

# FNQROC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP ACTION REGISTER & BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS



<b>Meeting No.</b>	13
<b>Meeting</b>	FNQROC LG Economic Development Advisory Group
<b>Date</b>	14 February 2020
<b>Meeting Opened</b>	10:30 am
<b>Venue</b>	Cairns Regional Council – Committee Room, Level 3

## Attendees

Name	Organisation
Belinda Hutchinson	Cairns Regional Council
Angelo Finocchiaro	Cairns Regional Council (Partial meeting only)
Verena Olesch	Carpentaria Shire Council
Cindy Perry	DESBT
Lisa Golding	Douglas Shire Council
Sarah Palmer	DSDMIP
Linda Richardson (Chair)	FNQROC
Shannon Gibb	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
Professor Hurriyet Babacan (Late)	RECoE / JCU
Professor Allan Dale (Late)	RECoE / JCU
Calum Kippin	Tablelands Regional Council
Kimberley Gillan	Yarrabah Regional Council
<b>BY TELE-CONFERENCE (+61 2 8355 1038   Access Code: 994-138-509)</b>	
Cherie Schafer	Carpentaria Shire Council
Kira-jean Clark	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Byron Jones	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Susan Parsons	Mareeba Shire Council

## Apologies

Name	Organisation
Wendy Hughes	Advance Cairns
Sam Wiaczek	Cairns Regional Council
Katie Hatten	Cassowary Coast Regional Council (Maternity Leave)
Manfred Boldy	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Ivan Hegamaea	Cook Shire Council
Lawrence Booth	Cook Shire Council
Dale Bainbridge	Croydon Shire Council
Tracey Wilson	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
Darlene Irvine	FNQROC
Glenys Pilat	Mareeba Shire Council
Danielle Carey	RDA
Janine Bowmaker	Study Cairns (New member)
Nicole Van Beuningen	Tablelands Regional Council
Denise Kreymborg	TIQ

## Welcome and Roundtable Introductions

The Chair welcomed presenters Mr Rob Hall & Ms Katrina Houghton, Economy .id and conducted roundtable introductions.

The Chair welcomed Kimberley Gillan, representing Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council, Lisa Golding from Douglas Shire and Cindy Perry, Dept of Employment, Small Business and Training.

ITEM #	PRESENTATION KEY LEARNINGS/OUTCOMES
2.0	<p>Professor Hurriyet Babacan, JCU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Hurriyet Babacan provided an update on strategic opportunities for <a href="#">Rural Economies Centre of Excellence</a> (RECoE) highlighting key areas of work within <b>Regional Innovation, Policy Development, Economic Tools, Translation &amp; Engagement and Value Chains</b>, encouraging the group to explore the website tabs to familiarise with resources and a number of Research Papers have been undertaken to date, including water, energy and connectivity</li> <li>• <b>Policy enablers</b> for 2020 will focus on Investment Attraction, Digital Connectivity, Supply Chains (working with Advance Cairns FNQ Ag Supply Chains project)</li> <li>• <b>Translation &amp; Engagement</b> focus will be on capacity building and partnerships</li> <li>• Key considerations include economies in transition, major disruptors, changing demographics, climate change, education/workforce development, infrastructure, digital connectivity, cost to do business in region, renewables.</li> <li>• Opportunities re policy development, regional leadership, unique place, building capacity (education), value chains, <b>inclusive Economic Development</b> (See <a href="#">TED Talk</a> by Professor Hurriyet Babacan)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RECoE Annual Conference</a> (proposed for Oct 2020 with more details to follow)</li> </ul> <p>Professor Allan Dale, JCU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Allan Dale provided an update on <b>Northern Australia</b> firstly noting the release of <b>The Interim State of the North Report</b> (Link to report <a href="#">here</a>)</li> <li>• Overview of the <b>Communities in Transition Program</b>, noting three (3) business cases were completed, including Cook Shire Council. The project focusses on building strong and innovative businesses, industry sectors and a more resilient workforce using a cluster based approach (Link to Cook Shire Business Case <a href="#">here</a>)</li> <li>• Important for FNQROC (including CRC) and TCICA have a shared ED Vision, to then partner with State Government in order to influence Federal Government</li> <li>• In the next 6 months, a taskforce will review the NA Agenda to determine what worked and what did not. \$100m criteria has been an obstacle for small/medium businesses</li> <li>• Opportunities for NA around International Education, Professional Services and reclaiming Tourism Share (currently in decline)</li> <li>• Stronger collaborations required (supply chains), analysis of sectors across NA and de-risking agricultural investment (FNQROC councils input request via short survey)</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circulation of Survey re De-risking for Agricultural Investment (A Dale, JCU)</li> <li>• Circulation of The Interim State of the North Report</li> <li>• Circulation of Communities in Transition Program (Business Case – Cook Shire)</li> </ul>
2.1	<p>Mr Rob Hall and Ms Katrina Houghton, <b>Economy .id</b> provided insights to help councils understand what factors influenced the performance of the FNQROC Economy in 2018/19, highlighting key challenges and opportunities for local industries, so that decision makers can prioritise programs and investment into the right areas.</p>

