



Far North Queensland

Northern Australia's largest and fastest growing region.



STATE PRIORITIES FOR FNQ | 2019





Member Councils



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Foreword

Sustainable Economic Growth and Development for Far North Queensland

Our Organisation

The FNQROC region is the largest and fastest growing region in Northern Australia. It extends over 320,000 square kilometres with a population of approximately 275,673¹ and gross regional product is \$15.15 billion². Unemployment for the 2018 June quarter was 6.97% which is above the Australian, Queensland and regional Queensland average.

The communities within the thirteen Councils of Far North Queensland welcome the opportunity to contribute further to the National and State domestic productivity through the utilisation of existing assets, identifying our gaps and working collaboratively to support sustainable economic growth and development for Far North Queensland.

Transport

History tells us that investment in transport infrastructure is a vital precursor to the economic growth and development of a region and the nation. Until this investment is made the FNQ region will fail to deliver on its vast potential. Resilient transport infrastructure to ensure connectivity across the region is essential; the current situation however is far from satisfactory and the state of the roads and ports is an inhibitor to further exploit the vast untapped potential that FNQ North Queensland offers.

Water and Energy

Reliable and affordable water and energy is critical to the FNQ region if it is to have sustainable economic growth and development. COAG policies including Northern Australia White Paper, Regionalisation, Asian Market Access and Indigenous Advancement have identified the strategic importance of FNQ to economic and social development. FNQ has a seasonal over and under water supply and bulk storage and control via new and enlarged dams is a key solution offering the collateral benefits of hydroelectric power, tourism and lifestyle opportunities.

Environment

Our region's world renowned natural assets, natural resources and environment are key factors in the economic success of the region. The region includes two World Heritage listed areas, the rainforests of the Wet Tropics and the reefs and waters of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) and to the west, the Gulf Rivers Strategic Environment areas.

The economic success of our natural assets is evidenced by the growth in our largest industry, tourism, which is valued at over \$3.1 billion dollars. This is in addition to the contributions from the region's growing global reputation in primary industries, education, health, marine and aviation.

Social Infrastructure

There is universal agreement that strong, resilient and healthy individuals, families and communities play a vital role in building the ongoing prosperity, wellbeing and economic development of a region. It has been demonstrated that long term economic growth in the regions occurs through investment in human capital development.

Communication

An equitable communication network for the region is essential if FNQ is to have sustainable growth and development. The size of FNQ means there is a reliance on communication networks whether mobile, broadband, fixed Wi-Fi or satellite. To be competitive in current marketplaces (national and international) and drive increased productivity and access to greater economic opportunities through a global marketplace our communication network is essential. FNQ has vast untapped potential for the development of an array of 'Agri Business', tropical expertise and tourism products which can be exported from the region. An equitable communication network will also support efficient and effective employment, government service delivery, education, health, workplace health and safety and social wellbeing.

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth, Australia (3218.0)

² National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) 2018.

FNQROC is seeking to inform or secure commitment to the following regional priorities:

Critical Infrastructure

Kuranda Range Road – FNQROC seeks a State contribution to resolve the safety, capacity and reliability issues of Kuranda Range Road which is inhibiting economic growth.

Road Investment

Gulf Development Road – FNQROC supports (a) the reinstatement of the Western Roads Program with an annual allocation of \$8 million per year for 5 years be attributed to the Gulf Developmental Road to upgrade 48km of single sealed road to dual seal and (b) the allocation of \$25 million to upgrade the Gilbert River Bridge from single to dual lane carriageway.

Burke Development Road – FNQROC seeks the 7.66km of sealing works 80% funded by the Federal Government to commence without further delay and an additional allocation of \$17 million to complete the sealing of 11.04km of road between Dimbulah and Chillagoe.

Extension of the National Land Transport Network – FNQROC seeks agreement with the Federal Government on the extension of the National Land Transport Network to the Cairns Airport and Smithfield and investment of \$72 million (80/20) in support of capacity enhancements on this road corridor.

Innisfail Strategic Masterplan Project – Linking to the Bruce Highway – FNQROC seeks \$8.3 million (Federal) and \$8.3 million (State) towards the estimated \$25 million required to deliver the project.

Energy Security

Cardstone – FNQROC supports further progression of the Cardstone Pumped Hydro Scheme, Business Case with an estimated timetable for delivery.

Uniform (Electricity) Tariff Policy – FNQROC seeks a commitment to a continuation of the Uniform (Electricity) Tariff Policy to support the affordability of electricity for businesses and consumers in regional areas of Queensland, including Cairns.

Water Security

Nullinga Dam – FNQROC seeks commitment to complete the projects full Business Case as a matter of urgency and a budget funding allocation of \$425 million towards the projects construction and implementation.

Tablelands Irrigation Project – FNQROC seeks \$7 million funding to proceed from Preliminary Business Case (completed) to Detailed Business Case and Environmental Impact Assessment and support for SunWater or the Department of Energy and Water Supply to be the lead proponent going forward.

Gilbert River Irrigation Project – FNQROC seeks \$150 million (State), \$150 million (Federal) commitment towards a total estimated capital cost of \$450 million.

Health Investment

Cairns Hospital – FNQROC seeks \$90 million for the establishment of a research institute and \$15 million for Emergency Department upgrade.

Environment

Doppler Weather Radar – FNQROC supports the establishment

of a Doppler weather radar covering central Far North Queensland.

Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program – FNQROC supports the request from Wet Tropics Management Authority for \$3 million per year to match the Australian Government budget commitment from July 2019 to continue its successful Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program.

Management of the Great Barrier Reef into the Future – FNQROC supports a review of the existing management structure and investment cognisant to the value of the asset.

Dungeness Marine Access Improvement Project – FNQROC seeks funding to assist dredging and beach replenishment, including a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement at Dungeness to facilitate development of tourism in the area.

Indigenous Housing

National Partnerships for Remote Housing – FNQROC seeks the continuance of NPRH or similar program and funding for priority projects in Yarrabah not previously captured in NPRH.

