

21 August 2015

## Auswide Bank invests \$1.6 million in Bundaberg infrastructure

- **Branch refurbishment program for Bundaberg branches**
- **Major upgrade to Bundaberg head office**

Auswide Bank has released details of a major investment to its infrastructure in Bundaberg.

Martin Barrett, Managing Director, said the Bundaberg-based bank is investing approximately \$1.6million in its branch network and upgrade works to its Bundaberg Head Office.

“We’re very excited about the bank’s branch revitalisation program which is now commencing in Bundaberg. While we recently made the difficult decision to close several branches across Queensland that have low customer engagement or which were located close to other branches, we’re progressively upgrading and modernising our other branches - Pialba in Hervey Bay and Mt Pleasant in Mackay being the most recent examples.”

“Our Bundaberg branches will also be modernized and will incorporate sales and service, technological and branding enhancements which will benefit our customers regardless of their age or financial needs.”

“Planning is already well advanced and with Sugarland we are taking the opportunity to move this branch inside the shopping centre to improve its visibility and opportunity. Our branch at Hinkler Central was upgraded in 2013 however our newer branch concepts have evolved significantly since then into a ‘state-of-the-art’ customer experience”.

Mr Barrett said even though less than 30% of customers now regularly visit a branch, Auswide Bank will continue to offer attractive, well placed branches with skilled, capable people supported by the right products, service and technology.

*Small things. Big difference.*

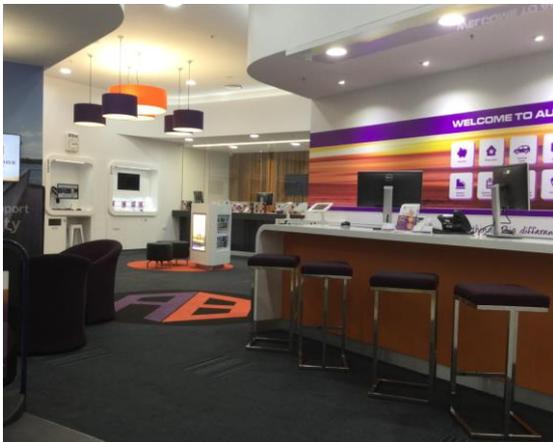
“Our home is in Bundaberg and our roots are in regional Queensland and providing the best experience for our customers and attracting new customers is very important to us. We have more branches in Bundaberg than any of our national or Brisbane-based competitors.”

Mr Barrett said the local bank is also conducting a major upgrade to its head office on the corner of Barolin and Woongarra Street which was constructed in 1987.

“These works will ensure that the high rise meets current building standards, including improving disability access for customers, tenants and the public; and that the refreshed building can serve as the base for our Australia-wide operations for many years to come.”

“The program has included the replacement of two lifts, installation of ground level electronic doors and widening of doorways, provision of access ramps and an overhaul of electrical infrastructure.”

“Where possible we have engaged local consultants, suppliers and contractors.”



Concierge Desk – Mount Pleasant Mackay



Front entrance – Mount Pleasant Mackay

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## About Auswide Bank Ltd

Auswide Bank is a national organisation based in Bundaberg, Queensland that is helping Australians achieve home ownership, create wealth, access banking & financial services that make their life easier and help them to protect their assets and loved ones from financial loss or hardship.

We provide an extensive range of personal and business banking products and services issued directly or in partnership with leading service providers via branches, strategic relationships and online & digital channels.

Auswide Bank has an Australian Credit Licence and an Australian Financial Services Licence issued by ASIC and is an Authorised Deposit-taking Institution prudentially supervised by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority.

Even though we are a smaller bank, we believe that it's the small things that make us different and can make a big difference for our customers and communities.

*Small things. Big difference.*