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TOP END AGENTS PROVE RESILIENT BUNCH

LJ Hooker offices faced with the formidable Yasi are getting back to business.

Network Performance Manager for North Queensland and Tropical North Queensland, John Farren-Price, said most of the offices in those regions were spared major damage.

“Our Tully office fared the worst,” he said.

“While the premises incurred no major structural damage, loss of power and services proved a significant hardship.

“However it is the long term effect on the local market itself that will have a major impact on the business, particularly the property management side.

“The local economy is shattered and the large renter population in the region for work is likely to be absent for up to 12 months as the people are forced to find employment elsewhere.”

Mr Farren-Price described the LJ Hooker franchise owners and teams of the north as a resilient bunch.

“They tend to take it all in their stride and get on with the business of helping their customers, especially their landlords and tenants.

“I was actually speaking with Kev Ramke, from the Atherton office, just as the cyclone was about to hit and his typically understated comment was ‘Well John, there’s a little bit of a breeze!’”

Mr Farren-Price had visited Tully in 2006 immediately after Cyclone Larry.

“I saw what LJ Hooker Tully owners Greg and Sue Bowditch had to face then, the way they went to the assistance of their community and got their business back on track.

“Greg described Yasi’s impact as eight to ten times worse yet they are doing the same again.”

Mr Farren-Price said he and LJ Hooker’s CEO L. Janusz Hooker would be visiting the real estate network’s offices through North and Tropical North Queensland at the beginning of March.

The network also holds its international Property Investment Management Conference at The Pullman Reef Casino in Cairns from 5 to 7 March.

LJ Hooker established a flood relief micro site <http://www.floodrelief.ljhooker.com/>.in January and its support through the Red Cross Relief and Recovery now extends to households devastated by Cyclone Yasi.

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