

Ipswich Mayor heading to Gold Coast

One of Australia's most accomplished city leaders and champion of economic investment is coming to the Gold Coast to talk about partnerships and what builds successful communities.

Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale will share with local business owners and managers his strategy for sustainable economic development.

He's coming here to support the city with ideas that work in removing barriers to sustainable development, attracting investment and growth management. Mayor Pisasale accepted an invitation to give a major presentation to a business breakfast hosted by Sustainable Development Gold Coast Inc. at the Marriott Resort Hotel in Surfers Paradise on Thursday November 19.

The breakfast precedes the AGM of the peak development industry planning body and SDGCI president Greg Short says the welcome mat is out for anyone interested in city affairs and the future of development and sustainable lifestyle. The group recently staged the Turning Point 2010 conference which attracted more than 250 business people.

Under Mayor Pisasale's leadership, his forward thinking policies and drive, Ipswich was transformed from a city with one of Australia's highest rate of jobless 15 years ago into a thriving regional centre in the western corridor. Ipswich has successfully avoided the worst of the GFC and maintained low unemployment. In 2007 Ipswich was awarded the title of the world's most liveable mid-size city by the UN-backed Livcom Awards. Mayor Pisasale last week announced expressions of interest in the billion dollar redevelopment of Ipswich City Square shopping complex.

Mr Short says that as unusual as it may seem, the Gold Coast can gain some valuable insights from a city leader of Mayor Pisasale's calibre who is not afraid to challenge change if there is positive benefit.

"We are delighted he is heading up our pre-AGM breakfast as arguably Australia's most accomplished city leader," said Mr Short. "His reputation precedes him everywhere and in 2006 he was the only mayor in Australia invited – not simply attending – but invited to attend the Global City international forum for decision makers held in Lyons, France."

SDGCI executive, high profile lawyer John Punch, says it is a coup to get Paul Pisasale to speak on the Gold Coast as the man's invigorative opinion is sought in different parts of Australia through his city management achievements.

Mayor Pisasale is president of Queensland's Urban Local Government Association and is a member of more than 20 organisations and a patron of another 40 in Australia. He is regarded as potentially one of the most influential policy makers in local government.

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