



MINUTES OF THE 144TH BOARD MEETING

Monday 12th October 2020 @ 10:00am

Civic Reception Room, Cairns Regional Council, Cairns

REPRESENTATIVES

	Cr Bob Manning, Mayor	Cairns Regional Council
	Cr Jack Bawden	Carpentaria Shire Council
VIA PHONE	Cr Mark Nolan, Mayor	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
	Cr Peter Scott, Mayor	Cook Shire Council
VIA PHONE	Cr Trevor Pickering, Mayor	Croydon Shire Council
CHAIR	Cr Michael Kerr, Mayor	Douglas Shire Council
VIA PHONE	Cr Barry Hughes, Mayor	Etheridge Shire Council
VIA PHONE	Cr Ramon Jayo, Councillor	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
	Cr Jason Woibo, Mayor	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
DEPUTY CHAIR	Cr Angela Toppin, Mayor	Mareeba Shire Council
	Cr Rod Marti, Mayor	Tablelands Regional Council
	Cr Bradley Creek, Mayor	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
	Cr Ross Andrews, Mayor	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

CEO'S

	Mr John Andrejic, CEO	Cairns Regional Council
	Mr Mark Crawley, CEO	Carpentaria Shire Council
	Ms Linda Cardew, CEO	Cook Shire Council
VIA PHONE	Mr Bill Kerwin, CEO	Croydon Shire Council
	Mr Mark Stoermer, CEO	Douglas Shire Council
VIA PHONE	Mr Ken Timms, CEO	Etheridge Shire Council
	Mr Mark Kelleher, CEO	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
	Mr Peter Franks, CEO	Mareeba Shire Council

Mr Steve Wilton, CEO	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
Mr Leon Yeatman, CEO	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

OBSERVERS

VIA PHONE	Mr Gurbindar Singh, CFO	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
VIA PHONE	Mr Jono Evans, Councillor	Croydon Shire Council
VIA PHONE	Cr Mary Brown, Councillor	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
	Ms Jo Stephenson	DLGRMA
VIA PHONE	Ms Georgia Stafford	LGAQ
PRESENTATION ONLY	Ms Anne Stunzner	Consultant

INVITED GUESTS

	Ms Ann Leahy MP	Shadow Minister for Local Government
	Mr Paul Pommer	Aurecon
VIA PHONE	Mr Daniel Bunting	Aurecon

FNQROC STAFF

Ms Darlene Irvine	Executive Officer
Ms Linda Richardson	Executive Coordinator
Mr Lachlan Rankine	Strategic Infrastructure Coordinator
Mr Travis Sydes	Natural Asset Management & Sustainability
Ms Amanda Hancock	Procurement Coordinator

APOLOGIES

Mr James Gott, CEO	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Mr James Stewart, Acting CEO	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
Mr Bob Owen, Acting CEO	Tablelands Regional Council
Mr Mark Girard	QTC
Ms Diana Lollato	QTC
Ms Sarah Webster	QTC

2787 Chair's Welcome & Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The meeting commenced at 10.05am.

The Chair opened the meeting and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, paying respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

2788 Apologies

Apologies as noted.

2789 Welcome to Invited Guest: Ms Ann Leahy MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government

The Chair extended a warm welcome to Ms Ann Leahy MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government and invited her to provide a brief address to the board ahead of the upcoming State Election.

Ms Leahy thanked the board for today's invitation and provided a brief address highlighting the following key election items:

- **Qld Investment Partnership** –LNP sees it is critical to leverage with the private sector to invest in infrastructure and willing to partner with local government
- **Tourism** – LNP approach is focussed on destination tourism
- **Roads** – Veins and arteries to the region; major underfunding on maintenance – funding should be coming through local governments and utilising local council workforces
- **Belcarra** – LNP will not be able to overturn legislation, but will strategically work with LG on the items that are heavily impacting councils
- **W4Q** – LNP will not change the model and will continue it, strongly encouraging local governments to lobby the current government for a 2-4 Year extension (current program finishes June 2021)

The Chair asked for feedback/comments from the floor:

- Noted that the proposed Tourism Levy had been locked away until after the election and suggested both sides of government should be cautious about announcing no new taxes
- Concerns raised re W4Q commitment – uneasy that we need to get that commitment from current government, if LNP are committed to it, why would it not just be continued? Ann Leahy commented that currently their party had no access to what is in the State Budget – so it is important that the current government commits funding and the LNP provide bi-partisan support
- Comment raised that if the Federal government can deliver a budget in the current climate, why can't the State do the same? Ann Leahy – agreed, other states are delivering budgets why isn't Qld. LNP committed to delivering a budget within first 100 days.
- Comment raised re how the opposition can support social housing. LNP has interest from private investors re housing; some areas like Yarrabah are land-locked with Native Title – land swaps may be an option. Social determinants of health require housing, water, electricity and roads.

