

MEDIA RELEASE

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“AWARD-WINNING MACKAY CONVENTION CENTRE HOSTS MILESTONE EVENT”

The Mackay region of Queensland has just concluded playing host to 676 delegates at the *Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Conference*, which was a record attendance for the annual conference.

It was also the largest conference staged at the *Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC)* since Covid-19 hit in March 2020 and was especially auspicious being held in the LGAQ's 125th birthday year.

The four-day conference followed hot on the heels of the *2021 Mackay Isaac Tourism Awards* at which the MECC once again carried off the award as Gold Winner in the Business Event Venues category – this was the fourth win that the convention centre had achieved in this category, having won in 2016, 2018 and 2019.

The award recognises the venue's excellence across aspects such as technical capabilities, staff development, catering and customer experience. The MECC sets a benchmark for regional venues, offering the very latest available audio-visual, acoustic and streaming technology.

Adding testimony to this impressive track record, it was also the third time that the LGAQ Conference had been staged at the MECC. With the association representing all 77 Queensland regions, the conference provides an important annual forum at which issues impacting Queensland communities are debated and discussed, never more important in challenging Covid times.

The LGAQ Conference Coordinator, Nicole Johnson, spoke highly of their conference experience.

“It was wonderful to be able to return to Mackay for the third time, to hold our conference and celebrate the association's milestone 125th birthday at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre.”

Showcasing the destination's capacity for large-scale events, the conference gala dinner was held off-site at *The Big Shed* venue at the Mackay Showgrounds, which are located just over two city blocks from the Convention Centre. The venue encompasses a 2000 square metre enclosed pavilion, with a similar area of open outdoor space available and is ideal for off-site conference functions and activities.

The MECC has recently been associated with another impressive award win this year, being the venue at which ICMSA won the *2020 Meetings and Events Australia Regional Event of the Year* for the ASBAQ State Conference. In winning the award in September this year, Suellen Holland, Executive Director with ICMSA, extended her congratulations to the Mayor of Mackay as well as “the wonderful MECC team”.

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Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC)

About the MECC:

The purpose-built MECC is the largest convention and banqueting facility between Cairns and Brisbane. The venue incorporates a 1090-seat auditorium and two plenary halls, with capacity to seat 1500 delegates theatre-style or 800 guests in banquet-style. Four meeting rooms, a 100-seat studio space, two foyers, and a selection of break-out rooms complete the picture. The centre sits within a dedicated precinct which includes the contemporary Artspace regional art gallery and expansive Civic Lawns.

For further information, contact:

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