



## MINUTES OF THE 148TH BOARD MEETING

Monday 14 June 2021 @ 10:30am

Croydon Shire Council, Doris Casey Hall, Croydon

### REPRESENTATIVES

	Cr Brett Moller, (Proxy)	Cairns Regional Council
	Cr Jack Bawden, Mayor	Carpentaria Shire Council
	Cr Trevor Pickering, Mayor	Croydon Shire Council
CHAIR	Cr Michael Kerr, Mayor	Douglas Shire Council
	Cr Barry Hughes, Mayor	Etheridge Shire Council
	Cr Ramon Jayo, Mayor	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
	Cr Kevin Cardew, Deputy Mayor	Tablelands Regional Council
	Cr Ross Andrews, Mayor	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

### CEO'S

Mr Mark Crawley, CEO	Carpentaria Shire Council
Mr Bill Kerwin, CEO	Croydon Shire Council
Mr Ken Timms, CEO	Etheridge Shire Council
Mr Gary Rinehart, CEO	Tablelands Regional Council
Mr Leon Yeatman, CEO	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

### OBSERVERS

Cr Wayne Bing Chew, Deputy Mayor	Croydon Shire Council
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### INVITED GUESTS

Mr Robert Ferguson	LGAQ
Mr Mark Girard	QTC
Ms Diana Lollato	QTC
Ms Katherine Livanis	QTC

**FNQROC STAFF**

Ms Darlene Irvine	Executive Officer
Mr Travis Sydes	Natural Asset Management & Sustainability
Ms Wendy Hughes	Regional Strategic Infrastructure Coordinator
Ms Amanda Hancock	Procurement Coordinator
Ms Paula Power	Executive Support Officer

**APOLOGIES**

	Cr Bob Manning, Mayor	Cairns Regional Council
	Ms Mica Martin, CEO	Cairns Regional Council
	Cr Mark Nolan, Mayor	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
	Mr James Gott, CEO	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
	Cr Peter Scott, Mayor	Cook Shire Council
	Ms Linda Cardew, CEO	Cook Shire Council
	Mr Mark Stoermer, CEO	Douglas Shire Council
	Cr Mary Brown	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
	Mr Kevin Tytherleigh, CEO	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
	Cr Jason Woibo, Mayor	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
	Mr Mark Kelleher, CEO	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
DEPUTY CHAIR	Cr Angela Toppin, Mayor	Mareeba Shire Council
	Cr Rod Marti, Mayor	Tablelands Regional Council
	Mr Peter Franks, CEO	Mareeba Shire Council
	Cr Bradley Creek, Mayor	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
	Stephen Wilton, CEO	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council

**2879 Chair's Welcome & Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners**

The meeting commenced at 10.30am.

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.

The Chair thanked Croydon Shire Council for their hospitality and for hosting the FNQROC Board meeting in Croydon.

As noted.

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## **2881 BOARD PRESENTATIONS**

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### **3.1 Queensland Treasury (QTC)**

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Mr Mark Girard, Managing Director, Ms Diana Lollato, Executive Director and Ms Katherine Livanis, Analyst, Client Division, QTC provided an overview of QTC's role and update of local government projects.

**Key presentation points included:**

- QTC client services and capabilities
- Structural challenges for councils with small populations
- Overview of the Business Improvement Program (BIP)
- Process and efficiency improvements
- Overview of the QTC Education Program
- Financial Management Training

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

- Comments raised regarding Regional migration data at a local level.
- Comments raised regarding Public Housing shortage.
- Focusing on the analysis of the Dam study.
- Hydrogen interest – cost of making hydrogen and transportation.

**ACTION:** D. Irvine to liaise with QTC to arrange for elected member Financial Management training in the region (noting a maximum of 20? Per session).

**ACTION:** QTC to investigate and see if they can drill down population migration numbers to a regional and or local level.

**ACTION:** D. Irvine to forward a copy of the Dam Study to M Girard, QTC.

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### **3.2 LGAQ Update**

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Mr Robert Ferguson provided an overview of LGAQ recent activities per the briefing note previously circulated.

**Key presentation points included:**

- Queensland State Budget – 15 June 2021
- LGAQ's 2021-22 State Budget Submission

**Four focus areas**

- Works for Queensland
- SEQ Community Stimulus Package
- Waste levy and municipal solid Waste & Environment Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS).