2790 BOARD PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Aurecon Presentation re FNQ Dam Study (DRAFT)

Mr Paul Pommer and Dr Dan Bunting (Aurecon) provided a presentation on the FNQ Dam Study (Draft) Report re the Long-Term Analysis of the role of Dams.

Key presentation points included:

- **Project Aim:** Review how decisions on allocation capital to water investments are made, identify what could be changed and what else could be considered in this process
- **Project Methodology:** Review current decision-making frameworks (Federal and State); Prepare an evidence-based comparison of regions and what current investment frameworks have not considered.

- **Project Case Studies** including Tinaroo (1958), Copeton (1976), Wellington (1933-56), San Luis, USA (1967) and Rockhampton Base Study (2024)
- **Decision Makers:** All State Govt Infrastructure with investment >\$100m must go through Business Qld Business Case Development Framework and all Federally funded infrastructure must go through Infrastructure Australia (IA) Reform & Investment Framework.
- **Limitations:** Cost Benefit Analysis, Forecasts are made over a 30 Year period, additional productivity of irrigated land, wider economic benefits and benefits realisation plan.
- **What makes Dams Different:** Lead time for infrastructure, capital cost and staging, lead time for benefits to accrue, benefits from dams tend to be far less predictable, initial life cycle of infrastructure, site selection and funding
- **Key Evidence based Findings:** Communities with dams outgrew the Base Case by 220-300%, % of employment in agriculture exceeds, the value of agriculture produce/ha has increased by 9-10 times of that of the Base Case, regions grow in both agricultural intensity and diversification
- **Other Benefits:** Resilience against and responsiveness to: Policy, climate, market changes and shortening market maturation timelines, further Investment (ie Brownfield v Greenfield investment
- **Outcomes/Expectations:** This is not an advocacy document; however, it provides insights and a narrative that is evidence based and an indicator of the value of a review exercise
- **What opportunities are arising at this time?** BQ likely to disappear regardless of the election outcome; COVID 19 Disruption highlights the importance of national security (food/water)

The Chair asked for feedback/comments from the floor:

- Comments raised re Paradise Dam, noting that the growers were not taken on the journey and suggested this dam case should be considered within the study
- Commented that dams are highly political
- Queried if cultural heritage issues had been considered within the study. Noted by Aurecon that this issue would make up a large part of an EOI
- It was suggested that the board take two (2) weeks to review and provide any commentary to D Irvine so that the report can be finalised and released publicly

ACTION: Circulate the FNQ Dam Study (DRAFT) to the board for review and comments due 26 Oct 2020

ACTION: Circulate the Aurecon presentation with the minutes

3.2 Ms Georgia Stafford (LGAQ) re LGAQ Policy Executive Update

Ms Georgia Stafford provided an overview of the tabled Executive Summary, highlighting the following key LGAQ activities:

Key presentation points included:

- 19 days until State election and the LGAQ conference commences on Monday 19th October
- LGAQ State Election Campaign slightly adjusted to now promote Regional Plans developed by ROCs; LGAQ campaign Vote for Local (www.VoteforLocal.com) was launched 11 September, the most commonly selected themes have been *Sustaining Local Jobs and Protecting the Environment and the Priorities by Region* has a high rate of visits
- The LGAQ Report Card was launched on 11 September, with the second card released on the 5th October. As of 01 October, the ALP is the only party to formally respond to State Priorities; ALP has provided public commitment that W4Q program will stay in place
- LGAQ Advisory Groups will be convened on the following areas: Climate Risk Management & Resilience, Financial Governance & Asset Management, Future Workforce, Natural Assets & natural Resource Management, Planning & Development and Regional & Economic Development, Roads & Transport, Waste Management & Resource Recovery and Water & Wastewater Management.

- EOIs are encouraged from council senior staff to participate in future meetings (held predominantly virtually). EOIs close 14 October 2020
- The remaining provisions of the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2020 and the LG Legislation (Integrity) Amendment Regulation 2020 will come into force on 12 October 2020.

