



ADVOCACY REPORT

FNQROC

State Mayoral Delegation

24-25 May 2022



DELEGATION MEMBERS

- Cr Michael Kerr, **FNQROC Chair &** Mayor Douglas Shire Council
- Cr Angela Toppin, **Deputy Chair &** Mayor Mareeba Shire Council
- Cr Terry James, Deputy Mayor Cairns Regional Council
- Cr Peter Scott, Mayor Cook Shire Council
- Cr Barry Hughes, Mayor Etheridge Shire Council
- Cr Jason Woibo, Mayor Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
- Cr Rod Marti, Mayor Tablelands Regional Council
- Cr Ross Andrews, Mayor Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
- Ms Darlene Irvine
FNQROC Executive Officer

FNQ Regional Priorities

Key priority projects as identified by the Board and advocated for during this Mayoral Delegation, align with the FNQROC Strategic Economic Priorities of:

- Develop Resilient Transport Infrastructure Connectivity
- Water Security
- Energy
- Respect and Manage our Natural Assets
- Provide Equitable Communication Network
- Develop Equitable Social Infrastructure

Key Briefing Notes can be accessed via the following FNQROC Website links:

- [FNQROC State Priorities](#)

OUR REGION	OUR COMMUNITY	OUR ECONOMY
12 Local Governments representing 15.5% of QLD Councils	281,094 People (ABS ERP 2021)	\$16.74B GRP
The largest and fastest growing region in Northern Australia	252,152km ² of land area, including 1235km of Eastern seaboard	Tourism \$3.84B (19/20)
		Exports (20/21) Agriculture \$1.9B Mining \$1.1B Manufacturing \$1.48B

FNQROC PRIORITY PROJECTS - SNAPSHOT

New FNQ Statutory Regional Plan

FNQROC seeks the development of a new modern statutory Regional Plan which is supported and accountable to both local and state government which provides a clear strategic direction to support economic and population growth.

Housing

FNQROC seeks as a matter of priority, for the Queensland State Government to work with the relevant Indigenous councils to deliver on its commitment to Local Housing Plans to identify land availability, address land tenure issues and progress planning for new subdivisions ensuring there is a plan for funding of trunk infrastructure to support new housing development now and into the future.

Water

Support Cairns Regional Councils Water Security – Stage 1 project and match the federal governments bipartisan \$107.5million commitment towards the project's capital costs.

Roads

\$902mil maintenance backlog in our region

Kuranda Range Road

NQ Freight Study

Connectivity

More strategic governance of state funding to programs (such as Mobile Black spot Program and Regional Connectivity Program) to meet actual needs of remote people.

Waste Management

Queensland State Government to accept all associated waste management costs generated within the Queensland National Parks networks, including waste generated by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service works, Service staff and tourist visitors.



ADVOCACY REPORT



FNQROC hosted luncheon with FNQ Elected Members

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- New FNQ Regional Plan
- Kuranda Range Road
- Community Cabinet in Cairns

FNQROC hosted a luncheon with the following FNQ Elected Members to discuss FNQROC State Priorities:

Hon Curtis Pitt MP, Member for Mulgrave

Hon Craig Crawford MP, Member for Barron River

Mr Michael Healy MP, Member for Cairns

Ms Cynthia Lui MP, Member for Cook

Mr Shane Knuth MP, Member for Hill

Mr Robbie Katter MP, Member for Traeger

Mr Nick Dametto MP, Member for Hinchinbrook

Discussions regarding the review of the FNQ Regional Plan, Kuranda Road Range and individual councils and electorate specific issues as raised.



Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Jobs, Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations

Attendees

- Tony Meredith, Director of Policy and Stakeholder Engagement
- All Mayors

Key Topics

- Cairns Water Security Stage 1 Project.
- New FNQ Regional Plan
- Legislation constraints – Agriculture
- Daintree Microgrid
-

Discussion/Vision

- Cairns Water Security Stage 1 – Project. Need matching State funding to committed Federal funding.
- Need for New FNQ Regional Plan. Housing shortage not just for social now, for workers as well. The regional plan is the overarching strategy to start addressing this. Cook and Etheridge need to be included in this. Mr Bleijie very keen to help progress.
- Legislation constraining agricultural development.
- Daintree Microgrid – Can't get State buy in on the project. Federal government has paid for it to go in but many of the houses can't support 240V – need some funding/grants to support this transition.

