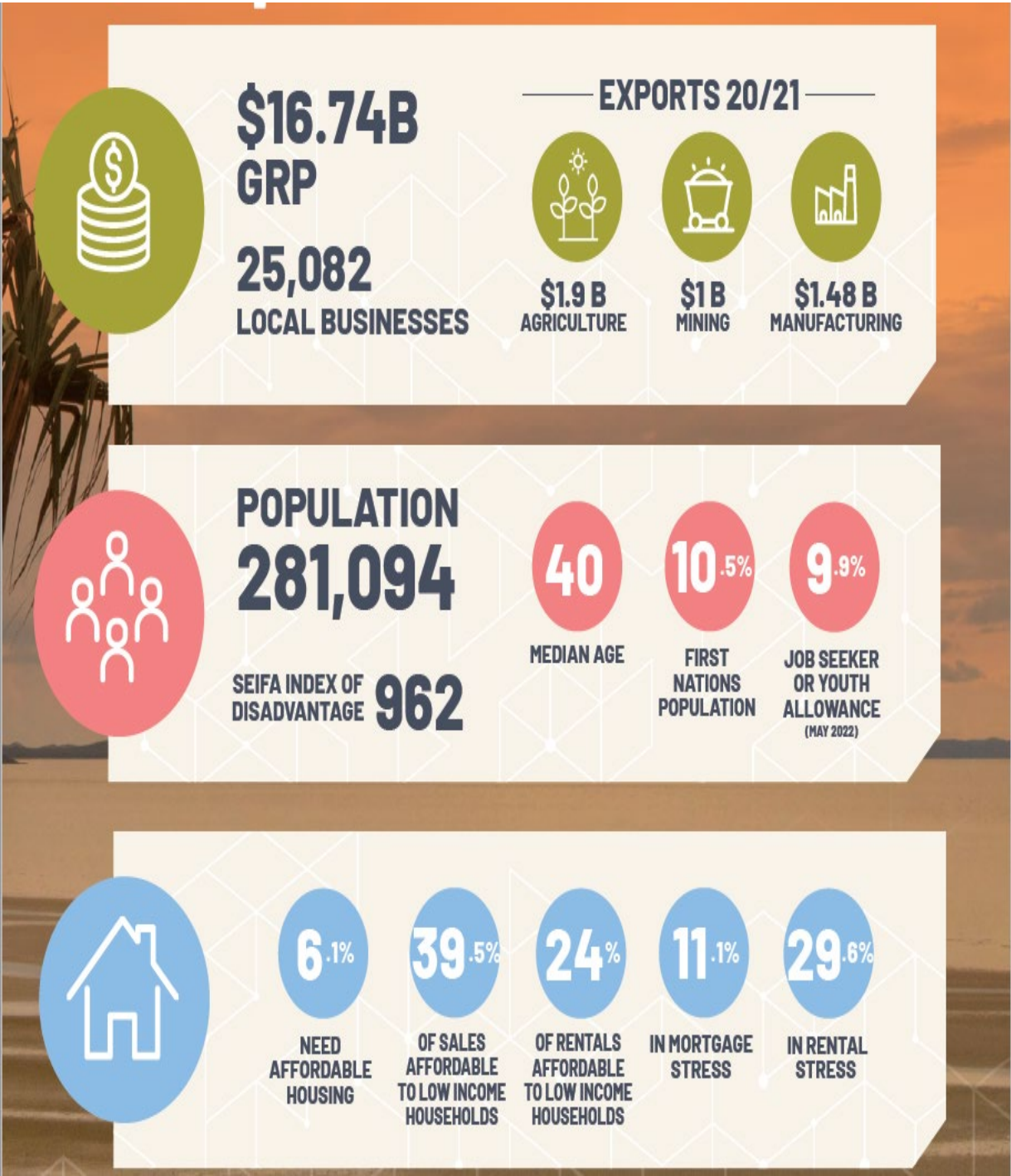
