



Inspiration awaits.

Eungella National Park



Business Events in The Mackay Region

The Mackay Region is a fresh Queensland Business Events destination. Its 66,484 square kilometres encompass a diverse natural environment, offering a picturesque blue-water river, many secluded beaches, a seaside marina, pristine rainforest hinterland, as well as plenty of space for inspired thinking.

Mackay itself offers 'big city standard' venues and accommodation, whilst events are delivered professionally with 'country style' friendliness and hospitality. Most importantly, Business Events held in The Mackay Region consistently deliver successful outcomes.

mackayregion.com

Distractions disappear.

Why Mackay?

- Mackay sits on the Queensland coast, half-way between Brisbane and Cairns. This makes it ideal for conferences and events attracting state-wide attendance.
- As a relaxed, nature-based destination, it encourages inspiration, with limited distractions.
- Mackay is serviced by more than 95 flights weekly
- An impressive array of affordable, quality accommodation, a purpose-built convention centre, hotel, conference and meeting facilities, plus unique off-site dining venues tick all the business event decision-making boxes.
- A population of more than 120,000 ensures 'big city' technical, production and professional support services are available.



Keswick Island

An Ideal Event Climate

The Mackay Region's hot summers and mild, sunny winters make its climate one of the best in Australia. Average monthly details are as follows:

| MONTH | MAX (C) | MIN (C) | RAINFALL (MM) |
|-------|---------|---------|---------------|
| Jan | 30 | 23 | 293 |
| Feb | 30 | 23 | 311 |
| Mar | 28 | 22 | 303 |
| Apr | 27 | 20 | 134 |
| May | 24 | 17 | 104 |
| Jun | 22 | 14 | 59 |
| Jul | 21 | 13 | 47 |
| Aug | 22 | 14 | 30 |
| Sept | 25 | 16 | 15 |
| Oct | 27 | 20 | 38 |
| Nov | 29 | 22 | 87 |
| Dec | 30 | 23 | 175 |



A Very Accessible Business Events Destination

Mackay is one of Queensland's most accessible regional destinations by air, road or rail.

There are affordable and frequent air services into Mackay with Jetstar, Qantaslink and Virgin Australia, including regular services between Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns. There are more than 65 flights per week providing the easy 1.5 hour connection between Mackay and Brisbane. Another 11 flights are provided between Mackay and Rockhampton.

Mackay also has excellent road connections to all Queensland regional centres. Rail access is also available via Queensland Rail with five return services per week to key regional areas.



Dining

Mackay has an excellent portfolio of restaurants, offering a range of cuisines for group or individual dining. A number of award-winning restaurants within the Mackay City Centre enable dine-around programmes to be easily undertaken. Some local restaurants include:

- AM Bistro
- Burp. Eat. Drink
- CC's Restaurant
- Church on Palmer
- Claudies Restaurant
- Fusion 128
- Galleons Restaurant
- Latitude 21 Bar & Restaurant
- Maria's Donkey Tapas Bar
- Marque Bar & Grill
- Sorbellos Italian Restuarant
- Salt Cafe Bar & Restaurant
- The Eimeo Hotel
- The Dispensary
- The Paddock & Brew Company
- Waterfront Cafe



Mackay Marina



Did you know
that the Mackay
Region is home to
Australia's only miniature
sugar mill and distillery at
The Sarina Sugar Shed,
only 30 mins south
of Mackay?

Conference & Meeting Facilities

The Mackay Region offers a wide range of meeting and conference venues ranging from the Mackay City Centre convention centre and hotels through to boutique beach resorts and mountain retreats.

The Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC) is the largest purpose-built convention and banqueting facility between Cairns and Brisbane. It includes a 1,090 seat auditorium, two plenary halls (which combine to seat up to 1500 theatre-style), four meeting rooms and a range of breakout rooms. Just some of Mackay's conference and meeting venues are listed below:

| VENUE | LOCATION | MEETING ROOMS | THEATRE | CLASS ROOM | BANQUET | COCKTAIL |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------|---------|------------|---------|----------|
| MACKAY ENTERTAINMENT & CONVENTION CENTRE* (MECC) | CBD | 4 + 2 Halls + Auditorium | 1,500 | 500 | 800 | 1,500 |
| WINDMILL MOTEL AND RECEPTION CENTRE | North Mackay | 3 + deck area + Restaurant | 450 | 220 | 250 | 450 |
| MACKAY GRANDE SUITES | CBD | 4 | 200 | 66 | 150 | 200 |
| CQUNIVERSITY | South Mackay & CBD | 18 | 200 | 40 | 40 | 180 |
| ARTSPACE MACKAY | CBD | 1 | 50 | 25 | 60 | 300 |
| HARRUP PARK COUNTRY CLUB | South Mackay | 2 | 200 | 120 | 150 | 300 |
| CLARION HOTEL MACKAY MARINA | Mackay Marina | 3 + Marquee | 500 | 150 | 300 | 600 |
| BROKEN RIVER MOUNTAIN RESORT | Eungella National Park | 1 | 50 | 40 | 40 | 90 |
| OCEAN INTERNATIONAL | South Mackay | 3 + Restaurant | 300 | 140 | 180 | 300 |

*Largest Venue

More detailed venue information is available on mackayregion.com

Tranquillity calls.

"There has been a noticeable increase in the capacity and quality of accommodation available in and around Mackay. With the recent introduction of new hotels, there will be even greater opportunities for the region to support business events, conferences and tradeshows."

Paul Baker

Director of REEDMININGEVENTS (organisers of the Queensland Mining and Engineering Exhibition)

Did you know
that your delegates can include an early morning trip to Cape Hillsborough, a National Park 45 minutes north of Mackay, to share an ocean sunrise with wallabies and kangaroos?

