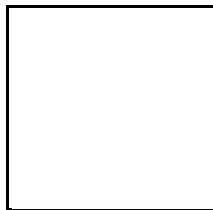


**From:** Senator Ian Macdonald [<mailto:listmaster@news.senatormacdonald.org>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 3 August 2011 1:15 PM

**To:**

**Subject:** Northern Opinion Online



## August 2011

WELCOME to the August edition of my occasional Online Newsletter,  
*Northern Opinion Online.*

### **Northerners Awareness**

While perhaps northerners views on the current Federal Government are no different from those of other Australians, Tony Abbott's recent campaign in the North (see later story) showed that North Queenslanders are intensely aware of how our livelihoods and futures will be so negatively impacted upon by Julia Gillard's carbon tax, her decisions with the live cattle export ban fiasco, and her indifference to the tourism industry and the small businesses which comprise it in the North.

### ***Australian Aerospace Visit***

*Recently I visiedt to the Australian Aerospace facility in Brisbane.*

*Over half of the companies 1100 Australian staff are based in Queensland where the Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter (ARH) and the Multi-Role Helicopter (MRH) are being assembled for the Australian Defence Forces.*

*Australian Aerospace has been a real bonus for Queensland industry with its Brisbane composites factory which exports parts to the world.*

*The Australian Aerospace facility shows that our country can build the latest technology and advanced weaponry needed by our highly trained and well equipped defence force.*

**Liberal National Party State Convention**

I continue to be impressed by the number of rank and file LNP members who attended this years Liberal National Party convention in Brisbane in July. Over 600 delegates from around the Queensland participated in policy debates and internal party management.

The enthusiasm and ability of the Young LNP attending was obvious from the persuasive and impassioned speeches by young members of the party.

I look forward to the 2012 convention, where hopefully we can welcome *Premier Campbell Newman* as a keynote speaker.

### **Tony Abbott visits the North**

I was pleased to travel with Federal Opposition Leader Tony Abbott last week as he campaigned against the Carbon Tax in Townsville Mackay and Rockhampton.

In Townsville Tony addressed a lively community forum, ran up Castle Hill with members of the RAAF and visited the Queensland Nickel refinery with Herbert MP Ewen Jones and I, to speak with over 400 workers whose jobs are threatened by the Carbon Tax.

Visiting the wonderful Whitsunday Region Tony and I and local MP George Christensen helped clean a beach on South Molle Island with conservation volunteers to highlight our Green Army policy. A roundtable discussion with local tourism operators was held in this area which has been devastated by the high Aussie dollar and the indifference of both the State and Federal Governments. Another very lively community forum held in Mackay highlighted the negative impact the Carbon Tax will have on that region.

In Rockhampton Tony visited a cattle station to help with a bit of yard work and then spoke to graziers about the stupidity of, and impact on the industry of the Gillard Government live cattle export ban. I then hosted Tony at a community barbeque where he addressed the more than 200 people. As a 'sausage sizzler' Tony won wide acclaim

No matter where Tony travelled in the North the question everyone asked first was how were we going to stop the toxic carbon tax that the Prime Minister lied about, then introduced with the help of her Green mates. Everyone knows that Northerners will pay more if a Carbon Tax is introduced and I am sure that this knowledge will be conveyed to the Labor party at the ballot box whenever an election is held.

### **Farewell to the troops**

Recently I was privileged to represent Opposition Leader Tony Abbott and Shadow Defence Minister Senator David Johnston at the official farewell parade for Force Support Unit – 5 (FSU-5) at Lavarack Barracks in Townsville.

Over the next few weeks FSU-5, a tri-service unit, will deploy to the Middle East Area of Operations. When they arrive, FSU-5 will begin management and distribution of supplies and equipment necessary for the conduct of operations, the provision of postal support and the provision of personnel movement and administrative support throughout the Middle East Area of Operations.

Frontline troops fire the bullets but without the backup of support units their tasks would be impossible. I wish the members of FSU-5 well as they undertake this important mission and look forward to welcoming them all home, safe and sound.

### ***Supporting the Northern Racing Industry***

*I caught up with many friends and supporters at the Townsville Cup meeting recently.*

*The horse racing industry has been through some testing times of late but the size of the crowd was testament to the durability and continued popularity of the “sport of kings.”*

*The sport brings people from all walks of life together; it provides an opportunity to dress up, share a drink with friends and chase those elusive winners!*

### **Virginia Chadwick Memorial Lecture**

It was an honour to attend the inaugural Virginia Chadwick Memorial Lecture in Sydney during July.

I worked closely with Virginia during her eight-year role as Chairman of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority based in Townsville.

A legacy of Virginia’s work was the implementation of expanded green zones to ensure the long-term protection of this magnificent asset. Under the Howard Government, we took a balanced approach to protecting outstanding natural assets like the Reef, taking into account its importance as a tourist attraction, a world-class natural asset as well as a source of sensibly controlled fishing.

The evening was a tribute to Virginia and her work on our Barrier Reef.

### **New Judge in the North**

The swearing-in of Mr Justice North as the new Northern Judge was a demonstration of the importance of the North to the administration of justice in Queensland.

Justice North replaces Justice Kerry Cullinane who has retired after an eminent career as a lawyer, barrister, judge and law lecturer at James Cook University.

I was pleased to welcome the new Judge to the North and to farewell Justice Cullinane who started his legal life in the North at the same time as I did..

## **FEEDBACK**

AS ALWAYS I APPRECIATE YOUR FEEDBACK AND YOUR VIEWS ON MATTERS OF CURRENT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INTEREST.

WITH THE Labor Party in full scale assault on the Australian print media in a way that Goebels would have been envious of, and ABC continuing its less than balanced national Radio AND TV coverage, feedback through the internet becomes so much more important. I appreciate your comments.

## **LET ME KNOW**

If there are issues you believe the Federal Opposition should be investigating, please do not hesitate to drop me a note.

As a Senator, the whole of the State is my constituency, and I am happy to help in any way possible.

I also welcome your feedback, positive or negative, on any of the issues raised in this online newsletter.

Ian Macdonald  
Liberal - Queensland - LNP  
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Northern and Remote Australia  
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for the Defence Force and Defence Support

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