

## **Mr. Rob Macalister**

CEO, Gulf Savannah Development Inc.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Rob has worked extensively around the Pacific as a manager of international development assistance programmes and as a consultant/ trainer in the areas of enterprise development and community development. In early 2007 Rob took up the position of CEO with Gulf Savannah Development, based in Cairns. Gulf Savannah Development is the development agency for Queensland's Gulf Savannah region, based on Council and private sector membership. The GSD Board is drawn from the Shire Councils of Burke, Carpentaria, Doomadgee, Etheridge, and Mornington. Rob is also a Director of Savannah Way Limited and the Far North Queensland Ports Corporation.

### **ABSTRACT**

#### **Northern Australia Visions: the Gulf Savannah perspective**

There has been much commentary in recent years about the prospects for further development of Northern Australia. In the wake of the North Australia Land and Water Task Force report (commissioned by the Federal Government) and concerns that development in the north is being traded off for votes in the south, Gulf Savannah stakeholders are keen to put forward a coherent and realistic vision for their part of Northern Australia. The vision seeks to balance development, environmental and cultural interests and seeks to put forward realistic options to address the socio-economic disadvantage that prevails in the region. To unlock the region's potential we need to build on its comparative strengths, in particular, the region's internationally significant water resources, and the region's proximity into Asian markets via local ports. The intended outcomes of the presentation are for participants to gain a better understanding of Gulf community aspirations, the resources available within the region, a development equation that seeks to balance the interests of all stakeholders and the path forward to realise the Gulf Savannah vision.