

AUSTRALIAN Golf Digest

15th August 2020

To whom it may concern,

As the publisher of Australian Golf Digest I have been watching the unfortunate situation of the demise of Paradise Palms golf course closely these last 2 years.

The Graham Marsh/Ross Watson designed golf course was once the jewel in the crown for golf in Far North Queensland.

It was consistently ranked in the TOP 100 by Australian Golf Digest (and got as high as 29th in 1994). This means it was in the TOP 2% of courses in Australian golf. This prestigious list is the definitive list in the country and not only brings recognition BUT significant tourism dollars with it.

Golf Tourism over the last 5-7 years has been a significant growth industry. Why? Because golfers spend twice as much as the average golfer. This is the tourist you want to visit your region.

The New Zealand Government has invested in golf tourism over the last 5+ years and has grown their tourism dollars from \$150m to \$450m in that time. The Victorian Government has also invested heavily in this space with The Presidents Cup played in Melbourne in 2019 and now Tasmania is becoming a global golf destination after that region realised what the market was worth.

Why can't Far North Queensland be a serious golf destination too? You have the infrastructure in hotels and an international airport?

There is an enormous opportunity for the region to again become a destination for golfers. This is both (Australian based) and from our closest neighbour in New Zealand. Right now the number 1 international golf destination for New Zealand golfers is Australia. The Sunshine Coast alone receives over 70,000 visitors each year from across the Tasman. Many of which are looking for a warmer climate and a golf course to play.

The other major golfing market is Asia and this would be a natural drawcard. The game of golf in the Asian region is seeing unprecedented growth over the last 10 years. Far North Queensland can easily capture this lucrative golfing audience.

However, to be a serious golf destination, the region needs a TOP 100 course as a drawcard – and that course is Paradise Palms.

I understand that there is an opportunity to use Ross Perrett and Australia's greatest ever golfer, Karrie Webb to potentially revitalise the course.

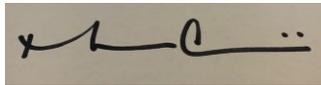
After such a project would be completed, Paradise Palms would again be well inside the TOP 100 courses in the country. In fact it could easily be within the Top 50 knowing what Ross and Karrie could do with such a piece of land.

With a world class golf course, resort facilities attached and the other good courses in the region being Mirage Country Club, Palmer Sea Reef & Half Moon Bay. Far North Queensland would become the perfect golf destination sandwiched between world heritage rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef.

The landscape and topography that Paradise Palms sits on is rare in the golfing landscape. I would encourage the local government to consider its decision wisely. This is your chance to have a leading global golf facility within Far North Queensland and in turn making it a must visit international golf destination. The return on investment would be significant for years to come as the golf tourism dollars come into the region.

I would be more than happy to speak to anyone at any time should you have any questions,

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to be 'Nick Cutler' written in a cursive style.

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