Key presentation points included:-

- Positive economic recovery in FNQ since 2011 and GFC recovery
- Cairns has experienced an annual job growth of 2.5% 2016-2019
- Overview of Export Growth, noting that exports make up 33% of the FNQ economy
- Decline in Tourism market share across the region
- Agriculture production down in 2019 after a period of strong growth, impacted by flooding and global competitive pressures on some products (ie sugarcane)
- Mining production up 15% since 2014 with recent growth by non-metallic minerals (eg gravel, sand) and mining services particularly in Cook, Cairns, TRC and CCRC
- Manufacturing diversity supports regional strengths, with Food Product Manufacturing an important specialisation in the region
- Population growth has returned to approx. -1%pa, but population growth could be higher with the retention of 18-24 year olds (leaving for SEQ/Townsville to study)
- Unemployment rate fallen to 55 in 2019 (below Qld average), with job growth in the areas of construction, health care, accommodation/food services and public admin
- Overview of capacity building investment in the region
- FNQROC behind Qld in education levels and higher levels of disengaged youth
- Core industry gaps in Business Services, Government Agencies, Tertiary Ed and Health
- Overview of Opportunities and Challenges for future growth

In closing, Rob and Katrina advised the group that they are available to support FNQROC Councils in data analysis and grant applications. The availability to meet 1:1 with councils when in region to assist in 'walking through' the data platforms and a reminder that a number of tools are available via the [FNQROC Website/Economic Development Portal](#) in relation to **Training Guides, Grant Application Guides, Impact Modelling Guides and Event Impact Modelling Guides.**

**ACTION:** FNQROC to share the **Health Check** presentation [here](#).

### 3.0 Actions from Previous Minutes: 03 May 2019

ITEM #	ACTION ITEM / RECOMMENDATION	OWNER	STATUS
12.1	TRC seeking collaboration for 2020 Good Food & Wine Show – send EOIs to Calum Kippin ( <a href="mailto:CalumK@trc.qld.gov.au">CalumK@trc.qld.gov.au</a> )	ALL	On Going
12.2	FNQROC to cross- promote any upcoming YEP workshops	FNQROC	Complete
12.3	FNQROC to circulate presentation for NQ Land Council and provide team introductions re Animal/Weed Management and Procurement	FNQROC	Complete
12.2	D Edney (TIQ) to provide contact details for Barb Ford to CCRC	TIQ	Complete
12.3	D Edney and A Finocchiaro to provide data relating to freight impacts to assist in briefing the FNQROC Mayors re key messaging relating to the Cathay Pacific suspension prior to State delegation visit	TIQ CRC	Complete
12.4	FNQROC to seek scope/quote from Robert Prestipino (or similar strategist) to present at 2020 meeting	FNQROC	Deferred to 2020
12.5	ALL to feed future presenters to FNQROC	ALL	On Going
12.6	FNQROC to add JCU to next agenda	FNQROC	Complete
12.7	FNQROC to explore Cindy Perry joining group as observer	FNQROC	Complete

