



FNQROC ADVOCACY REPORT

Federal Pre-Election Delegation (12-14 Feb 2019)

FEDERAL ELECTION PRIORITIES




PRIORITY	PROJECT	FEDERAL REQUEST
INFRASTRUCTURE	Kuranda Range Road	FNQROC seeks \$800m contribution towards an estimated \$1b project to resolve the safety, capacity and reliability issues of Kuranda Range Road
INFRASTRUCTURE	Extension of the national Land Transport Network	FNQROC seeks the extension of the national Land Transport Network
INFRASTRUCTURE	Innisfail Strategic Masterplan Project – Linking to the Bruce Hwy	FNQROC seeks \$8.3m towards the estimate \$25m required to deliver the project
DEFENCE	Cairns Port Masterplan	FNQROC seeks commitment To the expansion of HMAS Cairns and ancillary facilities and commitments to undertake naval maintenance activities in Cairns
BIO PRECINCTS	Mossman Mill	FNQROC seeks formal commitment of \$20m now that the business case has been completed
BIO PRECINCTS	NQ Bio-Energy (NQBE) – Ingham	FNQROC seeks formal commitment of \$20m towards the NQBE \$600m Renewable Energy Facility
ENERGY	Cardstone Pumped Hydro Scheme	FNQROC supports further progression of the Cardstone Pumped Hydro Scheme Business Case with an estimated timetable for delivery
WATER	Nullinga Dam	FNQROC seeks commitment to a timetable for the delivery of Nullinga Dam to support agricultural development and the long term urban water security needs of Cairns
WATER	Tablelands Irrigation Project	FNQROC seeks commitment of \$7m funding to proceed from Preliminary Business Case (completed) to Detailed Business Case and Environmental Impact Assessment
ENVIRONMENT	Central FNQ Weather Station	FNQROC seeks the establishment of a weather station covering central Far North Queensland
ENVIRONMENT	Yellow Crazy Ants	FNQROC seeks support for the Wet Tropics Management Authority request for \$3m per year (\$3m State and \$3m Federal) for seven years from July 2019 to continue its successful Yellow Crazy Ants Eradication Program
DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY	Carpentaria Fibre Optic	FNQROC seeks Building Better Regions funding of \$1m towards the estimated \$2.9m project cost.
ENVIRONMENT	Management of the Great Barrier Reef into the Future	FNQROC seeks government support of the following recommendations given the critical importance of the GBR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the existing management structure should be reviewed and an overarching, depoliticized body established to manager


		<p>both the Wet Tropics Rainforest and GBR with a contiguous approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment in Reef and Rainforest Management should be reviewed in the context of the significant benefits these assets deliver to the region
INDIGENOUS LIVEABILITY	National Partnerships for Remote Housing	<p>FNQROC seeks support for the continuance of the NPRH program or implementation of a similar program (which includes Yarrabah) to continue program deliverables.</p> <p>FNQROC seeks State & Federal Government funding support for the following priority projects in Yarrabah:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 235 new dwellings (\$124.6 m) Associated trunk infrastructure (\$110.75m) Upgrades to existing housing (\$14.04m) Repairs/maintenance to existing housing
TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE	Wangetti Trail	FNQROC seeks \$10m towards the capital cost of establishing the Wangetti Trail
TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE	Tully Multi-Use Sporting Complex and Grandstand Project	FNQROC seeks Building Better Regions Funding of \$3m towards the estimated construction cost of \$7.1m
TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE	Atherton Town Centre Revitalisation (Prior Creek Master Plan)	FNQROC seeks commitment of \$21.5m to progress implementation of Priors Creek Master Plan
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Expansion of the NRL – Papua New Guinea/Cairns	<p>Bipartisan support of a joint bid between Cairns and Papua New Guinea to expand the NRL to include a PNG team with an Australian home ground in Cairns.</p> <p>Commitment of financial and administrative assistance to enable the expansion, in a collaborative approach with Papua New Guinea.</p>