Action

- Send Regional Plan summary to Jarrod and Tony (Done)
- Send ALP commitments for Leichhardt.

ADVOCACY REPORT



Hon Steven Miles MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure and Ms Nikki Boyd MP, Assistant Minister for Local Government.

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- New FNQ Regional Plan
- Cairns Water Security Project – Stage 1 Project
- Housing
- Social Housing
- Mareeba TLPI
- Agriculture
- OIA and CCC
- Daintree Microgrid

Discussion/Vision

- Minister Miles will come up and Chair the first meeting in August for a new modern Regional Plan. He sees no reason why Cook and Etheridge can't be included.
- Federal Bipartisan agreement for \$107mil for Cairns Water Security Project – Stage 1. Looking for State commitment of \$107mil
- Housing an issue in our region – social housing, housing for staff. Potential to open USL for housing. If there is State land which should be looked at, please identify them and they'll look at it.
- Mareeba TLPI – Mareeba waiting on responses to changes.
- Social housing is a big issue.
- Yarrabah landlock – Yarrabah social housing needs and overcrowding then having an impact on surrounding council areas. Local traditional owners

want to make some changes which may have an impact on their planning scheme.

- Thank you for investment in Works for Queensland. Yarrabah will invite to the opening of the council chambers extension.
- Agricultural development across Etheridge and the wider region – looking for solutions to vegetation management, water allocation issues etc which then unlocks issues around housing. Very focused on investor confidence.
- Regional Plan boundary to include Etheridge and Cook.
- OIA and CCC – disruption and cost to local government. Makes it very difficult for councils to do their work. This is the first opportunity to review the OIA. Getting feedback from elected members and community – they are at the pointy end now. OIA report should be in the next couple of months. CCC external review.
- Daintree Microgrid – Houses not suitable for 240V, they will need support/buy in by the State to get houses up to a safe 240V standard. Need to get diesel out of the Daintree.
- (Think local housing plans are due in the next month)
- Now that there is a Federal Labor Government, we really want to see more collaboration and delivery.

Action

- Councils to send through State land which could be used for housing.
- Yarrabah to invite Minister Miles to the opening of the Chambers extension

ADVOCACY REPORT



Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP, Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs Economy

Attendees

- All Mayors
- Karen Hussey, Deputy Director General

Key Topics

- Cairns Water Security – Stage 1
- Waste in National Parks
- Kuranda Range Road
- Daintree Microgrid

Discussion/Vision

- Cairns Water Security – Stage 1 Project
- Waste in National Parks. Should be State responsibility in State managed parks. Generation of waste by visitors to our shires with no ability to dispose of it. (Clarification – travelling public on State Roads and through and on National Parks).
- The Minister pointed out that the waste plan is to look at this and solutions for this as well. Containers for change could be an avenue to look at.
- It would be good to have Rangers in Hope Vale.
- Plastic Pirates trial in Cooktown.
- Kuranda Range Road and while roads not part of the portfolio the wet tropics is.
- Thank you for \$300,000 for waste and update on progress to date – we will be one month ahead.
- Daintree Microgrid and State support for the transition of houses to 240V.

Action

- Mayor Peter Scott to send through information on Plastic Pirates to Minister Scanlon.



Hon Cameron Dick, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- Cairns Water Security Stage 1
- Housing
- FNQ Regional Plan
- Diesel Free Daintree

Discussion /Vision

- Cairns Water Security Stage 1 Project. The Minister has been watching and will be considering this very closely.
- Housing is a big concern. Looking at the potential usage of USL, trunk infrastructure is required to support housing for those most in need and workers. The Minister acknowledge it was an extraordinary challenge none of us anticipated.
- FNQROC Regional Plan and Minister Miles advised August commencement.
- Kuranda Range – Federal Labor committed \$210 million and we are grateful, but it won't fix the efficiency or capacity of the range – we are looking for a portion of the funding to look at this. We can't keep band-aiding.
- Discreet communities land locked which is impacting on housing as well. Has an impact on health and wellbeing.
- Yarrabah health and impact study would like to catch up with the Under Treasurer about this. Minister would like this.
- Diesel free Daintree – would like state buy in to get houses ready for 240V
- With Federal Labor now in government we'd like to see the blame game stop.
- Thank you for the grant funding which has been given.

