

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2010  
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## QUICKFIND

Nation	10-11	Comics	23
Opinion	12-13	Puzzles	24
World	14-15	Classifieds	33-36
Milestones	16	Weather, TV Guide	55
Money	17-20	Sport	37-54, 56

## LOCAL

**Pride of the North** Brian Lovelock, 77, has been nominated for a Pride of Australia Medal in recognition of his work with charitable communities.



PAGE 6

## NATIONAL

**Hero's welcome** Round-the-world sailor Jessica Watson was in high demand as she sailed into her home town of Mooloolaba yesterday.



PAGE 10-11

## WEATHER

full details P55

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>TOMORROW</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>
Mostly fine: 27	Mostly fine: 26	Cloudy: 28

## WINNING NUMBERS

Gold Lotto (Draw 3013, 5-6-10) 5, 13, 24, 26, 28, 41. Supps 25, 20.  
Div 1: \$444,444.45. Div 2 16,052.40. Div 3: \$1321.50.  
Div 4: \$45.75. Div 5: \$29.20.  
Super 66: (Draw 3013, 5-6-10) 6, 4, 5, 1, 8, 0. Div 1: -.  
Div 2 \$6666.00. Div 3: \$666. Div 4: \$66. Div 5 \$6.60.

## PETROL WATCH

**YESTERDAY'S AVERAGE ULP PRICE IN CAIRNS** **129.7c** UNLEADED  
For cheaper petrol go to www.racq.com.au

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# Charge on to improve jobless rate

▶ From Page 1

He said the psychological boost of falling beneath 10 per cent unemployment would bring a renewed confidence to the region's job seekers and employers.

"The general level of optimism is fairly low," Mr Doutre said.

"But I think we're at the tail-end of the high unemployment cycle."

Mr Doutre said eight Jobs Fund projects worth more than \$8 million and 190 jobs had or were about to start.

"(Recently) I was in Innisfail at the PCYC where a \$2 million job fund at the PCYC where 14 unemployed people aged 17 to 40 have started a program, including a Certificate I and II skills in construction, and the local construction company looks like they will take them all on," he said.

The other Jobs Fund works include an apprenticeship scheme in Cairns, the construction of the Cairns Community Education Centre, the Mission Beach Community Arts Centre, the Mossman Gorge walking track, Djarragun College construction and yard maintenance project, a Yarrabah energy efficiency project and the Cattana Wetlands environmental project.

Mr Doutre said work would soon start on the first round of the Building Education Revolution projects and the second round had been let as well.

"The social housing projects are also about to kick off and we should start to see some activity," he said.

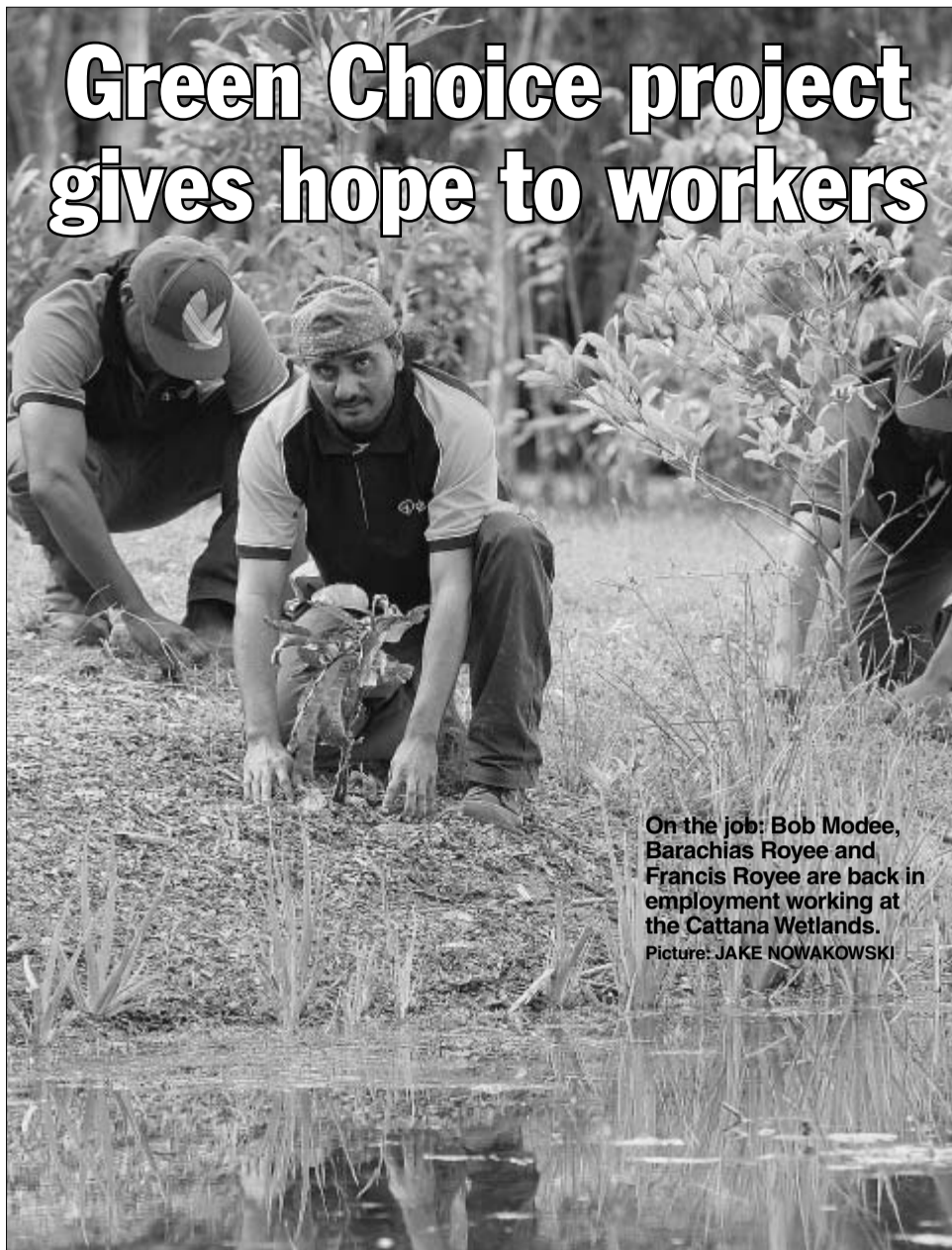
Mr Doutre said the traditional tourism season had started and forward bookings were looking promising.