- 2021 Coastal Leaders Forum – 8-9 July 2021
- Waste levy legislative review – to commence mid-2021, led by DES
- Queensland Organic Waste Action Plan – first Technical Working Group met on 18 May 2021

The Chair asked for feedback/comments from the floor:

- Nil.

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### 3.3 Protocol between LGAQ and FNQROC

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**MOVED:** Cr Michael Kerr

**SECOND:** Cr Ramon Jayo

That FNQROC sign the Protocol between LGAQ and FNQROC.

**CARRIED**

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## 2882 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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### 4.1 Minutes of Meeting held Monday 12 April 2021

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**MOVED:** Cr Brett Moller

**SECOND:** Cr Barry Hughes

That the minutes of the 147th FNQROC Board Meeting held 12 April 2021 be confirmed and adopted.

**CARRIED**

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## 2883 BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

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### 2857 Follow-up on request that QTC provide statistics/drill down to economic areas for FNQ.

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Complete. QTC data was forwarded to Board members on 19 April 2021.

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### 2863a D Irvine to work with RDA on the contents of an MOU with final signoff to occur at the next available FNQROC Board Meeting.

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Ongoing. Nothing from them to date.

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### 2863b D Irvine to meet with the FNQROC planners and seek their advice regarding reviewing the FNQROC Regional Plan

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Complete.

**MOVED:** Cr Brett Moller

**SECOND:** Cr Barry Hughes

*That the FNQROC Board write to the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP) requesting that:*

- a. A review of the Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2009/2031 be commenced.*

- b. Given the emerging trends regarding population growth and the impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic on the economic prosperity of the region, the review be commenced as a priority.*
- c. The review be undertaken concurrently with those local governments in the region who intent to progress the preparation of a new Planning Scheme.*
- d. A collaborative delivery model be adopted, acknowledging many of the local governments in the region and FNQROC have existing background studies and research that should be used to inform the region plan review; and*
- e. Consider the boundaries.*

CARRIED

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**2865 W Hughes and D Irvine to develop a public release strategy for the Dam Study to be supported by the Board prior to public release.**

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Complete. The Dam Study was publicly released on 12 May 2021.

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**2875 Follow-up with Aboriginal Shire Councils, Yarrabah, Wujal Wujal and Hope Vale to seek nominations for representative on the First Nations Tourism Action Plan Steering Committee.**

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Complete. Mayor Andrews has been nominated and accepted the role. The first meeting is yet to be determined.

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**2876 D Irvine to seek advice from Mark Olsen regarding the apparent sudden restrictive travel of hire cars to Georgetown.**

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Complete. D Irvine contacted Mark Olsen from TTNQ. Mark is investigating the matter and will continue to work on this. There are issues due to companies selling off their stock during Covid and now do not have enough vehicles.

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**2877 Send CSIRO Transit contact details to Mark Crawley.**

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Complete.

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## 2884 ADVOCACY

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### 6.1 Advocacy Update from FNQROC

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#### 6.1.1 Dam Study release

Will form part of the advocacy during the FNQROC Mayoral delegation to Canberra in August.

#### 6.1.2 Mayoral Delegation Canberra – 30 Aug to 2 Sept 2021.

#### Proposing 6 advocacy topics:

1. CRC Building better regions application to scope 'Cairns and FNQ, Capital of the Smart Green Economy'
2. Yellow Crazy Ants
3. Roads - additional ROSI Funding (Cairns to NT Border) and First and Last mile funding
4. Social Housing
5. Water - Dam Study and Cairns Water Security
6. Northern Australia Agenda



### 6.1.3 Water Update

- 19 April meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack and Hon Warren Entsch with attendance from Mareeba, Tablelands and Cairns Mayors. There was \$7m on table for a detailed business case for the North Johnstone Diversion.
- Due Diligence has identified:
  - The State had engaged Sunwater to do the Concept plans. This is now with the State. At this stage they would not support an application for a detailed business case.
- FNQROC Board met with Minister Butcher on Wednesday 9 June 2021.
  - The Tablelands Regional Water assessment was due to start in 2022 this has been pulled forward and they are looking for staff now to undertake this assessment earlier.
  - All options for the region will be reviewed – old (Nullinga and North Johnstone diversion) and any new ones i.e. 3 dam concepts as part of the Regional Water assessment.
  - It is noted the State is looking at dam safety and raising the level of some to mitigate against a changing climate (noting this provides security for existing industries, may not support growth)
- FNQROC will continue to push agriculture and the need for water for agriculture growth.
- FNQROC will continue to advocate the results of the Dam study which shows economic benefit in the longer term.

