



President's Message

23 October 2014

2014 is drawing to a close and we still have a patchy economy. It has been over 5 years since the GFC hit Australia and we are yet to see a true recovery.

The palpable fear of 3 years ago has transformed to anxiety with a desire for certainty - particularly at a political level.

John Nesbitt CEO of Suncorp Bank at last month's Chamber Breakfast described the economic recovery as bath tub shaped - referring to a gradual but prolonged period of recovery. This will be aided by record low interest rates for at least 3 years. The market is factoring only a 30 basis point premium for 3 year fixed rates.

This is good news. For a sustained recovery we need improved retailing and construction. Australia wide retailing increased by 5.5% over the last year which is at the long term average. This has been predominantly in States where there is asset growth

Domestic construction with its large multiplier is yet to fire in SE Queensland. In Redlands the construction is the largest contributor to Gross Regional Product however over half of this income is generated outside of the city.

The awards Gala Presentation Dinner for the Redlands Business Excellence Awards last Saturday was an outstanding success.

Congratulations to all participants and the winners.

Garry Hargrave
President