



**\$150m**

**Water's edge:** Artist's view of Glencorp's 500-unit Waterside development.



**\$140m**

**Liftoff:** Cairns Airport's domestic terminal is undergoing a major upgrade.



**\$120m**

**Seachange:** Bale Mirage Beach is being transformed by the Ray Group.

# Building bonanza from

## Discontent at construction sites loom on the horizon

RUMBLINGS of discontent on Australian construction sites could filter through to the Far North, unions believe.

Union sources spoken to by *The Cairns Post* said workers had concerns about the use of overseas workers with poor English skills and the victimisation of workers who joined unions.

The news comes following reports the Construction Forestry, Mining and Energy Union is preparing to challenge federal industrial laws.

These include restoring overtime payments, penalty rates and site allowances.

Master Builders' regional manager Far North Queensland Ron Bannah said the CFMEU was not large in Cairns compared with cities such as Townsville and Mackay.

He said generally there were few industrial relations problems in Cairns and the impact of Cyclone Larry and construction growth in the city meant workers could command decent money.

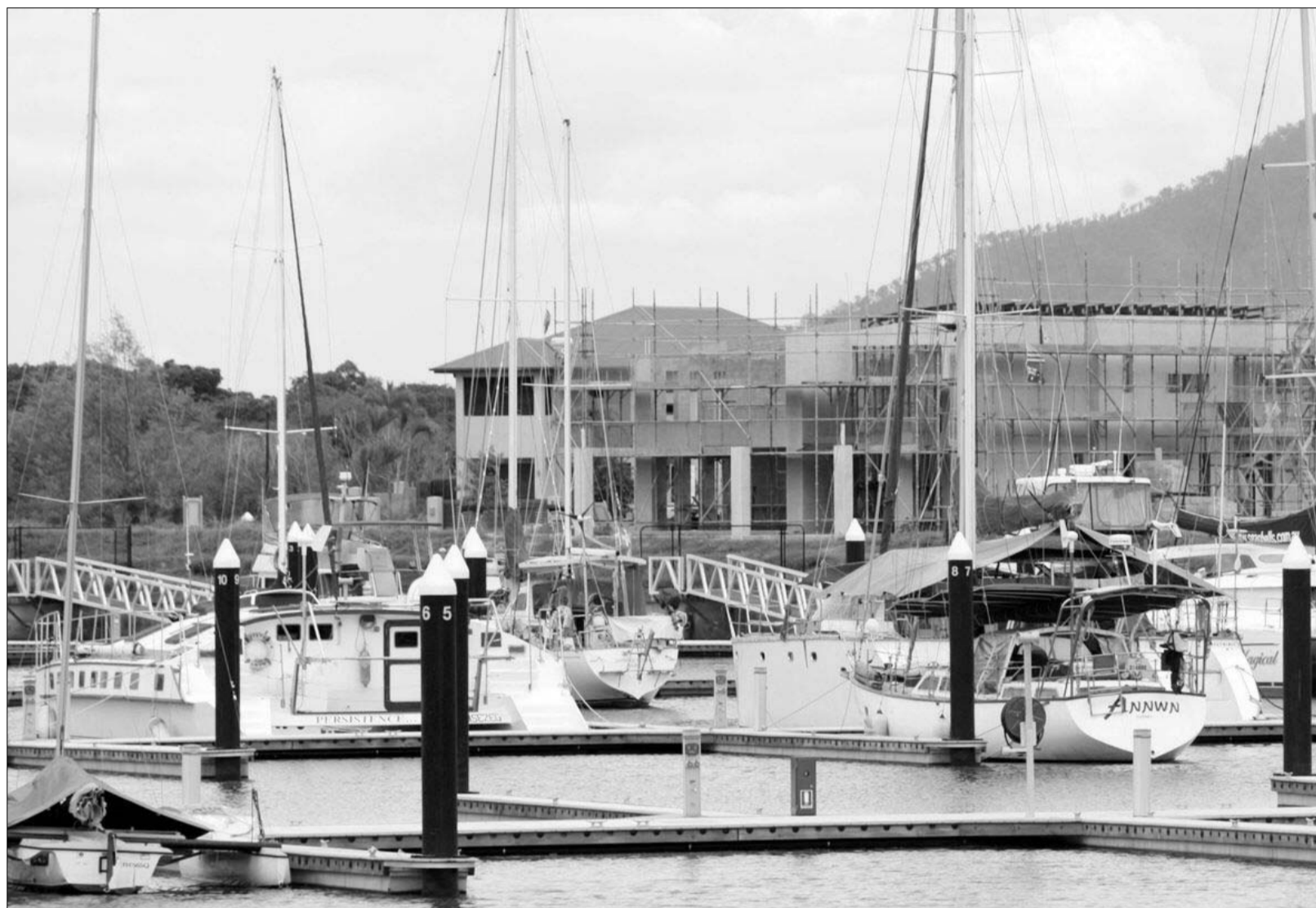
There is no CFMEU organiser in Cairns, the nearest one being based in Townsville.

Commerce Queensland president Beatrice Booth said recently many of her organisation's members had put a halt to hiring until the direction of the Rudd Government's changes was known.

Ms Booth said as well as a hiring halt, capital investment had also stopped because of the uncertainty.

"Our members don't know what some projects they have approved or are planning will cost because they don't know if they will be as much as they expected before the election," Ms Booth said.

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**DON'T MISS YOUR WEEKEND LIFTOUT**



**Position, position, position:** Tranquil Trinity Park's magnificent waterfront is where Cairns' biggest project at present – National giant Multiplex's \$300 million Bluewater estate – is being built.

# Far North in middle of

THE value of construction projects in the Far North has reached a staggering \$10.26 billion.

The proof of the continuing boom in the region is contained in a report prepared for the Urban Development Industry Association by the 20/20 Group.

The value of the 199 projects from Cardwell to Cape York is \$1 billion more than at the same time last year.

Catering for the growing population provides the main impetus for the boom with almost \$7 billion being spent on resident development.

Topping the list again is the \$1.4 billion Ella Bay Resort at Innisfail which is still going through the approval process.

**Greg Punshon**

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Commerce Queensland president Beatrice Booth welcomed the figures, saying they reflected how her organisation saw the region's growth.

Broken down into regions, the Innisfail to Cardwell area – anchored by Ella Bay – has 23 projects worth \$2.29 billion.

Combined Cairns project values are \$4.8 billion.

Cape York projects, centred largely on Cooktown's growth, have topped \$1.17 billion; Port Douglas has \$1.1 billion of work and on the Tableland approvals have been given or work started on



**Tom Hedley**



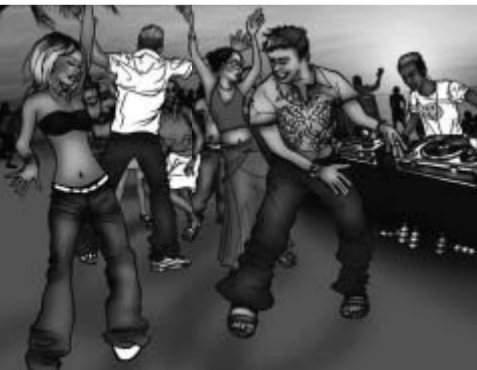
**Roy Lavis**



**Udo Jattke**

\$870 million worth of projects. In Cairns it is the big names which dominate the multi-billion dollar building boom.

Hedley Constructions (Tom Hedley), CEC Group Ltd (Roy Lavis) and Glencorp (Udo Jattke) are the



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