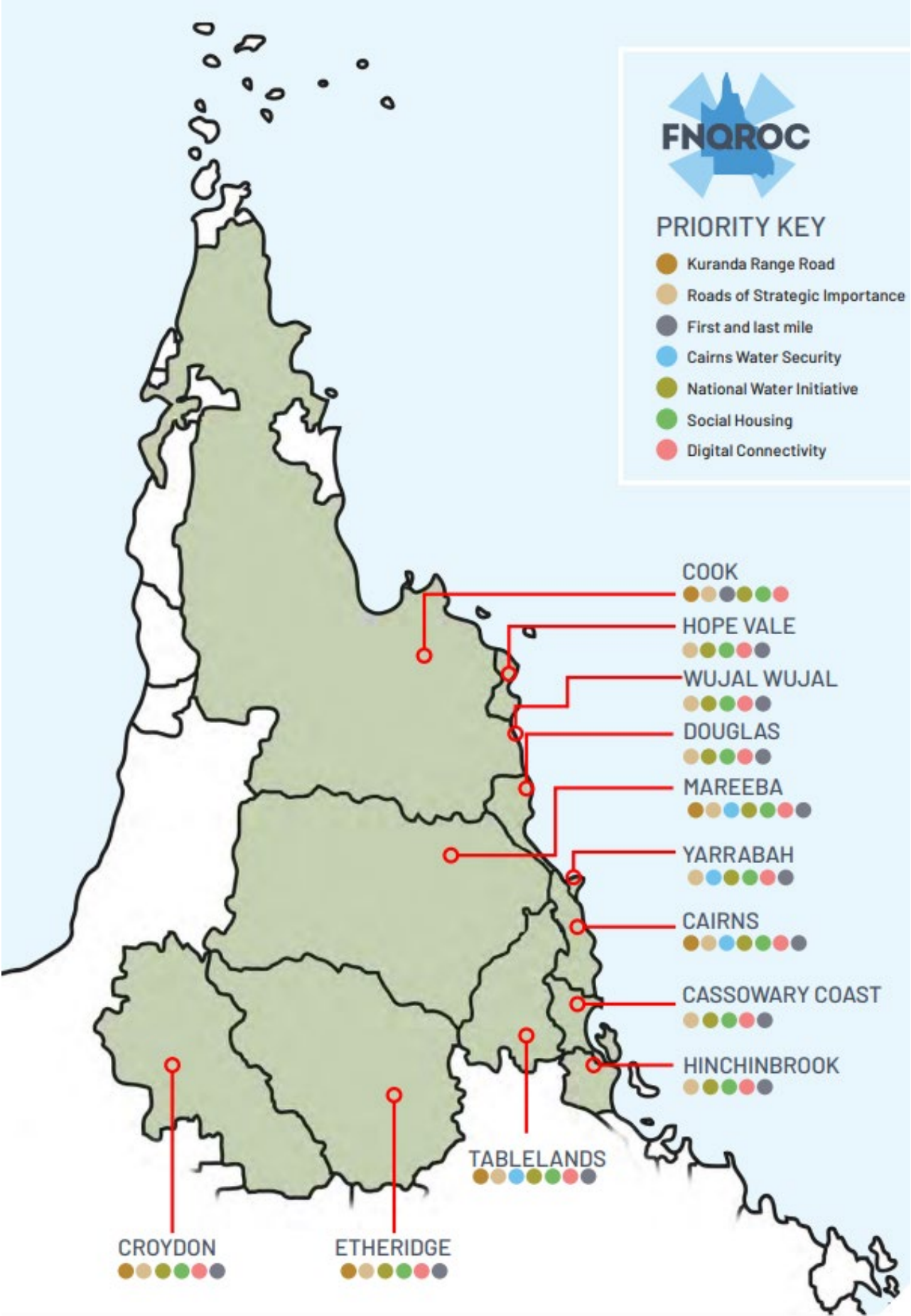


