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To Whom It May Concern:

As Mayor of Townsville City, I am pleased to provide mine and the council's support for the Combined Churches of Townsville in their effort to encourage other local authorities and organisations to take up the initial of working with combined Churches in their region.

In 2006 the Combined Churches of Townsville invited Townsville and Thuringowa City Councils to co-host a National Day of Thanksgiving (NDOT) reception to acknowledge various sectors of the public for their contribution to the community. The response was so positive that NDOT services have been held annually and have acknowledged group recipients such as members of the defence, emergency services, grand-parents, teachers etc.

The Stable on The Strand, an interactive re-creation of the traditional Christmas story, has been hosted by the Combined Churches of Townsville since 2002 with participation from over 60 churches and 1000 volunteers. This free five day event won the 2011 Townsville City Council's Community Event of the year as well as the Townsville Arts Awards – Event/Festival of the Year Award.

Recognising the needs of the community, the Combined Churches of Townsville initiated the Neighbour2Neighbour program in 2011. This program was aimed to help residents in need with basic home repairs, maintenance and domestic assistance. The response was so overwhelming that the Combined Churches are already planning to conduct another Neighbour2Neighbour program this year.

There are numerous programs run by the Combined Churches of Townsville which benefit the wider community including suicide bereavement support groups, weekly Pastors prayer meeting, Marriage Week, Walk of Witness as well as working with the homeless and disabled.

I fully endorse the community projects of the Combined Churches of Townsville and recommend other councils to take on board similar projects and partnerships with Combined Churches within their locality.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Les Tyrell', written in a cursive style.

Les Tyrell OAM
Mayor of Townsville