



MINUTES
FNQROC LOCAL GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP

FRIDAY 15 APRIL 2016
Douglas Shire Council, Mossman

PRESENT:	Angelo Finocchiaro	Cairns Regional Council (teleconference)
	Gary Kerr	Cook Shire Council
	Brendan Leishman	Douglas Shire Council
	Christine Reizner	Advance Cairns
	Virginia Berry	Department of State Development
	Darlene Irvine	FNQROC
	Teresa Schmidt	FNQROC
	Susan Parsons	Mareeba Shire Council
	Nicole van Beuningen	Tablelands Regional Council
	Jann Crase	RDA FNQ&TS (teleconference)
	Virginia Berry	Department of State Development
	Bill Watson	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council / Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council
APOLOGIES:	Kerrie Hawkes	Douglas Shire Council
	Kelsey Ormsby	Department of State Development

1. WELCOME

The meeting commenced at 10.05am.

2. APOLOGIES

As noted above.

3. ADVANCE CAIRNS UPDATE

Christine Reizer gave an update on behalf of Advance Cairns:

8+8 Infrastructure & Policy Projects

- Commenced review
- Flyers and briefing notes near completion. Technical briefs and industry overviews will be developed to complement the 8+8

Successful parliamentary visit to Canberra in February

National Stronger Regions fund

- Advance Cairns was an applicant for a joint application to the NSRF with the Cairns Airport for an On-Airport Freight Facility. The application has been postponed to August.

Economy ID

- Advance Cairns purchased a package so that the AC Economy ID figures will now incorporate all of Tropical North Queensland – this should be completed by the end of April.

4. DEPARTMENT OF STATE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Virginia Berry gave an update on behalf of DSD

Focus on access and supply chains. Received positive response with increased attendance at DSD workshops.

Spin off from the Amrun workshop was a request from Weipa for dedicated workshops in Weipa which were facilitated by Joan Tapp and Kathy Rankin.

Rio Tinto agreed to list the packages on the Industry Capability Networks (ICN) Gateway web portal

Building our Regions

- Round 2 now open.
- Two stages, first stage is the Expression of Interest (EOI) and second stage, Detailed application.
- Closes 29 April 2016. Response due back end of June.
- Only change – proving need for project - weighting 40%. CBA not required in first round.
- Virginia will take on a role in Brisbane assessing applications and working with Councils.

5. UPDATE FROM NBN

No update provided at meeting. Refer attachment from RDA FNQ&TS

6. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Action	Responsibility	Status
National Stronger Regions Fund – summary to be distributed to the group	FNQROC	Completed
DSD – Mentoring for Growth - investigate whether consultants will travel to Regional Council areas	Virginia Berry	Considered on a case by case basis. Will encourage consultants to travel. Eg MSC had video conference. Contact Virginia Berry or Joan Tapp.
Indigenous Enterprise Development – email from Mark Mathews (Advance Cairns) to be distributed to the group	FNQROC	Completed
Darlene will start to scope out digital strategy/document. FNQROC can kick it off and the group can keep it rolling and add to it as an open source document.	Darlene Irvine	Discussion in General Business.
Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) is the central source of event information for promotional websites. Councils to encourage groups to register through this site.	All Councils	Noted
Sarah Palmer said the ecosystem workshop was good. Sarah will circulate the report once released.	Sarah Palmer	Angelo to chase up report.
Gary will set up a LinkedIn LG	Gary Kerr	Discussed in General Business.

Action	Responsibility	Status
economic discussion group for email out.		
Darlene to provide a copy of her summary document of the Infrastructure Australia Northern Australia Infrastructure Audit.	Darlene Irvine	Completed
Councils to talk to their own chambers about the possibility of developing an Ambassador Mentoring Program.	All Councils	Noted
Darlene to get a copy of Rosie's FNQ Regional Events Strategy presentation and include with the minutes.	Darlene Irvine	Completed
Sandra to create a Regional local events Facebook page.	Teresa Schmidt	Discussed in General Business.
Once the Facebook page is established, councils to post events.	All Councils	Discussed in General Business.

7. COUNCIL UPDATES

Douglas Shire Council

- Economic Development Strategy – Engagement of Consultant soon.
- Infrastructure – successful \$70,000 grant for Flagstaff Hill lookout and walking trail
- Aged care facility – working with local training providers for delivery of Certificate 4
- Bloomfield track – digital ebook. To be released in next financial year. Project working with a number of partners and stakeholders.
- LGMA Queensland Annual Conference to be held in Port Douglas – 6-8 September
- Major infrastructure project – Port Douglas Reservoir
- Business Development fund – completed assessment process for first lot of successful applicants. Not inundated but pleased with quality of projects for the region. From small tourism startups to larger tourism operations, agricultural/aquaculture businesses
- Events funding stream - \$40,000 allocated to support events, Taste of Port, Film Festival, Mossman Sugar Festival, sporting events, Port Douglas beach picnic races
- Planning business forum again late this year
- Booklet is available on different business opportunities / ED initiatives

Mareeba Shire Council

- Focus on Mareeba bypass road.
- Over next 12 months – moving community assets to community partnership models. Sporting grounds and community halls.