Accommodation

Mackay has an inventory of over 2,000 rooms of 3.5 star standard and above. More than 10 quality hotels offering 4 star and above accommodation are located within a two kilometre radius of the MECC.



"Please be assured that e-Kiddna Event Management is a keen advocate for your wonderful piece of paradise and I'll be doing my best to spread the word."

Jayne Kidd

e-Kiddna Event Management

| VENUE | LOCATION | NO. OF ROOMS |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| QUEST MACKAY ON GORDON | CBD | 115 |
| QUEST MACKAY | CBD | 97 |
| MACKAY GRANDE SUITES | CBD | 90 |
| OAKS RIVERMARQUE APARTMENTS | CBD | 138 |
| OAKS CARLYSLE | CBD | 59 |
| LANAI APARTMENTS | CBD | 50 |
| RIVIERA | CBD | 40 |
| POTTERS OCEANSIDE HOTEL | Town Beach (5 mins from CBD) | 57 |
| OCEAN INTERNATIONAL | Far Beach (5 mins from CBD) | 45 |
| WINDMILL MOTEL AND RECEPTION CENTRE | North Mackay (8 mins from CBD) | 62 |
| CLARION HOTEL MACKAY MARINA | Mackay Marina (10 mins from CBD) | 79 |
| IBIS MACKAY AIRPORT | Mackay Airport (10 mins from CBD) | 152 |
| BROKEN RIVER MOUNTAIN RESORT | Eungella National Park (One hour from CBD) | 18 |



Bluewater Lagoon

Expectations exceeded.

Did you know
that each August,
Mackay hosts an annual
beach racing event like
no other in Australia
- The Mackay Airport
Beach Horse Races

Off-Site Event, Team Building & Activity Options

From the quirky to the quintessential Queensland experience, Mackay has a range of spaces, places and activities ideal for Business Event social programmes. Below is a small selection.



PIONEER VALLEY & EUNGELLA NATIONAL PARK

The park's ancient rainforest is one of the best places in the world to see the remarkable platypus in the wild. It is just one hour's drive from Mackay and offers a range of activity and dining options.

MOJO'S

Mackay's only rooftop bar and function space provides panoramic sunset views and a trendy venue overlooking the Pioneer River.

PAXTON'S WAREHOUSE

Dating back to 1880's, this building's beautiful riverfront location and rustic ambiance provide a 'blank canvas' venue on which creative event planners can create a memorable function.



SARINA SUGAR SHED

Australia's only miniature sugar mill and distillery, located 30 mins south of Mackay. Specialising in rum and liqueurs, it has a 50-seat theatre and on-site catering.



THE BLUEWATER QUAY AND BLUEWATER TRAIL

The trail incorporates raised boardwalks plus extensive pedestrian and bike pathways, meandering along the river and the city's green spaces, leading to the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens. The trail is ideal for escorted walks or bike rides, fitness activities such as yoga sessions, as well as informal al fresco functions.

THE EIMEO HOTEL

This historic hotel offers 360 degree views overlooking the Whitsunday Coast and islands. Located in Mackay's Northern Beaches, it is a 20 minute drive from Mackay City Centre. The bistro restaurant and balcony are ideal for functions, meetings and accompanying partner programmes.

ARTSPACE MACKAY

This award-winning, architecturally appealing building is the regional art gallery and museum located adjacent to the convention centre. In addition to galleries, it offers a multi-purpose venue for meetings, seminars, functions and events.



MACKAY REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS



A green 51 hectare oasis just five kilometres from the city centre. Facilities include a meeting room, Lagoons Gallery & Cafe, al fresco deck area and outdoor Meadowlands Amphitheatre with grassed seating for up to 5,000 patrons.

MACKAY MARINA & PIONEER RIVER

Waterfront esplanade with a range of activity and dining options on the blue waters of Mackay.

Mackay Region Major Events

Mackay hosts a number of key events, providing scope as add-on inclusions for Business Events. A sample includes:

PUBLIC FESTIVALS

Wintermoon Festival

Four-day music festival (Annual - May)

Mackay Festival of Arts

10-day arts festival (Annual - July)

Mackay Airport Beach Horse Races

Four-day carnival (Annual - August)

TRADE/BUSINESS

Ag.Trade.Life

Two-day agricultural exhibition (Annual - May)

Queensland Mining and Engineering Exhibition

Three-day exhibition (Biennial - July)



Mackay Region Industry Strengths

For a regional area, The Mackay Region is a powerhouse of strong industry sectors. These provide scope for off-site technical tours, a range of local guest speakers, potential sponsorship, trade show exhibitors and delegates. Key industries in The Mackay Region include:

Mining & Resources: Coal mining, coal distribution and shipping

Resources Sector Services: Engineering, manufacturing and specialist mining services hub

Fishing, Boating & Marine: A world class marina, shipyard and superyacht servicing facility

Agribusiness: One of Australia's leading regions for sugarcane and beef cattle production



Did you know
that you can SCUBA
dive with a platypus in
the rainforest waters near
Eungella National Park,
courtesy of Rainforest
SCUBA?

"Mackay was a fantastic host destination, attracting delegates from across the state to present and learn about the latest innovations and best practice in managing a regional Queensland event."

Leanne Coddington

Chief Executive Officer

- Tourism & Events Queensland



Contact Us

Mackay Tourism is a membership-based organisation providing advice and information for anyone planning Business Events in The Mackay Region. Our 170 members include venues, accommodation, printers, caterers, transport and entertainment, plus pre and post touring businesses.

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