

MINUTES

Meeting No	7
Meeting	Regional Economic Advisory Committee
Date	24 November 2017
Time	10 am
Venue	Cairns Regional Council, Committee Room, Level 3

The meeting opened at 10:00am.

1. Attendance

Name	Organisation
Darlene Irvine	FNQROC
Teresa Schmidt	FNQROC
Nick Masasso	Cairns Regional Council
Belinda Hutchinson	Cairns Regional Council
Richard Blanchette	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Gary Kerr	Douglas Shire Council
Susan Parsons	Mareeba Shire Council
Nicole Van Beuningen	Tablelands Regional Council
Andrew Powrie	Tablelands Regional Council
Jan Crass	RDA FNQ&TI
Danielle Carey	Advance Cairns
Denise Kreymborg	Department of Premier and Cabinet
Kristy Nau	Department of Premier and Cabinet
Paul Cranch	LGAQ

2. Apologies

Name	Organisation
Sarah Palmer	TTNQ
Virginia Berry	Department of State Development
Rebekah Hill	Etheridge Shire Council
Angelo Finocchiaro	Cairns Regional Council
Kelsey Ormsby	Department of State Development

3. Guests

Name	Organisation
Paul Gadak	Advance Cairns

4. Acceptance of previous minutes, Meeting No. 5 25 August 2017

5. Actions from Previous Minutes

No.	ACTION	OWNER	COMPLETED?
6.1	Teresa (FNQROC) to contact the key .id users within each Council to discuss the new sites and training requirements	FNQROC	Training to be rolled out throughout October and November
6.2	TTNQ to share with FNQROC, TTNQ strategies	TTNQ	
6.3	TTNQ and FNQROC to discuss TTNQ Drive Strategy	TTNQ & FNQROC	

No.	ACTION	OWNER	COMPLETED?
6.4	FNQROC to share the Agenda for the FNQROC Western Councils forum with the group.	FNQROC	Complete (meeting held on 13-14 November)
6.5	Belinda (CRC) to contact Brendan Leishman (DSC) regarding IgniteFNQ.	CRC	Complete
6.6	Kerry (DSC) to forward information on proposed cross regional event to Teresa to follow up.	DSC	Complete – information on two proposed cross regional events (Targa Tropics and Bicycle Qld ride sent to FNQROC Cross Regional Event Group
6.7	Teresa (FNQROC) and Nicole (TRC) to discuss contacts for trainers and expressions of interest in IAP2 training	FNQROC	Underway – TRC (Jessica Fealy) working with training provider to develop a proposal for IAP2 training. FNQROC to distribute to group seeking any EOI's to participate in the training Update – TRC looking at a 3 day course in March (Fri, Monday and Tues). MSC & DSC indicated an interest.

6. Presentation – Paul Gadak – agTNQ Project

A copy of presentation notes on the Singapore Mayoral Delegation to be distributed with the minutes.

- AgTNQ Project through Advance Cairns – over past 8-9 months
- Aimed at opportunities in agriculture and horticulture
- Need to articulate a pathway between producer and market
- Look at overseas markets
- Trade mission to Singapore
 - o lead by Mayor of Cairns
 - o Small delegation visit over two days.
 - o Intelligence gathering to understand the supply access into Singapore market
 - o Niche & high value products
 - o Direct Flights from Cairns to Singapore
 - o Silk Air confirmed additional flights, with additional capacity into Cairns
 - o There is interest in Cairns market
 - o There is a sophisticated network operating out of Singapore
 - o Outcome – continued collaboration with the groups
 - o Food and Hotel Asia 2018 (FHA2018) expo in Singapore 24-27 April – TIQ will be involved
 - o Need to maintain contacts and relationship
 - o Establishing economic networks with businesses here that connect to the supply chain
- AgTNQ project reinforced and aligns with the CSIRO Futures report – Food and Agribusiness - <https://www.csiro.au/en/Do-business/Futures/Reports/Food-and-Agribusiness-Roadmap>.
Five key growth enablers:
 - o Traceability and provenance
 - o Food safety and biosecurity
 - o Market intelligence and access
 - o Collaboration and knowledge sharing
 - o Skills

