

**DATE**            **Tuesday, 4 April 2023**

**TO:**             **Cr Peter Scott, Mayor – Cook Shire Council**

**SUBJECT**       **LGAQ Policy Executive Update for the Far North Queensland Regional**  
                         **Organisation of Councils – Thursday 6 April 2023**

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- 1.     *Policy Executive Meeting Update***
- 2.     *The LGAQ Advocacy Action Plan (AAP)***
- 3.     *Federal and State Budget Submissions***
- 4.     *Youth Crime***
- 5.     *First Nations Voice Project***
- 6.     *Regional Connectivity Program (RCP)***
- 7.     *Energy Transformation of Queensland - Queensland's Energy and Jobs Plan***
- 8.     *Renewable Projects - Webinar – Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner***
- 9.     *State Government responds to OIA Parliamentary Inquiry***
- 10.    *Housing Update***
- 11.    *Rural and Remote Councils Compact***
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- 14.    *2022 Community Attitudes Survey***
- 15.    *Crime and Corruption Commission report: Examination of influencing practices in the public sector***
- 16.    *Natural Resources and Environment Update***
- 17.    *Waste Update***
- 18.    *Water and Wastewater Update***
- 19.    *Planning & Development Update***
- 20.    *Animal Management – Targeted review of the Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008***
- 21.    *Works for Queensland: #BackTo100Mill***
- 22.    *LGAQ Submissions Update***

## **1. Policy Executive Meeting Update**

- The first Policy Executive (PE) meeting for 2023 was held on 17 February 2023.
- Items discussed by the PE at this meeting included:
  - Approval of the 2023 LGAQ Advocacy Action Plan.
  - An overview of 2023/24 Federal and State Budget submissions, which have been lodged.
  - A briefing from Director-General Paul Martyn on the Energy and Jobs Plan
  - An update on the Housing campaign ahead of the next State Housing Roundtable in March.
  - An update on the Olympics Survey, ensuring economic opportunities flow to all of Queensland.
  - An overview of the January road safety roundtable.
- Minutes from the February 2023 PE meeting have been posted on Congruent, available [here](#).
- The next Policy Executive Meeting will be held on 21 April 2023.

*LGAQ Contact for this matter: Sarah Vogler – Acting Head of Advocacy*

## **2. The LGAQ Advocacy Action Plan (AAP)**

- The 2023 AAP was sent in printed form to each council in early March.
- In response to member feedback, the AAP will also come in an interactive, clickable digital version, with members able to click through on each resolution to see the latest updates on Congruent.
- This year, the AAP has been created from all 130 of the 2022 Annual Conference motions proposed by, voted on and endorsed by Queensland's 77 councils on those things that help create liveable communities so that members can track progress of the resolutions as the year progresses.
- Members can use the AAP to build awareness and understanding of the wide-ranging scope of advocacy efforts, and to help support the independent advocacy of member councils, or regions, on issues of importance to their communities.
- To drive the outcomes that will create the liveable communities Queenslanders deserve, the LGAQ will also produce biannual report cards, assessing the responses from the Federal and State governments against the requests made by the LGAQ.
- The LGAQ looks forward to member feedback on the new AAP format and please let us know if yours have yet to arrive.

*LGAQ Contact for this matter: Nicole Lessio, Lead – Intergovernmental Relations*

## **3. Federal and State Budget Submissions**

- The LGAQ has made submissions to the Federal and State governments ahead of their Budget process to ensure that members have liveable communities
- Federally, the LGAQ's focus is on increases to FA Grants, making the LRCIP permanent, First Nations housing, Regional University Centres, marine and water infrastructure, disaster mitigation and recovery, early flood warning network, protecting the Great Barrier Reef and biosecurity.
- The State submission is focused on critical funding requests such as Works for Queensland, TIDS, increasing State Government Financial Aid, funding for housing and infrastructure, and other vital projects that make Queensland communities liveable.
- Both submissions are informed solely by member feedback, primarily from Annual Conference resolutions.
- Each individual budget request is also informed by independent modelling that supports the economic benefits of supporting the ask, including jobs created or supported and the economic output generated for the Federal or State economy.
- Having both submissions lodged enables time for advocacy with the respective Federal and State Governments.

