



MINUTES

Planners Meeting No. 34 held on

Friday 15 June 2012 at 12.00am

Level 3 Committee Room, Cairns Regional Council

ATTENDEES	
Simon Clarke	Cairns Regional Council
Peter Boyd	Cairns Regional Council
Daniel Horton	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Aletta Nugent	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
John Harrison	Cook Shire Council
Brett Nancarrow	Tablelands Regional Council
Darlene Irvine	FNQROC
Frederick Marchant	FNQROC

GUESTS	
Tracy Haynes	LGAQ
Lauren Styles	DSDIP
Angela Foster	DSDIP
Julie Colman	DSDIP

APOLOGIES	

1. Welcome

Darlene welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Frederick Marchant as the replacement for Daniela Gambotto while she is on 12 months maternity leave.

2. Update from DSDIP

Angela Foster provided an update on progress and direction of the recently formed Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP). Topics covered were:

- Review and changes of - Machinery of Governance (MoG)
- Planning reform forum underway - (this was also covered by Tracy Haynes, see item 4)
- Political direction - "Government elected to provide change". Government open and encouraging of change. (for more information ref - http://lgag.asn.au/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=c59c15cc-1184-4bc2-83ac-10c4d58167e5&groupId=10136)
 - Delivering major resource and industrial development projects
 - Championing the interests of business and industry

- Removing regulatory blockages and impediments to investment and industry development
- Streamlining planning, assessment and approval processes to allow the property and construction industries to grow
- Re-empowering local government.
- Land use to be addressed at a higher level
- Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney appointed Assistant Minister, Ian Walker as the "go to" person for the property and construction industry.
- Reform of the Sustainable Planning Act (SPA) 2009 on hold.
- Infrastructure Queensland being established to advise the state government on long-term infrastructure planning, prioritisation and ongoing management and maintenance.
- Review of State planning - Identify planning powers that can be transferred to local governments.
- SPPs - review. Recognised by new State Government that 1 size does not fit all.

3. Actions from previous meeting:

a. Standardising conditions (Darlene)

- Darlene advised that FNQROC would be engaging Lauren Stiles on a casual basis to progress this initiative.
- **Tracy Haynes** will provide to FNQ ROC a template used by Sunshine Coast Council

b. Infrastructure Charges

- Is now being raised with LGAQ - ongoing. (*Refer below to item 4a*)

c. Improving Delegations

- Review again next meeting to look at benchmarking councils

d. DLG – Integrated Planning Framework Project

- Darlene advised that this project is continuing and should be ready for release at the end of June. Review at next meeting.

e. Training Opportunities - discussed the following:

- Climate Change training
- Special legal course, tailored to train/prepare planners for courtroom duties - expert witness, giving evidence, case preparation, keeping records/reports for potential litigation
- LGAQ - doing feasibility study on training gaps for small Indigenous Councils regarding DA management
- Review training opportunities again at next meeting.

f. Cook Shire Bush Living Code (deferred to August meeting)

g. Possibility of offering collective services to Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council for 12 months of DA planning work (ALL)

- General discussion regarding DA work issues for all small Indigenous councils in our region

- Most DA work is State managed work and Project Services mostly exempt from normal planning procedures
- Willingness expressed by meeting delegates (from larger councils) to assist Wujal Wujal ASC as required.

4. LGAQ - Agenda items for LGAQ for comment/understanding and LGAQ update

LGAQ Update - Tracy Haynes provided a comprehensive update on LGAQ. Main points:

- LGAQ just completed project - 'Member Connect', designed to provide a more comprehensive connection with customers across the State, to be more flexible, with increased involvement with smaller councils and to work more effectively with ROCs.
- LGAQ busy meeting with new elected councils.
- Working with State government ministers, formulating working groups.
- Trigger review and reduction with DTMR and environment and heritage protection.
- Planning Reform Forum - 4 main points (also covered from DSDIP viewpoint in Item 2):
 - Plan Making - reducing complexity, refining and broadening amendments, further devolvement and delegation to local government
 - Referrals - improvements to assessment and compliance processes, review of 'triggers', additional delegation to local government
 - Development Assessment - Extension of DAPR-OWLS (Development assessment Process Reform - Operational works and Large Subdivisions). List of various reforms and reviews aimed at streamlining Development Assessment processes, improved use of state and LG resources, reducing time for process, etc
 - Appeals and Third Party Rights - streamlining dispute resolution process, more cost effective for all parties concerned.