- Paul Cranch – LGAQ – suggestions on what is beneficial – producers understanding the market – consistent and quality to meet buyer needs. Educating the producers. How to present and how to package. Especially if going direct to buyer.
- How can Councils be engaged in the project? How do they know who Paul is talking to in the community - Contact Paul Gadak, Advance Cairns.
- Cairns airport is supportive of increase in airfreight
- Kathy Rankine – Dept State Dev – aligns with the Queensland Airfreight Study which found that large majority of airfreight is out of Brisbane and identified opportunities through Cairns airport. Report not public. *A copy of the presentation powerpoint on the Airfreight Study to be distributed with the minutes.*
- Getting information out to the regions – understanding that Dept. of Agriculture and Fisheries are planning an industry event in the new year?

ACTION 7.1 – FNQROC to follow up with Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries regarding a planned industry event in the new year.

7. Update from RDA, FNQ&TS, Jann Crase

A copy of the August 2017 snapshot distributed at the meeting

- Currently Acting Minister
- Building Better Regions Fund – Round 2 open, close 19 December 2017
 - o Infrastructure Projects Stream
 - o Community Investments Stream
- Role in Trade & Investment
 - o Included in the new Charter
 - o Engaging with existing players in this space
 - o Plan to touch base with Paul LGAQ
- Regional Jobs and Investment package – not yet announced.
- Pending appointment of new Chair RDA FNQ&TS
- New Charter released August 2017 – to be distributed with the minutes

8. Introduction – Paul Cranch, LGAQ Senior Advisor, Trade and Investment

- New role within LGAQ – focussing on:
 - o Improving Coordination between local government, TIQ and Austrade at the strategic level
 - o Improving trade and investment attraction strategies by local government – with mentorship and professional development programs for key decision makers
 - o Improving communication between all parties with a Plan and Strategy for communication in the area of Trade and Investment
 - o Improving council’s ability to leverage off State and Federal government trade and investment initiatives through advocacy
- Working on MOU with TIQ – awaiting outcome of State election.
- Pauls contact details

Paul Cranch | Senior Advisor – Trade and Investment

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- Query – investors contact Councils directly. Who can Council contact to do background checks on investors – confirmed role of TIQ.
- Denise Kreymbory – recently appointed Manager of North Queensland for TIQ. TIQ also looking at who are the players in the trade and investment space. Ensure all players are involved to ensure better delivery of service.
- Paul noted that Councils are very astute to up and coming business in their regions.
- Currently TIQ has two officers in Cairns.

9. Update on Northern Australia Investment Forum – 19-21 November 2017

- Re organisation – we experienced communication issues between Austrade and TIQ
- FNQROC worked in partnership with Cairns Regional Council and Advance Cairns
- FNQROC contacted all member Councils seeking investment opportunities to showcase at the Forum and images for a regional video. Material presented at the marketplace:
 - o Mareeba Shire Council (Aviation Industrial Park and Mareeba Industrial Park)
 - o Cassowary Coast Regional Council (Innisfail Aerodrome)
 - o Cairns Regional Council – Investment prospectus – (on Council website) and private investment opportunities (identified through CRC commercial real estate panel)
 - o Advance Cairns – TNQ Fast Facts document
- The call out to Councils identified the need for Councils to be prepared and have information available that they can put together. Issue for Councils – time and resources
- Good example of the Cairns Regional Council Commercial Real Estate tender (note – soon to go out for again for tender)
- Some stats from the forum (provided by Austrade)
 - o 179 delegates represented 101 companies
 - o 24 markets
 - o Top markets: China (32 companies), Hong Kong (12 companies), Japan (8 companies), Indonesia (6 companies), Singapore (5 companies), USA (5 companies), India (4 companies), Taiwan (4 companies)
 - o By ‘primary sector of interest’:
 - o 31% Agribusiness and food
 - o 29% Resources and energy
 - o 27% Other
 - o 13% Tourism infrastructure
- Marketplace enquires
 - o Needed to show agriculture mapping. While the info is available on QLD Globe it wasn’t easy to pull up
 - o Darlene will be following up with any enquiries she had
- Issues
 - o Mayors weren’t invited to attend the forum
 - o Communication on what investment projects were being presented at the Qld booths