Attending FNQROC Council Members

- Cr Bob Manning, Mayor Cairns Regional Council
- Cr John Kremastos, Mayor Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- Cr Peter Scott, Mayor Cook Shire Council and FNQROC Deputy Chair
- Cr Julia Leu, Mayor Douglas Shire Council
- Cr Warren Devlin, Mayor Etheridge Shire Council
- Mr Stephen Linnane, CEO Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
- Mr Peter Franks, CEO Mareeba Shire Council
- Cr Joe Paronella, Mayor Tablelands Regional Council
- Cr Ross Andrews, Mayor Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
- Ms Eileen Deemal-Hall, CEO Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
- Ms Darlene Irvine, EO FNQROC

Minister / Shadow	Hon Ed Husic MP
Portfolio	Minister for Digital Economy
Attending Mayors	Cr's Scott, Devlin, Andrews, Mr Linnane and Ms Deemal-Hall
Additional Attendees	Ms Natasha Bolsin
Key Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carpentaria Fibre Optic Project
Key Discussion Points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Devlin provided an overview of the Carpentaria Fibre Optic Project. Hon Ed Husic MP recommended that FNQROC should liaise with Mr Stephen Jones MP, Shadow Minister for Regional Communications re the Fibre Optic Project (meeting scheduled for Thursday 14th February) • NPRH overview provided by Wujal Wujal and Hope Vale • Discussion undertaken in provision of human services in remote areas. Hon Ed Husic MP provided advice on the recent announcement by Hon Bill Shorten MP in relation to the provision of 100 jobs for Cairns to support human services • Deadly Digital • Skilling in remote areas
FOLLOW UP ACTION	Follow up actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requested submission or issues addressed and provided by Ms Deemal-Hall. • Ms Deemal-Hall to contact Natasha Bolsin (Natasha.bolsin@aph.gov.au) re human services.

Minister / Shadow	Hon Angus Taylor MP
Portfolio	Minister for Energy
Attending Mayors	Cr's Kremastos, Leu, Mr Franks and Ms Irvine
Additional Attendees	Mr Peter Tidswell - Senior Advisor
Key Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardstone Project • Nullinga Dam • NQBE Project
Key Discussion Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARENA funding could assist but would only fund 50% of feasibility study (State funding would be considered part of that 50%) so need another partner • Projects need something innovative - panama containment is too remote. • CFC is there to drive finance and delivery. (Could help with Tablelands Irrigation and Cardstone projects) • Government Productivity Commission understands not enough competition and supply which holds up price. • After Feasibility and Business Plan, the full application votes through panel of approx. 40 experts for funding. • Some examples given during discussions, included Battle of the Nation and Snowy backs up solar - a lot of solar going into Queensland in the next 3-5 years, as Queensland needs back up. Queensland is currently behind other States but catching up. • Mossman Mill – Trying to find a mechanism to deliver the funding where some of the expenses are going to operational not capital (linked to high court decision call Williams) - need to engage with DPM office • CFC has a fund based around the Great Barrier Reef. • Use CFC and Arena for funding opportunities. • The government is looking at how the Government can support fringe of grid and off-grid (particularly Cape Councils with diesel generators). What would a change look like?
FOLLOW UP ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mareeba Shire Council to send info on Council Solar options • ALL councils to send details to FNQROC on opportunities to support fringe of grid or off-grid projects (particularly Cape Councils with diesel generators). Illustrate what a change would look like. • FNQROC to collate off-grid opportunities and send to Mr Tidswell

Minister / Shadow	Senator Murray Watt
Portfolio	Senator for Queensland
Attending Mayors	ALL Delegation Mayors (Except Cr Manning)
Additional Attendees	
Key Topics	ALL Election Priorities
Key Discussion Points	<p>Primary discussions focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kuranda Range Road upgrade • Water Security – (including Nullinga Dam & Tablelands Irrigation) • Cardstone • Mossman Mill
	
