



MINUTES

May 2015 from 10am – 2pm
 TTNO Boardroom
 51 The Esplanade, Cairns
 Chair: Shenal Basnayake, Advance Cairns

Item #	Agenda Item	ACTION
1.	MEETING OPEN	TIME: 10am
1.1	<p><u>Attendees</u></p> <p>Shenal Basnayake (AC), Ian McKirdy (DSDIP), Jann Crase (RDA), Lisa Macalister (MSC), Nicole van Beuningen (TRC), Peggy Veen (CCRC), Christine Reizner (AC), Sarah Palmer (CRC)</p> <p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Angelo Finocchiaro (CRC), Darlene Irvine (FNQROC), Glenys Pilat (MSC), Richard Blanchette (CCRC),</p>	
1.2	Previous meeting minutes endorsed: Endorsed by Peggy Veen	
1.3	<p><u>Action Register</u></p> <p>All items completed except for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up with Cairns Chamber in regards to Water Farm in Cassowary Coast Region – Jann Crase 	
2.	REGIONAL ROUND UP	
2.1	<p><u>Other Agencies (FNQROC, RDA, DSD)</u></p> <p>DSD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcements on R4R: All announcements are available on the DSD website including the: Innisfail Commercial Wharf and Sewerage for Tinaroo. Another 14 or more announcements are to be made for the region. • NQ Office of Premier and Cabinet in Townsville is currently hiring staff: encourage Advance Cairns to engage with Coralee to attract attention towards TNQ. • DSD is preparing scope of works for the establishment of the Aurukun Barge Service. • DSD facilitating negotiations with Glencore and the Indigenous population. • DSD holding discussions with Rio Tinto to conduct procurement in Cairns and Weipa for the South of Embley project. Their private contractor is Bechtel – recommendation has been made to put work packages on ICN Gateway which is also encouraged by the Australian Industry Participation under the Australian Jobs Act 2013. • No internal DSD changes thus far • Queensland Government Building Our Regions will replace the R4R program • DSD or Maree Parker's Economic Policy group in Brisbane will manage the contract for the Mareeba Airport • No details have been made available for the Building Our Regions program but there is a strong field of applicants. Now a launched as of 25 May 2015. <p>RDA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of the National Stronger Regions Fund –project facilitation with various councils and others and assisting with applications 	<p>JC arrives 10:30</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RDA Committee meeting on Monday (15 on Committee, 8 new members, 7 returning members) • Minister Truss has redefined focus of RDA towards Infrastructure projects • Regional roadmap needs to be reviewed and be brought in line with the agenda of "renewal" • RDA collaborating with Stewart Christie around TTNO Destination Tourism Plan to ensure documents are relevant useful and relate to each other along with the TNQREP • Cape York Infrastructure Packages: Initiatives are progressing with the prioritisation around key parts of the projects. Sticking point around tender process to achieve real outcomes for the Indigenous and local employment. TMR initiatives will support this. Ministerial interaction between State and Feds to work towards resolving the issue. • Northern Australia Infrastructure Audit: Announcement made for Insurance Taskforce and \$100 M for Beef Roads. More details are needed for the beef roads. White Paper will be released in June. • IQRAP (Inland Qld Roads Action Plan): RDA Townsville and North West QLD leading, it is a 10 year plan similar to Bruce Highway for ongoing investment into inland roads (of which Hann is a component) bipartisan report. Consultant to do work by Oct-Nov to feed into the federal government budget • Glenys Schuntner met with Joe Hockey to talk about IQRAP • RDA office changes: Jann Crase has been appointed CEO, Kylie Szatkowski is the Office Manager, no funding has been allocated for a Project Officer • Energy work with CSIRO – transition from where we are to where we need to be. Some elements accelerating some slowing down. Relates to Northern Australia White Paper. Base-load power generation is on the agenda as well as renewables • Coal-Fired Power Station in Townsville, despite its proximity to coal source to cost \$1.2 billion. • The Australian Energy Regulator is continuing the reset of prices process to network price determination. Drive to determine reducing weighted average capital cost with Ergon. QLD Government is committed to Uniform Tariff Policy (through which the Community Service Obligation is paid). Aware for baseline determination in future. • Queensland State Government aspiration is to have 1 million houses on solar – impact of energy consumption is to be determined. • Water – Allan Dale involved in the Cairns Water Security Advisory Group. Report has been released, Nullinga is one option mentioned in the report. Questions remain as to how that interplays with the federal agenda and infrastructure funding. • Hann Highway is to be a dedicated federal initiative as opposed to possible access through Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility – concessional loans. • QLD Government is in the process of Infrastructure Queensland it has an assessment role and determines relevance is cost benefit analysis is realistic for benefits for regional communities. Community and infrastructure for growth – wider economic benefits and specific criteria need to be built into the system. QLD government and RDA joint support for projects • No community workshops planned for the National Stronger Regions Fund at the moment • Please inform the RDA if you are not happy with the feedback from the NSRF • Mareeba \$6 million round 1 NSRF Waste Water Treatment Plant • National Infrastructure Plan to be released by the end of the year, the report will include priorities from Northern Australia Infrastructure priorities. • Queensland Government Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DILGP) for Cairns is based in Brisbane • Interim report for Northern Australia Insurance Taskforce is due in 6 weeks and the Final Report is expected in November • Unclear level of bipartisan support for Northern Australia White Paper • Queensland State budget to be released 14th July • Wind Farm undergoing EPBC approval process 	
2.2	<p><u>Advance Cairns</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hann Highway – Shenal Basnayake spoke at Regional Roads forum in Hughenden, some of the work fed back into the positive impact on the announcement of Hann Highway. • Nullinga – Great amount of advocacy work has been completed, in terms of site, location, cost of land purchases that have been sent through to department of agriculture. PM gave positive affirmation towards Nullinga. Funding for feasibility study presumed positive. 	Sarah Palmer arrives 11AM