- Would appreciate follow up from Austrade and TIQ on the event
- Summary
 - worthwhile for the region to participate in the event
 - expect a lot more investment enquiries in the region
 - How do Councils know which projects are suitable for these types of forums and 'investment ready' projects
 - How do Councils funnel the information to whichever organisation is attending these functions
 - Regional video opportunity – didn't get suitable images to develop a video. Good opportunity to showcase the region.

ACTION 7.2 – FNQROC to investigate opportunity to develop a video that showcases the investment opportunities across the region.

- TRC recently adopted the Economic Development Strategy – has an investment component
- Queensland Trade and Investment Strategy 2017-2022
 - TIQ in the process of developing Regional Action Plans
 - Clinton deBruyn presented to the FNQROC Board meeting on 9 October
 - A copy of the presentation to the Board will be distributed with the minutes.

10. Update from LGAQ Advisory Committee representative, Nicole Van Beuningen and Angelo Finocchiaro

- Next LGAQ Economic Advisory meeting – Wednesday 13 December
- Nicole and Angelo unable to attend
- Nick Masasso (CRC) enquiring about calling in to meeting
- Will align with the LGAQ Tourism Roundtable meeting on the 14 Dec

11. Update from Department of State Development, Kathy Rankine

- Currently in Caretaker Mode.
- All of the Round Three Building Our Regions contracts have been finalised for 14 successful applications across 12 councils totalling \$8.3 million.
- Back to Work continues applications are being process as per usual. As of 27 October, a total of \$11.42 million has been paid to 818 employers and 1819 jobs created.
- Made in Queensland – applications are being reviewed – no decisions will be made.
- Jobs and Regional Growth – applications reviewed – no decisions made.
- On 7 October the successful Jobs and Regional Growth Fund project for Hawker Pacific was announced – support for the \$4.5 million hanger expansion to capture more heavy maintenance work from Asia Pacific region. 39 new highly technical and highly paid FTEs.
- Regional Projects Forum
 - On 31 October this annual event provided information regarding industry trends, economic trends, major project and procurement details for the FNQ to over 140 attendees.
 - Updates on mining, agriculture and tourism projects demonstrating the diversity of investment in the region.
 - The [Global Tourism Hub](#) announced by the government on 27 October 2017 was presented at the forum.
 - An EOI is currently open for the GTH on QTenders, and closes 12 December 2017.
 - Presentations from the forum are available on the [State Development website](#).

- Capability Statement workshop on 29 November.

12. Update from Advance Cairns, Danielle Carey

- Cairns Regional Council ceased funding to Advance Cairns
- Business as usual in the meantime
- Rob Gaison currently acting CEO
- Looking at new CEO in new year
- Sent infrastructure priorities to major parties for Qld Election

13. IgniteFNQ

- Funding received
- Coordinator position and chair position (now both closed)
- Can sign up to newsletter on Facebook
- Amber Marshal – putting together newsletter. Facebook page – can sign up with newsletter
- Advance Cairns would like an update on the project

ACTION 7.3 – FNQROC to invite IgniteFNQ coordinator to FNQROC Economic Development group meeting in the new year.

