

SDGCI Turning Point 2010
Conference Speech
Greg Short,
President

Good Morning Everyone

It is great to see so many people here today in the city building business, media and the community having the same interest in making things happen faster

We are here today because the Global Financial Crisis has focussed our minds on the harsh realities of business and property investments like nothing we have seen for a long time.

Turning Point 2010 is about turning things around in this great region to take us out of the crisis more quickly than doing nothing.

At the same time while we work together we have asked speakers to focus on the brakes on productivity and viability which hinder our State Governments mandated growth targets to 2031.

SDGCI has already begun the work of creating evidence to support our propositions to Council and the State Government on action to fix these. Have a look at our website for detail of our priority projects.

However there is a problem with this getting heard.

It is not always understood in government and the community that it is the private development sector which must use its creativity and take great risks for the huge investments to be made. The development industry is required to produce sustainable community when developing in new areas also bring out a change in further diversified In full areas to meet massive government growth targets. All this occurs over periods where business cycles like the one we are currently experiencing can cause significant losses in investment.

Our members are justifiably proud of their achievements in this work. However the image of the development industry in the community and in government circles is a long way from what is needed to have its argument heard.

This will be brought forward in some of the speeches.

We must work harder to create compelling arguments for attention to what we are saying to achieve action for change so we can get on with the job of building our great city.

This conference is about the private sector taking the lead in making this happen. We all need information on what all this means and we hope we will have made a start for this in today's conference.

Speakers sessions will be brief and straight to the point by people who know their business. We want you all to actively engage in question and resolution that record the wishes of the conference.

We hope that what you hear see and discuss today will bring a sense of urgency to support our efforts and getting involved in our industry moving forward faster.

I would especially like to recognise our sponsors who without them this important event could not have occurred. These companies recognise the seriousness of the current situation and despite the tough times have been prepared to stand up for and facilitate the changes required.

Our Platinum Sponsor Industry Central, a \$350 million business park, deserves particular recognition for its support coming from over the border and no doubt helping to get us a strong contingent today from Tweed Economic Development Corporation..

Likewise, our Gold Sponsors: Lewis Land, a long term icon of quality development including Sovereign Islands and Harbour Town Shopping Centre - thanks for representing today Sam Terranova – we are well aware of your commitment to this city.

Silver Sponsors: IPA Law, National Australia Bank and Hickey Lawyers show by their solid backing they understand the difficulties the industry faces and want to see this extraordinary gathering succeed in its push for urgent change.

Finally, just as in the Olympics, a Bronze is close behind in getting us to the line on this day with special thanks to these sponsors...: Mark Jewell from the Sunland Group, VDM Consulting, Helensvale Central Plaza, DLA Phillips Fox lawyers Brisbane, Burling Brown Architects and Bennett and Bennett.

Please remember those that helped make this day possible despite such tough times..

I would also like to thank the speakers who have given their time freely to support the conference and finally the Master Builders and REIQ for their promotion of the conference to their members.

I trust everyone will enjoy the day. thank you