FOLLOW UP ACTION	

Minister / Shadow	Hon Matthew Canavan MP
Portfolio	Minister for Northern Australia
Attending Mayors	ALL Delegation Mayors (Except Cr Manning)
Additional Attendees	Ms Anne Stunzner – Senior Advisor
Key Topics	ALL Election Priorities
Key Discussion Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kuranda Range Road update, advised we need to develop a Business Case as DP may have ability to support via infrastructure fund). Good examples given were Mango Roads • Building Better Regions successful projects will be announced very shortly • Hann Highway • Wangetti Trails • Mossman Mill • Cardstone • Wujal Wujal Opportunities as pilot projects • Yarrabah Social housing • PAMA Reform (not supported by TCICA) • Discussed the impact of the recent floods on FNQROC Western council members • NPRH • National Water Infrastructure Development Fund (DPM) may be provide an opportunity for Tablelands Irrigation Scheme
FOLLOW UP ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Business Case in relation to Kuranda Range Road upgrade (DP may have ability to support via Infrastructure Fund) • Explore \$1.3b National Water Infrastructure Development Funding for Tablelands Irrigation Scheme (Closes 1 April 2019) (https://infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure/water-infrastructure/nwi-development-fund/)


Minister / Shadow	Senator Anthony Chisholm
Portfolio	Senator for Queensland
Attending Mayors	ALL Delegation Mayors
Additional Attendees	
Key Topics	ALL Election Priorities
Key Discussion Points	<p>Key discussions focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kuranda Range Road upgrade • Mossman Mill • Roads, in general including beef roads funding • NPRH • PAMA Futures (Not supported by TCICA) • Gilbert River Irrigation Project, now bigger than the Ord River • Cardstone
FOLLOW UP ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Devlin (Etheridge) to send more information to Senator Chisholm once the Business Case is completed on the Gilbert River Irrigation project

Minister / Shadow	Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham
Portfolio	Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment
Attending Mayors	Cr's Manning, Devlin, Scott, Mr Franks
Additional Attendees	Mr Matt Williams – Senior Advisor
Key Topics	<p>The Minister arrived at 3:50pm. Key discussions on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kuranda Range Road • Cairns Port • Wangetti Trail • Future of the Great Barrier Reef • Tully Multi-Use • Atherton Town Centre
Key Discussion Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainly interested in tourism • Kuranda Range Road, demonstrate linkages to tourism • Cairns Port development • Great Barrier Reef has received publicity
FOLLOW UP ACTION	

Minister / Shadow	Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP
Portfolio	Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Australia
Attending Mayors	Cr's Leu, Devlin, Paronella, Kremastos, Ms Irvine
Additional Attendees	Natasha (Advisor)
Key Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kuranda Range Road • Mossman Mill • Nullinga Dam • Weather Station • NQBE Project • Tablelands Irrigation
Key Discussion Points	Key discussions focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kuranda Range Road upgrades • Mossman Mill • Nullinga Dam • Weather Station • NQBE project
FOLLOW UP ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FNQROC to review Red Meat Strategy Discussion Paper (https://www.beefcentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Labor-Red-Meat-Sector-Discussion-Paper-1-ilovepdf-compressed-1.pdf)

Minister / Shadow	Hon Bill Shorten MP
Portfolio	Opposition Leader
Attending Mayors	ALL Delegation Mayors
Additional Attendees	Mr Sam Trobe – Chief of Staff Mr Guy Ragen - Policy Advisor
Key Topics	ALL Election Priorities
Key Discussion Points	Key discussions focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kuranda Range Road upgrades • Nullinga • Cardstone • Tablelands Irrigation Project • Mossman Mill, stating if the current government commits to the funding Labor will not revoke • NPRH • Carpentaria - Fibre Optic Project • Gilbert River Irrigation • Lakeland • Nullinga
FOLLOW UP ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Devlin to send information regarding Carpentaria Fibre Optic to Mr Guy Ragen via guy.ragen@aph.gov.au