13. General Business

13.1. LGAQ Tourism roundtable

- Darlene will be attending the meeting on 14 December
- Aim of the discussion is to identify LGAQ advocacy priorities and actions that will support councils in growing tourism in their regions
- ? opportunities to change funding model
- Councils have different relationships with LTO's, KPI's and governance arrangements
- To be discussed at the FNQROC Board meeting on 11 December 2017

13.2. LGAQ

- LGAQ 2017 Digital Productivity Report – on LGAQ website
- LGAQ – Future Cities Summit – 11-13 July
- LG Sherlock – new initiative from LGAQ – <https://sherlock.lgaq.asn.au/home>

13.3. .id economic and community profile tools

- TRC looking at holding a business industry forum in March 2018
- TRC recently signed up to Atlas .id

14. Update from TTNQ/TEQ, Sarah Palmer (unable to attend the meeting)

Update to be distributed with the minutes

15. Mareeba Shire Council

- Completed Mareeba Airport and Mareeba Industrial Park investment docs for the forum

- Will be submitting BBRF application
- Successful application - 1.5M water infrastructure upgrade

16. Cairns Regional Council

- Angelo participating in visit to sister city in China and will be attending the marine expo
- Direct flights from China commence in Dec – 3 year commitment

17. Douglas Shire Council

- Economic Development Strategy implementation – formation of taskforces. Taskforce around Health, Training Hub, Sustainable Development and Business attraction
- Works for Queensland – Flagstaff Hill walk completed
- DSC – taking back ownership of Carnival – previously outsourced

18. Tablelands Regional Council

- 5 yr Economic development strategy adopted by Council
- 2M Disaster Coordinator and Education/Training Centre
- New disaster video in partnership with small town culture - great community response using school kids (55K views within a few days) \$5K investment
- Funding for 7 traineeships and apprenticeships plus 1 funded from TRC
- W4Q funds towards infrastructure upgrades, beautification of town centres, playgrounds and parks, racecourse, halls and community centres
- Tablelands Irrigation Project progressing with appointment of Aurecon
- TRC new position - Manager Enterprise review of alternative revenue streams and opportunities for commercialisation
- State Govt election priorities - health and wellbeing (Ath hospital upgrade, allied health and medical services precinct, additional services for ageing) water security and affordability (North Johnston diversion - feasibility), youth development programs (youth symposium held in November), and Main Road projects
- Participatory budget tool - input into service priorities from community as part of preparation of 2018/19 budget available on trc.qld.gov.au or TRC Facebook
- Major events – request to revisit FNQROC's role as conduit to councils and bring together FNQ event officers from councils to collaborate and confirm existing processes

ACTION 7.4 – FNQROC to organise a FNQROC Cross Region events group meeting to re-establish contacts within Councils, discuss events planned for 2018, opportunities to work together across events.

- Queen's Baton Relay - Planning community event – looking at iconic speaker. Query what other Councils doing and can we work together to reduce costs and points of contact for special guests – CRC contact Jan Thomson.

19. CCRC

- Organisation restructure complete – still working on priorities
- Good tourist season in CCRC
- Aquatic festival planned – organised through Mission Beach Tourism

- Hosted some of the World Cup teams – streamed live
- Rafting – Hosting world championships on the Tully River
- Pre-worlds rafting in May 2018
- Qld Outdoor Rec Federation – Tablelands / Cassowary coast – Mountain bike trail

20. FNQROC

- Engaging with Queensland Treasury Corporation – support available to Local Government
- QTC can provide assistance in reviewing business cases
- FNQROC Strategic Opportunities – how can FNQROC support Councils in business case development
- Western Councils forum held 13-14 November 2017
 - o Key discussion items – opportunities around tourism.
 - o Minutes on FNQROC website
 - o Next forum 27/28 February 2018

21. Next meeting

Next meeting will be 23 February 2018.

The meeting closed at 1.55 pm.

Minutes prepared by FNQROC Project & Office Coordinator, Teresa Schmidt.

Recommendations to FNQROC Board

- Nil

ACTION ITEM(S) –

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