- Mareeba Multicultural festival – achieved signature event status. Working with the committee to improve capacity building.

Cook Shire Council

- Council internal re-structure in February. With the resignation of the Director of Planning and Environment, Gary Kerr taken on new areas of responsibility.
- New local laws, new planning scheme (state interest check) and Infrastructure plan.
- Sarah Greaves replacement will be focusing on community engagement.
- Redesign of website – user friendly and online transactions
- Project management – capability through the organization. 15 staff doing Diploma of project management through LGAQ.
- Projects – adopted new Economic Development Strategy. Four key areas, tourism, agriculture, aviation and renewal energy. Lakelands solar farm will commence in the next few weeks. First installation that takes instability out of the grid from renewable energy. BHP will become carbon reduction project.
- Public/private partnership with solar projects in the Cape. Pilot projects.
- Round 1 - \$500 000 secured for work to Cooktown airport to facilitate industrial park. Lots of interest,
- Airport development plan
- Lakeland irrigation scheme – opening up land for banana and diversifying agricultural production. Application on feasibility study to Federal Government, no response yet.
- NBN – due to roll out in four months' time.
- RV park to be setup in Cooktown and showgrounds overflow area

Tablelands Regional Council

- Some new councillors with ED and Agricultural development background
 - TRC holding LGAQ Total Solutions 1 day Economic Development Workshop in May
- ACTION: Nicole to forward details of the LGAQ Economic Development workshop to FNQROC to distribute to group.**
- Economic Development Strategy – at communication stage and will be looking at communicating through business week, 20 May 2016. A number of events will be held over the weekend.
 - Southern Tablelands Development Scheme – 750K through National Water Infrastructure fund. Scope will change based on the amount granted.
 - Looking at development new events strategy. Looking at developing some standardization of how applications assessed.
 - Reviewing MoU – with Tablelands Future Corporation. Nicole enquired about some examples of deliverables and advise and assistance from the group. Angelo offered assistance.

- Mobile blackspot funding – didn't have a good spread of sites.

Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

- Particular issues for Aboriginal Shire Councils. Positive and negative impacts with Indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs).
- Problem with indigenous communities with small rates base. Difficult to get funding and onerous to provide services.
- Mobile black spot program – registered interest
- Safer streets – Telstra – CCTV – submission in
- Horses are a pest issue in Yarrabah. FNQROC working with Yarrabah on this issue.
- Local Laws revised
- In need of an Economic Development strategy. Some plans developed

Cairns Regional Council

- Innovation awards launched during small business week. Will work with FNQROC to get the message out. There will be a number of workshop and working with Advance Cairns to stream some of the events at the summit.
- Aquarium development progressing
- Mobile blackspot funding – 5 sites included

8. RDA FNQ&TS UPDATE

Jann Crase gave an update on behalf of RDA FNQ&TS

Refer attachment 1 for detailed update.

RDA FNQ & TS Regional Roadmap Review

- RDA sending request to all 21 local governments for top 5 infrastructure priorities, brief views on barriers and opportunities to economic growth in their area and support sought from RDA
- Regional profile and analysis will form part of the Roadmap as well as key initiatives for next 5 years.

Cape York Regional Package

- Awaiting announcement of tender process for next set of works April/May.

Inland Qld Roads Action Plan

- The IQ-RAP was launched in February and is gaining traction for the adoption of this road prioritisation process and plan for Queensland with a view to migrate the methodology across to other jurisdictions.

National Water Infrastructure Development Fund

- Feasibility Study applications called for - 2 proposals from FNQ region submitted
- Decision on feasibility funding anticipated for end April/early May
- Nullinga Feasibility Study (committed \$5m under Nth Aust White Paper) – commencing soon Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility
- \$5b concessional loan facility for private sector investment in infrastructure projects (airports, ports, roads, water infrastructure, energy etc) in Northern Australia.

9. FNQROC UPDATE

- FNQROC Board meeting and Regional Roads & Transport Group Board meeting to be held on 18 April 2016
- Strategic Directions document 2012-2017. Planning a strategic review with the Board in August

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

a) Advance Cairns Membership

Darlene provided an overview of FNQROC and member Council's membership with Advance Cairns.

