

Minutes

FNQROC Economic Development Advisory Group

Meeting No	18
Meeting Name	FNQROC Economic Development Advisory Group
Date	10 February 2023
1000	10.00 – 12.00pm
Venue	Committee Room, Level 3, Cairns Regional Council and via 'Go To' virtually

Attendees

	Abbey Buckham	Cairns Regional Council
	Amy Mail	Cairns Regional Council
	Kirra-Jean Clark	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
	Emma Tunnock	Douglas Shire Council
	Jessica Fealy	Mareeba Shire Council
	Angelo Finocchiaro	Tablelands Regional Council
	Cindy Perry	DESBT
	Sarah Palmer	Dept of Premier and Cabinet
	Renee Bester	Etheridge Shire Council
CHAIR	Darlene Irvine	FNQROC
	Paula Power	FNQROC
	Allan Dale	JCU
	Lainie Poon	RDATN
	Mark Olsen	TTNQ

Apologies

	Sam Doyle-Wiaczek	Cairns Regional Council
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Jacqui Szafran	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Kattie Hatton	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Richard Blanchette	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Daniel Horton	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Lawrence Booth	Cook Shire Council
Dale Bainbridge	Croydon Shire Council
Glenys Pilat	Mareeba Shire Council
Nicole Van Beuningen	Tablelands Regional Council (online)
Belinda Hutchinson	DSDILGP
Paul Cranch	LGAQ
Sonja Johnson	RDATN
Benjamin Alexander	TIQ

1 WELCOME AND ROUNDTABLE INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting commenced at 10.00am.

2 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Actions from meeting of 17 May 2022

#	ACTION	PERSON	STATUS
4.1	L Poon to investigate whether regulatory information (such as PFAS) was looked as part of the Compost for Farming Future findings and when it will be released.	L. Poon RDATN	Complete
4.2	A Finocchiaro to forward Housing affordability /diversity Strategy to FNQROC.	A Finocchiaro – TRC	Complete

3 PRESENTATIONS

Mark Olsen, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ)

Mr Olsen provided an update on the Indigenous Tourism Plan.

The presentation and the TTNQ Mountain Biking Market Research Report has been provided with the minutes.

- Funding from TTNQ and members contributions. Cost \$35,000 per year. Would like private sector to step in.
- Currently writing to other agencies for support.

- Curtis Pitt would like to host an official meeting or media event to launch the Plan when Parliament sits in May 2023.
- Mountain Biking Market Analysis Report TTNQ. Councils now seeing the benefits of mountain biking. Crankworx recently showcased in Smithfield and 320 million worldwide watched the event.
- FNQROC currently conducting desktop analysis report and reviewing the 2015 Mountain Bike Strategy. Mark Olsen to present the Mountain Biking Market Analysis Report to the FNQROC Board later in the year.
- Information on the [FNTAP and Indigenous Tourism Cluster](#);
- The [Deeper into Dreaming](#) brochure;
- The video on our [mentoring program](#); and
- The Mountain Bike Tourism Opportunities report (attached)

Action: Sarah Palmer to follow-up hosting an event to launch the Indigenous Tourism Plan when Parliament sits in Cairns in May 2023.

4 GENERAL BUSINESS / EMERGING ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

FNQROC – Darlene Irvine

Update on FNQ Regional Economic Plan, FNQ Regional Infrastructure Plan and the new FNQ Statutory Regional Plan

- DSDILGP have undertaken consultations and desktop studies.
- Draft should be coming out soon. Key stakeholders will engage and provide commentary.
- The new FNQ Regional Plan boundary will include Cooktown South and Etheridge Shire Council. The Cape Regional Plan will be done concurrently.
- The new Statutory Regional Plan will be different to the previous plans and will be an integrated regional plan.
- FNQ Infrastructure Plan (FNQIP) Briefing for LGAs on FNQ Regional priorities and next steps for FNQ Infrastructure Plan will be held via TEAMS on 16 February 2023. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an overview of the FNQIP, share and obtain feedback and outline next steps for the development of the FNQIP.
- The boundaries have not been formally announced to date.
- FNQROC State Mayoral Delegation scheduled 29-30 March 2023.
- FNQROC Federal Mayoral Delegation scheduled 2-3 August 2023.
- FNQROC Board issued a statement in relation to Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Regional Development Tropical North – Lainie Poon

RDATN in collaboration with Trade and Investment Queensland – Migration Queensland Division

- Following on from work started last year, reactivated planning stages of Migration Queensland Trade and Investment Famil – Business Nomination Program (Business Innovation and Investment Visa (Subclass 188))
- Showcase of investment projects to be showcased to the MQ business migration network (PR clients, select provisional visa holders, intermediaries/agents)
- Seeking investment attraction via Four Visa Streams:-
 - Business Innovation
 - Investor
 - Significant Investor
 - Entrepreneur
- Depending on stream, Min. \$300K commitment in regional QLD and assets up to \$1.25 million, ranging to \$5million. Preference for high-end investor/significant investor.
- Planning on short, sharp, punchy itinerary to provide introduction in region in beginning of June 2023.
- Build database of potential projects from which to build a series.
- Migration QLD will build itinerary with local intel, source investors and promote to network.

- RDATN will lead and work in collaboration with TIQ Cairns Branch – Ryan Beers, Trade Adviser, TradeStart and Principal Trade and Investment Officer, Northern Regional Network, TIQ Brisbane - Greg McKean, Manager, Migration Queensland and Ralph Breaden, TIQ International Investment Attraction Team.