Vacant Housing

Croydon Vacant Housing – FNQROC supports the investigation into properties left vacant for some time in Croydon, despite a need for these properties in order to meet the housing demand and provide assistance to the Council in building a larger and stronger community.

Tourism Investment

Cooktown Expo 2020 – FNQROC seeks a \$2 million commitment from the Queensland Government towards the cost of staging the Cook Shire Council-led Cooktown Expo 2020

Waymbuurr Cultural Centre – FNQROC seeks \$575,000 in matching (federal) funding towards the cost of constructing the Waymbuurr Cultural Centre in Cooktown.

Wangetti Trail – FNQROC seeks commitment for the delivery and full capital cost (estimated at \$25.3 million) to complete the remainder of the Wangetti Trail (Palm Cove to the Mowbray River).

Atherton Town Centre Revitalisation Project (Priors Creek Master Plan) – FNQROC seeks \$5 million to commence the first stage of the Atherton Town Centre Revitalisation project.

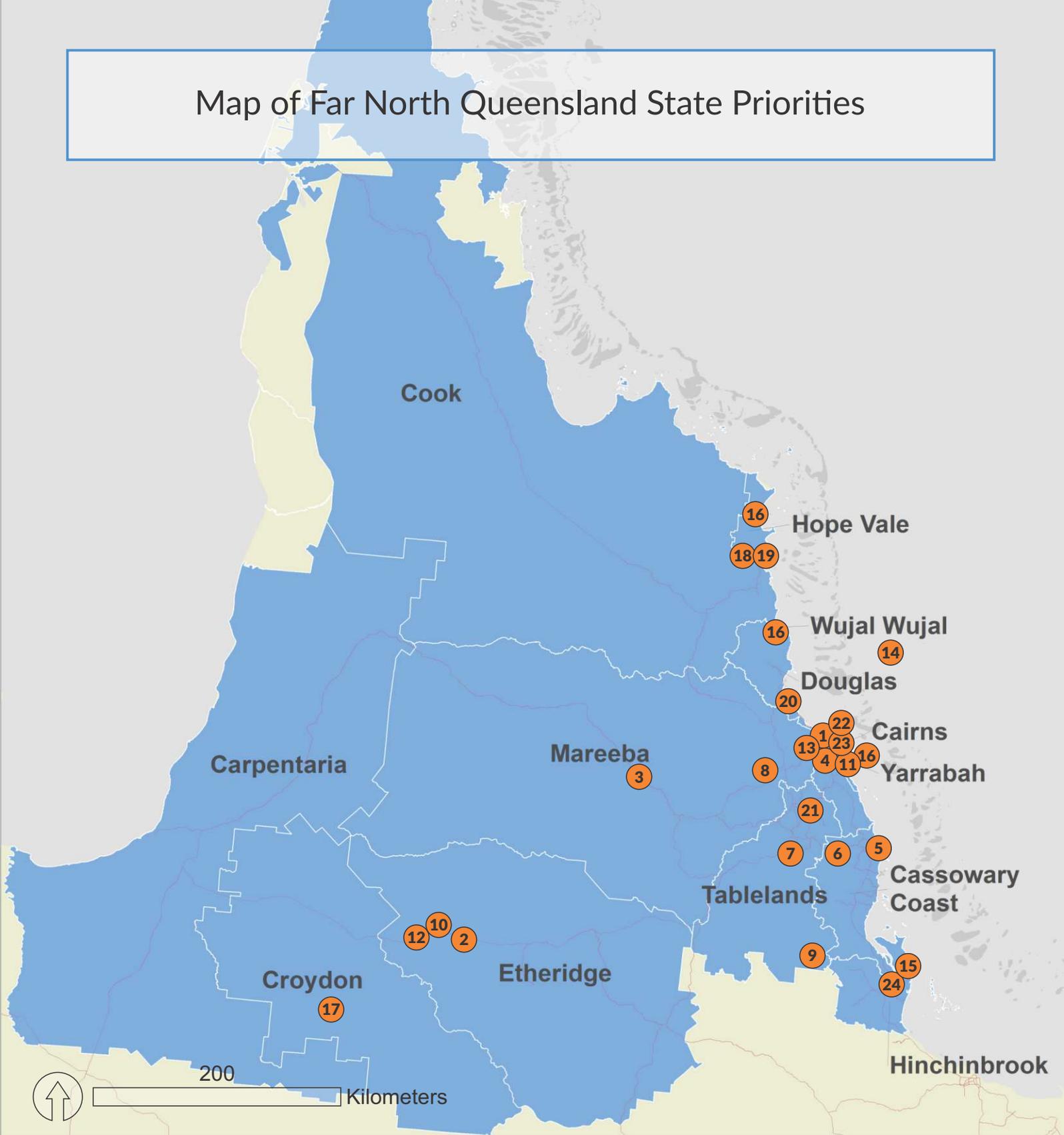
Cairns Gallery Precinct – FNQROC seeks \$13.3 million capital funding commitment towards the estimated capital cost (\$39.8 million) of the Cairns Gallery Precinct as part of the proposed tripartite funding arrangement.

Cairns Aviation Route Development – FNQROC seeks additional funding allocation of \$50 million to the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund (over the budget year and forward estimates) to support International aviation route development and specific allocation from this fund to be made available for regional airports.

Bio Precincts

North Queensland Bio-Energy (NQBE) Facility – FNQROC seeks financial assistance towards the NQBE Renewable Energy Facility.