Minister / Shadow	Hon Josh Frydenberg MP
Portfolio	Treasurer
Attending Mayors	ALL Delegation Mayors
Additional Attendees	Mr Nathan Wonder (Economic Advisor)
Key Topics	ALL Election Priorities
Key Discussion Points	<p>The Treasurer was called to division and held in Chambers, therefore Mr Nathan Wonder (Economic Advisor) head up the meeting.</p> <p>Key discussions focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAMA Future, not supported • Kuranda Range Road upgrades • Mossman Mill • Wangetti Trail • Priors Creek • Tablelands Irrigation project, advised to look at CFC or Arena funding opportunities • Cardstone • Cairns Port • NPRH
FOLLOW UP ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC to review funding options via CFC or ARENA re the Tablelands Irrigation project (https://arena.gov.au/funding/programs/#current)

Minister / Shadow	Hon Jason Clare MP
Portfolio	Shadow Minister for Northern Australia
Attending Mayors	ALL Delegation Mayors
Additional Attendees	
Key Topics	ALL Election Priorities
Key Discussion Points	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shadow Minister in region in the next couple of weeks after parliament sitting • Kuranda Range Road upgrades • Mossman Mill • Wangetti Trail • Northern Australia • Water Security (Nullinga Dam, Lakeland, Tablelands Irrigation projects) • NPRH • PAMA - not supportive • Priors Creek • Cardstone
FOLLOW UP ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FNQROC to follow up with Shadow Ministers office re opportunity to attend the FNQROC Board Meeting in Cairns (April)

Minister / Shadow	Hon Scott Morrison MP
Portfolio	Prime Minister of Australia
Attending Mayors	ALL Delegation Mayors
Additional Attendees	
Key Topics	ALL Election Priorities Flood Impacts on FNQROC Council members
Key Discussion Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PM welcomed this opportunity to meet with the regional Mayors • Kuranda Range Road upgrades • Mossman Mill – committed and announcement soon • NPRH – NT has it as it is a 'territory'. The PM says don't give State a leave pass on this and we have to hold them to account. • Impacts of floods on the cattle industry
FOLLOW UP ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend open invitation to meet with FNQROC in region



Minister / Shadow	Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion MP
Portfolio	Minister for Indigenous Affairs
Attending Mayors	Cr's Andrews, Scott, Mr Linnane, Ms Irvine
Additional Attendees	Ms Rachel Kerrigan
Key Topics	NPRH Cooktown 2020
Key Discussion Points	<p>Cr Ross Andrews, Mayor Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council conducted traditional welcome.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mango Roads case study – is a good example • Offer on the table \$102million - 387 houses • COAG • 59 houses per year less of 10% NAHA • \$1.8 billion • Coalition of local government - and request coalition of local government to auspice the expenses of \$102million • Coalition of councils - TCICA or ILf
FOLLOW UP ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FNQROC to write to the Hon Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister re the requirement to put money on the table in relation to matters relating to NAHA/NPRH

Minister / Shadow	Hon Paul Fletcher MP
Portfolio	Minister for Housing and Homelessness
Attending Mayors	Cr's Manning, Leu, Devlin, Kremastos, Paronella, Mr Franks, Ms Irvine
Additional Attendees	Mr Nick Chilton – Senior Advisor
Key Topics	
Key Discussion Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarrabah Social Housing - what can we do? Provide strong economic case - flow on is cost of homelessness and the costs associated with that (ie health, justice etc). Northern Australia Priority Investment approach is a good example - expend now vs consequence is health and justice. • Community Housing providers
FOLLOW UP ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Andrews/FNQROC to email Nick Chilton touching on consequential effects of lack of social housing in Yarrabah (ie health, Justice, homelessness, education) noting there is 9 weeks until budget announcements.