**ACTION:** P. Power to send email to Mayors to establish who will be travelling to Canberra for the delegation end of August early September. A meeting planner will be circulated once all meetings have been confirmed.

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### 6.2 Advocacy Update from FNQROC Council Members

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Nil updates.

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## 2885 STRATEGIC OPERATIONAL PLAN

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### 7.1 FNQROC Development of a Regional Strategic Waste Frameworks (B84)

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FNQROC Board were supportive of developing a Regional Strategic Waste and Materials Framework Advisory Group. Department of Environment and Science, QTC, and LGAQ to form part of the Committee.

Working group to be chaired by an elected member from the board. Cr Toppin was put forward as a nominee. There were no further nominations from the board and Cr Toppin was unanimously elected.

**MOVED:** Cr Brett Moller

**SECOND:** Cr Ross Andrews

That FNQROC:

Supports the progression to develop a regional strategic waste and materials recovery framework in partnership with QTC, DES and LGAQ.

- a) Supports the progression being driven by an advisory group consisting of one elected member and a senior manager from each participating council, and representatives from both QTC and DES.
- b) Adopts the Draft Terms of Reference for the Regional Strategic Waste and Materials Recovery Framework Advisory Group and formally invite QTC, DES and LGAQ to participate as members. The wording of the Terms of Reference to be reviewed by the new committee
- c) That Mayor Angela Toppin takes on the role of Chair of the Regional Strategic Waste and Materials Recovery Framework Advisory Group commencing at the meeting on 23 July 2021.
- d) Request member Councils to advise their elected member and senior manager representatives on the Regional Strategic Waste and Materials Recovery Framework Advisory Group.

**CARRIED**

**ACTION:** W. Hughes to:

- a. send formal invitation to DES, QTC and LGAQ to participate in the Regional Waste and materials recovery advisory committee
- b. Seek an elected member representative from each member council participating, and
- c. Set first meeting date.

## **2886 DISCUSSION TOPICS**

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### **8.1 Draft amended FNQROC Strategic Goals**

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D Irvine provided some commentary on the feedback received from members and the changes to the FNQROC Strategic Goals (noting the goals are not in a priority order):

1. Develop resilient transport infrastructure and connectivity
  - Requests to include solutions to Kuranda – this was not included as it doesn't take into consideration the role the Palmerstone can plan. Focus was put on all range road crossings.
  - Some of the issues have been rephrased into solutions
2. Provide reliable and affordable water and energy
  - The suggestion was made to make it two papers which has been done
  - The outcomes of the Dam Study have been included
  - Any Dam names references have been removed and a focus on urban and agricultural growth and water security instead.
  - We have included some reference to urban reticulation networks
3. Respect and manage our natural assets and environment
  - Chunks of works have been removed which portray doom and gloom
  - Recognition that our communities are custodians of international assets and this comes at a cost
4. Develop equitable social infrastructure
  - Figures have been updated – some figures are quite old but they haven't been updated.
5. Provide equitable communication network



- To answer one of the queries – do we have an FTTP map – no we don't, D Irvine trying to get this from NBN but telcos generally keep this as a closely guarded. We do have a mobile communications map as a result of an on-ground audit.

**MOVED:** Cr Brett Moller  
**SECOND:** Cr Trevor Pickering

The board accepted and will adopt the six new FNROC Strategic Goals with the addition of wording around waste and materials recovery within the Natural Assets goal.

**ACTION:** D. Irvine to include waste and materials recovery wording within Natural Assets goal; respecting and protecting our natural assets.

**CARRIED**

## 2887 CORRESPONDENCE

### 9.1 Incoming

As noted.

### 9.2 Outgoing

As noted.

## FNQROC POLICY REVIEW

### 10.1 Nil

## 2888 FNQROC REPORTS & MOU'S

### 11.1 FNQROC Regional Roads Investment Strategy (B83)

**MOVED:** Cr Barry Hughes  
**SECOND:** Cr Ross Andrews

That FNQROC adopted the FNQ Regional Road Investment Strategy for our advocacy efforts.

**CARRIED**

### 11.2 QRA Resilience Plan Terms of Reference

**MOVED:** Cr Brett Moller  
**SECOND:** Cr Trevor Pickering

That the board accepted the QRA Resilience Plan Terms of Reference for the Wet Tropics and Hinterland regional resilience plans.

