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Summit to illuminate

THE fifth State of the Region Summit is on this Friday.

“The Sunshine Coast and Queensland are still feeling the adverse impacts of the global financial crisis and anyone who thinks we are out of the woods is just not tuned in to the real world,” summit convenor Professor Scott Prasser said.

Prof Prasser pointed out that recent economic analysis suggested the Queensland economy may be more vulnerable than elsewhere in Australia, with consumer spending sluggish, housing starts halved, engineering projects falling by 40% and rental vacancies up, and our over-reliance on commodities making us susceptible to any contractions in China.

The theme of this year’s summit is “wealth of the region – building on strengths”.

“What we want to explore this year is just how we can better grow jobs and business, not by pipe dreams but by building on some of the key strengths of the region like our tourism, our lifestyle, our growing population,” he said.

The summit is in USC’s lecture theatre 7 from 8.30am.

Registration, which includes morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and evening drinks, costs \$275 or \$165 for students and not-for-profit groups.