Minister / Shadow	Senator the Hon James McGrath Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald Senator Barry O'Sullivan
Portfolio	Senator for Queensland
Attending Mayors	ALL Delegation Mayors
Additional Attendees	
Key Topics	ALL Election Priorities
Key Discussion Points	<p>Key discussions focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardstone • Kuranda Range Road • NPRH • PNG and NRL opportunities • Flooding impact on Western Councils • Nullinga • Lakeland • Tablelands Irrigation • ACCC enquiry into zonal tax (started 1 Feb) • Regional Investment Corp - Loans <p><u>NOT YET ANNOUNCED:</u> There is an upcoming enquiry equivalent to a royal commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ToR yet to come out • Review - reform of FAGS • Muni pole bonds • Migration of professional and promoting migration • Laws to respond to economic (not just zone tax rebate but also royalties etc)
FOLLOW UP ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FNQROC to send a copy of TCICA Letter re PAMA Futures not support to each of the senators.

Minister / Shadow	Hon Richard Marles MP
Portfolio	Shadow Minister for Defence
Attending Mayors	Cr's Manning, Kremastos, Ms Irvine
Additional Attendees	
Key Topics	Cairns Port Masterplan
Key Discussion Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions re Cairns Port options • PNG NRL partnerships, need to engage JCU and CQU as part of this • Conceptual idea to have PNG clearance in Cairns (just an idea by Hon Richard Marles MP)
FOLLOW UP ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FNQROC to send a "snow dome" from each council area to the Shadow Minister

Minister / Shadow	Hon Mark Coulton MP
Portfolio	Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment
Attending Mayors	Cr's Leu, Paronella, Devlin, Scott, Andrews, Bawden, Mr Franks, Mr Linnane, Ms Deemal-Hall
Additional Attendees	
Key Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kuranda Range Road upgrade • Wangetti Trail • Future of the GBR • Tully Multi-Use • Atherton Town Centre • Cooktown 2020 celebrations
Key Discussion Points	<p>Key discussions focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall concerns in relation to Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics • Major National Sporting Events discussions • International Walk promotion once Wangetti Trail constructed
FOLLOW UP ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Minister to email details re major National Sporting Events to Peter Franks • Assistant Minister to provide Cr Scott with information in relation to organizing events for 2020 Cooktown celebrations


Minister / Shadow	Hon Warren Entsch MP
Portfolio	Federal Member for Leichhardt
Attending Mayors	Cr's Leu, Scott, Andrews, Mr Linnane, Ms Deemal-Hall
Additional Attendees	
Key Topics	ALL Election Priorities
Key Discussion Points	<p>Key discussions focused on the FNQROC regional priorities within the Leichhardt region, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peninsula Development Road and Hann Highway – waiting on TMR to provide costings

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wangetti Trail – continue to drive for funding <p>Agreed that FNQROC need to talk about the success of federal delegations and Hon Warren Entsch MP will also talk about how FNQROC contributes to advocacy wins.</p>
FOLLOW UP ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FNQROC to maximize media coverage post-delegation to highlight the success of federal visits

Minister / Shadow	Hon Bob Katter MP
Portfolio	Federal Member for Kennedy
Attending Mayors	Cr's Paronella, Kremastos, Devlin, Andrews, Ms Irvine
Additional Attendees	Kate
Key Topics	ALL Election Priorities
Key Discussion Points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Katter wants a Northern Australia Development Authority, priorities for \$5billion Kuranda Range Road upgrades Carpentaria Fibre Optic NPRH - Yarrabah exclusion Cassowary Coast, Etheridge and Tableland specific projects
FOLLOW UP ACTION	

Minister / Shadow	Hon Melissa Price MP
Portfolio	Minister for Environment
Attending Mayors	Cr's Scott, Leu, Andrews, Mr Linnane, Ms Irvine
Additional Attendees	Ms Alannah Pentony - Advisor
Key Topics	Future of the GBR Yellow Crazy Ants Eradication Program
Key Discussion Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was told there will be a review of the EPBC Act Discussed primarily the Management of the GBR into the future Ranger groups are essential Mr Linnane raised Hope Vale Silica mine expansion and that it may be stopped due to 'no new ports' legislation. Cr Scott raised potential of dredging of Rivers to allow sea Transport. BOM issue raised - need to retain staff in Cairns office
FOLLOW UP ACTION	