Map of Far North Queensland State Priorities



Legend

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ① Kuranda Range Road | ⑨ Tablelands Irrigation Project | ⑰ Vacant Housing |
| ② Gulf Development Road | ⑩ Gilbert River Irrigation Project | ⑱ Cooktown Expo 2020 |
| ③ Burke Development Road | ⑪ Cairns Hospital | ⑲ Waymbuurr Cultural Centre |
| ④ National Land Transport Network | ⑫ Doppler Weather Radar | ⑳ Wangetti Trail |
| ⑤ Innisfail Strategic Masterplan | ⑬ Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication | ㉑ Atherton Town Centre Masterplan |
| ⑥ Cardstone Pumped Hydro Scheme | ⑭ Great Barrier Reef Management | ㉒ Cairns Gallery Precinct |
| ⑦ Uniform (Electricity) Tariff Policy | ⑮ Dungeness Marine Access Project | ㉓ Cairns Aviation Route |
| ⑧ Nullinga Dam | ⑯ Remote Indigenous Housing | ㉔ North Queensland Bio-Energy |

PRIORITY: CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Project: Kuranda Range Road

STATE REQUEST	FNQROC seeks a State contribution towards an estimated \$1bil project to resolve the safety, capacity and reliability issues of Kuranda Range Road..
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Project Details:

Kuranda Range Road (Kennedy Highway, Cairns/Mareeba section) links Smithfield with Kuranda and is the gateway to Mareeba, Atherton Tablelands, Cape York and Gulf. The road is technically described as low geometric standard with limited capacity.

This road currently:

- has an average weekly cost of \$588,221 per week due to fatalities, hospitalisations, injuries and property damage. On average incurs:
 - 2.5 fatalities/year
 - 1.2 hospitalisations/week
 - 1.0 injury every 4 days
 - 1.3 vehicles damaged/week
- has 8,871 vehicles per day (12.23% commercial) which exceeds capacity by 1,686 vehicles per day (based on Maunsell McIntyre Impact Assessment Report 2000)
- 1.3 unplanned closures/week (economic loss yet to be costed). An alternative route (Gillies Highway) being 91km away. Nearly once a month (0.7 times) this alternative route has an unplanned closure at the same time.
- inhibits economic growth; KUR-World Integrated Eco-resort 4 km west of Kuranda (\$600 million project) has been refused because of its impact on the Kuranda Range Road.

PRIORITY: ROAD INVESTMENT

Project: Gulf Development Road

STATE REQUEST	<p>Request a: FNQROC seeks the reinstatement of the Western Roads Program with an annual allocation of \$8 million per year for five years to the Gulf Developmental Road to upgrade 48 kms of single sealed road to dual seal.</p> <p>Request b: FNQROC seeks the allocation of \$25million to upgrade the Gilbert River Bridge from single to dual lane carriageway.</p>
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Project Details:

The Gulf Developmental Road is part of the Savannah Way (National tourist route 1) and starts at the intersection of the Kennedy Developmental Road and links through to Normanton. In total the route is 396.274km and is an east/west major freight and tourist route linking the region to both Cairns and Townsville.

The section of road between Mt Surprise and the Gilbert River Bridge is approximately 170km, it has a 70km stretch of road which is a mixture of single lane bitumen carriageway broken up into many sections by dual lane carriageway. There are 48km of intermittent one lane seal with gravel shoulders that are too narrow to permit safe passing of road trains and caravans. In addition, there are numerous bridges with only 6 meters between kerbs, and as tourist traffic volumes increase there is increasing risk due to the need to give way for freight vehicles up to Type 2 standard (up to 53.5m in length).

Flooding is still a major impediment to industry. The Gilbert River Bridge (4m above stream level) is a low level single lane crossing with high crests at either end preventing road users to see the bridge. Not only is this a significant safety issue, this crossing is impassable during the wet season. Approximately \$25 million is needed to upgrade/replace this crossing.

Between 2006 and 2017 commercial vehicles utilising this road has grown by 22.22%. Current (2017) AADT is 272 with 23.58% being commercial vehicles.

In the last five years there has been 26 incidents resulting in 3 fatalities and 16 hospitalisations³, 21 of these were single vehicle incidents. The Human Capital cost of these incidents are \$3,562,525 per year⁴.

Project: Burke Development Road

STATE REQUEST	<p>Request a: FNQROC seeks the 7.66km of sealing works 80% funded by the Federal Government to commence without further delay.</p> <p>Request b: FNQROC seeks the allocation of \$17 million to complete the sealing of 11.04km of road between Dimbulah and Chillagoe.</p>
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Project Details:

The Burke Developmental Road commences at Dimbulah and ends in Normanton, it links Mareeba, Chillagoe and Normanton.

The distance between Dimbulah and Chillagoe is 92km, with 16.05km unsealed near Chillagoe. This stretch of road is a key route for cattle transportation servicing cattle producers between Chillagoe and Almaden.

In 2016 two packages of sealing works were approved and \$5.97 million funding provided to progressively seal 12.2km of this road. As at 2019 these works are yet to be commenced.

After these works 11.04km is remaining to be sealed at an estimated cost of \$17 million.

Between 2006 and 2017 the AADT has grown by 4.97% and commercial vehicles by 22.39%. Current (2017) AADT is 182 with 25.82% being commercial vehicles.

In the last five years there has been 17 incidents resulting in 11 hospitalisations⁵. The human capital cost of these incidents are \$1,386,439 per year⁶.

³TMR Crash data from Queensland roads <https://data.qld.gov.au/dataset/crash-data-from-queensland-roads>

⁴Table 18 Estimation of crash costs by injury severity, Human Capital (HC) values, June 2013 <https://atap.gov.au/parameter-values/road-transport/4-crash-costs.aspx> (\$2,622,924/fatality, \$608,184/hospitalisation, \$24,217/injury, \$9,257/property damage)

⁵TMR Crash data from Queensland roads <https://data.qld.gov.au/dataset/crash-data-from-queensland-roads>

⁶Table 18 Estimation of crash costs by injury severity, Human Capital (HC) values, June 2013 <https://atap.gov.au/parameter-values/road-transport/4-crash-costs.aspx> (\$2,622,924/fatality, \$608,184/hospitalisation, \$24,217/injury, \$9,257/property damage)

Project: National Highway 1 - Draper Street to Smithfield

STATE REQUEST	FNQROC seeks agreement with the Federal Government on the extension of the National Land Transport Network to the Cairns Airport and Smithfield and investment of \$72 million in support of capacity enhancements on this road corridor.
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Project Details:

Significant investment in capacity enhancements to this road corridor are required to ensure the efficient movement of freight and people particularly to Cairns Air and Sea ports. It will also unlock increased investment in the elements of the road network which supports connectivity with the north of the city and west to the Atherton Tablelands and beyond. This improved connectivity would deliver significant economic, safety and liveability benefits to Cairns and the broader region.