ADVOCACY REPORT



Mr Bruce Saunders, Assistant Minister for Train Manufacturing and Regional Roads

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- Roads including:
 - Kuranda Range Road
 - Ootann Road
 - Gulf Development Road
 - Gregory Kennedy Developmental Roads
 - ROSI Funding
 - Travel Trains
- Agriculture
- Digital Connectivity

Discussion/Vision

- Where there is productivity, we need to make sure we get the best out of the roads.
- Agricultural areas growing in Lakeland and Etheridge.
- Kuranda Range Road is important for access to Cairns.
- Mr Saunders is coming up to look at Kuranda Range Road, he's also looking at different locomotives to go up the range.
- Kuranda Range Road
- Ootann Road
- Gulf Developmental Road
- Gregory and Kennedy Developmental Roads
- ROSI Funding – Gulf Developmental Road still have 30km of single sealed roads. This is an area of significant power generation and agricultural growth. We need continuity and commitment of funding over the longer term. This is also important for our housing needs; workforce needs and well-being. It feels like we've been neglected in the past

and would like to see this funding flowing now that there is a Federal Labor Government.

- Digital Connectivity on our road networks.
- Mr Saunders is talking to QR about new travel trains up to Cairns. Can't expect tourists to pay top dollar on our existing trains.

Action

- Send invite Mr Saunders to come up and meet with councils and see our roads.



Mr Mark Bailey MP, Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- FNQ Regional Plan
- Kuranda Range Road
- Roads - \$922 million maintenance backlog
- ROSI Funding
- Housing
- Digital Connectivity
- Burke Developmental Road

Discussion/Vision

- Overview of new FNQ Regional Plan
- Kuranda Range Road
- \$922 million maintenance backlog
- ROSI Funding – Ootann Road, Gulf Developmental Road. Need continuity and security of funding. Now we've had a change in Federal government we'd like to see the air clearing on this for security and continuity. All this overlaps into housing, livability and transport. We see a great opportunity to work closer on this going forward.
- Housing. Our lands have been locked up which is causing movement of communities.

ADVOCACY REPORT

- Thank you for your support on the Yarrabah Jetty Project.
- Connectivity – local AMS particularly around telehealth.
- Kuranda Range – we’re grateful for the \$210mil. We would like to see a portion of this go towards alternative routes to consider. Growth in the regions has put extreme pressure on our housing and connectivity. We’d like to see some collaborative effort on this with a change in Federal government. It’s not going to get cheaper – we’re not proposing a solution – what we want is the options investigated
- Burke Developmental Road – just 3km remaining and money in the Federal budget. Mr Neil Scales said he would follow up on this.
- The Minister sees the main issue with Kuranda Range Road is the crash history. Managing the speed will assist with this. He believes over the short to medium term the angst will go away with reduced incidents and he’ll assess this over the next 6 – 12 months.
- Cr Woibo thanked Mr Neil Scales for the bitumen to Hope Vale.
- Members further stressed the need for increased capacity and B-double access on Kuranda Range Road.
- Can we also please factor in more pullover areas in our remote areas? Down the track we would also like more electric charging stations. Mr Neil Scales advised he would look at this.
- Potential to lease out some of the harbour in Cooktown to enable additional infrastructure associated with tourists.



Hon Leanne Enoch MP, Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- Housing, Social Housing
- Cairns Water Security Project – Stage 1
- Kuranda Range Road
- Roads
- Digital Connectivity

Discussion/Vision

- Housing is important – it is a key priority for this region and our livability and wellbeing.
- Local AMS is struggling with their telehealth and access to data in Yarrabah.
- Social housing is a big issue. We’ve all had a big growth over COVID and rental vacancy rates are extremely low. We have houses with 10 – 15 people living in it.
- Thank the State for funding councils have received.
- National Housing summit
- It’s not just the supply it is also the availability of land. Council has some, State has USL, all of which could help make housing more available/affordable.
- When you get into the regional remote areas, we need to do extra due to the cost – need funding of trunk infrastructure to support.
- Raised opportunity for housing supply expert panel similar to SEQ. Need to look at regional plan and planning schemes to support affordable/appropriate housing.
- Cairns Water Security Project Stage 1 – looking for a commitment from the State to match the Federal government.

