

Hervey Bay courts foodies

Deciding it cannot live from tourism alone such as over-developed Byron Bay in NSW, Hervey Bay in Queensland has plumped for food manufacturing as its future revenue earner, following Bundaberg and Logan City in its State.

Byron Bay is so mega commercialised its council is trying to belt investors and close down its house rental market and get tourists out.

Heading up the Hervey Bay foray is Claude Dolan, atop an economic development unit, Hervey Bay City Council.

Dolan told *FMN* various food opportunities had emerged involving a manufacturing precinct and other land or factories on the local market.

The Queensland Department of State Development and Innovation, including Maryborough-based Jan Carlson, is carrying out a food

industry survey and industry database project for the Wide Bay Burnett region.

Dolan wants \$100K funding and departmental reaction is to broaden the regional focus pending a food company audit go-ahead. "Foodies can operate from Hervey Bay as the hub, drawing a huge range of crops from growers to the south – beef, navy beans, peanuts and other crops grown in the South Burnett inland, to the citrus and vegetable growers of North Burnett and Bundaberg region," Dolan said.

"Hervey Bay is also a centre for fishing and seafood processing, with major processors exporting."

Dolan has set up the Tourism Food Manufacturing Precinct. Interested parties involved to date include Eric Bottini's Southern Port Refrigeration Food Park, Darrold Cordes at Fraser Coast Brewery and factory

broker Glen Winney at Century 21 Real Estate.

Also involved is Cameron Bisley at the Wide Bay Burnett Area Consultative Committee. Organic Foods Australia and Kaygees Nuts are operating.

Bottini, a confidante of Refrigerated Warehouses of Australia (RWA) Simon Earthrowl, wants to get multi-foodie business parks started in Botany, Sydney and at Hervey Bay. (Award-winning jogger Earthrowl has sold his park in West Gosford to BidVest, but kept his Pendle Hill Sydney empire.)

"Hervey Bay looks attractive at this stage," Bottini told *FMN*. "We have had so many hassles with authorities and an uninterested local council at Botany – which we've been negotiating for longer than Hervey Bay – that we could be starting up first up north."

Dolan has set up a hotline on ~~07 4187 4388~~. 07 4197 4388