



NEWSLETTER

October 2009

Volume 1, Issue 1

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WELCOME...to the first monthly edition of the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils Newsletter.

Our Newsletter will provide an overview of what has been happening in each section, as well as details of the meetings and special events to look forward to.

We aim to produce it at the start of each month and to display it on our website at www.fnqroc.qld.gov.au.

WHO TO CONTACT AT FNQROC...



DARLENE IRVINE

Executive Officer
Based in Cairns
Phone: 4044 3038
Mobile: 0403 808 680
E: d.irvine@cairns.qld.gov.au

Darlene manages FNQROC. Develops initiatives and programs.
Current initiatives under development:

- * energy emissions audit
- * Community Plans
 - * Planning
 - * Joint purchasing/contracts
 - * Local Laws



SANDRA McCORMACK

Administrative Officer
Based in Cairns
Monday to Wednesday
Phone: 4044 3343
E: s.mccormack@cairns.qld.gov.au

Sandra provides administrative support to FNQROC, attending to correspondence, meeting organisation, website maintenance and financial records.



TRAVIS SYDES

Regional Natural Asset Management Coordinator
Based in Malanda
Phone: 0448 852 732
E: t.sydes@cairns.qld.gov.au

Travis manages the region's natural landscape programs and pest programs and provides technical advice to members.



GERARD READ

Regional Infrastructure Project Coordinator
Based in Brisbane
Phone: 0407735304
E: g.read@cairns.qld.gov.au

Gerard coordinates the Regional Road Group (RRG), the RRG Technical Committee and Asset Management Teams.

THE FNQ REEF GUARDIAN COUNCIL LAUNCH WILL TAKE PLACE AT CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL ON **MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2009 AT 10AM.**

Updates

FNQROC BOARD (FOLLOWED BY FNQRRG AT APPROX 1PM)

On 14 November 2009 the Mayors, CEO's and select General Managers met to workshop the aspirations and future direction of FNQROC and advise activities to focus on. A report on the workshop is now with councils to confirm the direction.

Date	Time	Venue
Monday 09/11/09	11.30am	Committee Room, Cairns
Monday 01/02/10	10am	Civic Reception Room, Cairns

FNQRRG (TECHNICAL COMMITTEE)

The Alternative Business Models Project is a joint project with DTMR. The project is in phase 3 of 4. We are reviewing proposals put forward from LGIS for Alternative Business Models to manage the road network in Far North Queensland.

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday 05/11/09	3pm	Cook Shire Council Chambers
Friday 18/12/09	10am	Civic Reception Room, Cairns
Friday 19/02/10	10am	Committee Room, Level 3, Cairns

PROCUREMENT NETWORK COMMITTEE

The procurement officers from each council will meet to work through barriers and opportunities to collaborate and coordinate on contracts across all councils in the region.

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 17/11/09	10am	Civic Reception Room, Cairns

ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE AUDIT SUCCESS!

Councils have recently completed an emissions audit which focussed on the energy used by infrastructure. The audit aimed to ensure we pay for only the infrastructure which falls under council control, and that energy is charged at the optimum tariffs. Ideally, the savings will be used to fund projects to reduce emissions and save further costs.

Council	With tariff adjustment	Ambulance levy over paid
Tablelands	\$42,000	\$3,650
Hinchinbrook	\$51,000	\$600
Cook	\$21,000	\$2,000
Cassowary Coast	\$58,000	\$4,880
Cairns	\$134,000 (more to come)	\$15,000

Updates

LONG TERM COMMUNITY PLAN WORKING GROUP

Councils are required to develop Long Term Community Plans under the new Local Government Act. Councils met on 14 October 2009 to discuss options and a framework for a Regional Long Term Community Plan. It is recognised that identifying regional, local government and local community priorities is a must. The next meeting date will be held in February on a date to be advised.

REGIONAL ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (TECHNICAL COMMITTEE)

FNQROC and council staff are working together to progress the recently released Department of Infrastructure and Planning Asset Management Advancement Program 2009/2010. FNQROC is also working with councils on consistent "levels of service" measurement descriptors for: Parks, Sporting Fields, Natural Areas, Buildings and Roads/Footpaths.

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday 25/11/09 Levels of Service (Parks)	10am	McKenzie Room, Level 2, Cairns
Wednesday 25/11/09 Technical Committee	1.30am	McKenzie Room, Level 2, Cairns

REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

Councils now have draft results and actions and staff commitment now needs to be obtained. We would like to recognise the great work councils have undertaken within these documents.

Date	Time	Venue
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To be advised

ANNUAL RRG TC ROAD TRIP

Eighteen people - including council engineers, DTMR and WTMA staff, FNQROC's resident 'greenie' Travis Sydes and a QUT PhD university student studying how RRG's deal with their stakeholders - will undertake an inspection of road and infrastructure projects on a road trip from Cairns-Mossman-Cape Tribulation-Bloomfield-Wujal Wujal-Cooktown on 5-6 November 2009. The November RRG TC meeting will be held at Cook Shire Council Chambers on 5 November 2009.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANUAL

The final copy of the Regional Development Manual is with councils for adoption. A copy has been loaded on to the FNQROC website (www.fnqroc.qld.gov.au). Future meeting dates will be advised.