

# FNQROC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP ACTION REGISTER & BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS



<b>Meeting No.</b>	15
<b>Meeting</b>	FNQROC LG Economic Development Advisory Group
<b>Date</b>	23 October 2020
<b>Meeting Opened</b>	10:00 am
<b>Venue</b>	Cairns Regional Council – Civic Reception Room

## Attendees (In Person)

Name	Organisation
Angelo Finocchiaro	Cairns Regional Council
Ellen Cox	Cairns Regional Council
Amy Mail	Douglas Shire Council
Cindy Perry	DESBT
Katrina Houghton	Economy .id
Linda Richardson (Chair)	FNQROC
Professor Hurriyet Babacan	JCU / RECoE
Danielle Carey	RDA
Benjamin Alexander	TIQ
<b>BY TELE-CONFERENCE (+61 2 9091 7603   Access Code: 323-092-885)</b>	
Verena Olesch	Carpentaria Shire Council
Calum Kippin	Tablelands Regional Council
Belinda Down	Dept of Premier and Cabinet

## Apologies

Name	Organisation
Katie Hatton	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Kirajeane Clark	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Lawrence Booth	Cook Shire Council
Dale Bainbridge	Croydon Shire Council
Belinda Hutchinson	DSDMIP
Darlene Irvine	FNQROC
Tracey Wilson	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
Susan Parsons	Mareeba Shire Council
Nicole Van Beuningen	Tablelands Regional Council

## Welcome and Roundtable Introductions

The Chair welcomed the group and conducted roundtable introductions.

## Business Arising

The Chair provided a status update re outstanding action items

ITEM #	PRESENTATION KEY LEARNINGS/OUTCOMES
3.0	<p><b>Economy .id – Snapshot of National, State and Regional Stats (20 Mins)</b></p> <p>Katrina Houghton, Economy .id provided an overview detailing the snapshot of the National, State and Regional statistics, highlighting the following key points in relation to the FNQ recovery phase:</p>

- FNQ growth stronger than expected at the start of the pandemic and forecast to bounce back ahead of some areas of SEQ this is a result of the ability of the region to adapt quickly to a domestic market.
- Opportunities during recovery phase include:-
  - **Tourism Plans** to target return of domestic tourism
  - **Activity Centres** strategies to deal with potential for higher vacancies
  - **Infrastructure projects** (Grant applications highly competitive)
  - Opportunities to **remote working**/knowledge outposts/coworking space
  - **Agriculture/Food** – safe and high quality
  - Grow **local manufacturing** and improve supply chain links with local industry
  - **Skills development** – changing demand, over-supply and shortages, training and development, possible support avenue
  - **Mental Health programs** to support disadvantaged groups (eg youth, females, indigenous)
  - Access new **JobTrainer funding**

**ACTION:**

- Circulate presentation to the FNQROC LG ED Group

ITEM #	PRESENTATION KEY LEARNINGS/OUTCOMES
4.0	<p><b>FNQ Economic Development Conference – Theme/Discussion Planning (60 Mins)</b></p> <p>Professor Hurriyet Babacan (JCU/RECoE) led discussions on the impacts of drought, bushfires, floods and COVID-19 on Economic Development across the region and how we can take these learnings and gaps into the planning stage of the FNQ Economic Development Conference with a conceptual theme of “Building Resilience in Changing Economies” and proposed for March 2021.</p> <p>Roundtable discussions focussed on the following key topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Concepts of Economic Resilience – How do we understand and engage with resilience?</li> <li>2. What are the resilience factors? (e.g. shocks, fragility, vulnerability and strengths of our economies)</li> <li>3. Frameworks for Resilience – Existing and developing frameworks, especially in the context of economic transitions)</li> <li>4. Measurement and Indicators – Data and evidence</li> <li>5. Resilience Tools – What works, what is available and what are the gaps?</li> </ol> <p><b>ACTION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L Richardson to further develop Conference Scope feeding in roundtable discussions</li> </ul>

**5.0 State and Local Government Update**

Item	STATE & LOCAL GOVERNEMENT SUMMARY (Incl. links to programs)
5.0	<p><b>DSDMIP – Belinda Hutchinson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apology noted</li> </ul>

**DESBT – Cindy Perry**

- No update provided

**RDA – Danielle Carey**

- D Carey noted that RDA TN would be holding a NAIF Funding Workshop on the 19<sup>th</sup> November.
- RDA recently held a Water Summit with regional Mayors in attendance as well as CSIRO to discuss water security projects across the region. Elements such as cost determination, demand and project timing considered to filter the top 3 projects for further consideration. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Water Summit Forum which will be held in Mareeba on the 5<sup>th</sup> November providing an information session for the Ag/Growers sector primarily.
- Cape York Region Package (CYRP) Taskforce meeting in Weipa (16 Nov) to continue discussions re upgrades to critical infrastructure on Cape York.

**ITEM # GENERAL BUSINESS / EMERGING ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES**

**6.0 FNQROC Update**

- At the recent **FNQROC AGM**, Cr Michael Kerr, Mayor Douglas Shire Council was elected as the Chair and Cr Angela Toppin, Mayor Mareeba Shire as Deputy
- The **Regional Road Investment Strategy** was presented by Cr Scott and D Irvine at the LGAQ Road Congress this week
- The **FNQ Dam Study (DRAFT)** is nearing completion and D Irvine will be presenting at the 2020 Developing Northern Australia Conference late November on the findings
- TTNQ are focussing on a Summer in the Tropics campaign – see [link](#) here
- L Richardson advised that she had resigned from FNQROC to move to the Gold Coast, however FNQROC had been very generous in enabling to continue working remotely until the 18<sup>th</sup> December to assist with the transition period.

**6.1 FNQROC Council Updates**

- Callum Kippin (TRC) advised that he had resigned from his position and would be finishing with council in November 2020. Callum would like to stay involved in the Economic Development Conference from a personal perspective with a passion for economics.
- Ellen Cox (CRC) raised an opportunity re the Small Business Friendly Business Charter which it is believed the Small Business Commissioner has approached most regional councils. Keen to understand the thinking of other regional councils and if others are pursuing? CRC are currently having internal discussions to understand what resources it would require to commit to the charter and deliver service commitments, but likely to proceed.

- Douglas Shire are currently undergoing a cultural change and working closely with the local Chamber to support small businesses and therefore could be a solution, but also considering human and monetary resources.
- The Small Business Commissioner open to feedback from councils.

**Agreed Action/Recommendation from Meeting: 23 October 2020**

ITEM #	ACTION ITEM / RECOMMENDATION	OWNER	STATUS
1	FNQROC to secure speakers with <b>Air BNB and Study Cairns</b> for June meeting	FNQROC L Richardson	Deferred to 2021
2	FNQROC to circulate the Economy .id presentation to the group	FNQROC L Richardson	Complete
3	L Richardson to further develop Conference Scope feeding in roundtable discussions	FNQROC L Richardson	In Progress

*The meeting closed at: 12:00pm, followed by networking luncheon*

Next FNQ Economic Development Group Meeting	
Date / Time	TBA 2021
Location	CAIRNS