# **ADVOCACY REPORT**

**FNQROC  
Mayoral Delegation  
2-3 August 2022**

# FNQ AT A GLANCE





# ADVOCACY REPORT

## Sustainable Economic Growth and Development for Far North Queensland

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The FNQROC region is the largest and fastest growing region in Northern Australia. It extends over 252,000 square kilometres with a population of approximately 280,330 and gross regional product is \$16.75 billion. Unemployment for the 2020 December quarter was 6.5%</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The communities within the twelve 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.</li></ul>
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<b>TRANSPORT</b>  Resilient transport infrastructure to ensure connectivity across the region is essential if FNQ is to have sustainable economic growth and development.  To realise the vast known and untapped economic potential, we need to enhance the existing road and port infrastructure within the region.	<b>WATER</b>  Reliable and affordable water is essential for the FNQ region if it is to have sustainable economic growth and development. COAG policies including Northern Australia White Paper, Regionalisation, International Market Access and Indigenous Advancement have identified the strategic importance of FNQ to economic and social development.	<b>ENERGY</b>  Energy reliability is being enhanced by installation of renewable utility scale green energy production and battery storage at remote and fringe off grid locations. Consideration needs to be given to policy settings that support the sustainability/upgrading of existing Ergon networks to cater for reverse power flow into the grid.
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>  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). To the west we have the Gulf Rivers Strategic areas and to the north Cape York Peninsula.  The economic success of our natural assets is evidenced by the growth in our largest industry, tourism, which was 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.	<b>SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE</b>  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.	<b>COMMUNICATION</b>  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.  COVID-19 has exacerbated the digital divide which accelerated the move towards online.





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## DELEGATION MEMBERS

- **Cr Michael Kerr, FNQROC Chair**  
Mayor, Douglas Shire Council
- **Cr Bob Manning, Mayor**  
Cairns Regional Council
- **Cr Jeff Baines, Councillor**  
Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- **Cr Peter Scott, Mayor**  
Cook Shire Council
- **Cr Trevor Pickering, Mayor**  
Croydon Shire Council
- **Cr Barry Hughes, Mayor**  
Etheridge Shire Council
- **Cr Dave Bilney, Councillor**  
Tablelands Regional Council
- **Cr Jason Woibo, Mayor**  
Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
- **Cr Ross Andrews, Mayor**  
Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
- **Ms Darlene Irvine**  
FNQROC Executive Officer
- **Mr Peter Franks, CEO**  
Mareeba Shire Council

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## FEDERAL PRIORITIES

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


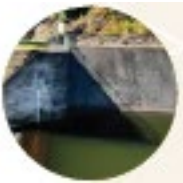


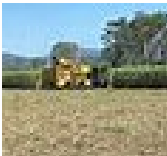
- **ROADS**
- **WATER**
- **HOUSING**
- **INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS**
- **AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY**
- **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY**
- **DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE PACIFIC**
- **DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY**

Key Briefing Notes can be accessed via links below

- [FNQROC Federal Priorities \(Aug 2022\)](#)
- [Kuranda Range Road](#)
- [FNQROC Regional Roads Investment Strategy – Heavy Vehicle Productivity](#)
- [FNQROC - Regional Roads Investment Strategy – Heavy Vehicle Freight Networks](#)
- [FNQROC – Regional Roads Investment Strategy – Tourism Routes and estimated economic value](#)
- [Long Term Analysis of the role of Dams](#)
- [FNQROC Mobile Coverage Audit](#)

# ADVOCACY REPORT

## FNQROC PRIORITY PROJECTS

	<p><b>ROADS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cairns Mareeba Access - Kuranda Range Road</li><li>• Roads of Strategic Importance</li><li>• First and Last Mile (Heavy Vehicle Productivity Routes)</li></ul>
	<p><b>WATER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Water Initiative – Pricing Policy</li><li>• Cairns Water Security – Stage 1</li></ul>
	<p><b>HOUSING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development of National Housing</li><li>• Housing for Indigenous Communities</li></ul>
	<p><b>INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Education</li><li>• Health and Aged Care</li><li>• Rural and Regional Health</li><li>• Indigenous Health</li></ul>
	<p><b>AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Potential impact of Foot and Mouth and other diseases in the region.</li></ul>

ADVOCACY REPORT

	<p><b>CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regional Council Reef Trust</li></ul>
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	<p><b>DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE PACIFIC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regional Listening given our position to Asia Pacific</li></ul>
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	<p><b>DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Digital Connectivity throughout Far North Queensland</li><li>• Mobile Blackspot Audit</li></ul>
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# ADVOCACY REPORT



P Franks, Cr Woibo, Senator Malcolm Roberts, Cr Bilney, Cr Andrews, Cr Scott, Cr Bilney

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## Senator Malcolm Roberts Queensland Senator

### Key Topics and Discussions

- Federal Priorities introduction
- Infrastructure.
- Kuranda Range Road insufficient. Looking at options.
- Senator Roberts – all the conditions but need the infrastructure.
- 83% Grant funded in Cook. Federal government really runs the show.
- Local government needs to be recognized as strategic partners.
- Ootann Road – no funding available for significant industry transport route owned by LG.
- QTC Model.
- Cost of Water and impact on rate increases.