ADVOCACY REPORT

- The Minister wrote to Minister Sukkar requesting a National Housing Summit. There are some opportunities to think outside the square about these.
- NWQ \$200,000 to develop local Housing Action Plan.
- Commitment to build 6,000 social homes across Queensland.
- Local Community Housing Action plans. The Minister advised draft versions will be sent to the Mayors by the end of this month. The next part is working out the next steps in the program, building out the pipeline of work in terms of next projects. The Minister wants this money out to see progress on this. Don't want to spend money on preparing land at a loss of actual building.
- Every agency is under the pump now to release land. Planning (schemes) is a big issue i.e. can't do a Granny flat and rent out. Pivotal to all this is a National Housing Summit.
- 15 locations announced for Queensland \$11mil State funding to improving connectivity (Federal funding).
- If it's helpful – can get the Director General to write to the Chair about the conversations that have been had today and direction forward.

- Kuranda Range Road
- Ootann Road
- Lakeland Business Case, Gilbert River Precinct
- Agriculture
- Animal Cruelty

Discussion/Vision

- Overview of FNQROC State Priorities
- FNQ Regional Plan which should also cover off our biggest issues.
- Cairns Water Security Project – Stage 1. We have Federal commitment and now need State commitment in the budget.
- Necessity of Kuranda Range Road and access between Cairns and the region. Lakeland Downs, Gilbert River precinct. Access is essential.
- Lakeland business case should be completed July and then sent to Minister. Has links and should be included in new modern FNQ Regional Plan.
- For our regions to continue to boom we need reliable transport routes particularly for B-doubles.
- Pleased that the regional water assessment is occurring.
- Federal government has invested in a community garden in Yarrabah – also interested in a fishing feasibility study – hoping to get some investment support around this.
- Hope Vale has infrastructure associated to the banana farming which they would like support in utilising into the future.
- Etheridge Agricultural Precinct. Investor confidence is increasing with several meetings being held with council. There are some impediments with the Agriculture Precinct.
- Came across some legislation from 2020 which limits them putting fingerlings into the newly opened Charleston Dam. Can stock for environmental purposes but not for recreation purposes. Charleston Dam has huge potential. Minister will look into this. Happy to look at ways to improve sustainable fisheries as well.
- Agriculture is growing the region, which is putting pressure on housing, workforce and livability.
- We look forward to the dollars flowing more easily with a change in Federal government.
- Need to find a solution to the efficiency and capacity issues of Kuranda Range Road. It's not going to get any cheaper. We need to be planning the future.
- Farmers missing backpackers. This is right across the sector. The Minister acknowledged this is an important aspect and need to keep avenues open.
- Minister understands the issues regarding Kuranda Range Road.
- Ootann Road raised – important to agricultural and beef industries.
- Animal cruelty and the limited resources in the region to support – only 2 RSPCA inspectors from south of Cairns up to and including the Cape.



Mr Mark Furner MP, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development & Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- FNQROC State Priorities
- Cairns Water Security Project – Stage 1
- FNQ Regional Plan

ADVOCACY REPORT



Ms Cynthia Lui, Member for Cook

Attendees

- Mayor Toppin
- Mayor Woibo
- Mayor Kerr

Key Topics

- FNQROC State Priorities
- FNQ Regional Plan
- Kuranda Range Road
- Daintree Microgrid
- Waste Management

Discussion/Vision

- Local Mayors updated Ms Cynthia Lui with the advocacy priorities for the region.
- Renewed FNQ Regional Plan
- Kuranda Range Road Issues and process forward for efficiency and capacity.
- Water
- Daintree Micro Grid and a need to get houses up to a safe 240V standard.
- Tourism enhancement fund
- Waste Management and pirate plastics in Cooktown.



Hon Stirling Hinchcliffe MP, Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting Premier Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- Water Security
- Music Trail Festival
- Indigenous Tourism
- Kuranda Range Road
- Housing
- Telehealth
- Savannah Way
- Tourism Enhancement Fund
- Indigenous Tourism
- Digital Connectivity/Telehealth

Discussion/Vision

- Domestic air travel back to pre-Covid levels. Biggest issue is water security. Seeking State support to match Federal committed funds for Cairns Water Security Stage 1 project.
- Support for the Music Trail Festival.
- Would like to see more people attracted to indigenous communities. They are past the old days of not being able to visit – the door is open to tourists to visit. Hope Vale and Yarrabah have a lot to offer.
- housing and roads have an impact on attracting tourism to communities.
- We would welcome the return of backpackers.
- Kuranda Range Road – has an impact on tourism – we would like to see part of the \$210mil set aside to look at solutions to the efficiency and capacity of the corridor.
- Housing and land lock in indigenous communities. This is having an impact on neighbouring councils in many ways.
- Kuranda Range Road is important to us all – accessing communities.

