



MEDIA RELEASE

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Island & Cape celebrates opening of new Cairns HQ

Island & Cape Retail Enterprises celebrated the official opening of its new Cairns headquarters on Friday night (22 May).

The retail company, which started out as a four-man, one-warehouse operation in 2003, has moved into its newly-refurbished corporate offices at 7 Anderson Street.

Island & Cape now has 105 staff in eight retail stores across remote communities in Far North Queensland, and their Cairns office.

The new Cairns headquarters will provide executive, management, IT and administration support to its stores and customers.

Island & Cape Retail Enterprises General Manager Operations Kim Nona said the new offices will greatly benefit their customers across the region.

“Our business is growing at a good pace, and this move will mean we can provide an even better service throughout all our stores,” said Ms Nona.

“Our new corporate office reflects our commitment to provide high quality services, and by the addition of this new workspace, we hope we will continue to exceed our customer’s expectations.”

Island & Cape has continued to enjoy growth since its retail business was acquired in 2014 by Indigenous business Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA) in February of that year.

Of its 105 current staff, 86 per cent are Indigenous, with new training and staff development programs in place across the retail operation.

Island & Cape Retail’s General Manager Operations Kim Nona said it had been a highly successful first 15 months for the organisation, winning two major business gongs in the Australian Business Awards and the Queensland Reconciliation Awards.

“Island & Cape stores are not just community stores – we are much more than that,” said Ms Nona.

“We are a benevolent not-for-profit organisation, and our successful commercial activities allow us to make a positive contribution to the social and economic development of our community members, while leading the way by providing quality retail services.

“We’ve brought together regional expertise in the remote Indigenous retail industry for the benefit of our customers and staff.

“We also have an established and successful nutrition strategy and full-time nutritionist on staff, and are a fully-registered training organisation.

“Our mission is to conduct an efficient retail business emphasising customer service, nutrition, staff development, training and education – this exciting new office space will further help us achieve that aim.”

ALPA is one of the largest financially independent Indigenous employers in Australia, and one of the larger retailers in the Northern Territory, with 17 businesses in the group across the Territory and more than 42 years’ experience in successfully operating stores in remote communities.

ALPA is also a Benevolent Aboriginal Corporation, with its successful commercial activities allowing it to make a positive contribution to remote communities.

ALPA Chief Executive Officer Alastair King said Island and Cape is committed to delivering the best stores possible for remote Indigenous communities in Queensland, and providing Indigenous training and employment outcomes.

“The new office will give Island & Cape the capacity to support its stores serving remote communities, and better engage with suppliers in Cairns,” he said.

Island & Cape Retail supplies groceries, fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, dairy products and other general merchandise to its eight stores, which are located in Aurukun, Napranum, Wujal Wujal, Hopevale and Yarrabah, as well as Badu Island, Horn Island and Yorke Island in the Torres Strait.

Ms Nona said Island & Cape has a proud history of working closely with remote communities across the region.

“Island & Cape always plays an active role in the communities where we operate,” she said.

“We continually invest in the communities, through infrastructure, employment and social contribution. Giving back is a core value of Island & Cape.”

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