The National Land Transport Network (NLTN) currently terminates at the corner of Comport and Draper Streets (just south of the Cairns City Centre). As result, the section of the National Highway 1 that connects the southern fringe of the Cairns City to Smithfield via Sheridan Street is unable to benefit from the 80/20 (Federal/State) funding arrangements that apply to roads within the NLTN. The road corridor provides key connectivity to the Cairns Seaport, Cairns City Centre, Cairns Airport and Smithfield.

\$287.2 million is in the Federal Budget and has also been committed to by the Federal Labor opposition.

Project: Innisfail Strategic Masterplan Project – Linking to the Bruce Highway

STATE REQUEST	FNQROC seeks \$8.3 million (Federal) and \$8.3 million (State) towards the estimate \$25 million required to deliver the project.
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Project Details:

To provide liveable and vibrant areas with a unique Master Plan that connects the Bruce Highway with Fitzgerald Esplanade and entices passing visitors into the town centre via the reconfiguration of the Bruce Highway/Edith Street intersection.

With over 800,000 vehicle movements through this area a year, and the redevelopment of Innisfail's Central Business District, Fitzgerald Esplanade and Anzac Park, increased visitation will generate growth and new opportunities for investment and employment.

PRIORITY: ENERGY SECURITY

Project: Cardstone Pumped Hydro Scheme

STATE REQUEST	FNQROC supports further progression of the Cardstone Pumped Hydro Scheme, Business Case with an estimated timetable for delivery.
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Project Details:

Cardstone is a pumped hydro concept which when combined with wind and solar has the potential to deliver at least 2GW of 100% renewable base load equivalent generation (one third of Queensland demand) at a materially lower cost than alternative options, with 300GWh of energy storage. Cardstone has sufficient storage to generate continuously at a capacity of 2GW for 4 days. (300GWh represents 1 year of electricity consumption for 50,000 households).

The development of Cardstone's generation capacity is able to be staged to coincide with the closure of coal fired power stations.

Cardstone is a nation-building project with potential scale equivalent to Snowy 2.0 (at significantly lower cost), the Cardstone Pumped Hydro scheme ably solves the energy trilemma of reliability, affordability and sustainability.

Project: Uniform (Electricity) Tariff Policy

STATE REQUEST	FNQROC seeks a commitment to a continuation of the Uniform (Electricity) Tariff Policy to support the affordability of electricity for businesses and consumers in regional areas of Queensland including Cairns.
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Project Details:

The aim of the Uniform Tariff Policy (UTP) is to ensure, wherever possible, that customers of the same consumption class should pay no more for their electricity merely because of their geographic location in Queensland. UTP will deliver electricity as an essential service, on a fair basis, regardless of location and encourage economic development in regional Queensland. Continuation of the principles underlying the UTP are critical to the region's ongoing competitiveness.

Higher electricity and energy prices are continually identified by businesses operating through the Cairns and FNQ region as a key constraint to growth. Confirmation of the extension of the policy is critical to ensuring consumers are able to access electricity at a fair and reasonable price thereby supporting ongoing jobs and economic growth.

PRIORITY: WATER SECURITY

Project: Nullinga Dam

STATE REQUEST	FNQROC seeks commitment to complete the project's full business case as a matter of urgency and a budget funding allocation of \$425 million towards the projects construction and implementation.
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Project Details:

Water security and quality are key priorities underpinning the future development of the Cairns region and Northern Australia. With 60% of Queensland's annual water run-off and significant tracts of underdeveloped arable land, the FNQ region's agricultural potential is enormous. To unlock this potential, it is imperative that there be investment in the infrastructure required to harness the region's water resources.

Urban water security is also an important strategic issue that needs to be addressed in order to meet the challenges of a Cairns population that is expected to nearly double in the next 30 years.

The proposed Nullinga Dam project, located on the Walsh River on the Atherton Tablelands, has been proposed as a critical piece of water supply infrastructure that will:

- Stimulate and expand irrigated agriculture in the region by supplementing existing water supplies.
- Support the long term urban water security necessary to cater for the Cairns region's growing population.

Nullinga Dam would underpin additional agricultural production worth an estimated \$200 million a year to FNQ and is vital to the further growth of FNQ's agricultural industry, which already leads the way in Northern Australia and is well placed to become one of the country's most important food bowls. Funding commitments are required to ensure the critical infrastructure project of regional and national significance, that will deliver benefits for multiple generations of the FNQ community, is able to proceed.

Project: Tablelands Irrigation Project

STATE REQUEST	FNQROC seeks commitment of \$7 million funding to proceed from Preliminary Business Case (completed) to Detailed Business Case and Environmental Impact Assessment and support for SunWater or the Department of Energy and Water Supply to be the lead proponent going forward.
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Project Details:

Through funding from the National Water Infrastructure Fund, a Preliminary Business Case into multi-purpose water use in the Upper Herbert catchments has been completed and it identifies a lack of economic diversification, water not being strategically managed and a lack of water storage infrastructure hindering development in the Southern Tablelands region. An opportunity exists to provide an additional tourist attraction and expand the region's agricultural capabilities by building a new dam to provide a yield of 35,000 ML/year with hydro power benefits.

Project opportunities:

- Allowing the transition from a land use predominantly for beef cattle to a variety of higher value crops. The value added production benefit is \$1.35 billion estimated to the region's agriculture industry;
- Providing opportunities to increase the tourism offering in the Tablelands region with contemporary attractions. The estimate recreational benefits for the community is \$9.28 million;
- Providing capacity to increase total renewable energy generation in the Tablelands region and provide efficient energy storage solutions. Estimated hydro power benefit from the sale of electricity is \$2.60 million;
- Increasing the region's economic resilience, diversity and competitiveness by building a stronger and more cohesive economy with complementary industries.