ADVOCACY REPORT

- Telehealth and communication is a big issue for indigenous communities.
- Thank you for the Sport and Recreation Action Community programs.
- How can we leverage the tourism market given the new jetty and arts precinct in Yarrabah?
- Savannah Way – large traffic numbers over the last couple of years. Road funding is always going to raise its head with competing traffic – tourist vehicles vs heavy vehicles.
- Demand on housing in Georgetown – caravan parks etc are being taken up by workforce which is having an impact on tourists visiting. Having an impact on remote shires.
- Looking to utilise USL for housing. The Minister advised all of those issues are being closely looked at. It wouldn't hurt to follow it up with Minister Enoch and Minister Stewart and tying this into conversations around a new regional plan.
- Tourism enhancement fund – keen to look at this.
- We don't want a tourist driving on our roads – need to get the maintenance backlog down.

Action

- Letter to Minister Enoch and Minister Stewart regarding USL and implementing this in the new Regional Plan.



Mr Tim Mander, Shadow Minister for Housing and Public Works, Shadow Minister for Sports and Racing, Shadow Minister for Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Regional Engagement **and Ms Deb Frecklington MP**, Shadow Minister for Water and the Construction of Dams, Shadow Minister for Seniors, Communities and Disability Services, Shadow Minister for Multiculturalism and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Partnerships and **Mr Tony Perrett**, Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- Overview - FNQROC State Priorities
- FNQ Regional Plan
- Housing, Social Housing
- Kuranda Range Road
- Ootann Road
- Youth Crime
- Cairns Water Security
- Diesel free Daintree

Discussion/Vision

- Overview of our FNQROC State Priorities.
- Kuranda Range Road – important freight route.
- Growth will be occurring in Lakeland and Georgetown. Example is 1 hectare shed built for mushrooms. No point in doing Band-aids. Would like part of the \$210mil quarantined to look at options to meet efficiency and capacity issues.
- Housing is a major issue. Social housing, affordable housing, appropriate housing. Having an impact on attracting workforce as well.
- Kuranda Range Road is critical and takes priority, Ootann is also important for industry efficiency.

ADVOCACY REPORT

- Rising issue of youth crime – we’re hoping the pressure will be kept on this. Council has been doing a lot of work in the intervention area, but it is bigger than council.
- Youth issues are not only in the regions but in indigenous areas as well. If council tries to intervene they are then targeted. We need to also target the parents and carers – the people responsible for them.
- Mayor Woibo shared his story with his son.
- The FRC is no longer advised that there was a child in the community who was in the courts. This was taken out of the legislation.



Hon Glenn Butcher MP, Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- FNQROC State Priorities
- Cairns Water Security Stage 1
- Tablelands Regional Water Assessment
- Lakeland Dam
- Yarrabah Water & Waste
- Building Our Regions

Discussion/Vision

- Overview of FNQROC State Priorities.
- Cairns Water Security Stage 1. Federal commitment gained. 3 stage business case. 2 stages completed – 3rd stage August/September. Would like to seek matching funding in forward estimates. The Minister was disappointed in the process undertaken. Didn’t appreciate the attacking nature of advocacy. In saying this – it’s a very good project and he supports that council has done the hard work. Local state

members are supportive. In future for advocacy – this delegation is the way to do it and in person.

- National Water Infrastructure Funding could potentially change going forward. Etheridge will continue to work with the State – Etheridge expressed their thanks so far.
- Tablelands Regional Water Assessment – appreciative of the study and want to get it right – it has great potential. Minister wants to ensure everyone is supportive and on board. Mayor Rod Marti wants an economic value for the recreational opportunities. Good process and really likes the rigor.
- Lakeland Dam – hoping to have detailed business case in the next couple of months.
- Housing and USL is important as part of the solution.
- State is redeveloping the Regional Forums. Will be aiming to get three points from each of these to then drill down to detail to try and resolve.
- Thank you for bringing forward the Water Assessment in Tablelands.
- Kuranda Range Road is a big issue. We would like to see a portion of the \$210mil to investigate alternative routes which will resolve the heavy vehicle and capacity issues.
- Yarrabah Water through aquifer.
- Regional dry period and the need for storage. We have water no storage.
- Building our Regions – June/July announcing construction applications.