Lakeland Irrigation Area Scheme

- RDATN in final stages of Detailed Business Case Study.
- Currently with State Government for review.
- Project Principle currently working through revisions based on feedback from State Government.
- RDATN gathering letters of support from key stakeholders in support of project.
- Continuing to work closely with Cook Shire Council and Western Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation to assist in steps post - DBC.
- Public release scheduled for no later than June 2023.

Economy.id State of Regions Report and Economy.id training – Paula Power, FNQROC

- Katrina Houghton from Economy.id will be presenting on the State of the Regions (SOR) dataset and will be providing training on the 'Economic Impact Model' and the 'Event Impact Calculation' tools. The group decided the meeting would be set for **Thursday 11 May** when Ms Houghton would be in Cairns.
- Ms Houghton has also been in contact with all Councils and has offered to do presentations on SOR to Councillors and staff.

Cairns Regional Council – Abbey Buckham and Amy Mail

- **Smart Green Economy** – The Cairns Smart Green Economy project is a multi-stage strategic planning and feasibility study designed to position Cairns and the Far North Queensland (FNQ) as a leader in the Smart Green Economy in Australia. The project had financial co-contributors including DSDILGP, FNQROC, WTMA, JCU, CQU and Terrain NRM. Council and a Project Reference Group worked with consultants EY, Stages 1-3 have been complete identifying three main clusters (Net Zero Energy Systems, Circular Economy Activation, Biodiversity and Carbon Markets). Next steps Council will be undertaking stakeholder engagement before commencing Stages 4-5 which will be an independent review, feasibility assessment and implementation plan.
- **Investment Attraction** – engaged Futurum Partners for the provision of independent expert advice to inform Council's approach to investment attraction. Director of Futurum Partners, Steven Silvester has been meeting with a wide range of stakeholders from various industries to provide insights.
- **Industry Profiles** – engaged Economy.id to prepare a set of industry profiles for each of the eight priority sectors outlined in our Economic Development Strategy (Aviation, Marine and Defence, Healthcare and Social Assistance, Tourism, Construction, Manufacturing, Education and Training, Arts and Culture). These industry overviews will be made available on Council's website and updated each year of our strategy (2022 – 2026).

Department of Employment, Small Business and Training – Cindy Perry

- [Small Business Strategy Survey](#) To inform development of a new small business strategy– **Currently open until 24 February**
- [Social Enterprise Growth Grants](#) RD 2 22-23 Open 1 March 2023
- [Skilling Queenslanders For Work](#) RD 1 23-24 Currently open, closing 30 March 2023- **Open to applications from Local Councils and Community Based Organisations**

Information Sessions were held on:

- [Tuesday, 21 February 2023](#)
- [Thursday, 23 February 2023](#)
- Deadly Business 2022 – FNQ Indigenous Business. Please contact contractor Gr8motive Melissa Drahm on 0492 191 711 M.Drahm@gr8motive.org.au

Department of Premier and Cabinet – Sarah Palmer

- Planning is underway for the next round of Regional Community Forums for 2023, with the first Forum to be held on 20 March.
- Regional sitting of Parliament will be held in Cairns from 9-11 May at the Cairns Convention Centre.

Department of State Development, Local Government, Infrastructure and Planning – Annette Tranter

- The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning's Far North Regional Office has its main focus on progressing the Cairns Marine Precinct Common User Facility. Preconstruction reports and testing are currently being carried out as well as planning for the future operation and management of the common user facilities.
- Officers are working with some small, remote councils on undertaking community consultation and developing economic strategies. This is in line with the North West Minerals Province strategy.
- Other areas of activity include recycling and resource recovery, aviation, marine and industry development.
- The Industry Partnership Program grants have been very popular in the Far North region with several applications progressing to detailed applications. The fund is temporarily closed to new applications but may reopen later in the year.

Douglas Shire Council – Emma Tunnock

Local Buy FNQ Regional Procurement Summit

- Inaugural event to be hosted in Port Douglas
- Specialised agenda for local gov in FNQ
- Who should attend: CEOs, CFOs, Senior Finance Officers, CPOs & other Procurement Personnel
- [Regional Procurement Summits - Local Buy \(localbuyactive.com.au\)](https://localbuyactive.com.au)

Agriculture Opportunities and Options for Douglas Shire

- Celebrating progress at the Daintree Bio Precinct
- Engagement with local growers to understand opportunities and challenges for advocacy and support opportunities
- Complimentary cropping and relevant progress achieved – case study
- Stakeholders: DAF, Mossman Ag, Local Cane Farmers, Daintree Bio Precinct

Continue to promote and activate Do It In Douglas

- Platform to celebrate and support small business, and promote the region to attract talent and investment
- Next event in May – Do It In Douglas, The Sustainability Story

Mareeba Shire Council – Jessica Fealy

- Launched the Mareeba Shire Local Tourism Organisation – a collaboration between the Mareeba Chamber of Commerce, Mareeba Shire Council, Kuranda Traders Association and the Mareeba Heritage Museum and Visitor Information Centre.
- Airport in Mareeba is out for Expression of Interest – long term lease and management.

5 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday **11 May 2023 at 1pm** Cairns Regional Council, Civic Reception, Ground Floor. The meeting will include Economy.id presentation on State of the Regions dataset and specialised training.

D Irvine thanked everyone for their contributions. The meeting Closed at 12.30pm.

Actions from today's meeting – 10 February 2023

#	ACTION	PERSON
3.1	Sarah Palmer to follow-up hosting an event to launch the Indigenous Tourism Plan when Parliament sits in Cairns in May 2023.	Sarah Palmer Dept of Premier and Cabinet