#### 4.0 State and Local Government Update

Item	STATE & LOCAL GOVERNEMENT SUMMARY (Incl. links to programs)
4.0	<p><b><u>DSDMIP – Sarah Palmer</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program</a> (MHGP) available to support the growth of regional manufacturers and build capacity. Focus on <b>Marine, Aviation and Food manufacturing</b>. Cairns Hub contact is <a href="#">Andrew Hayes</a> located @ TAFE</li> <li>• <b>Super Yacht Group GBR</b> recently received funding to assist with Inbound/Outbound famils. Growth opportunities on the back of the passing of the “<a href="#">Special Recreational Vessels Bill 2019</a>” in the senate allowing foreign-owned superyachts to visit the region without the GST implications of the past.</li> <li>• Growth in spend/investment within the Defence sector. A <a href="#">Tendering 4 Defence</a> workshop will be held in Cairns on 26 March - registration details to follow</li> </ul> <p><b><u>DESBT – Cindy Perry</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Skilling Queenslanders for Work</a> Round 1 2020-2021 Opens 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020 Available to all NFP’s. <a href="#">Work Skills Traineeship</a> Applications are encouraged from all LGA</li> <li>• <b>Qld Small Business Champion</b> for 2020 is <a href="#">Maree Adshead</a> and she will be featuring at the Douglas <a href="#">Business Expo</a> (6 March). There are opportunities for other <a href="#">stakeholders</a> to engage with her on the 5<sup>th</sup> March in Cairns (connect with <a href="#">Cindy Perry</a> , DESBT if interested)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Qld Small Business Month 2020</a> announced for May. Small Business Month Event Grants of up to \$5k are available for application until 10 March 2020.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Small Business Connect Newsletter</a> keep up to date with Grant funding round openings and small business programs and resources</li> <li>• <a href="#">Small Business Grants</a> Artisan Producer, Entrepreneur, Digital, Social Enterprise and Business Growth Fund Grants</li> <li>• <a href="#">Back to Work</a> employer incentives up to \$20k available until June 2020</li> <li>• <a href="#">Free Apprenticeships for Under 21s Program</a> 139 qualifications accessible free of charge</li> <li>• <b>Go Local, Grow Local Campaign</b> Resources available <a href="#">here</a> with funding available to activate local events.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Small Business support for Novel Coronavirus</a></li> <li>• <b>Workforce Development</b> in the areas of Marine (Engineering, Tourism and Superyachts) Aviation (Y13 Indigenous Pathways), Manufacturing (Skills Investment Strategy), Health/NDIS and Screen Media Forum.</li> </ul>

ITEM #	CURRENT & CROSS REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Incl. links to programs/projects)
5.0	<p><b><u>FNQROC Update</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FNQROC Chair Cr Gilmore retiring, interim Chair to be elected post <b>LG elections</b></li> <li>• FNQROC <b>Advocacy Delegations</b> for 2020 include STATE (June) and FEDERAL (Oct)</li> <li>• <b>FNQ Regional Road Investment Strategy</b> Report due end of Feb (including identifying priority investment for Tourism, Heavy Network and First/Last mile road networks)</li> <li>• FNQROC have engaged Aurecon to undertake a <b>Dam Study</b> focused on the Economic Growth and Viability of Dams over a period longer than 30 years. Rockhampton Dam selected as the base case in terms of assessing economic growth and an international dam will be included in the study on the advice of Infrastructure Australia. Study results will support advocacy around Water Security</li> <li>• Exploring opportunities and viability, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, to deliver a <b>FNQ Economic Development Forum</b> this year.</li> </ul>