ADVOCACY REPORT



Ms Fiona Simpson MP, Shadow Minister for Finance and Better Regulation and Shadow Minister for Integrity in Government

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- FNQ Regional Plan
- Roads
- Water Security
- Waste Management
- Housing, Social Housing
- Kuranda Range Road
- Yarrabah Water
- Building Our Regions

Discussion/Vision

- FNQ Region Plan and a number of our issues and priorities can be dealt with through this.
- Roads, Water security, Waste Management is important to the region.
- Kuranda Range Road – Federal Labor has committed \$210mil for safety – we'd like to quarantine some of this funding to investigate alternate routes to resolve the efficiency and capacity issues.
- Housing is a high priority right across the board. Not only is social housing an issue but housing for the workforce. Etheridge Shire is struggling – need to focus on livability. House in Etheridge would be between \$350,000 – \$450,000, could get down to \$250,000 for prefabricated. Is there a concern regarding return on investment? Yes, however, with the economic growth happening in the region housing is needed.
- It would be helpful to release USL.
- Tablelands Regional Council has had discussions regarding modular housing for workers to build windfarms with the expectation that ownership of them post construction would go to a housing

community group. Tablelands Regional Council will provide the land.

- We don't want the Regional Plan to be desktop driven from Brisbane.
- Building standards coming in this year will have an impact on housing affordability. The elements may also cause a concern, particularly in the tropics. Accessibility requirements may also have an impact on yields.
- Housing shortfall in indigenous communities is causing numerous stresses in neighbouring councils. Drugs in communities – they are profiteering on our kids.



Hon Mark Ryan MP, Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- FNQROC State Priorities
- Youth Crime

Discussion/Vision

- The Minister advised that a collection of Mayors is called a magnificence
- Overview of FNQROC State Priorities
- Focus on portfolio of policing and corrective services.
- Mareeba – thank you for the extra resources. We still have issues with the high-end offenders which are causing concerns particularly with our aged population. 90% are good, its 10% of kids are they issue.
- Police resourcing alone won't fix the complex issues in the region.

ADVOCACY REPORT

- Has been beneficial for the region to have been split from Townsville to create an FNQ Police District. This has resulted in additional policing not having to be shared with Townsville.
- Happy to work with councils to support our initiatives.
- We do have a duty of care to those young kids. We need to give kids options.
- Mayor Jason Woibo shared his personal story of growth in his family. It's not just the kids' fault – it is a community issue.
- If there is anything we want to trial in partnership – please let the Department know. They are happy to hear any thoughts. Eg Mt Isa has asked for a Police Officer to partner with the Local Laws Officer at nighttime which they have been happy to trial.
- Etheridge – 40,000 sq km – police housing is substandard and their office small in size. This is happening in Forsyth and Mount Surprise. Minister advised that under the EB one or two officer stations – automatically they are provided housing. The challenge is that a previous government offloaded housing to Public Housing. It is a challenge to get this housing back/build new. Rolling out housing policy to create a better fund for Police housing. Still working on the condition of their assets. The Minister will pass this on to the Commissioner.
- Law enforcement – juvenile crime and drugs in our community are a challenge. They are profiteering off our kids – particularly in Yarrabah, they are feeling this.



Mr Steve Minnikin MP, Shadow Minister for Customer Service and Shadow Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- Overview - FNQROC State Priorities
- Roads
- ROSI

Discussion/Vision

- Overview of FNQROC State Priorities
- Housing, Drs, workforce liveability and release of USL.
- Mr Minnikin praised FNQROC for working so collegiately as a region and he rates us highly.
- We like to see a portion of the \$240m put towards an alternative route to fix our efficiency and capacity issues.
- Government needs to take those things with risk and de-risk them. Need to get a proper strategic plan. Need to provide business certainty.
- ROSI is extremely important to regional shires – it is our only mode of transport for goods and services imported and exported. We need continuity and security.
- On invitation Mr Minnikin would like to visit our region to look at our roads.

Action

- Councils to invite Mr Minnikin to inspect our roads.

