

Then there will be nine ...

District offices in Queensland will soon total nine as Customs prepares for the opening of an office in Bowen in mid-2007. Suitable office and residential accommodation in the north Queensland town is being identified.

Bowen District Office will assume responsibility for the port of Abbott Point from Townsville, which took over when the old Bowen office was closed in 1993. Australia's most northerly deep-water coal-shipping port, Abbott Point is undergoing infrastructure expansion—shipping is set to increase and Bowen District Office is being re-opened to meet marine crew visa requirements coming into effect in 2007.



Above: Carol Carter

Bowen officers will assist also with cruise ship operations in the Whitsundays and promote Customs industry and community participation programs, Frontline and Hotline in the Burdekin and Whitsunday areas.

The District Manager will be Carol Carter (pictured right), who is looking forward to becoming part of the Bowen community. She relishes the opportunity to re-establish a Customs presence in the area. "The current resource boom is driving development and growth in regional Queensland," says Carol, "and it will be exciting for Customs to be part of that growth."

Bowen is the home of the big mango. It is 200km south of Townsville and 180km north of Mackay. The other district offices in Queensland are at Bundaberg, Cairns, Gladstone, Gold Coast, Mackay, Townsville, Thursday Island and Weipa. There are currently 29 district offices around Australia.

The most recent new district office was also a re-opening—in 2005 at the Port of Geelong in Victoria—after an absence of nine years.