Project: Gilbert River Irrigation Project

STATE REQUEST

FNQROC seeks a commitment from the Federal Government for \$150 million towards a total estimated capital cost of \$450 million subject to:

- Completion of the detailed business case currently being undertaken;
- \$150 million in State grant or loan funding which is repaid through returns from water sales;
- A successful loan application of \$150 million to the Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund (NAIF) by the Gilbert River Irrigation beneficial enterprise/cooperative.

Project Details:

The Gilbert River Irrigation Project which will provide significant economic growth through expansion of agricultural production in Etheridge Shire. The Irrigation project will facilitate the development of greater than 28,564ha of arable land. This is on top of 20,235ha currently under dry land cropping in the Gilbert River catchment.

The proposed irrigation area sits in a 5km strip either side of a 100-km section of the Gilbert River beginning at 'Green Hills' Station and stretching downstream to the 'Chadshunt'/'Strathmore' Stations boundary. Foundational CSIRO work has clearly identified 2 possible dam sites.

The State government has awarded an allocation of 390,000 mega litres of water to the development of the project subject to development approvals.

Extensive research has been undertaken into the development of irrigated agriculture in the Gilbert River Catchment. This includes the 2013 CSIRO Report; Agricultural Resources Assessment for Gilbert Catchment (Petheram et al. (2013), which provides a wealth of technical support.

The benefits (but not limited to) of the project include:

- Predicted gross benefits from agricultural production in the region of \$540 million.
- Total agribusiness development to create upwards of 500 permanent jobs and many more casual and seasonal jobs;
- Transport and logistical activity will spread benefits across the region and State.
- Project will encourage Indigenous people to return to country and be an integral part of the opportunities on offer.
- The advent of irrigated crop production in the region will establish irrigated forage/fodder production and a substantial local supply of cost-efficient cottonseed for the cattle industry.

Based on other Australian irrigation projects, the scheme is estimated to be operational in five years from business case funding approval:

- 2 years for planning, business case, water sales and approvals.
- 2 years for construction.
- 1 year to fill the dam.

Irrigation deliveries are expected to commence in Year 6. The economic modelling was prepared on this basis.

PRIORITY: HEALTH INVESTMENT

Project: Cairns Hospital

**STATE
REQUEST**

FNQROC seeks a \$90 million commitment from the Queensland Government towards the establishment of a research institute at the Cairns Hospital to support the goal of Cairns Hospital becoming a university hospital in the short to medium term and \$15 million commitment in support of upgraded emergency department facilities and infrastructure at the Cairns Hospital.

Project Details:

Health and wellbeing are critical foundations to a community's quality of life and are essential if communities are to continue to grow and prosper. The Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service (CHHHS) is the FNQ region's largest employer with approximately 6,000 staff delivering a wide range of hospital and health services across the region.

The Cairns Hospital is a critical facility within the CHHHS network and caters for approximately 80,000 patient admissions every year. The hospital also deals with a diverse range of health and well-being needs of the regional community including the region's significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations.

Key priorities for Cairns Hospital include:

- Establishment of a research institute (including land acquisition and facility development) to support the goal of Cairns Hospital becoming a university hospital in the medium term. A \$90 million commitment is required from the Queensland government to complement commitments of \$60 million already made federally.
- Investment in new/upgraded emergency department facilities and infrastructure. There were 71,118 presentations to the emergency department at the Cairns Hospital in 2017/18, a 22% increase over the preceding five years (the Cairns Hospital emergency department is the fifth busiest in Queensland). A \$15 million commitment is required from the Queensland Government to implement these urgent upgrades.
- Ongoing investigation into the potential to provide higher level services locally at the Cairns Hospital that are currently only available 'outside of region' (e.g. neurosurgery).
- Continued development of specific models of care to address chronic disease, particularly in the region's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations.

PRIORITY: ENVIRONMENT

Project: Doppler Weather Radar

**STATE
REQUEST**

FNQROC seeks the establishment of a Doppler weather radar covering central Far North Queensland.

Project Details:

There is an area in central Far North Queensland supporting significant agricultural, grazing and mining industries which is not covered by a Doppler weather radar at 64, 128 or 256km. The area includes Richmond (in the south), Georgetown (to the east), 100k west of Croydon and North up to Pompuraaw. Whilst it appears the Bureau of meteorology uses these stations predominately for scientific and research purposes, industry and communities rely heavily on this information on a day to day basis. Recent events highlighted the scarcity of information with many communities unaware of the amount of rain coming and from where.

For the purposes of economic growth and community safety, the region is seeking coverage which includes fire weather, wind reading, rainfall, pressure, dew point and humidity.

Project: Yellow Crazy Ants

**STATE
REQUEST**

FNQROC seeks support for the Wet Tropics Management Authority request for \$3 million annual Queensland Government commitment to match the Australian Government budget commitment from July 2019 to continue its successful Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program..

Project Details:

The Wet Tropics Management Authority has led the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program since 2013. The Eradication Program was significantly enhanced from late 2016, as a result of a three-year funding commitment from the Australian Government (7.5 million) and the Queensland Government (\$3.04 million).

An independent review by Melbourne University stated that eradication remains feasible, commending the program's progress and achievements to date in reducing the spread.

In addition, a preliminary cost-benefit analysis compared the cost of funding the Eradication Program to allowing the uncontrolled spread of ants. It found that a conservative estimate of the annual socioeconomic impact to the region would exceed \$ 500 million over the next thirty years and including the environment effects, the total economic impact would exceed \$ 6 billion.

We believe that it is vital to take advantage of this window of opportunity to keep the Cairns and Kuranda districts and the Wet Tropics safe from such a destructive invader.

Project: Management of the Great Barrier Reef into the future

**STATE
REQUEST**

FNQROC seeks government support of the following recommendations given the critical importance of the GBR:

- That the existing management structure should be reviewed and an overarching, de-politicized body established to manage both the Wet Tropics Rainforest and Great Barrier Reef with a contiguous approach established.
- Investment in Reef and Rainforest Management should be reviewed in the context of the significant economic benefits these assets deliver to the region.