- FNQROC has executive level membership.
- FNQROC member Councils (not including Cairns Regional Council) has General Level membership.
- As Executive member, the Chair of FNQROC will be the nominee on the Advance Cairns Advisory Council and have a standing invitation to attend Advance Cairns Board Meetings as an observer
- As fully paid members, individual member councils and FNQROC can nominate to become Board Directors
- FNQROC has paid \$50,000 for this arrangement
- Advisory Council meeting quarterly
- Board – 4 platinum members plus 2 elected

ACTION: Christine Reizner to provide a list of members on the Advisory Council to FNQROC to distribute to the group.

b) Cross Region Events

General discussion regarding the Croc Trophy and existing contracts with Douglas Shire Council and Cairns Regional Council and arrangements with Tablelands Regional Council and Douglas Shire Council.

ACTION: Nicole to forward latest email from the Croc Trophy event coordinator re funding to Teresa.

ACTION: Teresa to collate all existing contracts and agreements regarding the Croc Trophy in preparation for discussion at a Cross Region Event group meeting to be held following the Economic Development Group meeting scheduled for 15 July.

Darlene gave a background to the FNQROC cross region event policy.

ACTION: Teresa to distribute the FNQROC cross region event policy.

ACTION: Each Council to check their Council grants/events policy to ensure that FNQROC event policy is referenced.

ACTION: Teresa to review list of cross region events that has been previously complied.

c) FNQROC Facebook page and LinkedIn account

General discussion regarding a previous meeting action to establish an FNQROC facebook page and LinkedIn account.

It was agreed that a Facebook page is not a priority for the group. The LinkedIn account was previously setup by Gary Kerr. Agreed that LinkedIn would be beneficial for the group to be able to share ideas/resources.

ACTION: Gary to resend the account details to FNQROC to distribute to the group.

d) FNQROC Digital Strategy

General discussion regarding the Digital Strategy, which had previously been identified as a project for the group. After some discussion there was no clear direction on what Digital Strategy for the group would focus on. Suggestion to use proposed LinkedIn site to share ideas/tools.

Discussion regarding alternative priorities for the group. Two projects were discussed, Mobile Blackspots and RV Strategy.

ACTION: Teresa to research opportunities/key issues for the region on Mobile Blackspots and an RV Strategy and prepare discussion papers for the next meeting.

ACTION: Nicole to pull up previous work that was done by TRC on mobile blackspots and forward information to Teresa.

e) Getting Investment Ready seminar

Matthew Lamprecht from Trade and Investment Queensland sent an email to Angelo (CRC) regarding Getting Investment Ready Seminar. Angelo not available on line to provide further information.

ACTION: Teresa to follow up with Trade and Investment Queensland and distribute further information to the group.

f) LGAQ workshop – 17 May 2016 – Economic Development – Nurturing your Local Economy

Nicole advised that TRC has arranged for LGAQ to hold a workshop in Atherton (refer Council Updates, section 7).

ACTION: Teresa to forward LGonline member alert regarding workshop to the group.

11. Next Meeting Date – 15 July 2016 (Cairns) TRC offered to host meeting on 18 November 2018

12. CONCLUSION

There being no further business Teresa closed the meeting at 2.10 pm.

Summary of Actions

Action	Responsibility	Status
Sarah Palmer said the ecosystem workshop was good. Sarah will circulate the report once released.	Angelo Finocchiaro	
Nicole to forward details of the LGAQ Economic Development workshop to FNQROC to distribute to group.	Nicole Van Beuningen	Complete Information to be distributed with the minutes
Christine to provide a list of members on the Advance Cairns Advisory Council to	Christine Reizner	

Action	Responsibility	Status
FNQROC to distribute to the group.		
Nicole to forward latest email from the Croc Trophy event coordinator re funding to Teresa.	Nicole Van Beuningen	Done
Teresa to collate all existing contracts and agreements regarding the Croc Trophy in preparation for discussion at a Cross Region Event group meeting to be held following the Economic Development Group meeting scheduled for 15 July.	FNQROC	
Teresa to distribute the FNQROC cross region event policy.	FNQROC	Done – Link to FNQROC Funding of Cross Regional Events policy
Each Council to check their Council grants/events policy to ensure that the FNQROC Funding of Cross Regional Events policy is referenced.	All Councils.	
Teresa to review list of cross region events that has been previously complied.	FNQROC	
Gary to resend the LinkedIn account details to FNQROC to distribute to the group.	Gary Kerr	Complete Search – FNQROC Broadband Taskforce and send request to join
Teresa to research opportunities/key issues for the region on Mobile Blackspots and an RV Strategy and prepare discussion papers for the next meeting.	FNQROC	
Nicole to pull up previous work that was done by TRC on mobile blackspots and forward information to Teresa.	Nicole Van Beuningen	
Teresa to follow up with Trade and Investment Queensland and distribute further information to the group.	FNQROC	Done - to forward information to the group when it is available
Teresa to forward LGonline member alert regarding workshop to the group.	FNQROC	Done – distributed with the minutes