ADVOCACY REPORT



Mr David Crissafulli MP, Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Minister for Tourism, Shadow Minister for Olympics and Paralympics and;
Ms Anne Leahy MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government, Shadow Minister for Disaster Recovery, Shadow Minister for Volunteers

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- FNQROC State Priorities
- Kuranda Range Road
- Cairns Water Security – Stage 1 Project
- Gilbert and Lakeland Agriculture Precincts
- Housing, Indigenous Housing, Social Housing
- Digital Connectivity/ Telehealth
- Youth Crime
- Tourism Enhancement Fund

Discussion/Vision

- Overview of FNQROC State Priorities
- Kuranda Range Road and \$210mil Federal commitment and quarantining of funds to identify a solution to the efficiency and capacity issues.
- Cairns Water Security – Stage 1 Project.
- Gilbert and Lakeland agricultural precincts coming online – they need Kuranda Range Road.
- The FNQ Regional Plan needs to be driven by the region.
- Housing is a big issue affecting all of us. We're all having challenges getting people into homes. We've been discussing with ministers about bringing USL online for long term permanent housing usage.
- Etheridge in an emergency situation for housing with construction companies purchasing caravan sites etc. They are considering building a work

camp for their own road works crew. They are constricted by a shortage of land and houses.

- Indigenous housing issues are causing numerous issues in neighbouring councils. Growing number of bush living in Yarrabah. Difficult process to initiate home ownership. IBA is complex.
- Also have communication issues – telehealth is failing due to this. Would appreciate support around this.
- Hope Vale has 50 blocks and about a dozen or so are privately owned.
- Postcode issues associated with lending.
- Would like to see a proposal of how to get houses in indigenous councils i.e. reinvestment etc.
- Escalation of youth crime issues in the region. David acknowledged the work in the region which has occurred at a local government level.
- Financial Assistance Grants.
- Tourism Enhancement Fund.
- Cairns and Far North are important.



Mr Brent Mickelberg MP, Shadow Minister for Employment and Training, Shadow Minister for Small and Family Business and Shadow Minister for Open Data

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- FNQROC State Priorities
- Roads – backlog. ROSI
- Roads – Kuranda Range Road
- Cairns Water Security – Stage 1
- Kidston Project
- Housing
- Apprenticeships

ADVOCACY REPORT

Discussion/Vision

- Overview of FNQROC State Priorities
- A new modern Regional Plan which includes Etheridge and Cook Shire Councils
- Roads – backlog and Kuranda Range Road
- Waste Management
- Water security – Cairns Water Security – Stage 1 project – federal commitment gained and need state matching these funds.
- Kuranda Range Road - \$210mil labor commitment to safety – would like to have a portion quarantined to identify a solution to the efficiency and capacity issues. B-doubles can't travel on it.
- ROSI is important for our regional roads which are our lifeline with no alternative. Our communities are impacted heavily by our roads and small businesses bear the brunt of this. Conflict between tourists and heavy vehicles. Impact on the costs of import and exports. Need to bring our roads to an acceptable standard.
- The ROSI arterial routes are vital.
- Kidston will see 600 employees over the next couple of years.
- Housing a huge issue – shortages in indigenous councils is having an impact on not only in communities but also neighbouring councils.
- Real shortage of apprentices. Believes we need to de-risk apprentices on businesses – the first 2 years is at a cost to the employer and then there is the risk they will lose them when trained. Apprenticeship is also only one avenue for skilled staff.



Ms Rosslyn Bates MP, Shadow Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Shadow Minister for Medical Research and Shadow Minister for Women

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- FNQROC State Priorities
- Cairns Water Security – Stage 1
- Health Services
- First Responder Units
- Digital Connectivity / Telehealth

Discussion/Vision

- Overview of FNQ State Priorities
- Cairns Water Security – Stage 1 project – looking for matching funding to Federal commitment.
- Mareeba looking for an increase in services at their hospital – they have a large contingent of islanders they are servicing. There has been no increase to service that.
- She will be visiting the region shortly. More than happy to know who she should be meeting with and where she should be going.
- She's looking for programs/packages to attract nurses and doctors to the region.
- Looking at extending the rural generalist program.
- Georgetown ambulance is voluntary – the Director of Nursing is extremely concerned as volunteers are reducing. Would like an ambulance base in Georgetown – Closest is Mt Garnet. Need to get Robbie Katter to push this as well. As an interim, could look at First Responder Unit as an option.
- Housing and using USL.
- Mossman Hospital - \$10mil revamp but still waiting over 3 hours as there is no staff to run them.
- Yarrabah and issues with communications to support telehealth.