Minister / Shadow	Hon Michael McCormack MP
Portfolio	Deputy Prime Minister
Attending Mayors	ALL Delegation Mayors (Ex. Cr Manning & Ms Deemal-Hall)
Additional Attendees	Mr Luke O'Sullivan – Senior Advisor Ms Georgie Humphries – Senior Advisor
Key Topics	ALL Election Priorities
Key Discussion Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted that the FNQROC Election Priority document was well presented and gave thanks for it. • Yarrabah – Acknowledgement and thanks to DPM • Kuranda Range Road upgrade • Cardstone • Tully Grandstand - announcement in March • NPRH • PAMA Futures is not supported • Water Security - Nullinga, Lakeland, Gilbert and Tablelands Irrigation Scheme • Mossman Mill • Wangetti Trail • FAGS • Carpentaria Fibre Optic Cable • Weather Station • Flooding impacts
FOLLOW UP ACTION	

Minister / Shadow	Senator Bridget McKenzie
Portfolio	Minister for Sport, Regional Communications and Rural Health
Attending Mayors	ALL Delegation Mayors (Ex. Cr Manning & Ms Deemal-Hall)
Additional Attendees	Ms Ruby Cameron – Senior Advisor (Health)
Key Topics	ALL Election Priorities
Key Discussion Points	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister passed on her regards to those councils affected by the recent flooding. Minister advised it is great we are coming as a group to highlight regional priorities. • Kuranda Range Rd • Carpentaria Fibre Optic • Cardstone • Weather Station • Gilber River Irrigation • TCICA and PAMA - we are not supportive • Priors Creek • Tablelands Irrigation • Mossman Mill • Wangetti Trail • NPRH • Flooding and focus on long term solution of consequential issues • The Minister had to depart the meeting to vote and the advisor continued the meeting
FOLLOW UP ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Kremastos to email details to Ruby Cameron re sporting grant opportunities

Minister / Shadow	Hon David Littleproud MP
Portfolio	Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
Attending Mayors	ALL Delegation Mayors (Except Cr Manning)
Additional Attendees	Nektarios Tsirvas (Water & Natural Resource Management)
Key Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nullinga and impact of full cost pricing • Tableland Irrigation Scheme (there is additional funding provided for water infrastructure planning) • Lakeland Dam • Cardstone • Gilbert River Irrigation • Flooding event and impact to Cattle Industry and direction and indirect impacts. • Mossman Mill • Wujal Wujal - currently looking at throw they can harvest stormwater and looking at vertical agri options (there are funding opportunities - looking at options for LG rather than only State being able to access) • Yarrabah - long term looking at options. (Worthwhile looking at desalination through pump - some potential opportunities through remote communities funding). • Impact of climate change on traditional medicines. Wujal Wujal need to and are looking at how they can protect • Coastal adaptation undertaken by Yarrabah and Wujal Wujal.
Key Discussion Points	
FOLLOW UP ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore additional funding via Water Infrastructure Planning re Tablelands Irrigation Scheme

Minister / Shadow	Senator the Hon Doug Cameron
Portfolio	Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Apprenticeships
Attending Mayors	Cr's Leu, Scott, Mr Linnane, Ms Deemal-Hall
Additional Attendees	Michael Bailey – Policy Advisor
Key Topics	NPRH
Key Discussion Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have made 250,000 National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) houses (subsidy scheme housing) • Bond Aggregator - develop legislation • Lower income scale community housing sector • Indigenous Caucus Committee meeting to discuss this issue with Senator Pat Dodson (National housing supply council) • Skills and Apprenticeships + TAFE • Review VET/Post school education • 2/3 federal funding into TAFE
FOLLOW UP ACTION	



MEDIA / SOCIAL MEDIA



VOICES: Mayors John Kremastos, Joe Paronella and Peter Scott talk to Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Leichhardt MP Warren Entsch during a Far North Queensland Regional of Councils delegation to Canberra last week. Picture SUPPLIED

Far North's wish list made known

AN upgrade of the Kuranda Range road, water security, expansion of the National Land Transport Network and the future of the Mossman Mill are among the wish list items mayors and chief executives from across the Far North have prioritised ahead of the upcoming federal election.