#### Advance Cairns Update

- Apologies from Wendy Hughes noting upcoming **TNQ Convoy to Capital Q**

#### RDA Update

- Not available

#### LG Roundtable Updates

- Cairns Regional Council
  - MOU with JCU x 5 years and MOU with CQU
  - Connecting with new businesses via newly listed ABN's
  - Encouraged group to subscribe to [CRC Economic Development Newsletter](#)
- Carpentaria Shire
  - Developing Carpentaria Shire Guide (Information/Tourism)
  - New images/videos of region
  - New Barramundi hatchery/tours and Indigenous Stockman Display open
- Cassowary Shire
  - Development of Investment Prospectus
  - Development of Tourism Video series x 4
  - Feasibility Study re Mountain Biking in Cardwell
  - Red Bull Defiance event to return to Tully in 2020 + Feast of the Senses festival
- Douglas Shire
  - [Douglas Business Expo](#) (6 Mar) in conjunction with Chamber of Commerce and featuring Small Business Champion Maree Adshead, along with DITID, Construction Skills Qld and TMR as speakers, plus Trade Booths.
  - Review of ED Strategy with a new approach of community engagement with a committee of 21 local business representatives (6 week project)
- Mareeba
  - Tourism Marketing Review and Brand & Marketing Review (Kuranda)
  - Regional Recycling Hub Submission by MSC – closes 21 Feb
  - Mareeba Airport Upgrade Stage 2 in Finalisation. Opportunities for international investment re helicopter maintenance (PNG)
- Tablelands
  - Undertaking a Smart Community Strategy to identify opportunities to grow ED and business using technology and innovative practices.
  - Planning for Qld Small Business events
  - Tourism Infrastructure Strategy
  - Destination Management Plan (small scale)
  - Exploring Mountain Bike opportunities
- Yarrabah
  - 1:1 business start-ups x 20 businesses
  - Business Incubator / Seed funding
  - Exploring a 'Virtual Shop' to support 30 local based businesses

**ACTION:** Invite Lisa Golding (DSC) to provide an update to the group of the community engagement approach to the Review of the ED Strategy (what worked / what didn't)

#### ITEM #

#### EMERGING ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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| 6.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Chair raised the opportunity for the group to take on a collaborate project to leverage <b>State and Regional events</b> (ie SEQ Olympic Bid) and the development of tourism products/experiences offerings across the region, incorporating opportunities relating to the <b>Year of the Outback and the Year of Indigenous Tourism funding</b>.</li></ul> |
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- If supported, FNQROC would formulate a Working Group to represent the 3 Hero Themes under the new **TTNQ Brand of Reef, Rainforest and Every-day Luxury** (including Outback and Indigenous), relevant LTO's and TTNQ.
- Next steps would be to secure speakers from a regional council who benefited from Commonwealth Games to understand learnings and opportunities and the Cairns based Indigenous Tourism Business Development Officer and others as identified. Potentially extending the June meeting to a half-day workshop.

**Roundtable feedback**

- Concerns raised about duplicating development work within the tourism space and the need to include LTOs and TTNQ in the project.
- The group would welcome an opportunity to hear the learnings from another regional city in relation to leveraging/benefits of State based event.
- The Chair and a number of councils noted the difficulty in obtaining funding criteria/guidelines around the Qld Year of Indigenous Tourism Funding. Appears to be an announcement only at this stage, with no online links to funding program.

**ACTION:** FNQROC to develop project scope and seek EOIs to develop Working Group to progress

**ACTION:** FNQROC to explore presentations from regional council who benefited from Commonwealth Games and Indigenous Tourism Business Development Officer (Cns based)

**ACTION:** S Palmer (DSDMIP) to follow up and provide information re Year of Indigenous Tourism Funding to FNQROC for sharing

- 6.1
- The Chair noted that FNQROC will be undertaking a review of the **Best Practice Guidelines for Cross Regional Events in FNQ** (originally established in 2014) and will present to the group in June for review and endorsement.

**ACTION:** FNQROC to undertake review and table at June meeting for endorsement

- 6.2
- Roundtable discussions re regional impacts of **Coronavirus** on tourism, education, live exports (seafood) and retail. CRC noted that a number of initiatives had been extended to the Cairns Community in response to Coronavirus ([READ MORE](#)). DSDMIP noted that during the meeting the Qld Government had announced a \$3.67m fee relief package to support the Cairns Marina ([READ MORE](#)). No announcements re support for International Education to date, noting study tour cancellations in both the China and Japan markets have been reported.