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Sector Advocacy – Comparative study completed around health sector in Tropical North Queensland. Fact sheet has been developed to advocate for additional funding for health services as part of 8+8. • Primary Healthcare Network (PHN) has been established in Cairns with Trent Twomey as Chair. CEO of PHN, Robin Moore is currently located in the AC office. • Advance Cairns currently working with JCU around establishment of R,D&C – looking to establish R&D as a separate sector with life sciences as a focus. Rationalisation: 10 of 22 research institutions at JCU are health focused. • Discussions with Sandra Harding and Stewart Lockie have been held around establishing this sector in collaboration with pharmaceutical companies such as Pfizer. • Advance Cairns is a member of Life Sciences Queensland (LSQ). Shenal Basnayake attended LSQ parliamentary session – enormous focus placed on tropics which is to be leveraged. Australian Tropical Health Institute: Pulling bodies together to determine what is being done in this space and creating a precinct around that. Additional external organisations to secure funding to be partners in this process to encourage the commercialisation of research that has been completed as part of the Trade and Investment agenda as well. • Discussions with CQU have been held around an agriculture precinct. CQU is above national standard in terms of the quality of agricultural research. Advance Cairns is encouraging CQU to set up an agriculture research precinct in Tropical North Queensland. • Jann Crase: How does it link with Grow North? Shenal Basnayake: Discussions currently only held with University. • Shenal Basnayake met with QLD Chief Scientist to discuss the concept of R,D&C in the tropics. • QLD Government released report with PWC: Digital Economy. Shenal Basnayake has met with Robert Perrons to look at the digital transformation of QLD's economy. What are the enablers, hard/soft infrastructure enablers, promotion of tech start-ups that are required to spur the transformation and the challenges in remote Queensland • Meeting with Regional Manager of Silk Air: Silk Air is looking for dense cargo to uplift, interested in crocodile skins. Regions to consider product that may be suited for export. • Tropical Agriculture Exchange by Cairns Airport planned for October 	<p>Jann Crase to e-mail Grow North contact to Shenal Basnayake</p>
<p>2.3</p>	<p><u>LGA's</u> MSC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trying to gain clarity around the FNQROC contract with Advance Cairns. Presumably FNQROC will buy a platinum Advance Cairns membership. • Tourism numbers have been down in the past 3 months. Flights are not translating into increased tourist numbers. • Tourism Kuranda model in regards to funding arrangements, committee of council that does marketing and branding is up for renewal. Funding budget for TK hasn't increased but the cost of market has. • How to capture and embrace small accommodation operators in the Kuranda area and are now to be included into special rates. Increase marketing around increasing stay beyond 1 day. Marketing launch and campaign around "so much to do". Engagement from high level has met with Air B'n'B hosts to provide support around digital skills and business skills. Accommodation big issue on tablelands. • Wind Farm – MSC is pleased the project is progressing. MSC active in promoting the Windfarm and is doing well in engaging with council around the bicentennial lakes for master planning to reinvigorate the Mareeba area to make it more attractive, and to include recreational activities. • Marketing strategy for Mareeba Industrial Park is being supported by David Casey to ground what the Council is doing. Tender process to determine the market value of the industry. Greater profession needed around this process. • Airport and Waste Water money is welcome and greater focus is being placed towards using state money for the Airport • Another NSRF application will be submitted for the Airport, EOI for consultants to develop business case for the Mareeba Airport is being progressed. • Investor inquiries for solar opportunities and energy opportunities. RET has been finalised therefore there is more certainty around this. Federal Government website is useful for wind and solar suitable sites. 	