Cook Shire Council Mayor Peter Scott led the Far North Queensland Regional of Councils (FNQROC) delegation to Canberra to deliver the region's pre-election wish

list to Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

FNQROC chairman and Mareeba Shire Mayor Tom Gilmore said the purpose of the delegation was to advocate as a united voice.

"This delegation provides FNQROC with an opportunity to meet with over 20 elected members and nine policy advisers to remind them of who we are, who we represent and advocate for the agreed priorities for the region that are important for growth," he said.

"With an election poised for May, this is the most effective way of engaging all our members in a short time frame to get our collective messages across to both sides of parliament."

While Mr Gilmore was unable to attend the delegation, he was simply thrilled that the group had met with Mr Morrison.

"We will continue to have two delegations a year to both Canberra and Brisbane to ensure our community repre-

sented by local government is recognised and our priorities are understood," he said.

"It is imperative we continue to operate on behalf of our communities, so priorities are considered for state and federal annual budgets.

"As remote local government areas in Australia, we are determined to no longer simply be passengers in representing the people and we will continue robust dialogue with government and opposition well into the future."



WISH LIST: Local leaders in Canberra last week voiced their wishes for the region prior to the upcoming Federal election.

FNQROC converge on nation's capital

MAYORS and CEOs from across the far north visited Canberra last week to ensure their communities are not forgotten ahead of the upcoming Federal election.

Cook Shire Council Mayor Peter Scott led the Far North Queensland Regional of Councils (FNQROC) delegation to the Nation's capital to deliver the pre-election wish list.

Chair of FNQROC and Mareeba Shire Mayor Tom Gilmore said the purpose of the delegation was to advocate as a united voice.

"This delegation provides FNQROC with an opportunity to meet with over 20 elected members and nine policy advisors to remind them of who we are, who we represent and advocate for the agreed priorities for the region that are important for

growth," he said.

"With an election poised for May, this is the most effective way of engaging all our members in a short timeframe to get our collective messages across to both sides of parliament."

While Mayor Tom Gilmore was unable to attend the delegation, he noted that he was thrilled that the group had met with Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

"As the Chair of FNQROC I am delighted with the response the delegation has received in Canberra," he said.

"This of course, is not the first trip to Canberra and will not be the last.

"We will continue to have two delegations a year to both Canberra and Brisbane to ensure our community represented by Local Government is recognised and our priorities are understood.

"It is imperative we continue to operate on behalf of our communities, so priorities are considered for State and Federal annual budgets."

The delegation was given the opportunity to put forward FNQROC's election priorities which include the upgrade of the Kuranda Range Road, water security, expansion of the National Land Transport Network and the future of the Mossman Mill, amongst others.

"As remote Local Government areas in Australia, we are determined to no longer simply be passengers in representing the people and we will continue robust dialogue with Government and Opposition well into the future," Cr Gilmore said.

"Thank you to Federal Member for Leichhardt Warren Entsch for helping to facilitate

these meetings in Canberra, particularly with the Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison and Treasurer Josh Frydenberg."



PM, mayor tick off on Mossman Mill funds

DOUGLAS Shire Mayor Julia Leu has been given a commitment by Prime Minister Scott Morrison for a \$20 million funding package to green light the Mossman Mill.

Ms Leu met with Mr Morrison in Canberra to pursue a formal commitment on Federal MP Warren Entsch's pledge for the mill-saving lifeline last year.

"It is committed and we will be making an announcement soon," Mr Morrison reportedly told her.

Ms Leu said the news was a welcome relief for the Mossman community and ensured the mill's future.

She spoke directly with Mr Morrison and explained that the business case was completed. A State Government package of \$25 million was announced in December.