The Deputy Chair asked for feedback/comments from the floor:

- Nil raised

2791 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MOVED: Cr Toppin
SECOND: Cr Andrews

That the minutes of the 142nd FNQROC Board Meeting held 11 August 2020 be confirmed.

CARRIED

2792 BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

2723b Minute – Follow up with Telstra to determine indicative pricing for data to support the RRIS Tourism Routes

Unable to obtain information currently from Telstra. Item to be closed.

2774a Minute – QRA to follow up query raised re Warner Road with TMR and report direct back to YASC

Complete

2774b Minute – QTC to develop council specific presentations and send to FNQROC for on-sharing

Received 10 October and will circulate with the minutes

2774c Minute – Cr Manning to provide modelling re Tourism Levy to FNQROC for further circulation

Received 10 October and will be circulated with the minutes

2774d Minute – LGAQ to check that the motion raised by TCICA re Belcarra vs Human Rights Act has been lodged

Complete

2785 Minute – D Irvine to draft concept plan re Regional Advocacy for consideration at OCT Board Meeting

See Item 6.2

2793 Advocacy Update from FNQROC

FNQROC Mayoral State Delegation (August 2020)

The Chair and Cr Scott provided a brief overview of the FNQROC Mayoral State Delegation undertaken in August 2020, highlighting the key priorities raised with both sides of government and advised that the Advocacy Report is available for viewing on the FNQROC website.

2794 DRAFT Concept Plan re Regional Advocacy

D Irvine provided a brief overview of a DRAFT Concept Plan in relation to Regional Structure, Strategy and Relationships tabled to the board at the meeting. The DRAFT Plan incorporates the:

- Concept and objective
- What are the issues we are trying to resolve?
- Defining the opportunities for the region and definition of regional benefit
- Principles and governance
- Member organisations, costs, voting and meeting attendance
- Concerns/risks

ACTION: Circulate the DRAFT Regional Advocacy Concept Plan for the boards consideration to provide commentary and/or take forward.

2795 Building the Bush – Advocating for Construction Grant Package Extensions

The Chair referred to an email circulated to the board (4 September) re if FNQROC should advocate to support package extensions relating to the \$25k Home Builder Grant and invited Cr Scott to talk to the item.

- Funds required moving forward and concerns around deadline timeframes, particularly considering skill shortages and wet season
- Need regional collaboration to put to the State Government that we extend the contract date of the COVID Works for Queensland Stimulus Package beyond the current end date of 30 June 2021.

The Chair asked for comments/feedback from the floor:

- Cook Shire advised that whilst they have been fortunate to secure local grant funding, this funding has had to be allocated across multiple projects, but the region is experiencing a trade skill shortage to deliver. To mitigate risks, Cook Shire held a Builders & Trades Community Session where all stated fully booked due to Homeowners and Building Stimulus Funding and would love to see packages extended to ensure tradespersons have employment beyond 30 June. Cook Shire also noted that accommodation is extremely limited to house tradesperson, complex problem.
- Cr Scott seeking a Letter of Support from FNQROC to the Federal and State governments extend the COVID Works for Queensland and Commonwealth Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Programs beyond 30 June 2021. Supported.

ACTION: D Irvine to develop a Letter to the Federal & State Governments seeking to extend the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Program and COVID Works for Queensland Stimulus Package to extend the timeframe to ensure tradespersons have employment beyond the current end date of 30 June 2021.

2796 Advocacy Update from FNQROC Council Members

The Chair asked for any Advocacy Updates from Council members. Nil raised.

STRATEGIC OPERATIONAL PLAN

Nil

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Nil

2797 CORRESPONDENCE

D Irvine provided a status update on the following two (2) submissions:

- Submission to National Water Reform: Productivity Commission – FNQ Dam Study (DRAFT) assisted in informing the submission, with further papers to come.
- Submission to Infrastructure Australia re Kuranda Range Road – Positive feedback received to date, with more expected to be known in the next couple of months.

FNQROC POLICY REVIEW

Nil

FNQROC REPORTS & MOU'S

2798 B78 -Preliminary Catchment Yield Assessment

D Irvine spoke to the Jacobs Preliminary Catchment Yield Assessment noting it is currently in DRAFT and unless any commentary from the table, proposing that FNQROC receive the report and release publicly.

Cr Toppin noted there were two (2) comments within the DRAFT report referencing North Johnstone and this may need some clarification.