**ITEM # ED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 7.0
- Noted that Janine Bowmaker, Study Cairns President will provide an update on opportunities relating to **International Education/Study Tours** and FNQROC in discussions with **Air BNB** to present on the economic impact of the short-term industry to the region.

**ACTION:** FNQROC to secure speakers and add to JUNE agenda

**ITEM # GENERAL BUSINESS / POINTS FOR NOTING TO FNQROC BOARD**

- 8.0 **Arts Qld: Arts Trail Project**

The Chair asked Carpentaria to provide a status update of the **Arts Trail Project** as funded via Arts Qld. Understand that locations/projects scope has been finished and EOI's due end of March. Noted that David Hudson has left position, some concerns raised around resources, timelines and funding to complete project.

**ACTION:** L Richardson to connect with Arts Qld re concerns raised

8.1	<b>Savannah in the Round Festival (2-4 October 2020, Mareeba)</b>
	The Chair asked Mareeba Shire Council to provide an overview of the <a href="#">Savannah in the Round</a> Festival held in October 2020. Mareeba Shire advised that this is a commercially run event and council had no input into dates. Noted that whilst event dates may clash with some other regional pre-planned events, there are opportunities to position 2021 events pre/post this international event, should it become an annual event.
	<b>ACTION:</b> ALL to track regional events in 20/21 to avoid clashes and maximise visitation across the region (ongoing)
8.2	<b>TIQ Staff Changes</b>
	The Chair advised that Dale Edney had taken on a new ED role with Cairns Airport (invitation to be extend in new role) and that TIQ will advise a new representative once the position replaced.

#### Agreed Action/Recommendation from Meeting: 14 February 2020

ITEM #	ACTION ITEM / RECOMMENDATION	OWNER	STATUS
12.4	FNQROC to seek scope/quote from Robert Prestipino (or similar <b>strategist</b> ) to present at 2020 meeting	FNQROC	Deferred to 2020
2.0a	Circulation of <b>Survey re De-risking for Agricultural Investment</b> to FNQROC Council Members	JCU A Dale	Complete via separate email
2.0b	Circulation of <b>The Interim State of the North Report</b> and <b>Communities in Transition Program</b> (Cook Business Case)	JCU A Dale	Complete
5.0	Invite Lisa Golding (DSC) to provide an update to the group of the community engagement approach to the <b>Review of the ED Strategy</b> (what worked / what didn't)	FNQROC L Richardson	ADD to June Agenda
6.0a	FNQROC to develop project scope and seek EOI's to develop Working Group to progress <b>Tourism Development Project</b>	FNQROC L Richardson	
6.0b	FNQROC to explore <b>presentations</b> from regional council who benefited from Commonwealth Games and Indigenous Tourism Business Development Officer (Cns based)	FNQROC L Richardson	
6.0c	S Palmer (DSDMIP) to follow up and provide information re <b>Year of Indigenous Tourism Funding</b> to FNQROC for sharing	DSDMIP S Palmer	
6.1	FNQROC to undertake review of the <b>Best Practice Guidelines for Cross Regional Events</b> and present for endorsement	FNQROC L Richardson	ADD to June Agenda
7.0	FNQROC to secure speakers with <b>Air BNB and Study Cairns</b> for June meeting	FNQROC L Richardson	ADD to June Agenda
8.0	FNQROC to connect with Arts Qld re concerns raised around <b>Arts Trail project</b>	FNQROC L Richardson	
8.1	ALL to track <b>regional events in 20/21</b> to avoid clashes and maximise visitation across the region (ongoing)	ALL	On Going

*The meeting closed at: 1:10pm, followed by networking luncheon*

Next FNQ Economic Development Group Meeting	
Date / Time	Friday 26 June 2020
Location	Cairns Regional Council, Spence Street, CAIRNS Committee Room (Level 3)