainable House Day and cooling your roof etc. We have showcased the products that can be used that have 'green' solutions. Each month we have also promoted the Tropical Green Building Network events.

- Jan to October 2012: Advance Tropical Green Build project:

Greenbuild.com.au was sub-contracted by Cummings Economics to undertake a study on the green build sector in North Queensland. Commissioned by the Queensland Government, the 'Advance Tropical Green Build' project identified and profiled 112 businesses in North Queensland and collected pertinent information concerning areas of tropical green building expertise, capacity and export activity, industry worth, opportunities and impediments. The Directory and the findings from the survey were published during the year and are available for download from GreenBuild.com.au. The Directory has been widely used by government and industry and has directly led to work

opportunities for businesses in North Queensland. The survey findings have been provided too many institutions and education establishments, government procurement officers, industry associations in Australia and overseas.

- Jan to Dec 2012: Products to Market: Speeding up the process

During the year, GreenBuild.com.au has supported the following products and services new to North Queensland by helping them, connect with projects, people and markets:

  - MEP Films with the Enerlogic Window Film now with suppliers in Atherton, Cairns, Townsville and Mackay.
  - Virtulan: High-tech glass fabrics manufactured using the Jacquard weaving technique connecting them to businesses in Cairns that may support the distribution.
  - Hempcrete Australia: by promoting their training courses
  - Ecolour paint and Smithfield Mitre 10: paint supplied to Kenick Constructions New Display Home

- March 2012: Retrofitting for Sustainability Guide

GreenBuild.com.au and Tropical Green Building Network members provided some assistance to the production the Retrofitting *for Sustainability* Guide produced by CAFNEC and authored by Sophie Barrett. We paid for advertising and were able help provide links for businesses that also paid for the design and printing. We reviewed the draft and provided technical changes.

- April 2012: TGBN presentation: Renovating your home sustainably: Local Experts Offer Free Advice on energy & water efficiency:

The TGBN project Officer and GreenBuild.com.au organized the panel of experts for this free event that offered people the chance to find out how to make their home more energy and water efficient, saving money in the process. Topics covered included design and retrofitting for the tropical climate; treating and reusing greywater; the benefits of natural, no VOC paints; how to re-build 'green' post-cyclone and generating your own electricity with solar panels. The event was filmed and can be seen on the TGBN Forum. GreenBuild.com.au paid for the printing of posters and leaflets and their distribution and supported the issue of media releases and radio promotions.

- May 2012: Australian Government Department of Climate Change Consultation on Draft National Building Energy Standard-Setting, Assessment and Rating Framework

In response to the consultation, Greenbuild.com.au prepared the submission on behalf of the Tropical Green Building Network. Please download a copy of this submission here from: http://www.greenbuild.com.au/forum/viewtopic.php?f=38&t=261

- May 2012: Build Design Expo Brisbane

A subgroup of the TGBN was formed and members worked with DEEDI to present a booth at the EXPO to display information on North Queensland based green building businesses. The Build and Design Expo coincided with the Australian Institute of Architects conference in Brisbane in May 2012. GreenBuild.com.au sponsored the Tropical Green Building Network by paying for the graphics and printing of flyers to distribute. The Queensland Government paid for our booth. We organized a roster of volunteers to assist at the booth over the three day event. Three of our best Architects gave a presentation on Tropical Green Building to a 'sell out' crowd promoting the Network. The Tropical Green Building Network and GreenBuild.com.au was also promoted on the Expo's website.

- May 2012: Premiers Sustainability Awards:

GreenBuild.com.au was announced a finalist in the Premiers Sustainability Awards. The other finalist was Stockland North Shore in Townsville and the winner was Mackay Regional Council from 12 entrants. We were extremely pleased to be the recipients of a finalist's award in recognition of our initiative and hard work. The award was received at a gala dinner in Brisbane that we attended. The Tropical Green Building Network and GreenBuild.com.au was presented to leading sustainability experts, businesses and institutions from around Queensland.

- June 2012: Sustainable Living Expo

The TGBN was promoted at this Cairns Regional Council and TNQT sponsored by GreenBuild.com.au. GreenBuild.com.au has supported the stall at the event for the last 3 years. This year was no exception. We secured editorial for the event in the Cairns Post newspaper and promoted our businesses collectively.

- July 2012: The Cairns Show Sustainable Tropical Building & Living Display

Kenick Constructions and GreenBuild.com.au along with Naked Energy, Effective Energy Solutions, Aquaclic, RPM Enviro and Brookfield (Bluewater) Estate combined as members of the Tropical Green Building Network to take a combined space at this year's Cairns Show. GreenBuild.com.au also had available brochures and material from most of the businesses advertising on GreenBuild.com.au that was handed out to the public. We also promoted the website as a resource for more information. The event was very successful.

- September 2012: Issues presented to Ian Walker MP, Assistant Minister for Planning Reform, Community Cabinet 16th September 2012: Parramatta Park Primary School, Cairns.