Cr Bilney, Cr Scott, D Irvine, Cr Andrews, Mr Tony Pasin, Cr Kerr, Cr Bilney

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## Mr Tony Pasin Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

### Key Topics and Discussions

- Tony Pasin – his electorate couldn't be more different but more the same.
- Deeply respectful of Local government and wants to foster stronger relationships.
- Will be happy if the pipeline of works continues. Has a fear funding will retract to metropolitan areas.
- Kuranda Range Road
- ROSI Corridor
- Water security and linkages to and from roads and energy.
- Lakeland, Gilbert Irrigation precinct
- Not sure yet if Tony or Bridget will be taking on water.
- **Cr Andrews** - Housing shortage in Indigenous communities. Housing crisis has spread like a cancer. The role for Federal government is for National Housing infrastructure support, Finance and work with local government to facilitate opportunities.
- How we can help - Work towards thinking about solutions for these problems.
- 20% of Douglas Shire houses are vacant mostly due to Air BnB.
- LRCI would hopefully assist.
- FAGs and 1% of revenue.
- Digital connectivity – not in his portfolio but suggests the issues aren't that different to his area. WHS risk etc.

**ACTION: send Lakeland and Gilbert studies and Dam Study to Tony.**



# ADVOCACY REPORT



The Hon David Littleproud, Cr Hughes, Cr Woibo, Cr Manning

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## **The Hon David Littleproud MP Shadow Minister for Agriculture**

### **Key Topics and Discussions**

- Regional Priorities
- Etheridge - Gilbert River Agricultural Precinct.
- Lumpy Skin and foot and mouth disease.
- Genex \$1bil project underway. \$1bil project serviced by a gravel road.



Cr Bilney, Cr Hughes, Cr Andrews, Cr Manning,  
The Hon Michael McCormack, Cr Baines

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## **The Hon Michael McCormack MP Shadow Minister for International Development and the Pacific**

### **Key Topics and Discussions**

- Regional Priorities
- Narrative with new Government has changed, Local government taken seriously.
- Catherine King – speak to the positives.
- LRCI benefits all Councils. BBR another great source.
- Thanked Mr McCormack for the acknowledgement of Traditional Owners.
- Linda Burney – Riverina Country.
- Kirsty McBain – Regional mindset.

# ADVOCACY REPORT



Cr Kerr, Cr Woibo, P Franks, The Hon Warren Entsch, Cr Scott

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## The Hon Warren Entsch MP Member for Leichhardt

### Key Topics and Discussions

- Regional Priorities
- Meeting with the Prime Minister to go through priorities and Labor commitments.
- Kuranda Range Road - \$210mil - \$11mil for business case.
- There are a number of Federal election commitments and he'll work with them on those.
- Insurance.
- Aged Care facility in Cooktown.
- Daintree Microgrid Project – turn lights on April 2024.
- Wujal Hydro Power – could give long term source of income.
- 150 year Maytown Festival – one off.



Cr Bilney, Cr Manning, Cr Woibo, Cr Hughes, Cr Scott  
Cr Andrews, P Franks, D Irvine, Senator Perin Davey,  
Cr Kerr, Cr Bilney

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## Senator Perin Davey Shadow Minister for Water & Waste, Shadow Minister for Emergency Management

### Key Topics and Discussions

- Regional Priorities
- First and foremost, Senator doesn't want our water being taken south – should stay in place and get ROI.
- Cairns largest SA4 in Northern Australia.
- Senator pushing to continue the City Deals program.
- Comment - perhaps we should be focusing on Regional Deals to make it broader and capture the region.
- Lakeland Dam and business study coming out in the next couple of months.
- Water Authority Grid brought back into the Department but not sure what has happened to the money quarantined for water.
- Etheridge – Gilbert River Agricultural Precinct. Staring down the barrel of lumpy skin and foot and mouth, need to diversify and area predominately cattle.
- Genex \$1bil project underway. \$1bil project serviced by a gravel road. \$150k stringing the wires and \$400K in construction. Need to leverage off these.
- Sought our thoughts on emergency and insurance.
- Housing cycle.
- RDA's going forward.
- Kuranda Range Road.
- Emergency services – we rely very heavily on volunteers. We're running out of volunteers. Need employment arrangements for volunteers if they are called away – similar to Army Reserves. The other issue is insurance.