<p>Advance Cairns to follow up on FNQROC contract</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Strategy from State Library Queensland grant to be run through the Kuranda State Library. Examples of successful businesses include Aboriginal Steel Art which is based solely on a web based platform. Black-spots are still holding the region back. • Study is being conducted as to how to make the VIC more profitable, a business plan is to be developed for Kuranda. Booking offices are to open in Kuranda thus changing the dynamics. • Negotiations with Mareeba Heritage Centre to take over the VIC are ongoing. More cost effective through the MHC as opposed to MSC. <p>TRC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently finalising budget. The cash/asset split has been finalised between MSC and TRC however advocating for a fairer settlement for TRC • Concerns include that extra costs are to be borne by TRC rate payers and that the methodology was flawed • Jackie Tradd recommended that the cash split is 50/50 based on an undisclosed amount of assets. Clarification around the decision and options for review are being investigated. • Sentiment is that MSC is benefiting from de-amalgamation. • TRC currently undertaking selling of assets, reduction in fleet as well as the 20% reduction of workforce in 2014. • Difficult budget, no money for new projects expected. • Key strategic projects: Tinaburra Master Plan has been endorsed but no funding. Southern Atherton Tablelands Development Scheme to be presented at Developing Northern Australia forum in July. The opportunity is for 100K + hectares of potential irrigated arable land and opportunities for hydro-electricity and flood mitigation • Start-Up Weekend was a successful event with 55 participants, great opportunity for the broad range of demographics present. The event was deemed a great success. • Right Brains in Business program funded through State Library of Queensland and focused on Artisans. Free events over 5 days to turn a hobby into a viable business. • LGAQ Investment Training Course: Contact Nicole if you want to participate. Different set of activities and behaviour tailored to councils. • Staff Changes: Manager of Planning - Patrick Clifton. TRC currently recruiting for project funding officer as a part time role to put emphasis on alternative funding sources to make viable projects and sound business case proposals – to be advertised in the Cairns Post this Saturday (Position is for 5 days a fortnight). Recommendations welcome. <p>CCRC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCRC to continue relationship with Advance Cairns on a fee for service basis as there is a perceived disconnect between high level Advance Cairns activities and Local Government issues. • CC is ticking along well. LTO has been successfully established with support of Council. Visitor Information Centre in Innisfail has been closed in lieu of budget. • Interest through TIQ and Chinese Investors in pulp and paper mills as well as interest in solar farms. • Tourism industry is increasing, feedback from LTO: Tourism market is better, a European group was hosted at Castaways, which was very well done. Regional Steering Group on Tuesday is being run by business for business. • Retail sector is strong • Development applications are quite low. Investment Incentive Scheme current uptake, was of only 3-4 applicants. However, one application saved \$500,000 through the scheme. Planning director is intending to run the scheme out more widely. Policy to remain to next year until it's renewed. • Shenal: Be aware of the Tourism Investment Attraction Unit within the Queensland State Government, Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games. Paul Fagg running the program locally. They identify opportunities in Tourism Infrastructure and consequently seek investment • CCRC constrained to hold events due to lack of accommodation • Port Hinchinbrook being sold and developed, significant opportunity for CCRC as infrastructure needs to be revamped for Cardwell and Innisfail – potential as a high quality destination for fishing, mountain biking etc. • Margaret Darveniza has appointed a Community Strategy Manager to drive asset 	<p>Shenal to pass details of Tourism Investment Attraction Unit to Group</p>
