

MINUTES

Meeting No	9
Meeting	FNQROC Regional Economic Development Advisory Group
Date	9 June 2017
Time	10 am – 2pm
Venue	Cairns Regional Council, Committee Room, Level 3

The meeting opened at 10:00am.

1. Attendance

Name	Organisation
Belinda Hutchinson	Cairns Regional Council
Kate Hatten	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Gary Kerr	Douglas Shire Council
Susan Parsons	Mareeba Shire Council
Nicole Van Beuningen	Tablelands Regional Council
Calum Kippin	Tablelands Regional Council
Virginia Berry	Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning
Jann Crase	RDA FNQ&TS
Sarah Palmer	TTNQ
Danielle Carey	Advance Cairns
Josh O'Keefe (teleconference)	LGAQ
Kirsten Pietzner (teleconference)	LGAQ

2. Apologies

Name	Organisation
Angelo Finocchiaro	Cairns Regional Cairns
Richard Blanchette	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Denise Kreymborg	Trade & Investment Queensland

3. Actions from Previous Minutes - Nil

4. Update from LGAQ, Kirsten Pietzner

4.1. LGAQ Regional Development Advisory Group

- To improve the ability of the LGAQ Regional Economic Development Advisory Group to provide input into LGAQ policy and key policy platforms, at its meeting on 1 June 2018 the group agreed to set meetings in the following months:
 - February (to provide input into the LGAQ State & Federal Government Budget submissions)
 - July (in preparation for LGAQ Annual Conference)

- November (to provide input into the LGAQ's *Advocacy Action Plan*, which is revised annually)
- The next REDAG meeting will be on 9 November 2018.

4.2. Review of State Government Grants to Local Government

- On 20 February 2018, the Premier and Minister for Trade, the Honourable Anastasia Palaszczuk MP, wrote to the LGAQ stating that, "*With regard to the Review of Grants to Local Government: Current and Future State Assessments, I can confirm the Queensland Government's commitment to work with the LGAQ and other stakeholders to respond to and implement the recommendations of this review.*"
- The LGAQ understands that the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs (DLGRMA) will have responsibility for leading the Government's response to the KMPG/AEC report on grants to local government. However, action on implementing the review recommendations has been limited while the department awaited the appointment of a permanent Director-General and Deputy Director-General responsible for local government.
- With the recent appointment of Mr Warwick Agnew as Director-General, DLGRMA, the LGAQ will be seeking more information on a timeframe for implementing the grant reform agenda.
- The LGAQ understands that the DLGRMA is making a budget bid for funding to support the department in implementing the proposed reforms.

4.3. LGAQ Tourism Strategy

- In March-April 2018, the LGAQ completed a series of 10 regional workshops across Queensland to assess members' tourism priorities for the LGAQ. Over 30 councils (of 77) participated in these workshops and the following issues were identified as priorities for the LGAQ's tourism strategy:
 - A Memorandum of Understanding with the Queensland Government to provide a platform for collaboration on mutually agreed projects. Councils stressed the importance of the MOU having a 'whole-of-government' approach, as multiple State Government agencies influence tourism outcomes.
 - Capability development of elected members and professional officers, including: knowledge and skills development; facilitating peer-to-peer relationships; developing a 'tourism mindset' within councils; and fostering regional collaboration.
 - Data and data analytics: improving council access to local tourism data and improving the data analytics capability of councils, particularly through LGSherlock.
- The Queensland Government's approach to developing regional tourism economies – as opposed to marketing and promoting (existing) experiences – was a critical issue for members. Related to this issue, councils reinforced the need for flexible and sufficient Queensland Government funding to support tourism growth, along with the need for continued investment in infrastructure, including roads and digital infrastructure.
- A draft *LGAQ Tourism Strategy* will be considered by the LGAQ Regional Economic Development Advisory Group at its meeting on 1 June 2018 and a final version will be presented to the LGAQ Policy Executive at its meeting on 22/23 August 2018.

ACTION 9.1: FNQROC to provide the FNQROC member Councils tourism officer contact to Kirsten (LGAQ).

5. Update from RDA FNQ&TS, Jann Crase

- Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) – round 2 announcement June / July
- Cape York Region Package (CYRP) in its final phase of delivery with full completion due by June 2018. 10 year program
- Roads of Strategic Importance initiative – guidelines out towards end of year.
- Torres Cape Indigenous Councils Alliance – TCICA – recent meeting held
- Regional Employment Trials Program - employment facilitators will work with RDA committees to enable local stakeholders to address employment issues. Selected regions will be announced mid 2018
- Jann has resigned as CEO finishing on 29 June. Taking up the role of Project Manager with the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility in August
- FNQ Trade and Investment Group meeting – 22 June 2018
- Call out to Councils for any articles for the RDA FNQ&TS newsletter by end of month