**CARRIED**



## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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### 2889 Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet Financials YTD

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MOVED: Cr Ramon Jayo  
SECOND: Cr Jack Bawden

That the Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet Reports for the period 1 July 2020 to 31 May 2021 be adopted and accepted.

CARRIED

## ATTENDANCE & MINUTES OF MEETINGS

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### 2890 Meetings Attended by Executive Officer

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As noted.

### 2891 LGAQ Policy Executive Minutes (13 April to 31 May 2021)

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- Discussion held as part of LGAQ presentation.
- Agenda for the LGAQ Policy Executive Meeting to be held on 25 June 2021 was sent out – no further feedback.

### 2892 Minutes of FNQROC Advisory Committees (13 April to 31 May 2021)

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Noted.

Points of noting to the FNQROC Board

- Procurement committee intend to develop Regional Procurement Strategy.

### 2893 Confidential Meeting Minutes

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As noted.

### 2894 FNQROC Western Council Meeting Minutes & Presentations

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No meeting currently scheduled.

**ACTION:** D. Irvine to arrange with Western Councils an agenda and set date for the next meeting.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

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### 2895 Unsustainable Councils

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- Recent Audit report identifying unsustainable councils.
  - LGAQ taking up this fight

- Queensland Grant Distribution review:
  - Discussion paper released last week;
  - Feedback due August/September 2021
  - Implementation 2022/23

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**2896** Regional Queensland Council of Mayors

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- Renewed Northern Alliance of Councils, purpose is to form a body of councils not aligned to the Western Councils Alliance or SEQ Council of Mayors to tackle those big issues.
- There is a proposed membership fee however if it is an issue for some of the smaller councils this can be negotiated.
- Cr Kerr has advised there is a video which aptly explains it and he will send out to members.

**ACTION:** Cr Kerr to provide FNQROC Board with a link to video on Regional Queensland Council of Mayors.

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**2897** Carpentaria Shire Council

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- Cr Bawden reluctantly announced that Carpentaria Shire Council will not be renewing their membership for next financial year. With his role in the North West Queensland ROC and Western Councils Alliance he does not have the time and financially council had to look at all their memberships. He sincerely thanked FNQROC and Darlene Irvine for their assistance and guidance to getting the NWQ ROC up and running.

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**2898** Air Services

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- Cr Hughes would like FNQROC to investigate opportunities for air services to stop at Georgetown and Croydon (as they regularly fly over the top of them).
- D Irvine advised that we are in the process of undertaking an asset and business review of airports through the FNQ RRTG. This information will help inform the opportunities.

**ACTION:** W. Hughes currently undertaking assessment of aerospace assets. Once complete will investigate next steps and what is needed for air services to Georgetown and Croydon.

**Meeting closed at 12.59pm.**

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**NEXT MEETING**

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**2899** Next Meeting

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The Chair advised the next meeting is scheduled for 05 August in Cairns.



## ACTION ITEMS: 14 June 2021

Minute Number	Action	Responsible Person(s)	Status
2881	D. Irvine to liaise with QTC to arrange for elected member Financial Management training in the region (noting a maximum of 20 Per session).	D. Lollato QTC All FNQROC Board	
2881	QTC to investigate and see if they can drill down population migration numbers to a regional and or local level.	M. Girard QTC	
2881	D. Irvine to forward a copy of the Dam Study to Mark Girard, QTC.	D. Irvine	
2884	P. Power to send email to Mayors to establish who will be travelling to Canberra for the delegation end of August early September. A meeting planner will be circulated once all meetings have been confirmed.	P. Power FNQROC	
2885	W. Hughes to:  a. send formal invitation to DES, QTC and LGAQ to participate in the Regional Waste and materials recovery advisory committee b. Seek an elected member representative from each member council participating, and c. Set first meeting date.	W. Hughes FNQROC	
2886	D. Irvine to include waste and materials recovery wording within Natural Assets goal; respecting and protecting our natural assets.	D. Irvine FNQROC	
2894	D. Irvine to arrange with Western Councils an agenda and set date for the next meeting.	D. Irvine FNQROC	
2896	Cr Kerr to provide FNQROC Board with a link to video on Regional Queensland Council of Mayors.	Cr Kerr FNQROC Chair	
2898	W. Hughes currently undertaking assessment of aerospace assets. Once complete will investigate next steps and what is needed for air services to Georgetown and Croydon.	W. Hughes FNQROC	



Cr Michael Kerr, FNQROC Chair