"As we start to see the end of high unemployment we will see population growth at more healthy levels and that in itself will stimulate the economy," he said.



Peter Doutre

# Green Choice project gives hope to workers



On the job: Bob Modee, Barachias Royee and Francis Royee are back in employment working at the Cattana Wetlands. Picture: JAKE NOWAKOWSKI

FOR three family men, the \$2 million Green Choice project launched in Cairns delivers them work at a critical time.

The 12-month project involves building environmental infrastructure and rehabilitation works for two Cairns Regional Council projects at the Cattana Wetlands at Smithfield and the Red Arrow walking track at Edge Hill.

The Choice Australia Management scheme will employ 63 young, displaced and indigenous job seekers and provide 56 work experience positions.

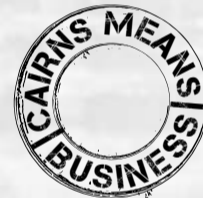
Barachias Royee, 28, of Gordonvale,

who has a fiancée and three young children, said he had been looking for work for several months after being a carpenter on the new Mulgrave River bridge ended.

"I've been with Choice for the past three months. This has come at the right time," he said.

Francis Royee, who has a fiancée and four children, said he was looking forward to helping to rehabilitate the wetlands.

Work on the wetlands and the walking trail begins later this month.



# Fraser feels river buffer is right fit

QUEENSLAND Treasurer Andrew Fraser says he is confident the Government has got the balance right between the environment and mining development along the Wenlock River.

The State Government on Friday declared the Wenlock, in Cape York, a wild river under the its controversial Wild Rivers legislation.

Mining companies Cape Alumina and Rio Tinto are developing projects in the area.

Cape Alumina's proposed \$1.2 billion Pisolite Hills bauxite

mine and port project partly overlaps Bertiehaugh Station, also known as the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve.

The Wild Rivers declaration includes a 500m buffer zone around the Coolibah Springs complex on the reserve.

Mr Fraser yesterday defended the buffer zone decision, after announcing job creation was the State Government's top prior-



Andrew Fraser

ity for tomorrow's state Budget.

He said Cape Alumina had advised the development was now less viable, but the State Government would never endorse job creation without maintaining a healthy balance with the environment.

"This is a Government that welcomes mining development, always has and always will, but only on the rules that the environmental conditions are met," he said.

"And clearly a 500m buffer zone which is being proposed is there based on the science to en-

sure we get the balance right."

"Of course (Cape Alumina) would make more money if they were able to mine right up to the river bank and right through the area, everyone appreciates that, but I'm confident that we've got the balance right."

The Wenlock, which covers about 7435sq km, has the highest number of freshwater fish species in Australia and the surrounding rainforest is home to endangered animals.

- AAP, Brisbane

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