# ADVOCACY REPORT



Cr Hughes, Cr Andrews, P Franks, Cr Scott, Cr Bilney,  
Senator Hollie Hughes, Cr Woibo, Cr Manning,  
Cr Kerr, Cr Baines, D Irvine

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## Senator Hollie Hughes, Shadow Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy

### Key Topics and Discussions

- Regional priorities
- Climate Resilience Alliance – looking to continue.
- Local government \$800mil investment in Climate Change on the Reef.
- Genex \$1bil – 2 years into 4 year Project. Hydro and Solar 600 man camp. Wind will start when Hydro complete. Access roads to site are all gravel.
- Gilbert River Agricultural Precinct
- Senator sees more and more reduction in Regional investment. Councils need to let them know so they can ask at estimates.
- 3 Wind Farms, Tablelands Regional Council, 1 nearly 20 years old.
- Lakeland and agriculture growth
- Solar Farm - Business case due in 1 month.
- Plastic pirates.
- Biodiesel to Coen from Mossman Mill.
- Daintree Microgrid
- Wujal Hydro
- 1% FAGs
- Yarrabah microgrid, looking to implement.

**Action: Yarrabah Feasibility Strategy to be sent to Senator.**



Cr Andrews, Cr Kerr, Cr Manning, Cr Scott, Cr Bilney,  
Cr Woibo, P Franks

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## The Hon Catherine King Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

### Key Topics and Discussions

- Regional Priorities
- ROSI questionable.
- Honor \$210mil if we want to change this and put to \$20m. Need the State to ask.
- Don't expect anything in this budget.
- FAG's – nothing in this budget
- Need for all local government to feed through ALGA doesn't have time for State Local government organisations.
- Senator Chisholm has been directed to look further at housing.
- Asked about relationship with RDA. NAIF potentially to be reinvented.

# ADVOCACY REPORT



Cr Baines, Senator Murray Watt, Cr Hughes, D Irvine

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**Senator Murray Watt**  
**Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry,**  
**Minister for Emergency Management**

## Key Topics and Discussions

- Regional Priorities
- Kidston
- Kuranda Range Road
- Lumpy skin disease
- Grass roots producers want more say on where their funds are spent. (\$5 per sale).
- FMD – Beefed up biosecurity. Screening everything from Indonesia and China. False hysteria is causing us reputational damage. Some overseas believe it's here when it's not.
- Councils can play a role in communicating.

## Outcomes / Follow Up

- Communication could be better. FNQROC councils asked to be kept informed. Not getting through to grassroots.



Cr Bilney, Cr Kerr, Cr Baines, Mr Bob Katter, Cr Hughes,  
P Franks, Cr Andrews, D Irvine

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**Mr Bob Katter MP**  
**Member for Kennedy**

## Key Topics and Discussions

- Regional Priorities
- Kuranda Range Road
- FAG's – helps to fund depreciation/maintenance/replacement of assets.
- Half Super money (\$70bil) going into buying and selling shares. Doesn't do much to build economy. Super should be supporting economic infrastructure.
- Foot and mouth disease and Lumpy skin.
  - Lack of information
  - Leadership not there at the moment
  - Information to associations only go to members. They don't have many members.
- Biggest risk we see is from PNG and leakage through the Cape.
- Potentially 51<sup>st</sup> could protect the border similar to how they protected from Covid in the Cape.

## Outcomes / Follow Up

- Write out clearly what needs to be done and send through to Mr Katter. Including specifics, include financing vaccination in Bali, West Papua and PNG.