6. Update from Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Virginia Berry

6.1. Building Our Regions

- EOIs currently being assessed, announcement due July 2018
- Workshop for the Business Case Stage in Cairns 19 July to include Cost Benefit Analysis, Managing Contracts and Acquittal information

6.2. Upcoming workshops

- Tendering for Business, 14 June, Cairns
- Tendering for Business, 9 November, Cairns
- Capability Statement workshop, 23 November, Cairns
- Regional Office are working with Queensland Health and Building and Assets Services and to support industry briefings on planned projects in the region

6.3. Made in Queensland

- Round Two EOIs closed in late May, detailed applications will be sought from July 2018
- 4 applications in FNQ
- Four successful grants awarded totalling \$1,076,945.00 to date

6.4. Back to Work

- Across Far North Queensland a total of \$20 million has been paid to 1,144 employers and 2,505 jobs created. (As at 18 May 2018 Queensland Treasury Report)

6.5. Jobs and Regional Growth

- Open to SMEs but can include Local Government as partners as well
- Up to 50% funding for businesses to expedite or facilitate expansion of operations; develop common user facilities
- Strong focus on job creation
- Director based in Cairns, Chris Le Serve, 4037 3210

- Regional office currently working on four applications, two close to announcement.

6.6. Regional Export Distribution Centre – Registrations of Interest open

- \$10 million from the \$130 million Jobs and Regional Growth Fund to support business case development and construction of an export distribution centre.
- The centre will act as a pilot facility at or near an export-ready airport in regional Queensland.
- All registrations of interest must be received by DSDMIP by 5 pm, AEST, 29 June 2018.
- An Information Session on the Regional Export Distribution Centre is scheduled 12 – 2.00 pm, Monday, 18 June in Cairns. If interested in attending please contact David Brown 4037 3212.

6.7. Roadmaps

- DSDMIP continues to work on priority sector road maps for: Advanced Manufacturing, Aerospace, Biofutures, Biomedical, Defence and METS

6.8. Mentor Chat Days

- Run by Office of Small Business
- Available for early stage businesses requiring one-on-one assistance to address a particular business challenge or opportunity.
- Access via Skype, face-to-face or at Office of Small Business events across Queensland
- Mentor chats generally run for approximately 45 minutes.
- Recent events linked to Small Business Week in Thursday Island, Cairns and Atherton
- Planning for 18-19 F/Y

6.9. Regional Projects Forum – Date claimer

- This annual event is to provide information regarding industry trends, economic trends, major project and procurement details for the construction and engineering sector and supply chain.
- To be held on 25 October 2018 Venue TBA
- Currently working with major project proponents to develop an analysis of labour and resource requirements over the next three to five years.

6.10. Manufacturing Hub

- \$30m election commitment for Hubs in Central Queensland, Townsville and Cairns
- Regional Stakeholder consultations held in Cairns in March
- Regional Office actively working on the roll out of the proposed funding

6.11. Queensland Superyacht Strategy

- Five-year Queensland Superyacht Strategy released in May 2018
- Member for Cairns, Michael Healy appointed to lead the implementation of the strategy for Queensland

6.12. Qantas Pilot Training Academy

- State Development is coordinating submissions from 14 regional airports across the State

6.13. Global Tourism Hub and Wangetti Trail

- DSDMIP is supporting the Department of Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games to deliver two significant new tourism investments with potential to reinvigorate the region for entertainment and recreation, for both locals and visitors alike.

7. Update from Cairns Regional Council – Angelo Finocchiaro

7.1. Regional Export Distribution Centre Pilot

- Lead by DSDMIP
- Registrations of interested due 29 June 2018
- <https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/industry/regional-export-distribution-centre-pilot.html>
- Angelo provided an update on an information session meeting organised for Monday 18 June
- Aim to get a coordinated approach from the region

ACTION 9.2: FNQROC to distribute details of the Regional Export Distribution Centre Pilot information session to be held on Monday 18 June.

8. LGAQ Asia Capability Development Program, update from Josh O’Keefe (LGAQ)

- LGAQ appointed AsiaLink Business to deliver the professional development program for Mayors and CEOs
- No cost to Councils. Training to meet the fundamental needs that are essential for councils to engage particularly with Asian stakeholders
- LGAQ Policy Executive identified need for the program to be delivered through the ROCs
- Teresa advised that a tentative training date has been set for Tuesday 14 August. On the agenda for the FNQROC Board meeting on Monday 18th June
- Maximum of 25 persons can attend. If available spaces senior Council officers are encouraged to attend

ACTION 9.3: FNQROC to distribute details of the Asia Capability Development Program

9. Update from TTNQ, Sarah Palmer

- Ironman and GBR marathon – growth in international participants
- New strategic direction for TTNQ. 6 key goals
- New membership prospectus. If member of LTO have reciprocal membership with RTO
- Cairns Visitor information centre will be closing 22 June
- Destination Tourism Plan – readdressing and consolidating. Seeking input

