

For immediate release: 30 March, 2015

Insurance brokers ready to work with Taskforce

Insurance brokers are ready to contribute their knowledge of the North Queensland insurance market to the Insurance Premiums Taskforce announced today, the National Insurance Brokers Association (NIBA) said.

NIBA CEO, Dallas Booth, said insurance brokers knew first-hand the difficulties many of their clients have faced getting adequate insurance cover at affordable prices in North Queensland.

"We are very keen to work with the Taskforce to examine these issues, and work out what else might be done to help business and home owners in Northern Australia," Mr Booth said.

The Federal Government Actuary's independent report on home and contents insurance in North Queensland released at the end of last year confirmed significant losses by insurers.

While it concluded premiums in North Queensland were considerably higher than in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, it also found that the main reason was the cost of cyclone risk.

"Any discussion about premiums must be accompanied by strategies to reduce losses in the first place by making northern Australian properties more resistant to tropical cyclones and ensuring resources are committed to flood mitigation," Mr Booth said.

"The tax discussion paper released today by the Treasurer is also timely as insurance taxes have a major impact on affordability."

Media inquiries: Rod Frail 0413 989897

NIBA is an independent industry association representing 500 firms and more than 2600 intermediaries, who handle almost 90% of the commercial insurance transacted in Australia. Brokers play a major role in insurance distribution, handling \$18 billion in premiums annually and placing around half of Australia's total insurance business.