

Duncan ready for challenge

Bundaberg Tourism has appointed experienced tourism, commercial and destination leader Duncan Littler as its new chief executive officer.

Mr Littler will commence in the role on Monday 17 August, leading the organisation as it works to grow the value of the regional visitor economy and advance the long-term ambitions of the Bundaberg and North Burnett destination.

The appointment follows an extensive recruitment process undertaken by the Bundaberg Tourism Board in partnership with Brisbane-based executive recruitment specialists OnTalent.

More than 40 applications were received, with five candidates shortlisted for interview before detailed assessment and due diligence led to the final appointment.

Bundaberg Tourism Board chair Daniel Reeves said the strength of the candidate field reflected the significance of the role.

“The appointment of a chief executive officer is one of the most important responsibilities of any Board, and we approached this process with the rigour it deserved,” Mr Reeves said.

“We were fortunate to consider a strong field of international interest, and Duncan emerged as the outstanding choice to lead Bundaberg Tourism into its next chapter.”

Mr Littler brings more than 15 years of senior leadership experience across tourism, visitor ex-

perience, brand, commercial strategy and destination development through his career with Dia-geo and Bundaberg Rum.

His career included leading the transformation of the Bundaberg Rum Distillery Visitor Experience, including its \$8.5 million redevelopment, as well as developing major visitor experiences and events and leading commercial, brand and innovation initiatives with national reach.

He also has a long association with Bundaberg Tourism, having previously served as a director, deputy chair and chair.

Mr Littler said he was honoured to have the opportunity to lead an organisation and destination with which he had a strong connection.

“Tourism has an incredible ability to create jobs, strengthen communities and showcase everything that makes a region unique,” Mr Littler said.

“When tourism succeeds, local businesses succeed, communities become more vibrant and more people choose to invest, live and build their future here.

“To have the opportunity to lead Bundaberg Tourism and help shape the next chapter of our region’s visitor economy is both a privilege and a responsibility that I don’t take lightly.”

Mr Littler said he was excited to work alongside the region’s tourism industry to encourage more visitors to discover what Bundaberg had to offer.

“Success isn’t simply about attracting more visitors, it’s about growing tourism in a way that strengthens our economy while protecting the natural, cultural and community values that make our region so special,” he said.

“If we get that balance right, tourism can continue to create lasting benefits for our industry, our communities and future generations.”

Mr Littler will begin with a structured four-week leadership handover with outgoing chief executive officer Katherine Reid.

Ms Reid will then step away from the CEO role but remain with Bundaberg Tourism for the final two months of her tenure to deliver priority strategic projects and support the organisational transition.

Mr Littler said Ms Reid had made an “extraordinary contribution” to Bundaberg Tourism and the region over more than a decade.

Mr Reeves said the planned transition would provide an important bridge between two chapters of leadership.

“This is an exciting new chapter for Bundaberg Tourism, and the Board looks forward to welcoming Duncan to the role and working with him, our team, industry and partners to continue building a thriving and sustainable visitor economy for our region,” he said.

Duncan Littler has been appointed as Bundaberg Tourism’s new chief executive officer. (Supplied)



Bennett supports new breach bail laws

By Angela Norval

The next phase of the State Government’s Adult Crime, Adult Time laws will target offenders committing crimes while on bail, being charged under a new offence with a minimum mandatory sentence.

Breach Bail, Go to Jail reforms follows feedback from Government MPs and regional communities who are fed up with repeat offenders released on bail, only to have them reoffend with serious crimes.

The change will build on the first three phases of Adult Crime, Adult Time, which cover 45 offences to make Queensland safer, and has seen victim numbers fall by 7.2 per cent after they skyrocketed 193 under Labor.

The next phase of the Crisafulli Government’s

Adult Crime, Adult Time, which will be law by the end of 2026, includes:

- A new offence for youth criminals who breach bail.
- The new offence will apply to Adult Crime, Adult Time crimes committed while on bail.
- The new offence will have a minimum mandatory sentence for these repeat offenders.

The Breach Bail, Go to Jail phase of Adult Crime, Adult Time will be law by the end of 2026, with further consultation to occur to determine the length of the mandatory sentence in line with community expectations and will be announced when the legislation is introduced to Parliament.

Burnett MP Stephen Bennett said Queensland’s bail laws were broken and nowhere is that clearer than in our own commu-

nity, where dangerous youth are put back on the streets by the courts only to reoffend.

“Today I’m renewing my call for youth bail reform “breach bail go to jail”, and I’m calling for it to be introduced as soon as possible, in the next week of Parliament.

“This is about people no longer living in fear of their cars, their homes and their businesses being targeted.

“What’s more, its clear adults are also taking advantage of the revolving door of the courts.

“Our community has had enough and is calling for bail reform also to be extended to adults, with mandatory minimums for those who breach their bail.

“I want to hear your feedback on this, if you want bail reform, fill out our petition at www.listen2qld.com/breach-bail-consultation.”



Burnett MP Stephen Bennett is encouraging people to sign the petition to get ‘breach bail go to jail’ introduced as soon as possible. (Supplied)

Flying Squad make local arrests while stationed in Bundy

By Matt Gees

The State Flying Squad recently completed a deployment to the Wide Bay region, with officers based out of Bundaberg and Hervey Bay to support local police and help make the community safer.

From 15 to 22 July, the squad charged 45 people with 183 offences, ranging from property crime to drug and domestic violence offences.

They also provided an investigative surge capacity, supporting local policing activities, including the execution of search warrants, and conducting proactive operations and high-visibility patrols.

Officers from the squad’s in-built intelligence unit also deployed to the region to assist in identifying and locating targets, and provide real-time information to help apprehend serious offenders who continue to cause harm to the

Wide Bay community.

While stationed in Bundaberg, officers executed a search warrant at a Kepnock residence, allegedly locating and seizing dangerous drugs.

A 24-year-old Kepnock man was charged with 56 counts of supplying dangerous drugs, and one count each of trafficking dangerous drugs and contravening an access order.

Detective Inspector Joe Nixon said the Fly-

ing Squad was focused on deploying into crime hotspots across the state as needed to deter further criminal behaviour.

“We support local police and other specialist policing units by increasing police visibility with extra boots on the ground,” Det Insp Nixon said.

“We’ll remain committed to keeping Queensland communities safe, and I look forward to seeing these fantastic results continue wherever we deploy.”



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1283071-VPB-36

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