

30 July 2015

## Magnitude 5.3 Earthquake rocks Auswide Bank

- Tremors reported from Bundaberg through to Gold Coast
- Auswide Bank Bundaberg Head Office evacuated

A 5.3 magnitude earthquake that originated offshore in the Coral Sea was felt by Bundaberg Auswide Bank Head Office staff this morning at 9:41am.

Staff of Auswide Bank and other tenants were evacuated in a matter of minutes while an assessment of the offices was conducted.

An engineer was engaged immediately to inspect the high rise building on the corner of Barolin and Woongarra Streets who later confirmed it was robust and safe for re-entry.

Cameron Gill of GHD said he undertook a visual inspection of the building in conjunction with Auswide Bank's building maintenance manager following this morning's earthquake.

"The purpose of the inspection was to determine if there were any signs of structural distress as a result of the recent event. No visible signs of structural distress, typically associated with earthquake damage, were observed. Modern reinforced concrete and masonry structures, such as is the case for the Auswide Bank head office, generally provide robust resistance to earthquake forces."

Company Secretary Bill Schafer advised that following this advice, that the bank's Head Office had resumed full operations at 11am this morning. He apologised for any inconvenience to customers.

### ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES TO:

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*Small things. Big difference.*

## About Auswide Bank Ltd

Auswide Bank, formerly Wide Bay Australia, 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.*