

# Tropics push on green energy

**TONY RAGGATT**

MORE local involvement is needed in renewable energy projects in North Queensland to ensure systems suit the tropics, Townsville-based energy specialist Frank Dallmeyer will tell a renewable energy workshop in the city today.

Mr Dallmeyer, the founder of Tropical Energy Solutions, will address the Renewable Reef Futures Workshop at Reef HQ.

Mr Dallmeyer said yesterday there was concern about recent events where overseas and southern-based companies were being used for projects being developed by government-owned corporation Ergon Energy.

There is also concern about Ergon giving companies insufficient time to respond to a recent expression of interest campaign to develop 150 megawatts of renewable energy in regional Queensland.

Mr Dallmeyer said one of the reasons he was participating in the workshop was to try to improve local involvement.

"It's a chance for local businesses to participate and to be involved in developing the systems and solutions, otherwise we will continue to see these solutions brought in from outside our region," he said.

He said solutions for the tropics needed to be different to those in temperate zones because load profiles were differ-

ent, particularly around the use of airconditioning.

"It creates all sorts of risks and problems down the track if you copy solutions without adapting them properly to our environment," Mr Dallmeyer said.

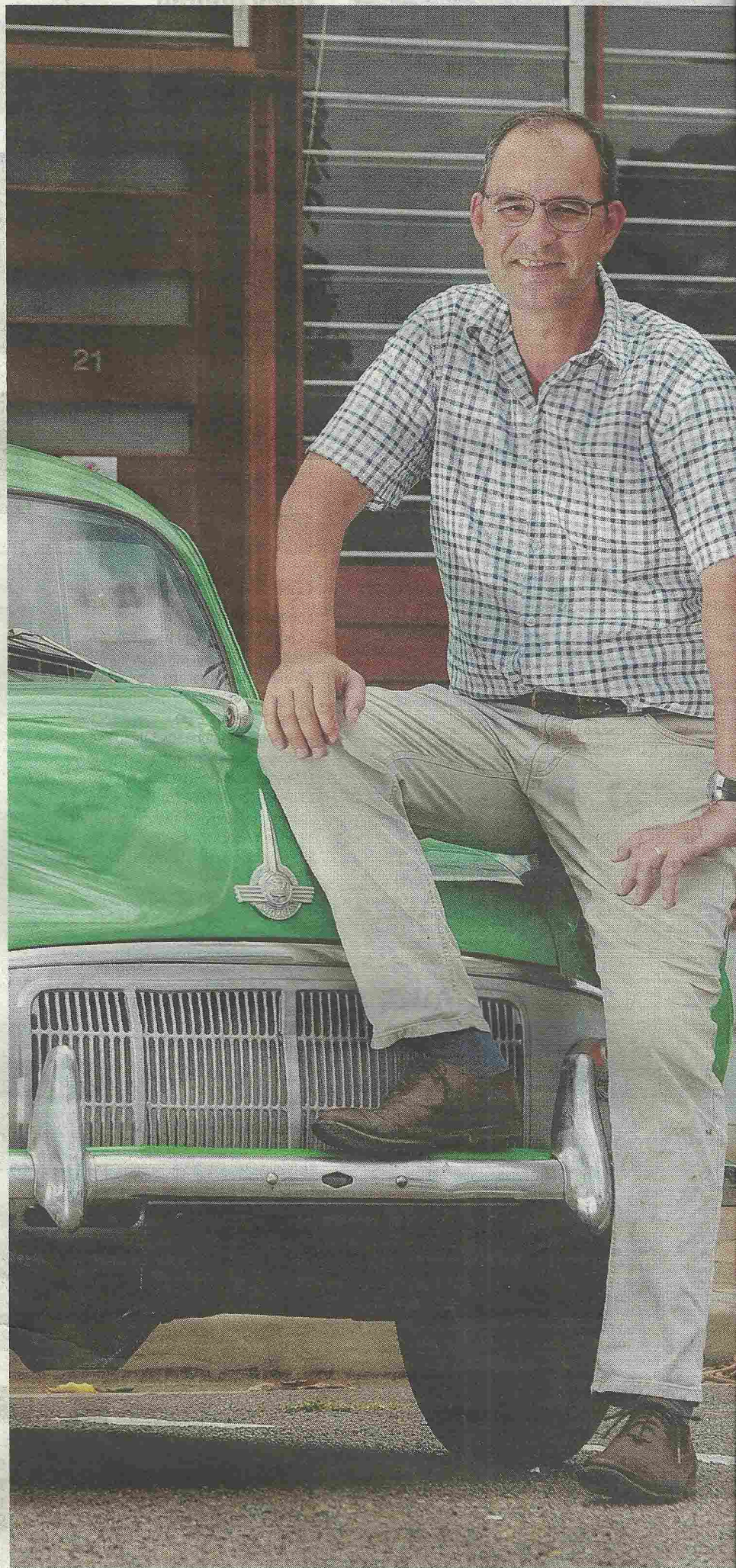
The Reef Renewable Futures group, part of the Centre for Sustainability Leadership, is hosting the workshop which aims to identify, prioritise and catalyse renewable energy projects focused on benefits for people and the marine environment.

Renewable Reef Future group spokesman Adam Smith said they wanted to bring a range of stakeholders together to identify tangible steps to grow the capacity for renewable energy projects in the region as a way of creating clean energy and responding to climate change.

"I am very proud to be part of the Renewable Reef Futures team that is organising the workshop with a goal of improving the health of the Great Barrier Reef," Dr Smith said.

"We know that the health of the reef is poor and we urgently need leadership and collaboration to turn the tide away from unsustainable practices and move to a better future.

"We believe the workshop can develop strategies for the renewable energy sector and initiate projects, clean energy jobs and environmental outcomes."



**LOCAL PUSH:** Tropical Energy Solutions founder Frank Dallmeyer with his old Morris Minor converted into an electric car.