10. Update from Advance Cairns, Danielle Carey

- Working on 3 year strategic plan
- Prof Paul Gadek presented the report and recommendations on the FNQ agricultural sector and Ag TNQ activity to the Board. Ag TNQ initiative will be ‘paused’ while recommendations are considered as part of annual strategic review process later in year

- Upcoming event – Advance Cairns is hosting Deputy Premier Jackie Trad at a luncheon on 19 June - <https://www.advancecairns.com/events/>
- Hosted strategic water forum last month. Four major proposed bulk water storages in TNQ, Nullinga Dam, Lakeland Downs, Gilbert River and Southern Atherton Tablelands projects.
- Worked on Qantas Pilot Academy bid with Mareeba Shire Council
- Major projects – Gulf Savannah Way, Cairns Convention Centre, Cairns Shipping project, defence in Cairns

11. Update from FNQROC

11.1. LGMA Tourism Forum – 5 July

- FYI - Upcoming event

11.2. FNQROC Regional video

- General discussion around the plan to commission the development of a video to showcase key industries and investment opportunities within the region
- Option raised for FNQROC to source quality images across the region that could be then used for different purposes
- Options to be able to have audio on or off depending upon purpose
- CRC support – capture the greater region
- Captions to identify what the image are of and where
- Option to work with TIQ on the video – which they can upload on their website. Currently they have the CRC video on the FNQ page. There is one on the North Queensland page that includes some images of Cairns and surrounds.

11.3. .id training

- .id ran some training sessions in the region in May/June. Positive feedback
- CRC - held an internal census based session and a computer based training session. Didn't do community .id training this round. Looking at combining with the chamber
- TRC – delivered training to industry groups. Focus to get consistent use of .id data across the organisation
- Next round of .id training planned for August. Contact FNQROC with your training needs
- .id advised no subscription fee increase for 2018/19
- Sunshine Coast Council have some good videos using .id data - <https://invest.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Investment-Support/Economy-ID>

12. Update from Councils

12.1. Cassowary Coast Regional Council

- Experiencing impacts on harvesting of cane and fruit as a result of recent flooding
- Draft stage of tourism strategic plan – LTO and Council
- Small business week activities – including digital workshops. High percentage of business are not online
- Working with ag cluster group

12.2. Cairns Regional Council

- Economic Development Strategy recently adopted by Council. Includes a focus on Advocacy and Trade
- Recent advertisement of new Economic Development Officer position
- Holding a digital business workshop on 14 June
- TNQ Innovation Awards 2018 – Entries open to 15 August. Awards presentation 22 November. Very keen to get entries from outside of Cairns. Looking at option of developing a program around the presentation evening to make it worthwhile for people to come to Cairns to attend. Encourage all Councils in the region to promote the event.

ACTION 9.4: Copy of TNQ Innovation Awards flyer and FNQ LG map to be distributed with the minutes

12.3. Mareeba Shire Council

- Recent Qantas Pilot Academy bid
- Tourism – looking at alternative approach
- Stage 3 Mareeba industrial park – interest in larger lots. Focus on supply chain around agriculture
- Mareeba Chamber of Commerce – develops an economic snapshot which is available online
- Focus on inland freight network
- Redevelopment initiatives – Thurwine Street, Mareeba CBD, Mareeba Railway station and Bicentennial Lakes

12.4. Tablelands Regional Council

- Calum Kippin new Economic Development Officer
- Successful small business week activities
- Southern Atherton Tablelands irrigation project – document nearing completion
- Design complete for new disaster coordination and training facility in Atherton
- New CEO – Justin Commons
- Economic Development strategy endorsed

12.5. Douglas Shire Council

- Successful Carnivale – looking at review for upcoming 25th anniversary
- <https://douglas.qld.gov.au/council-to-review-port-douglas-carnivale-2018/>
- ED focus on sustainable development, world heritage ages, allied health, training and education and hospitality industry
- Developing master plans – Macrossan St and waterfront south
- Eco fashion week events – 4-10 November

13. Next meeting

Next meeting will be 7 September 2018.

The meeting closed at 2 pm.

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

ACTION ITEM(S) –

No.	ACTION	OWNER	COMPLETED
9.1	FNQROC to provide the FNQROC member Councils tourism officer contact to Kirsten (LGAQ)	FNQROC	
9.2	FNQROC to distribute details of the Regional Export Distribution Centre Pilot information session to be held on Monday 18 June.	FNQROC	Complete – email sent to group after meeting 8.6
9.3	FNQROC to distribute details of the Asia Capability Development Program	FNQROC	Complete – email sent to group after meeting 8.6
9.4	Copy of TNQ Innovation Awards flyer and FNQ LG map to be distributed with the minutes	FNQROC	Distributed with the minutes