



MARKET SNAPSHOTS

THE DOLLAR

US\$87.18c
 ¥100.76
 £0.4327
 NZ\$1.1722
 Euro 0.6224

RESOURCES

Gold 851.88
 Silver 15.72
 Oil 82.51
 Copper 364.50
 Sugar 9.88

INDICES

All Ordinaries 6461.1 +29.8
 S&P/ASX200 6451.5 +31.5
 Property 2446.6 +21.1
 Industrials 7088.8 -47.3

OVERSEAS

Dow Jones 13759.06 -61.13
 Nasdaq 2667.95 -3.27
 HK 26430.29 -121.65
 Nikkei 16401.73 +89.12

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Eye on Cairns: Premier Anna Bligh's first official visit to the city as new premier began by meeting business representatives.

Picture: VERONICA SAGREDO

Bligh's eye on our growth numbers

PREMIER Anna Bligh will release revised population predictions for the Far North following concerns the 2006 Census and other projections underestimated the region's true level of growth.

In a wide-ranging address to more than 260 business people at the Cairns Chamber of Commerce lunch yesterday, Premier Bligh described population growth as the key to Queensland's economic prosperity into the future.

A State Government report on the state's future population last year predicted between 2645 and 2815 people would move to Cairns each year, an annual growth rate of 1.9 per cent up to 2019, before levelling

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out at 1.7 per cent by 2026. But many business and civic leaders believe that figure was too low and could lead to underfunding of the city's infrastructure.

"We're keeping a close eye on this region's population and I'm aware that there were concerns about the latest population predictions," Premier Bligh later told *Business Week*.

"For that reason, another higher level population prediction has been completed, including both residential and tourism predictions, and the data is currently

being compared to the 2006 Census. This information will be made available by year's end.

"An analysis of land supply is also being conducted.

"Stage 1 of the analysis, involving input from local councils, is complete.

"However, the data does not appear to match community expectations so we're going back to councils and confirming data they provided as accurate.

"The land supply survey will also be completed by November and that information will inform land supply over the next 20 years."

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