ADVOCACY REPORT



Hon Curtis Pitt MP, Speaker of the House and Member for Mulgrave

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- FNQROC State Priorities
- Cairns Water Security - Stage 1
- Housing, Indigenous Housing, Social Housing
- Kuranda Range Road

Discussion/Vision

- Overview of the priorities we have been discussing while down here.
- Cairns Water Security – Stage 1 Project
- Yarrabah housing and land supply. Yarrabah feasibility study (YLF). Thank you for the investments around the jetty program.
- Kuranda Range Road – quarantining a portion of the \$210mil to get a solution to the efficiency and capacity issues.
- USL for housing
- Councils support for the music trails concept.
- It is okay to take your local state member to Canberra as part of specific delegation requests.



Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP Premier and Minister for Trade

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- FNQROC Regional Plan
- Housing, Indigenous Housing, Social Housing
- Kuranda Range Road
- Agriculture Development
- Diesel free Daintree
- Flu Vaccinations

Discussion/Vision

- Looking for collegial relationships at a Federal and State Level
- Would like the regional plan to be driven locally.
- Housing and the use of the USL there is a huge opportunity to release that land for housing. Councils have done this with their land.
- Kuranda Range Road – (Premier is well aware of this road.) Requested that a portion of the \$210mil be quarantined to assess an appropriate option to deliver industry efficiency and increased capacity.
- Thank you for Works for Queensland Fund. Premier asked that when she visits she wants to see all these projects.
- Agricultural development opportunities growing in our region
- We look forward to working with the government going forward
- Premier advised that exports are \$90billion which are diverse products.
- Thank you for investment in Atherton Hospital
- Housing – Indigenous social housing is worse, but it is now affecting workforce in the region.
- We'd like to see a housing expert panel similar to SEQ in our region

ADVOCACY REPORT

- Thank you for the significant investment and work in Cairns – Health, ED, Mental Health, Convention Centre, CWAR, Smithfield Bypass and Cairns Marine Precinct to name a few.
- Acknowledge work the State put in through COVID with them as new Mayors which was very helpful.
- Thank you for funds to revitalise Hope Vale.
- Premier asked that we promote the free flu vaccine. Current symptoms are very similar to COVID.
- Thank you from Yarrabah – they are looking forward to tackling housing and wanting to reinvent NPRH. Appreciative of Arts and culture precinct and jetty project. Looking to leverage Tourism.
- Diesel free Daintree – looking for State support to transition houses to 240V.

- Kuranda Range Road overview of issues.
- Cr Michael Kerr thanked the Minister for her visits to Douglas Shire. The community knows when she visits and is appreciative.
- Workforce – we're running out of skilled employees – hairdressers, chefs etc
- Positive response from the community to investment in Cook Shire Council
- Attracting retirees back into the workforce.
- Minister believes it is both skilled and unskilled labour is one of our biggest inhibitors to economic growth.
- The housing is very much recognised by the State.
- Looking at apprenticeship completion rates.



Hon Di Farmer MP, Minister for Employment and Minister for Training and Skills Development

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- Training/job ready
- Housing
- Apprenticeships/Skilled Workforce
- Kuranda Range Road

Discussion/Vision

- Training and being job ready but no labour market in Yarrabah.
- Kidston and Etheridge ag precinct development and the job opportunities is being stifled by lack of housing.
- On the back of losing NPRH. Hope Vale has lost the training opportunity. They want to grow their own.
- Region has concerns regarding skilled workforce and lack of completion of apprenticeships.

Hon Scott Stewart MP, Minister for Resources

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- Silica Mines – Hope Vale
- Resource Industry Development Plan
- Kidston and Genex Projects
- Land Leases Yarrabah

Discussion/Vision

- Mayor Woibo discussed the Silica mines in the region. Royalties going to congress not to community. Mayor Woibo would like investment in the community to take care of the elders and support education in the community. Needs to do something now while there is an opportunity. Asking for the minister to work with the council in the process to make sure the community doesn't miss out.
- Look for assurances around employment and royalties to support the community.
- Is there anything within the approval conditions which can help him out?

ADVOCACY REPORT

- Through congress it only supports a couple of people – through council it can support a community.
- Minister – it is difficult. They do talk to the mines about social license. Resource Industry Development Plan – 30 year guide – it clearly talks about how they work with community about co-existence.
- The right to royalty sits with the body corporate under legislation. Social license is where the focus needs to be.
- Yarrabah - Need to sort out land leases and release. Minister can assist with this
- Department can be a facilitator for Hope Vale.
- Minister will come up for a visit to Hope Vale.
- Kidston and Genex. Road networks not up to standard for vehicles transferring products in. The weight – some is 90tonne, some 120 tonne to be moved on the road network.