

HD **Hope on a global scale**

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Beachcomberwith Brian Dorey

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with Brian Dorey

IT HAS been an extraordinary week of events and political contrasts for Australia, for the Pacific Region, for Queensland and Livingstone Shire, in which hope is emerging with bi-partisan co-operation, that global powers and governments could grow sustainable economies into the future if they can work together.

Amid the crossfire of the controversial May budget predictions, the decline of Queensland's **mining** and resources industry and the hold up of GVK Hancock's huge \$6 **billion** Alpha coalmining project by a Land Court decision, the Federal Government Trade Mission led by Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, focused positive world attention on the success of his trade negotiations.

The Free Trade Mission to Japan, Korea and **China** has received a positive response.

Australian exporters will boost **billions** of dollars in economic growth through trade deals with Japan and South Korea, as these nations lower the import tariff on imported Australian beef, dairy, fresh fruit, vegetables and sugar.

In exchange, Australians will get cheaper imported Japanese and South Korean vehicles through a drop of up to 6% on import tariffs, also cheaper electronics and white goods.

The Trade Mission inclusion of former Prime Minister Bob Hawke is a strong bid for bi-partisan support and so is Mr Abbott's bilateral call for major Pacific Region powers to combine in naval exercises to include the United States.

Despite dropping resource industry prices, **China** has flagged its need for another 860 **million** tonnes of **coal** to maintain **energy** and steel industries, and **iron ore** to sustain steel production consumption of an estimated 900 tonnes a year to supply the pace of urban and **commercial** development.

Japan and **China** are seeking greater investment opportunities in Australian farms and agribusiness through an increase in Foreign Investment Review **Board acquisition** controls from \$248 **million** to more than \$1 **billion**.

On the local scene, Livingstone Shire Council has moved on two important infrastructure investments, with potential to pay their way through land sales, with **purchase** of land to extend the existing industrial **estate** on Yeppoon Road to Bondoola to cater for expansion of industries and construction of the vital Panorama Dr linking Farnborough Rd over the range to Adelaide **Park** Rd and the western bypass.

Funding has been sought from the State's Royalties for the Region Program.

This project also will draw road contributions from development of subdivisions both sides of the range.

The Federal Coalition Government is trying to put together the May budget from the worsening financial debt inherited from the 2013 defeat of the ALP and the strangling economic impact of the Senate in opposing repeal of the carbon and **mining** taxes.

Without reducing debt by selling off some assets there is little hope for development of vital infrastructure works for economic recovery, without increased taxes, higher costs and cuts to spending.

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