- Federally, the LGAQ undertook a delegation to Canberra on 20-21 March 2023 to discuss budget requests with Ministers, Advisers and Departmental officials.
- In relation to the State Government, which hands down their budget in June, the LGAQ has several meeting requests with Ministers and Directors-General about budget requests in their respective portfolios and will raise the submission at the next quarterly meeting with the Deputy Premier, Hon. Steven Miles MP. This is in addition to the ministerial meetings which have already taken place.

*LGAQ Contacts for this matter: Nicole Lessio, Lead – Intergovernmental Relations and Nathan Ruhle, Acting Intergovernmental Relations Manager*

#### **4. Youth Crime**

- As the closest level of government to the community, Queensland local governments are acutely aware of the impact of crime, in this case youth crime, on the victims, business owners and local communities right across the State.
- At last year's Annual Conference, delegates endorsed four resolutions that related to youth crime and crime issues impacting local communities.
- The State Government recently introduced new legislation to respond to growing community concerns about the impact of youth crime – the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023.
- The LGAQ provided a [submission](#) on the Bill, detailing member's resolutions as potential solutions to this issue.
- In the submission, we encouraged the Parliamentary Committee reviewing the legislation to hear from a panel of local government leaders about the impact of youth crime in their community and to address opportunities outlined in the Bill to keep the community safe, strengthen existing laws and respond to the impact of serious repeat offenders. This suggestion was acknowledged, with a range of mayors providing evidence about the impact of youth crime on their local communities.
- In addition to the legislation, the State Government are keen to partner with local governments on place-based preventative or diversionary programs that address the underlying causes of youth crime. If that is of interest, please let me know.
- The new legislation was debated and passed in the Parliament in the sitting week of 14 – 16 March 2023.
- The Minister has suggested that councils contact their local Superintendent to connect in with the Community-Based Crime Action Committee (CBCAC) in their area should they wish to have input into these committees.

*LGAQ Contact for this matter: Nathan Ruhle, Acting Intergovernmental Relations Manager*

#### **5. First Nations Voice Project**

- At the LGAQ's Annual Conference 2022, councils resolved to acknowledge the Uluru Statement from the Heart, an Indigenous Voice to Parliament and the Makarrata Commission (Resolution 29).
- To progress the motion, the LGAQ has engaged a 0.3 FTE Project Manager (Megan Forrest) to deliver the First Nations Voice (FNV) Project between January – August 2023.
- The project will be delivered across five key phases as outlined below:
  - Phase 1 | Desktop Review (Completed February)
  - Phase 2 | Stakeholder Consultation (In Progress)
  - Phase 3 | Resource Collation and Development
  - Phase 4 | Implementation (*roll-out of resources*)
  - Phase 5 | Review and Next Steps
- An integral starting point for delivering on Resolution 29 and further project outcomes is to publish an official LGAQ Statement supporting and endorsing the Uluru Statement from the Heart. The

intention being that this statement would be published on the LGAQ public-facing website as well as our member portal Congruent.

- The following items are being developed for review and approval of the Policy Executive in April:
  - LGAQ Statement of Endorsement
  - PE Paper with results from Desktop Review and Council Consultation
  - Proposed content for the LGAQ public facing campaign webpage

*LGAQ Contacts for this matter: Megan Forrest – Project Manager, First Nations Voice Project and Simon Booth – Lead, Infrastructure, Policy and Regional Communities*

## **6. Regional Connectivity Program (RCP)**

- The Federal Government announced two future rounds of the RCP in the most recent Budget.
- The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts has just released the latest funding rounds.
- The \$50 million Mobile Black Spot (Round 7) stream will provide grant funding to Mobile Network Operators and infrastructure providers to deliver new handheld mobile coverage to rural, regional and remote locations across Australia.
- The \$100 million Regional Connectivity (Round 3) stream will provide grant funding to projects that provide place-based new or improved broadband services and/or improved mobile services in eligible locations across Australia.
- Both streams include dedicated funding for solutions to improve telecommunications infrastructure in First Nations communities. \$22.5 million is identified in this round to support solutions that contribute towards achieving Target 17 of the Closing the Gap initiative, which aims to ensure First Nations people have equal levels of digital inclusion by 2026.
- Applications for both programs close on 31 May 2023, with information available [here](#).
- The program is open to all regional councils, and councils can begin the process of planning and making connections with service providers now.
- Previous rounds of funding and the projects that have been successful can be found [here](#) on the Department's web page.
- The LGAQ is co-hosting regional workshops with NBN Co with the next one to be held on April 13 in Richmond (Richmond Shire Council hosting)
- If councils are unable to make the workshop, sessions will be recorded for inclusion on the members online portal, Congruent.

