

**TPDD CEO TARA BENNETT ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION**

**Port Douglas, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023** – Tourism Port Douglas Daintree (TPDD) is on the hunt for its next leader to champion the local tourism organisation’s mission of promoting Port Douglas and Daintree on a national and global stage.

After nine years at the helm as chief executive officer and more than 15 years of dedicated service to the organisation, Tara Bennett will pass on the baton as she explores new professional horizons in tourism.

Cam Charlton, chair of Tourism Port Douglas Daintree, expressed both gratitude for Bennett’s outstanding contributions and optimism for the organisation's future.

"The TPDD Board would like to take this opportunity to express sincere thanks and appreciation to our departing CEO.

"Tara’s leadership and extensive commitment and contribution to TPDD and our destination during tumultuous times has been simply outstanding.

"Happily, we will continue to reap the benefits of Tara’s experience and work for the region in her new role at Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ) as general manager – partnerships and events."

Expressing her own sentiments on her departure, Ms Bennett said it was difficult decision to step down from the role she has been privileged to fill for the best part of a decade.

"I have been incredibly fortunate to hold what I consider the best job in the world. However, after nine incredibly rewarding years leading TPDD, I believe it is the perfect time for a new leader who will guide the organisation into 2024 and beyond."

During her time at TPDD, Ms Bennett’s collaborative leadership style was well-known in the industry, fostering inclusive sales missions, training opportunities and inter-regional activities with members and destination representatives.

She also played a pivotal role in nurturing and negotiating strong partnerships that strengthened the organisation’s position as one of Australia's leading local tourism organisations.

One of her significant achievements during her leadership was working in partnership with DSC to achieve the first ECO Destination Certification for the Douglas Shire in 2019.

As TPDD embarks on the search for a dynamic new leader, Ms Bennett believes exciting times are on the horizon.

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“The best job in the world awaits, and TPDD eagerly anticipates recruiting the next visionary leader who will continue to showcase the wonders of the Port Douglas and Daintree region to the world while working at a grassroots level with our wonderful and supportive membership base,” she said.

**ENDS**

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