"I have just had a meeting with the PM requesting a formal commitment for the Mossman Mill, following Warren's pledge last year," Ms Leu told the *Gazette*.

"As you know, this was contingent on the business case and State Government funding.

"Following our discussion and my request, the PM committed," she said.

On the road to infrastructure

AN upgraded Kuranda Range Rd, the Southern Tablelands Irrigation Scheme, Nullinga Dam, Priors Creek development in Atherton, regional roads and the future of Mossman Mill were on the agenda when Far North Queensland mayors and CEOs converged on Canberra last week.

The delegation put forward these election priorities to ministers, policy advisers, shadow ministers and the Prime Minister Scott Morrison himself.

Cook Shire Council Mayor Peter Scott led the Far North Queensland Regional of Councils (FNQROC) delegation to deliver the pre-election wish list.

Chair of FNQROC and Mareeba Shire Mayor, Tom Gilmore, said the delegation advocated as a united voice for North Queensland projects.

"This delegation provided FNQROC with an opportunity to meet with more than 20 elected members and nine policy advisers to remind them of who we are, who we represent and advocate for the agreed priorities for the region that are important for growth," he said.

"With an election poised for May, this is the most effective way of engaging all our members in a short timeframe to get our collective messages across to both sides of parliament."



Seven mayors and three CEOs from Far North Queensland took part in the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC) delegation to talk to Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Wednesday morning to present to him with the FNQROC pre-election priorities. From left: Cairns Regional Mayor Bob Manning, Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Mayor Ross Andrews, Cassowary Coast Regional Mayor John Krematos, Cook Shire Mayor Peter Scott, Tablelands Regional Mayor Joe Paronella, Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Douglas Shire Mayor Julia Leu, Etheridge Shire Mayor Warren Devlin, Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council CEO Eileen Deemal-Hall, Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council CEO Stephen Linnane, Mareeba Shire CEO Peter Franks and the Federal Member for Leichhardt, Warren Entsch.

Councillor Gilmore was unable to attend the delegation, but he was thrilled the group had met with Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

"As the chair of FNQROC, I am delighted with the response the delegation has re-

ceived in Canberra," he said. "This, of course, is not the first trip to Canberra and will not be the last."

"We will continue to have two delegations a year to both Canberra and Brisbane to ensure our community repre-

sented by local government is recognised and our priorities are understood."

"It is imperative we continue to operate on behalf of our communities, so priorities are considered for state and federal annual budgets."

"As remote local government areas in Australia, we are determined to no longer simply be passengers in representing the people and we will continue robust dialogue with government and opposition well into the future."

He thanked Federal Member for Leichhardt, Warren Entsch for helping to facilitate the meetings, particularly with Mr Morrison and Treasurer Josh Frydenberg.

Cr Paronella said the delegation was pleased that Mr Morrison backed the Mossman Mill.

Douglas Shire Mayor Julia Leu had sought a firm commitment for a \$20 million investment in the Mossman Mill.

"This is good news for cane farmers on the Tablelands," Cr Paronella said.

The mayors were particularly keen to see major upgrades to make the Kuranda Range Rd safe once and for all.

Cr Paronella said accidents and range closures cost millions of dollars each year.

"A total of \$871,992 a week on average is spent as a result of fatalities, hospitalisation, injuries and property damage on the Kuranda Range," he said.

FNQROC says 228 commercial vehicles used the range each day in 2000.

This has increased to 1084 a day in 2017.

On average, 13 unplanned closures of the road occurred each week.

The delegation was an opportunity to discuss the benefits of the Southern Tablelands Irrigation Scheme and the Nullinga Dam to far northern agriculture.

Posts



Senator Ian Macdonald

21 hrs · 🌐

Pleased to have in depth discussions on the north with Mayors from the Far North Region of Councils and my colleagues, Senator O'Sullivan and Senator McGrath.

Love talking to representatives of areas i have got to know so well over the last few decades.

And great to interact with Mayors who have become firm friends.



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