# ADVOCACY REPORT



Cr Scott, Cr Pickering, Cr Bilney, Cr Manning, Cr Kerr, Cr Woibo, P Franks, Cr Hughes, Senator James McGrath, Cr Andrews, D Irvine

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## Senator James McGrath Queensland Senator

### Key Topics and Discussions

- Regional Priorities
- Kuranda Range Road
- ROSI Funding
- The best way to get rid of debt is grow the economy.
- Genex \$1bil project and roads accessing it – gravel.
- FAG's



Cr Hughes, Cr Pickering, Cr Woibo, Cr Scott, Cr Andrews, Cr Kerr, P Franks, Cr Bilney, Cr Manning, D Irvine

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## The Hon Kirsty McBain Minister for Regional Development, Local

## Government and Territories

**Additional Attendees:** Kelly McManus, Advisor on Local Government. Has come from WALGA.

### Key Topics and Discussions

- Overview of FNQROC and Federal Priorities
- Housing issues
- Kuranda Range Road and issues
- What can we do to assist Minister?
- Inland Roads – Ootann, Gulf Development Road
- ROSI – looking for continuity
- Genex \$1bil project – all access roads are gravel
- Olympic Games – need equity. We can support training.
- Majority of rural and remote councils finance sustainability.
- FAG's
- Need that regular income which is untied.
- We need to give recognition to Federal Government.
- Minister having a meeting with all State Ministers on Financial Sustainability. Understands a lot has been pushed down to Local Government.
- Need to look at Planning, particularly around housing. Need to be more innovative in this space.
- Cr Andrews – land constraints and tenure. First Nations housing is critical. NPARIH - National Housing Strategy.
- Mining and best way forward to support communities. Local Government should have a say in mining conditions.
- Minister has pushed for Regional Development Plan that gives investors' confidence - 3 levels of government investment.
- SGFA – State Government financial assistance to Indigenous Councils has reduced.



# ADVOCACY REPORT



Hon Julie Collins

Cr Scott, Cr Pickering, Cr Bilney, Cr Manning, Cr Kerr, Cr Woibo, P Franks, Cr Hughes, Senator James McGrath, Cr Andrews, D Irvine

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**Mr James McLean Dreyfus, Interim Advisor**  
**The office of the Hon Julie Collins**  
**Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness,**  
**Minister for Small Business**

## Key Topics and Discussions

- Regional Priorities
- Yarrabah and Hope Vale housing.
- NPARIH Program would love to have it back.
- 5-10 year term would allow them to plan their apprenticeships and work, it would give a light at the end of the tunnel.
- Land Tenure is also an issue – need someone to stand up.
- Tablelands 0.2% rental vacancy which is common across the FNQROC region.
- It's an effort where we all need to work together. What can be done quickly?
- Councils have the land, but we don't have the resources for trunk infrastructure. Need a dedicated fund aimed at trunk infrastructure.
- Justice Stanley Jones report – now been in the hands of 5 State Ministers and not one recommendation has been implemented.
- Western Council Alliance has done the study for rural and remote housing. We want to work with Federal Government to resolve this.
- Truckloads of information – how fair dinkum is the Federal and State Government. If they can poke the State Government, it would help.
- Minister has called a meeting with State Ministers to work on a Housing and Homelessness Plan.
- Mareeba example – happy to hand over to NFP to manage as Local Governments are not housing specialists.
- Need for National Strategy at a local level.
- Cassowary focused on professional housing for workers travelling from Cairns.
- Local Government is important – we get the action on the ground.
- Small rate base. 20% of Douglas housing is empty as they are on short-term rental (Air B&B).
- Croydon is remote and nowhere for people to come back to live.
- Grants for Infrastructure – we then must own which is a problem. As an example depreciation in Douglas Shire Council - \$50mil revenue \$17mil goes straight to depreciation.
- Big businesses are buying hotels and caravan parks for workers thus reducing tourism accommodation.
- Building supplies through the roof – scaring builders and going broke.
- Big projects need to be thought through with workers pushing locals out.
- More needs to be done for first Nations small businesses.
- Council's legislated to do 10-year forecast, but it's hard to do when grants are 1 year and adhoc. 5-10 years grants allow us to plan.
- Mines can help support small businesses locally i.e.. Hope Vale. Perhaps there could be development conditions on this.