A submission was prepared with the assistance of the local chapter of the Planning Institute of Australia and presented by Emma Thirkell of GreenBuild.com.au and Christine Doan. Please download a copy of this submission here from: http://www.greenbuild.com.au/forum/viewtopic.php?f=38&t=274

- September 2012: Sustainable House Day

Greenbuild.com.au and our TGBN project officer has organised and supported the TGBN to deliver Sustainable House Day since 2009 with some in-kind support from CAFNEC who have carried out some administration work with the organizing body and the householders. This year we secured 7 sponsors and sponsored the event ourselves as well. We designed flyers and brochures and distributed 50 posters and 1500 flyers throughout the region. We took out advertisements and submitted our in-house designed graphics to the Cairns Post and Tablelander Newspapers. We issued 3 editorials and organized journalists and radio to interview our house owners. The 2012 day was a success with 5 homes open in the region. Over 1000 people visited the homes. Newspaper editorial exposure was received in the Cairns Post, the Tablelander and the Cairns Life Magazine. Some of the homeowners were able to speak on ABC Radio Far North about the day. Sponsors materials were on display at the homes and the overall response was outstanding.

- September 2012: Building For a Profitable Future & Trade Show, Townsville

GreenBuild.com.au presented all of our tropical green businesses and the Tropical Green Building Network at this event in Townsville supported by Townsville Enterprise and Ergon. Our trade show table carried everyone's brochures and other material and trade banners. We were able to talk to many Townsville based businesses about our work and GreenBuild.com.au also has about 20 Townsville based businesses advertising.

- September 2012: Light Homes Magazine & the Green Building Show

Tropical Green Building featured in Light Home Magazine and on the Green Building Show. The producer contacted GreenBuild.com.au and we assisted by connecting them to the designers of homes to feature in the Summer Edition for their Tropical Homes Series. Five of our best Cairns based Designers and Architects showcased their work in the 'Australian Style' section of the show that is towards the end of each episode.

- October 2012: Presentation to Queensland Government: Far North Queensland Major Project Forum.

Emma Thirkell of GreenBuild.com.au co-presented with Edi Piagno, Total Project Group Architects the summary of findings from the Advance Tropical Green Build project. The presentation was made to over 100 businesses and leaders in the Queensland construction industry who now know the scope, value, opportunities and impediments of this cleantech sector in North Queensland. Six actions to promote growth have been identified and Greenbuild.com.au will be supporting work on each.

- November 2012: Speed Date Sustainable Architects, Designers and Builders.

GreenBuild.com.au and our TGBN project officer organized seven of our best experts to act as dates and we invited the public to date our experts for 10 minutes at a time. At the end of the time, the bell rang, and the dated moved on to the next expert date. The idea came from GreenBuild.com.au's affiliation with the Alternative Technology Association who has run similar events in the capital cities, and our local branch of the BDAQ. GreenBuild.com.au also supported the media releases and promotions and organized the display of Green Building products at the event. It was huge fun and very productive. It will become a regular event for the TGBN in 2013.

- November 2012: We win the HIA awards with Kenick Constructions.

In 2009, the TGBN to form a working subgroup to tackle the issue of delivering affordable sustainable tropical design into the project home market. We set about developing a model to build a TGBN endorsed project home. GreenBuild.com.au assisted Rachel Whymark to take the early work forward. Sophie Barrett from Green at Heart was then engaged by Kenick Constructions and Rachel to produce the design for 22 Kippin Close, Redlynch Valley. The Tropical Green Building Network Steering Committee endorsed the design. GreenBuild.com.au engaged product suppliers and organised the Tropical Green Building Network to hold two public presentations. Potential suppliers, industry and the general public were invited to view the project and take part in its construction.

Greenbuild.com.au has been instrumental in linking Kenick Constructions with James Cook University to bring about a project for energy efficiency monitoring in due course. Switch Automation and Chris Cohen Energy Management Solutions were consulted and the house has been built with the necessary conduits to carry out this project after it finishes its life as a display home.

The house was completed and presented to the public for the first time on Sustainable House Day. The recent HIA awards were an outstanding result. The house not only won

the ‘Greensmart Energy Efficiency’ Award, it also won ‘Project Home’ of the year and the overall ‘Home’ of the Year.

- Grant funding for a TGBN project Officer for 2103 and beyond

The Steering Committee of the Tropical Green Building Network are not in a position to undertake the responsibilities and costs of incorporation as a not for profit organisation. GreenBuild.com.au has elected to carry on with the responsibility of securing funding for the work of the project officer and also raising some subscription funds from the membership of the TGBN.

To date, we have applied for the Cairns Regional Council Economic Diversification Fund for an amount of around $18,000 to be able carry out a project with TNQ TAFE to deliver a series of building technical clinics, CPD and product to market presentations. We have also applied for the Cairns Regional Council Sustainability and Climate Change fund for $5,000 as a contribution towards the costs of employing our project officer.

We are also working with TNQ TAFE to secure a significant amount of funding from the Federal Department of Climate Change: Energy Efficiency Information to deliver sustainability training to construction industry apprentices as well as extending the programme to deliver building technical clines, product to market presentations and continuing professional development for our industry professionals in the area of built environment sustainability. Bridging courses to university entry for tropical building design and architecture is a desired outcome.