Project Details:

The existing management structure for the GBRMP and the GBR Coast MP (and the external factors that impact upon them) are extremely complex, involving multiple agencies, that lack clarity of purpose, strategic direction and investment. FNQROC can identify 13 different organisations who receive government financial support and 54 entities and advisory groups involved in advocacy, research, monitoring, management or protection for/of the Great Barrier Reef.

Crucially, a significant proportion of the river systems flowing into the GBR have their source within, or flowing through, the World Heritage listed Wet Tropics Rainforests (WTR). Responsibility for management of the WTR has been devolved to the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

The health of the Rainforest has a direct impact on river catchments and marine ecosystems with flow-on impacts on water quality and the health of the GBR.

Given the critical importance of the GBR and WTR, the existing management structure needs to be reviewed to ensure it addresses these issues into the future.

Project: Dungeness Marine Access Improvement Project

**STATE
REQUEST**

FNQROC seeks assistance in funding to assist dredging and beach replenishment, including a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement at Dungeness to facilitate development of tourism in the area.

Project Details:

Hinchinbrook Shire Council is proposing to increase the accessibility of the Enterprise Channel at Dungeness in order to attain all-tide access and safe passage for boating vessels. Restricted tidal access is constraining Hinchinbrook Shire Council's ability to develop tourism as an economic stimulus for the region given the inability to operate commercial tourism from a tide book.

With the Great Barrier Reef and the pristine Hinchinbrook and Palm Islands close nearby, improved marine access is required to capitalise on this industry opportunity. This is to be achieved by re-establishing the existing navigable channel through capital and maintenance dredging. Subsequently, Council is also proposing to construct a rock wall adjacent to the channel to ensure it remains accessible.

The dredged material is to be utilised for beach replenishment purposes on the adjacent foreshore to protect the remaining spit from further erosion, which in time, should no action be taken, will threaten neighbouring marine infrastructure (i.e. boat ramp, floating pontoon, fishing wharf) and other commercial enterprises located southward of the spit that are vital to Hinchinbrook's tourism industry.

The proposed works, detailed above, are subject to receiving the necessary development approvals.

Development Applications are in process for the following:

1. Rock Wall Construction approximately 400m long \$8,000,000 ex GST; and
2. Channel Dredging and Beach Replenishment works to create a 50m wide channel estimate 15,000m³ dredge spoil \$950,000 ex GST per dredging cycle

PRIORITY: INDIGENOUS HOUSING

Project: National Partnerships for Remote Housing

STATE REQUEST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FNQROC seeks support for the continuance of the NPRH program or implementation of a similar program (which includes Yarrabah) to continue program deliverables.• FNQROC seeks State & Federal Government funding support for the following priority projects in Yarrabah:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 235 new dwellings - \$124.6million• Associated trunk infrastructure - \$110.75 million• Upgrades to existing housing - \$14.04 million• Repairs and maintenance to existing housing - \$4.26 million
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Project Details:

The current National Partnership on Remote Housing (NPRH) expired on 30 June 2018 with no indication it will continue or be replaced with a similar program. Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council was also excluded from the program due to its 'as the crow flies' proximity to Cairns.

Indigenous council delegation main observations:

- a. Federal and State governments currently consult (and fund) groups that do not represent all indigenous people. Elected Councils democratically represent all residents and accordingly best placed to be consulted with when dealing with indigenous issues.
- b. Outside of remote housing outcomes, the program importantly addresses the social determinants of health, including health, education, employment and indigenous (and regional) economic outcomes.
- c. The Federal Governments own independent review highlighted positive program outcomes, however agreed 'the job is only half done' and should be continued.

Direct positive impact of NPRH Program:

- 80% of new housing construction is delivered by ATSI Councils (ie Hope Vale, Yarrabah and Wujal Wujal)
- 80% of minor works and repairs are delivered by ATSI Councils
- 87% Indigenous employment on housing projects

Yarrabah currently has a catastrophic housing crisis with over half the population homeless. There are 4,500 people living in the community with 364 social houses and approximately 700 people waitlisted.

A 15% contingency takes into account anticipated missing data from individual applications and fluctuating family numbers, given between 80 – 100 babies are born in Yarrabah per year.

Project: Vacant Housing

**STATE
REQUEST**

FNQROC supports the investigation into properties left vacant for some time in Croydon, despite a need for these properties in order to meet the housing demand and provide assistance to the Council in building a larger and stronger community.

Project Details:

There are a number of vacant houses in Croydon that could be used to meet the housing shortage that currently exists in the town and that shortage is impacting on the local population with the local school's numbers down by 20% on the 2018 enrolments. The availability of those local houses which have laid vacant for some time would assist in keeping young families in town.

Whilst not all of those vacant houses are under the direct ownership of the Department of Housing, we understand that the Department does liaise closely with and provide guidance to local housing corporations.

The Department of Housing has a property at 42 Samwell Street that had been subject to an internal fire and had been listed for demolition and disposal. Croydon Shire Council has been advised that the Department is in the process of arranging for demolition (ACM material in the building) and they were unsure when it will be sold but indicated that it will be sold unless demand increases. Local knowledge would suggest that the fire was contained within one (1) bedroom and the demolition order would appear to be excessive especially in view of the demand for such housing.

There are another three (3) houses that have sat vacant for some time in Croydon that are controlled by the Cairns and District Regional Housing Corporation, viz,

- 58 Henry Street, Croydon
- 1/30 Henry Street, Croydon
- 11 Gardiner Street, Croydon

Again the excuse is that there is a lack of demand which is rather perplexing to locals as they are aware of an unmet demand for housing in Croydon in both the indigenous and mainstream communities. The Corporation advise that they are currently in discussions with the Tagalaka people regarding the sale of these properties to them; however, this has been going on for some time and promises to go on a lot longer with the Tagalaka people already relying on the Croydon Shire Council to forego rate revenue on their existing properties in the Shire.