## Outcomes / Follow Up

- **Cr Manning to send information to James on recommendations - Justice Stanley Jones.**

# ADVOCACY REPORT



Cr Hughes, The Hon Madeleine King, Cr Woibo, Cr Bilney,  
Cr Scott, D Irvine

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## The Madeleine King Minister for Resources, Minister for Northern Australia

**Additional Attendees:** Cecelia and Kate, Advisor Northern Australia.

### Key Topics and Discussions

- Continuity and consistency in funding projects. Significant project with gravel roads accessing it. Genex \$1bil.
- Kuranda Range Road
- Hope Vale – 5 Silica Mines – looking for community investment funds. Royalties go to congress which doesn't reach the community. When funding went to Council they used it for apprenticeships, events, aged care etc.
- When permits are given Local Government should be involved in the process.
- Infrastructure to support the growth in our regions is important and lagging at the moment.
- Etheridge – Gilbert River Agricultural Precinct - consistent.
- ROSI and safety vitally important. Asking for gentle prod of State Government.
- Ministerial Forum being brought back. Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia.
- Insurance significantly higher in our region.
- Future – they are fighting to keep the funding opportunities including NAIF. Currently auditing what has happened and funded. Understands infrastructure need to back it up.
- FNQROC spoke about green infrastructure versus building on trunk infrastructure and business cases.
- Weipa and deep seaport and charger defense base. Army or Air base there would support Weipa. Good career

options for First Nations people.

- National Security does form part of the considerations in the Northern Australia portfolio.
- NAIF – seeing the benefits in Etheridge of what this funding can do. Allowing NAIF Funding to come down to smaller amounts will support numerous investments. ie. initiatives like mushroom farm.
- Lakeland business case should be released in a month.



Cr Baines, Cr Manning, Cr Kerr, The Hon Patrick Gorman,  
Cr Pickering, Cr Andrews, P Franks

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## The Hon Patrick Gorman Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister

### Key Topics and Discussions

- Regional Priorities
- Road funding
- Kuranda Range Road
- Water Security
- Debt is not an excuse – need regular economic growth.
- Ofay with distance issues.
- Housing for Indigenous Communities, we are now just feeling what they have.
- FAGs to support infrastructure for housing.
- Importance of Prime Minister visiting the region. Third time the Prime Minister has been to Cloncurry.

### Action:

- **Send Dam Study to Assistant Minister Gorman.**

# ADVOCACY REPORT



Cr Bilney, Cr Baines, Cr Manning, Cr Andrews, Senator Anthony Chisholm, Cr Kerr, Cr Scott, P Franks, Cr Woibo, Cr Pickering, Cr Hughes, D Irvine

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## Senator Anthony Chisholm Assistant Minister for Education, Assistant Minister for Regional Development

### Key Topics and Discussions

- Regional Priorities
- Kuranda Range Road and importance of link
- ROSI and first and last mile.
- Building Better Regions – we support this and has been good for councils to help ourselves.
- Labor Supports it but has some concerns over the process – they want to make sure applications are robust.
- FAGs to have funding streams which isn't attached to building assets. Is vital for Local Government to manage depreciation
- Senator knows how much Local Government can stretch \$1mil.
- We gave case examples of what we could do.
- 10-year forecasting versus short term funding.
- October budget will get rid of what they think are rorts and waste and focus on election promises. Rulers are currently being run over these election promises.
- Cost shifting to Local Government.
- Indigenous housing – will the reset button occur on NPARIH.
- Yarrabah School and the issues associated with the three campuses.
- Land Tenure issues on First Nations Communities.
- Will be a Northern Australian Select Committee with a term end date and of this term.



Cr Andrews, Cr Baines, Cr Pickering, Cr Bilney, Cr Hughes, Cr Kerr, Senator Nita Green, Cr Woibo, Cr Scott, Cr Manning, P. Scott, D Irvine

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## Senator Nita Green Queensland Senator

### Key Topics and Discussions

- Regional Priorities
- Special Envoy for the Great Barrier Reef.
- Cr Hughes written to the Minister requesting ROSI stays.
- Kuranda Range Road
- Water
- Housing – Indigenous, issues we are now seeing.
- National Housing Strategy
- Housing Australian Fund is being set-up but it will take a while.
- Will the reset button on NPARIH be pushed?
- Housing is universal and locked up with land constraints and this is impacting surrounding locations. Links directly to health, education, employment etc.
- Rising cases rheumatic heart disease. Homelessness increasing as a result
- If NPARIH allowed, then to we're able to engage apprentices and grow local businesses.
- Won't be distracted by the Uluru Statement – still focused on ground works for First Nations Communities.
- FAGs and impact on Councils.
- Road funding is vital to support economic development.
- Genex \$1bill serviced by gravel state roads.
- Working closely with RDA on - Gilbert River Agricultural Precinct and Lakeland Dam.
- Trellis avocado's and mushroom farm – innovative thinking behind these.

