

Businesses move into re-hiring mode

Michelle Collins

GO west – not north – if you are looking for a job this year.

Unemployment in Cairns is the highest in the state while the Darling Downs jobs market has been unaffected by the recession.

John Black from Australian Development Strategies said far north Queensland had been a “horror story” for jobs.

The Regional Unemployment Index produced by ADS for the Local Government Association of Queensland shows the areas hardest hit last year were far north Queensland, north Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast.

“Unemployment in the north in November was 10 per cent and it has been around 10 to 15 per cent for some months. Consistently, the best areas have been the Darling Downs and the southwest of the state.”

He said unemployment was starting to affect white collar workers living in outer “commuter” suburbs such as Mango Hill, Springwood, and the outer Brisbane ring.

The good news is that recruitment firms have said businesses are looking at hiring back some of the people let

go in 2009.

Accounting recruitment division manager Tarnya Lowe from Randstad said companies would be rehiring financial controllers, commercial managers and general managers.

She said 90 per cent of Randstad’s accounting clients had lifted their 2009 hiring freezes and were hunting for accounts payable, credit and accounts receivable officers – although these might initially be contract or temporary jobs.

There were also likely to be opportunities for sales reps and account managers in the pharmaceutical area and in businesses that produce goods with a short shelf life, such as food and beverages.

The chief executive officer at Sarina Russo Job Access, Kevin Ayre, said businesses would probably look first at increasing the hours of employees whose hours had been cut in 2009.

He said he expected to see jobs available this year in mining and gas, the construction industry and in warehousing and transport.

It is good news for Graham Wood, 52, of Wishart, who has been job

hunting since October when he was made redundant when the insurance company where he was senior management accountant and business analyst restructured.

He is now looking for work as a financial manager, senior accountant or financial manager and has registered with a recruitment firm, and been scouring job advertisements and networking.



JOB HUNTER: Graham Wood has been looking since October.