The underlying excuse for the inaction evident with public housing in Croydon is the lack of demand which is strongly disputed by the local community and the Minister is requested to have the above investigated in order to meet the housing demand in Croydon and assist the Council in building a larger and stronger community.

PRIORITY: TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

Project: Cooktown Expo 2020

**STATE
REQUEST**

FNQROC seeks a \$2 million commitment from the Queensland Government towards the cost of staging the Cook Shire Council led Cooktown Expo 2020.

Project Details:

The Cooktown 2020 Festival has been re-imagined as the Cooktown Expo 2020, with a renewed focus on showcasing the region from Cooktown to the Torres Strait and the Cape. The Expo's theme 'Our Shared History', will showcase the region's unique indigenous arts and culture, agriculture, marine, tourism industries, as well as history and botany and provide an opportunity for regional capacity building and information exchange.

The Expo will not only commemorate the 250th anniversary of James Cook's visit to Cooktown and the historic first recorded act of reconciliation, but also focus on creating opportunities to share innovation, promote progress and foster cooperation. The Expo retains the key theme of 'Our Shared History', but it now has a broader focus on capacity building, economic development and sharing information. The intention is to create a biennial event which will be a forum to showcase this progressive region to inspire, challenge and educate.

The Expo will run from June to August 2020 and will include the following themed 'Festivals' - 'Discovery' which will include an Indigenous showcase art, culture, language, food, storytelling and history; 'Something's Cooking' which will include bush tucker, regional produce, cooking, health, wellbeing and nutrition; 'Reconciliation Rocks Music' which will recognise shared history through music, song and dance; and 'Endeavour' which will highlight navigation, botany, astronomy, cartography, aviation and empowering the region with local capacity building.

Cook Shire Council has formed a consortium of members and supporters to develop the Expo 2020 program and activities, which will include ideas exchanges, forums, discussions, conferences and entertainment. The key consortium members are Cook, Wujal Wujal and Hope Vale councils, Gungarde Aboriginal Corporation, James Cook University, the National Trust of Australia (Queensland) and the Torres and Cape Indigenous Councils Alliance.

Project: Waymbuurr Cultural Centre

**STATE
REQUEST**

FNQROC seeks \$575,000 in matching (Federal) funding towards the cost of constructing the Waymbuurr Cultural Centre in Cooktown.

Project Details:

In 1959, the civic fathers of Cooktown recognised the importance of the story of Australia's first reconciliation. For almost 60 years the Bama story has been told by the Guugu Yimithirr people, the Traditional Owners of the land on which Cooktown was built, through the annual re-enactment of Cook's landing on the banks of the Endeavour River.

In 2008 the Traditional Owners, through Mr Eric Deeral – the second Australian Aboriginal person elected to an Australian parliament and the first to a state parliament – recrafted the re-enactment story after painstaking research. It is a little-known story of central importance to the beginning of Australia's modern history.

The Traditional Owners in Cooktown and surrounding areas today are the direct descendants of those who first met with Cook. They want to tell the story of the naming of the kangaroo (Gangurru) and the first act of reconciliation between the 'little old man', who, upholding the laws of the Guugu Yimithirr lands, came forward to resolve a conflict that had taken place between Cook and the Waymbuurr-warra people during Cook's 48-day stay. Cook called this a reconciliation in his journals.

Today the Waymbuurr descendants have been inspired by these acts. They support the ethos of “two cultures, one people” in the best interests of the community and invite all Australians to be inspired by the telling of this story in a newly built Waymbuurr Cultural Centre.

The Federal Government has provided \$5.4 million in funding towards four legacy infrastructure projects in Cooktown: upgrades to the Botanic Gardens and Gamaay Dreaming Track, creation of an interpretive parkland at Reconciliation Rocks and part funding towards the development of the Waymbuurr Cultural Centre on the site of the old Boathouse.

Project: Wangetti Trail

**STATE
REQUEST**

FNQROC seeks a commitment for the delivery and full capital cost (estimated at \$25.3 million) to complete the remainder of the Wangetti Trail (Palm Cove to the Mowbray River)..

Project Details:

On 14 March 2019, Member for Cook, Cynthia Lui confirmed the Palaszczuk Government had committed \$5.7 million to complete the first stage of the 94 kilometre Wangetti Trail – the seven kilometre “Mowbray North” component.

The Mowbray North project stretches from Port Douglas south to the Mowbray River with construction scheduled to commence in September 2019.

The Wangetti Trail is a proposed 94 kilometre dual use (mountain biking and hiking) trail stretching along the coastal plains and mountain hinterland between Palm Cove and Port Douglas. The trail will be one of Australia's leading adventure based ecotourism experiences, attracting visitors on an international scale which can be completed in six days/five nights (end-to-end) for walkers and two days/one night for riders. Due to the trail's unique accessibility, visitors will have the ability to 'drop in' and 'drop off', allowing them to complete individual sections rather than the entire trail.

The trail will provide walkers and mountain-bike riders with a wilderness bushland and ocean experience, showcasing the beauty of the Wet Tropics Rainforest, national parks and the Great Barrier Reef.

The Business Case for the Wangetti Trail has also been completed and shows that the market for ecotourism in Tropical North Queensland exists and is ready to embrace a multi-day walking experience. The detailed alignment for the Wangetti Trail has been finalised and the alignment is designed to showcase as much of the region's natural, tropical beauty as possible whilst minimising as much as possible its impact on the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The alignment and details of the track are currently going through a public consultation phase.

The project's capital cost is estimated to be in the vicinity of \$31 million with the complex process relating to obtaining the necessary environmental approvals and indigenous land use agreements well underway. Funding commitments have also been sought from the Federal Government for this project.