MOVED: Cr Toppin

SECOND: Cr Marti

“That the FNQROC Board receive the Jacobs report providing preliminary Yield Assessments on potential dams at Beatrice River, Dirran Creek and North Johnstone River”

CARRIED

2799 B79 – Smart Green Economy

MOVED: Cr Scott

SECOND: Cr Andrews

“That FNQROC

- a. Support Cairns Regional Councils request for funding (related to Cairns and FNQ becoming the Capital of the Smart Green Economy in Australia) to undertake a multi-staged feasibility assessment to further define the concept, value of the opportunity and develop a detailed plan for implementation; and*
- b. Continues to remain actively engaged in future developments of this program”*

CARRIED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2800 Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet Financials YTD

MOVED: Cr Toppin

SECOND: Cr Bawden

“That the Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet Reports for the current financial year to date be accepted.”

CARRIED

ATTENDANCE & MINUTES OF MEETINGS

2801 Meetings Attended by Executive Officer

As noted

2802 FNQROC Advisory Committee Minutes (01 Aug – 30 Sept 2020)

As noted

2803 Confidential Meeting Minutes (01 Aug – 30 Sept 2020)

As noted

2804 FNQROC Western Council Meeting Minutes & Agreed Actions

The minutes of the FNQROC Western Council Meeting held on the 15th September 2020 in Croydon were tabled and D Irvine provided an updated on the agreed action items.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2805 Formal Invitation to Mr Tom Gilmore to be a mentor to the FNQROC Board

To provide some background information, D Irvine advised that an invitation can be extended to a mentor without making an amendment to the FNQROC Charter. The Chair proposed that a formal invitation be extended to Mr Tom Gilmore to act as a Board Mentor to the FNQROC Board and attend future meetings as an observer in that capacity.

CARRIED

ACTION: D Irvine to write a letter of Invitation to Mr Gilmore to become a mentor to the FNQROC Board

2806 Tourism Lobbying and Investment (TTNQ Support Request)

The Chair spoke to a request from TTNQ seeking support from the FNQROC Board for the following items:

1. Lobby the Qld Government and TEQ via the LGAQ to review the event funding criteria to provide more support to FNQ communities.
2. Advocate with TTNQ for a greater proportion of State-wide marketing funds to go to destination marketing, rather than whole of state promotion
3. Work with TTNQ and Local Tourism Partners to hold a workshop on the shared priorities for the upcoming BBRF (General and Tourism) and the allocation of \$10m Recovery for Regional Tourism Funding.

CARRIED

2807 Vote of Thanks

The Chair extended his sincere thanks to Cr Scott for his time and leadership as FNQROC Chair.

The Deputy Chair extended thanks to D Irvine and L Richardson for the successful coordination for the FNQROC Delegation visit to Brisbane.

NEXT MEETING

2808 Next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next FNQROC Board meeting is scheduled for **Monday 14th December to be held in Cairns** and an invitation will be extended to attend a Board Dinner on Sunday 13th December 2020.

ACTION: L Richardson to send a Date Claimer re the FNQROC Board Dinner to be held on Sunday 13th December 2020.

Meeting Close: 11:55am

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Cr Michael Kerr, FNQROC Chair

ACTION ITEMS: 12 October 2020

<i>Minute Number</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible Person(s)</i>	<i>Status</i>
2723b	Chair requested D Irvine/L Rankine to follow up with Telstra to determine indicative pricing for data to support the RRIS Tourism Routes.	FNQROC D Irvine / L Rankine	Item closed
2774b	QTC to develop council specific presentations and send to FNQROC for on-sharing	QTC	In Progress
2774c	Cr Manning to provide modelling re Tourism Levy to FNQROC for further circulation	CRC Cr Manning	In Progress
2790a	Circulate the FNQ Dam Study (DRAFT) to the board for review and comments due 26 Oct	FNQROC D Irvine	
2790b	Circulate the Aurecon Board Presentation with the minutes	FNQROC L Richardson	Complete
2794	Circulate the DRAFT Regional Advocacy Concept Plan for the boards consideration to provide commentary and/or take forward.	FNQROC L Richardson	
2795	D Irvine to develop a Letter to the Federal & State Governments seeking to extend the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Program and COVID Works for Queensland Stimulus Package to extend the timeframe to ensure tradespersons have employment beyond the current end date of 30 June 2021	FNQROC D Irvine	In Progress
2805	D Irvine to write a letter of invitation to Mr Gilmore to become a mentor to the FNQROC Board	FNQROC D Irvine	In Progress
2808	L Richardson to send a Date Claimer re the FNQROC Board Dinner to be held on Sunday 13 th December 2020	FNQROC L Richardson	Complete