# ADVOCACY REPORT

- Cooktown Aged Care project using Local Government land.
- Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program will win lots of favours if you keep it in the budget.
- Significant debt. Treasury very focused on budget repair.
- We still need to be creating jobs in our region post COVID. We're not ready for budget repair in FNQ. Unlocking us will help repair the debt.
- Jobs and Skills Summit in October with businesses and Unions. Senator will do local summits in the lead up to this, so it can be fed into the summit.
- Senator can organize a briefing for commitments if needed – just contact her office.
- FNQROC thanked the Senator for her Reef support. We are genuine strategic partners in this space. How can we help going forward?
- Be active in our engagement with Senator's office. She can get in front of it now.



Cr Hughes, Cr Pickering, Cr Woibo, Cr Kerr, Cr Scott, P Franks, Cr Baines, Cr Andrew, Cr Manning, Cr Bilney, D Irvine

## The Hon Linda Burney Minister for Indigenous Australians

### Key Topics and Discussions

- Mayor Andrews acknowledged the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people.
- Minister advised the Uluru Statement is opportunity to give a gift of reconciliation.
- We would like to see NPARIH reset.
- Housing has a regular impact on all the indicators – Health, education, employment.
- When we had NPARIH it provided apprenticeships and traineeships and helped to grow small business.
- Minister can't say NPARIH will come back.
- Budget in October and another in May. October will be focused on election commitment and May back to normal processes.
- \$200mil on the table at the moment. Available nationally for repairs and maintenance. It won't fix overcrowding, but it can help make what you have more livable. It could be for renovations/extensions as well.
- If we don't fix housing any other funding is useless.
- Justice reinvestment – 50% funding needs, 50% from the State. Burke Council has been in the Justice Reinvestment for 10 years and it has made a big difference with them.
- Yarrabah School.
- Federal investment of 500 new Aboriginal Health workers.
- Federal government investing in renal health (Dialysis).
- Uluru Statement from the heart. Local government key to this. Federal government will implement it all.
- Local government should be resourced for truth telling of their area.
- FAGs
- CDP – there will be a transition to a new program to ensure more control locally. Proper conditions and wages including long service leave.



# ADVOCACY REPORT



Cr Kerr, Cr Andrews, Cr Pickering, Cr Woibo, P Franks, Cr Scott, Cr Hughes, The Hon Dr Jim Chalmers, Cr Manning, Cr Bilney, Cr Baines, D Irvine

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## The Hon Dr Jim Chalmers Treasurer

### Key Topics and Discussions

- Overview of the region.
- Kuranda Range Road
- ROSI reliance. Ootann Road and Gulf Dev Road – part of Savannah Way.
- Genex \$1bil project - 4-year development phase, 2 years in.
- Cairns Water Security Project – Stage 1
- \$15mil to TTNQ for marketing.
- Housing and land availability.
- Digital Connectivity
- FAGs – used example of no matter where you live you should have equitable access for services. Water-sewer-trunk infrastructure for housing.
- LRCI - is critical program. It's a god send for small councils.
- Building Better Regions – if we ask for something it is to look after ourselves.
- Croydon Mountain Bike Trail – when looking at the budget don't forget that small amounts of funding can make a big difference and support councils/communities to support themselves.
- FMD and communication network. Got to do better. State industry organisations only goes to members, not grass roots.
- We realise how tight the budget will be. Bear in mind money spent in our region will grow it.
- Uluru Statement very welcoming, with this it is practical measures and implementation.



Cr Baines, Cr Pickering, Cr Scott, Cr Hughes, The Hon Jonathon Duniam, P Franks, Cr Andrews, Cr Woibo, Cr Kerr, Cr Manning, Cr Bilney, D Irvine

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## The Hon Jonathon Duniam Shadow Minister for Environment, Fisheries and Forestry

### Key Topics and Discussions

- Regional Priorities
- Roads – Kuranda Range Road, ROSI
- Housing and causes
  - don't forget Indigenous
  - Workers on major projects
  - Cost of building and builders going out of business
- Financial burden on Councils through cost shifting.
- People need to be informed on what they should be getting in terms of housing design.
- Insurance prices in the region and postcode block.
- FAGs and increased costs on communities to protect an international assets (WT and GBR).
- Kidston \$1bil – 75% funded by NAIF. Pumped Hydro, solar and wind.