Project: Atherton Town Centre Revitalisation Project (Priors Creek Master Plan)

STATE REQUEST	FNQROC seeks commitment of \$5 million of a total estimated cost of \$21.5 million to commence the first stage of the Atherton Town Centre Revitalisation project.
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Project Details:

The development of the Priors Creek area as a pedestrian dominated mixed use area will comprise recreation, commercial and residential uses that is attractive to tourists and residents. The site creates an opportunity to relocate and expand the Atherton Visitor Information Centre, provide entertainment, dining, accommodation, RV parking, playground and picnic facilities in the regional service centre of Atherton.

Tablelands Regional Council has allocated \$200,000 to progress commercial opportunities/scoping document for the project. A long-term commitment of \$21.5 million to progress the staged implementation of the Priors Creek Master Plan to revitalise the Atherton CBD over an 8-10 year time frame is required. An initial commitment of \$5 million is required to commence Stage 1.

Discussion on the draft Priors Creek Master Plan occurred in 2017, with schematic designs created for public consultation and developer engagement.

Project: Cairns Gallery Precinct

STATE REQUEST

FNQROC seeks \$13.3 million funding commitment towards the estimated capital cost (\$39.8 million) of the Cairns Gallery Precinct as part of the proposed tripartite funding arrangement for this iconic cultural and tourism infrastructure project.

Project Details:

Cairns is recognised as the Arts and Cultural Capital of Northern Australia. The Cairns Gallery Precinct is a project that strongly supports this status and complements recent regional investment in arts and cultural facilities, events and programs. These include the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF), Cairns Performing Arts Centre (CPAC), Munro Martin Parklands and Centre of Contemporary Arts among others. The project will transform and connect three heritage listed buildings in the Cairn City Centres (the Cairns Art Gallery, 'Old' Court House and former Mulgrave Shire Council offices) and establish a new world class gallery building to create a dynamic and unique gallery precinct with benefits for both the local community, domestic and international visitors. The project would have a particularly strong connection to the region's Indigenous community.

Establishment of the precinct will have significant positive impacts to jobs and economic growth. In addition to the economic impact and employment created during construction, once operational the project will add \$20.7 million per annum to the regional economy and support 177 ongoing full time jobs through its direct operation and induced tourism expenditure.

Project: Cairns Aviation Route Development

STATE REQUEST

FNQROC seeks additional funding allocation of \$50 million to the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund (over the budget year and forward estimates) to support international aviation route development and specific allocation from this fund to be made for regional airports.

Project Details:

Air connectivity is key to the economic development of the Cairns region. It opens up new visitor markets for the tourism sector, provides opportunities for the export of high value agricultural produce and promotes growth of the international education sector. A daily internal wide-body flight to Cairns is potentially a \$200 million a year export business, with \$100 million of international visitor spend, \$50 – 150 million of agricultural produce sales, and the potential to deliver more than 650 new jobs for the region.

Limited direct international aviation capacity is a key constraint to the region's tourism economy. Analysis by Tourism Research Australia for the year ended 30 September 2018 indicates international tourism visitation and expenditure in TNQ reduced by 3.3% and 2% respectively compared to the prior year. Contrast this with the results for Brisbane and the Gold Coast over the same period where international tourism expenditure increased by 20.5% and 13.3% respectively.

To unlock growth, Cairns Airport is targeting four new priority routes; one each from the Middle East and Southeast Asia (to serve Europe); one from Shanghai, and one from North America. Together these four new air routes would provide \$800 million per year in additional economic benefit to the \$14 billion Cairns economy.

Whilst the case for new international aviation routes into Cairns is compelling, temporary 'start up' funding packages are required to de-risk initial establishment for the airlines involved and secure these new routes in what is an extremely competitive international market.

PRIORITY: BIO PRECINCTS

Project: North Queensland Bio-Energy (NQBE) Facility - Ingham

**STATE
REQUEST**

FNQROC seeks financial assistance towards the NQBE Renewable Energy Facility.

Project Details:

Ingham has had a declining population since 2003 and the Hinchinbrook Shire Council and community are committed to diversifying to grow their economy and population which will save the town, jobs, small businesses and families who depend on the sugar industry.

NQBE was incorporated by the growers to diversify the way they conduct their business and not only be sustainable into the future but grow jobs and the economy. It is envisaged this will be the start of a bio precinct in Hinchinbrook Shire Council.

The NQBE Project has State and Federal Development Approvals in place and will deliver:

- a net increase of 253 “new” jobs to the region (not including an additional 114 truck drivers required to transport the cane to the facility);
- a net increase of \$96m per annum in regional output;
- a net increase of \$68m per annum in regional value added; and
- a net increase of \$19m per annum in regional income.

Hinchinbrook Shire Council has been supporting NQBE in a number of ways and will make application under the Federal Government's Regional Growth Fund for \$20m on the basis it would be matched by contributions from the growers over time.



Who are we?



13 Local Governments

17% of QLD Councils

316,663km²

1235km of eastern seaboard

We are the largest & fastest growing region in Northern Australia



WE RANK

275,637 people



(June 2017)

inter-census pop. growth



+18,057

hinterland growth



+6,494

number of registered business numbers



employment in marine servicing activities



employment in aviation servicing activities



crops \$1B and growing



WE RANK 2ND FOR



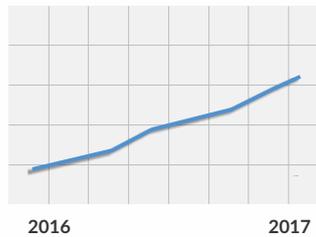
Livestock: \$816m and growing
2nd to Central West Queensland

Growth in employed workforce
2nd to Northern Territory

OUR ECONOMY

GRP

\$15.15B



2016 2017

2016/17

International Exports - \$1.5B
Domestic Exports - \$7.4B

Value of minerals produced has grown by 18% to



\$807m
in the last year

MANUFACTURING



26%
in the last 10 years

BASE INDUSTRIES - output by industry



TOURISM
\$3.15B



PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
\$3.2B



MINING
\$0.8B



CONSTRUCTION
\$2.9B



MANUFACTURING
\$2.4B

(TTNQ, YE March 2018)

Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2016. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id, the population experts.



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