



MINUTES

Seventeenth Annual General Meeting of the
Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils
held on **Monday 14 September 2009**
in the Civic Reception Room, Ground Floor
Cairns Regional Council, 119 – 145 Spence Street, Cairns

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ATTENDANCE: | Cr Bill Shannon | Cassowary Coast Regional Council |
| | Terry Brennan CEO | Cassowary Coast Regional Council |
| | Cr Peter Scott | Cook Shire Council |
| | Steve Wilton CEO | Cook Shire Council |
| | Cr Val Schier (Deputy Chair) | Cairns Regional Council |
| | Cr Tom Gilmore (Chair) | Tablelands Regional Council |
| | Ian Church CEO | Tablelands Regional Council |
| | Darlene Irvine | FNQROC |
| | Sandra McCormack | FNQROC |
| | | |
| Observers | Cr Julia Leu | Cairns Regional Council |
| | | |
| Apologies: | Cr Andrew Lancini | Hinchinbrook Shire Council |
| | Cr Desmond Tayley | Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council |
| | Mr Kevin Wormald | Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council |
| | Cr Percy Neal | Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council |
| | | |

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| 881 | CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS |
|------------|--------------------------------|

The Chair declared the meeting open at 3pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Attachment 1 is the Chair's Report to the AGM 14 September 2009.

MOVED: Cr Tom Gilmore

SECONDED: Cr Val Schier

“that the Chair’s report to the Annual General Meeting 14 September 2009 be accepted.”

CARRIED

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| 882 | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES |
|------------|--------------------------------|

MOVED: Cr Peter Scott

SECONDED: Cr Val Schier

“That the minutes of the sixteenth Annual General Meeting held on 5 September 2009 be confirmed.”

CARRIED

| | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| 883 | TREASURER'S REPORT |
|------------|---------------------------|

MOVED: Cr Bill Shannon

SECONDED: Cr Peter Scott

“That the Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 as circulated be adopted with the Queensland Audit Office still to complete its audit of FNQROC.”

CARRIED

| | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| 884 | ELECTION OF CHAIR |
|------------|--------------------------|

The board positions were declared open.

Mr Ian Church called for nominations for the position of Chair.

Cr Tom Gilmore

NOMINATED by Cr Val Schier

SECONDED by Cr Peter Scott

There being no further nominations Cr Tom Gilmore was declared elected as Chair of FNQROC.

| | |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| 885 | ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR |
|------------|---------------------------------|

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Deputy Chair.

Cr Val Schier

NOMINATED by Cr Peter Scott

SECONDED by Cr Bill Shannon

There being no further nominations, Cr Val Schier was declared elected as Deputy Chair.

| | |
|------------|---|
| 886 | APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY AND TREASURER |
|------------|---|

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Secretary and Treasurer.

FNQROC Executive Officer

NOMINATED by Cr Bill Shannon

SECONDED by Cr Peter Scott

There being no further nominations, the FNQROC Executive Officer was declared Secretary and Treasurer.

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| 887 | APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR |
|------------|-------------------------------|

Declared to be appointed

“That the Queensland Audit Office undertake the 2008/2009 Audit.”

| | |
|------------|--|
| 888 | PAYMENT OF HONORARIUM TO CHAIRMAN |
|------------|--|

MOVED: Cr Bill Shannon

SECONDED: Cr Peter Scott

“That a payment of \$5000.00 be made to Cr Tom Gilmore for his work on behalf of FNQROC over the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.”

CARRIED

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| 880 | CONCLUSION |
|------------|-------------------|

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 3.07pm.

.....
CHAIR

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

14 SEPTEMBER, 2009

This past year has gone very quickly and it is clear that we have all been deeply engaged in the processes of amalgamation and the day to day operation of our councils.

These onerous duties have, to a degree, limited the development of the Regional Organisation of Councils into the organisation that it clearly must be as we move forward.

Today's workshop is designed to give a free expression of the needs, desires and aspirations of each of our councils and our communities, and ought to be a blueprint for our activity in the coming year.

As Chairman I meet with Darlene Irvine, FNQROC Coordinator on a regular basis in order to remain across issues as they arise.

The expansion of the Regional Organisation to include Wujal Wujal and Yarrabah Councils has been a major step forward and gives clear recognition to these emerging councils as full partners in our region.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR:

There has been some staff turnover in the past year and we have said farewell to Susan Ponticello and Kirby Doak.

We have welcomed to our organisations Travis Sydes, Gerard Read and Sandra McCormack.

Besides the maintenance activities of existing regional plans or strategies, we have commenced and completed a further nine projects in the areas of Roads, Asset Management, Climate Change and Landscape resilience.

Roads:

Through the FNQROC we are looking at alternative business models which are certainly in line with the discussions of today's workshop.

Asset Management:

We have worked towards the development of tools that councils can use to identify customer service levels and equating them back to technical 'Levels of Service' which is an important requirement under the new Local Government Act and subsequent Long Term Financial, Asset Management and Community Plans.

Climate Change:

We now have details of the emissions councils create and where they are coming from. Understanding and management of this will assist councils to:

- a) Review their business practices and save money on identified areas
- b) Reduce emissions and 'lead by example'
- c) Be proactive on the future impacts that a 'Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme' will have on councils

Immediate action has already commenced prior to the local and regional action plans being adopted with the recent assessment of submissions to undertake an infrastructure audit of Ergon accounts and a tariff analysis.

Landscape Resilience:

Councils have recognised that pest weeds and animals are a symptom of a degraded landscape and that treating the cause is a better long term result. We are now working on prioritising landscapes for rehabilitation as a long term solution to a silent but very costly core council activity.

Important features of this past year have included the attraction of \$165,000 in project capability funding and retained a further \$2.5mil in road subsidy funding. The investment from councils was approximately \$165,000. The project capability funding was down on 2007/2008 figures however there was a significant amount of roll over activities that needed to be completed to the value of \$185,000.

While acknowledging the good the organisation provides to member councils it is important that we look forward to ensure that the organisation grows to challenge the demands of the future.

Demands by the State Government are extraordinary burdensome on both staff and on our finances and we therefore, as an organisation need to stand together to lessen the impact on individual councils and to broaden our influence with government.

I suggest the following - that we

- Are still being reactive. The organisation needs to focus its attentions on supporting councils to withstand these hits.
- Need to be cohesive. We say we are, but are we really? We lost a significant amount of water and waste subsidy, it affected us all, we pulled together the information but we still advocated individually.
- Need to be vocal – this does not mean 'poor us' but 'here is our problem, here is our solution, and will you help us?'
- Need to 'advertise' the good work we are doing.
- Need to be proactive in getting our peak organisations, to which we pay a significant amount of money, working together and our funding ought to be conditional on their performance.
- Need to spend more time together, perhaps in less formal surroundings, to understand the intricacies of each of our organisations; our motivations and our frustrations. We need to identify our individual strengths and weakness, and draw on each other for support.

Now that the process of amalgamation of our councils is considerably advanced, we have a real opportunity to grow the Regional Organisation of Councils into new directions, to serve us and future councils in tackling day to day and critical issues as they arise.

Tom Gilmore
CHAIRMAN