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	<p>development and the commercial sector</p> <p>CRC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key focus on EcoFiesta which is being held in a week. 90 stalls + wait list, almost 100% increase in interest from the previous event. Business involvement is sought to give them a platform to encourage eco week. EcoFiesta 2015 considered the inaugural year but could potentially be a regional event for the Tropical North Queensland region. • There is also a current focus on the Ironman event • Commonwealth Games: A team from the Commonwealth Games has met with the Cairns Regional Council around live sites. The Commonwealth Games will be attending the Ironman event to see how well Cairns performs and how they can leverage the events. • Package is being put together to include potential training sites for all sports, including with a regional focus (ex. Shooting in the Tablelands) to be given to Countries and Trainers. • Grants: Community grants for events and sustainability grants have been distributed. 14 applications for a \$20,000 funding pool. • EDF funds to be passed to the community including for the Tropical Agriculture Exchange in October. • "I want that course" business has set up in Cairns with 50 staff. How does council work with community to be a good advocate. Staff engagement, policy, local café ... later in the year to work with local businesses post ecofiesta to support businesses in that space • Planning building heart review, increasing activity in CBD, • Urban Spaces program: To fill empty spaces to lower cost of rent and to revitalize CBD by filling vacant locations. • CBD Upgrades planned for Aplin Street and Shield Street • YRepublic the Think Tank to discuss opportunities for millennial's in the region. The Cairns Regional Council could support the initiative with incentives particularly suited for businesses that could set up anywhere in Australia such as "I want that Course". • Cairns Regional Council currently interviewing for Economic Development Officer. 	
3.	ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION	
3.1		
3.2	<p>Investment Attraction & Promotion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Australia Investment Summit to be held in Darwin in November. Members of the delegation will be brought to Cairns following the Darwin Summit. Invitations have been sent by Andrew Robb at targeted potential investors. Advance Cairns submitted a list with a focus around health and agriculture sectors. • Winning Investment for Australia Workshop included attendees from Northern Territory, Townsville and Queensland in preparation for the Northern Australia Investment Summit. Shenal Basnayake, Christine Reizner, Angelo Finocchiaro and Paul Fagg attended from TNQ. The program was around: FDI Promotion, Attraction, Retention and Support (Aftercare). • Presentation to the LGEDRGF of Country Profiles, Engagement Strategies and Capability Profiles 	
3.3	<p>RegionsQ Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30,000 to be invested into the TNQ regional display, ensuring that it should be a stand-out • 5000 attendees expected at the Forum • No sponsorship has been achieved and it is considered an introductory event • Fibreglass cassowaries are being hired and will be displayed as well as live clown fish • A lifestyle presenter is being considered for the liveability session • Bananas to be handed out at the event • Link to Cairns Investment website will be displayed on a lollypop • Regional representatives include: Angie and Marie for the Fruit Taster presentation, 	

	Peggy Veen (CCRC), Ian McKirdy (DSD), Virginia Berry (DSD), Paul Fagg (DSD)	
3.4	National Stronger Regions Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to RDA update 	
5.	OTHER BUSINESS	
6.	MEETING CLOSE	TIME: 12.30 pm

LIST OF ORGANISATIONS AND ACRONYMS

Advance Cairns (AC)

Mareeba Shire Council (MSC)

Cassowary Coast Regional Council (CCRC)

Tablelands Regional Council (TRC)

Cairns Regional Council (CRC)

Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC)

Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP)

Regional Development Australia – Far North Queensland and Torres Straits (RDA)

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

ACTION REGISTER

	ACTIONS ARISING MEETING:	Responsible	Status
1	Follow up of status of the FNQROC contract	Advance Cairns	
2	Grow North contact to be sent to Advance Cairns	RDA (Jann Crase)	
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NEXT MEETING

Venue	TTNQ Boardroom, Lvl 2, 51 The Esplanade
Dates / Time	September, TBC – Invite will be sent out by Advance Cairns
Time	10am – 1pm
Minute Taker	TBC