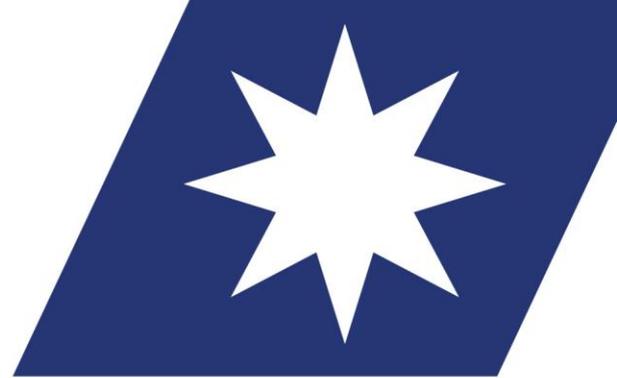


SHANE KNUTH

Member for Hill



MEDIA RELEASE

12th August, 2019

Knuth – ‘save our regional shows!’

Member for Hill Shane Knuth was disappointed to learn the Townsville Show have applied to change their 2020 show dates which will directly impact the Atherton and Malanda shows by forcing many sideshow alley, rides and more to choose between the Townsville and Tableland shows.

The proposed show dates for Townsville are from July 3rd to 6th – a direct clash with Malanda Show on July 3rd to 5th, and Atherton July 6th to 7th. Malanda and Atherton Show dates were locked in with North Queensland Sub Chamber of the Queensland Chamber of Agriculture Society (QCAS) in 2018.

Mr Knuth was shocked when QCAS wrote to inform him of the date change and immediately wrote a letter to the Townsville City Council, Minister of Industrial Relations and the Showmens Guild to protect our regional shows.

“The flow on effect of this means the travelling sideshow exhibits and a lot of the rides will be committed to chose between Townsville and the Tableland Shows. It will also affect the agricultural section for anyone who enters into Townsville and Tablelands shows – they may be more drawn to Townsville as it’s a bigger show and offers bigger prizes.

“Our shows are a significant part of our history and culture bringing the community together from babies to seniors.

“We don’t have the luxuries of big fancy shopping centres and buses that run on frequent schedules as the cities. This is why our shows are very important to us all. It’s a huge special event that only comes around once a year,” Mr Knuth said.

North Queensland sub-delegate for the Queensland Agricultural Show Society Kathy Plath said the flow on effect of this will be detrimental, “As you can imagine co-ordinating holidays for 13 shows in our region is a huge task, however the QCAS through their sub chambers are very professional and organised, locking in dates well in advance.

“We know how important shows are economically to these towns. I can’t see the reason for them changing. It has such a big effect – Not only for the show, but a flow on effect throughout the towns. We’ve really kept the traditional agricultural show alive, it’s not just a fair. Each show is really striving to improve every year. Each and every one of the shows is important,” Ms Plath said.

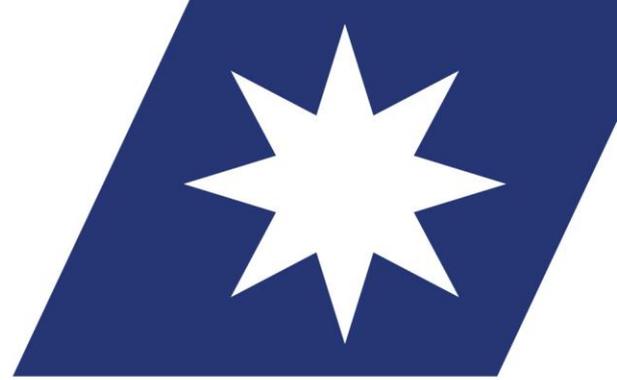
Atherton Show Society President Leanne Thomas said it will impact the region and not just the two days of the show, “The effect if this is allowed to happen will be detrimental to the success of these major local events, which brings money into the region not just for the two days of the event, but for several weeks.

“Townsville being a larger show with higher prize money could also potentially lose competitors in the horse, beef cattle, dairy cattle and poultry sections, which we have spent time and money trying to build to a high

SHANE KNUTH

Member for Hill

MEDIA RELEASE



standard with increased exhibit numbers. The annual show is not just about the rides and entertainment, but showcasing the local talent, produce and what each region has to offer.

"If Townsville are to change their date and clash with others, we will see a decrease in traders as well competitors, leaving empty trade sites which are already a struggle to fill. Amusement rides, show food, sideshow alley and other entertainment quality and quantity will potentially be diminished as most of these amusement businesses will choose to go to the 'bigger' show where it is more feasible for them.

"The diminished exhibits, rides, entertainment, food and side show alley, will affect the 'Show Experience' and we pride ourselves on delivering the best experience both for competitors, exhibitors and patrons," Ms Thomas said.

Malanda Show Manager Kate said they share Atherton Show's concerns and also that this could be an chance for locals to step in.

"I'd like to express like Leanne the difficulties our shows might experience with loss of itinerates, exhibitors and the sideshow alley favourites. We understand the pressure that this situation puts on entertainment companies, itinerants and exhibitors and for many this is their business and livelihoods. The situation is difficult all round.

"I think our Tablelands community can work together and we urge local exhibitors to join the show movement in 2020. This could be a really wonderful opportunity to turn this potential problem into a real showcase of local produce, crafts and talent! At Malanda Show we want to ensure we have wonderful stalls and exhibits to showcase to show-goers to ensure we have another successful show," Ms Thomas said.