Agenda items for LGAQ for comment/understanding. A variety of questions for Tracy were discussed as per agenda (in no particular order)

a. Infrastructure Charges and the complexity

- Infrastructure charges still under review with the State Government. This is another think tank that is on hold in the public domain. Behind the scenes consultant working on standardising infrastructure conditions and design standard of service.
- LGAQ forming a think tank on Infrastructure charges

b. Wind Farms and Renewable Energy

- Only state without SPP for wind farms
- High costs to LG to manage Wind farm DAs
- Similar issues with phone towers and roll out of National Broadband Network

- LGAQ to take up issues with State Government
- c. QPP**
- Still no signoff on QPP V3. Conflict in V2 and V3 versions. LGAQ seeking clarification. Discussion over issues like - trigger reviews *Ongoing - review progress at next meeting*. LGAQ recommendation is to contact Local dept of planning and ask them.
- d. SPP's**
- General discussion about SPP's, relationship with Regional Plans, Coastal Plans, bush fire classification relevancy to tropics. Opportunity to make submissions as part of Government review and planning forum
 - SPP 1/03 - being reviewed. Working groups for planning, building, disaster, environment and dams (LGAQ not asked to sit on Disaster or Dams working group). Issues include; flood mapping, flood work, levies and potential interaction between planning and building and flood levels. *Ongoing - review progress at next meeting*.
- e. Policy Reforms**
- Lot of issues covered in other agenda items
 - Various issues being reviewed including reduction or changing notifications for; building and plumbing, building over assets. *Tracy to provide building over asset policy currently being developed to FNQROC*.
- f. LGAQ - Seeking feed-back on improving communications with regional planners**
- Discussion on methods and media to facilitate communications between LGAQ and planners, such as an online forum
 - Delegates suggested this would not produce the feedback and discussions sought by LGAQ through an online discussion forum. Generally agreed that FNQROC good conduit for any particular topics requiring feedback. Use of Skype during ROC planners meeting with link to LGAQ on occasions where they could not be here in person was suggested.

5. Council Updates

a. Cairns Regional Council

- Update on Mt Peter development
- CRC planning scheme - still being developed, currently writing codes. PIPs and Development Manual to be an addendum to reduce volume of document
- General update about new elected members settling regarding planning work load.

b. Cassowary Coast Regional Council

- Draft planning scheme text completed. Mapping being completed. Internal workshops organised for staff, agencies and then elected members
- Brief overview provided on Port Hinchinbrook development progress.

c. Tablelands Regional Council

- Planning scheme completed and being workshopped with elected members
- Some reviews required regarding fire hazards and flooding

- Wind farms remains a significant issue in TRC
- Poultry farm applications a busy feature for planners in TRC.

d. Cook Shire Council

- Skate park developed near Cooktown Hospital
- Further development at Lakeland, mostly accommodation for local industry expansion
- Government hub building proposed for Cooktown
- Planning scheme progressing. Work being done on fire management, National Parks and Wild Rivers
- Landmark - first house building application received from free-hold Aboriginal land in the Shire.

6. General Business

a. SPA Reform & Planning Reform

- Discussed at the meeting was recent correspondence sent to councils (from DSDIP) regarding the Sustainable Planning Act reform program. Responses to this correspondence are due Friday 6th July. Councils to share their responses with each other. Danielle's past submissions on SPP's and guidelines to be circulated to group
- Delegates expressed a lack of confidence in submissions being given any attention given past experiences in being ignored
- Lauren Styles will be employed on a part-time, short contract by FNQROC to assist with planning projects. Lauren's CV will be circulated to group.

Next meeting - 17 August 2012

Meeting Closed - 4 pm (approx)

ACTIONS

1. **All** - share input into government planning reform forums.
2. **Tracy** to provide FNQROC with Sunshine Coast template for standard conditions and **Frederick** to circulate to planning group
3. **Darlene** to review Integrated planning framework project at next meeting
4. **Tracy** to take up issue that Qld is the only state without an SPP or guideline for Wind farms and phone towers
5. **Tracy** to provide LGAQ guideline – Building over assets policy.
6. **Tracy** to update training progress for Indigenous planners by next meeting
7. **Darlene** to review training opportunities at next planners meeting
8. **Cook Shire** to provide presentation on Bush Living Code at Planners meeting (August)
9. **Darlene** to confirm specific offers of service to Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council for DA work
10. **Darlene/Tracy** - Follow-up and report at next meeting on any progress regarding SPPs for wind farming
11. **Darlene/Tracy/DSIP** - update at next meeting on policy reforms progress such as QPP versions, SPPs, etc
12. **All** - prepare any questions you might have for LGAQ prior to the next meeting and send through to Frederick so as we can coordinate a link with Tracy if needed
13. **Frederick** to circulate Lauren's CV to group ASAP.