



Townsville tops list due to infrastructure and development

Most liveable city

By **LENDL RYAN**

TOWNSVILLE is the most liveable city in Queensland, a new report has found.

With strong infrastructure growth, a booming diverse economy and traffic jam-free commutes to work, the Midwood Queensland Investment Report says the city once referred to as 'Brownsville' is the place to live.

A highly-recognised authority on property, real estate, investment and tourism in Queensland, Midwood highlighted the region's many developments including upgrades to the road network as our major selling points.

"Roadworks in Townsville are continuing to improve arterial traffic movement . . . this makes Townsville the most liveable city in Queensland, in our opinion," the report said.

Townsville's Deputy Mayor David Crisafulli said it was a huge pat on the back for the city.

"This is monumental that a firm so highly regarded would recognise the lifestyle of our region," he said.

"It means as Townsville residents we can proudly stick out our chest and say we are the lifestyle capital of Queensland.

"And since it is pretty well known that Queensland is the most liveable state in the country, I would now argue we are the most liveable city in the country full stop.

"You only have to look at facilities like Riverway, The Strand and Ross River to see that we have some beautiful attractions.

"But what this report does is highlight I have been saying for a long time and that is the importance of a well functioning road network."

While Cr Crisafulli said the report was a well deserved recognition, he noted that there was still work to do for the city to maintain its stature.

"What our challenge now as a region is to work with the Federal and State governments to bring the next stage of big ticket projects online and provide connectivity between the major government controlled roads around town," he said.

Cr Crisafulli said Townsville can't make the same mistakes as Brisbane.

"We don't want to be a mirror im-

age of what is happening in Brisbane," he said.

"One of the reasons why it is no longer the most liveable city in Queensland is because they botched the opportunity to do key roadwork when they needed to and I do not want to be part of a council that does the same.

"Being not stuck in traffic is a key priority for people and it is vital we begin that work on some of the city's roads and improve the network, in particularly the Northern Beaches and to the south."

The report took into account Stockland's \$1 billion master planned community North Shore which it said 'demonstrates the public company's faith in the growth of Townsville'.

It also noted also noted the Urbex \$8.35 million deal for a 19ha parcel of industrial subdivision near the Bohle.

According to the report population growth was at 2per cent per annum for the past decade.