*LGAQ Contact for this matter: Simon Booth – Lead, Infrastructure, Policy and Regional Communities*

## **7. Energy Transformation of Queensland - Queensland's Energy and Jobs Plan**

- The Queensland Government is seeking input from councils to inform the energy transformation and ensure it can deliver real and lasting benefits to Queensland regions.
- Regional consultation on the draft Partnerships Framework have started and a consultation is scheduled for Cairns on **Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of May** and this is a good opportunity to shape and tailor the framework for your local community.
- If you wish to contribute to the LGAQ submission, please go to the [Have your say - How the energy transformation will occur in your region](#) page on Congruent
- More details on community consultations can be found [here](#).

*LGAQ Contact for this matter: Paul Cranch, Manager - Infrastructure and Economic Development Policy*

## **8. Renewable Projects - Webinar – Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner**

- A webinar on Renewable Projects is being held on **15<sup>th</sup> of May from 10:00am – 11:00am**

- As communities across Queensland materially progress through the renewable energy transitions it is important for Local Government leaders to have the opportunity to hear how councils are playing a role in the four phases of project development:
  - Site selection
  - Project development activities (pre and post permit approval), e.g. CCC, approval authority, local enforceable standards
  - Project construction (community impacts, compliance, complaint handling, road impacts and traffic management, accommodation, other issues)
  - Project operations (permit compliance, handling/resolving complaints, community fund governance, rates, levies)
- This will be a good opportunity to hear from the commissioner to understand the challenges and opportunities in your regions as and before they happen.

*LGAQ Contact for this matter: Paul Cranch, Manager - Infrastructure and Economic Development Policy*

## **9. State Government responds to OIA Parliamentary Inquiry**

- In mid-January, the State Government released its response to the final report of the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Office of the Independent Assessor. A copy of the response is available [here](#).
- The LGAQ continues its strong engagement with the State Government on the implementation of key reforms needed to make the current councillor complaints system more workable, consistent and balanced.
- The LGAQ is determined to ensure that recommendations are implemented quickly, which will include legislation before the Parliament, and that in doing so none of the recommendations are watered down.
- A detailed overview of key asks and recommendations can be found [here](#).

*LGAQ Contacts for this matter: Sarah Vogler, Acting Head of Advocacy or Nathan Ruhle, Acting Intergovernmental Relations Manager*

## **10. Housing Update**

- The LGAQ is continuing its housing advocacy on behalf of Queensland councils, most recently:
  - attending the second Queensland Housing Roundtable on 28 March 2023, with Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner, Western Downs Regional Council Mayor Paul McVeigh, Kowanyama Mayor and TCICA Chair, Mayor Robbie Sands and WQAC Executive Officer Greg Hoffman, as well as representatives from across Government, industry, and peak bodies.
  - meeting with the Hon. Julie Collins MP on a range of housing related matters as part of the LGAQ delegation to Canberra in March 2023.
  - including a range of housing related funding asks, aligned with previous LGAQ Annual Conference resolutions, in the LGAQ 2023-24 Budget submissions lodged with State and Federal governments, and providing input to the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) federal budget submission.
  - meeting with the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation through ALGA.
  - continuing to engage with various State agencies on a range of housing related matters and actions cited in the [Queensland Housing Summit Outcomes Report \(November 2022\)](#).
- At a national level, a package of legislation was introduced into Federal Parliament on 9 February 2023, including the following, all currently before the Senate:
  - [Housing Australia Future Fund Bill 2023](#), to create the \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund,
  - [National Housing Supply and Affordability Council Bill 2023](#), to establish the National Housing Supply and Affordability Council as an independent statutory advisory body (currently only an [interim Council](#) has been established), and

- [\*Treasury Laws Amendment \(Housing Measures No. 1\) Bill 2023\*](#), to change the name of the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation to Housing Australia and streamline its functions, also extending the Commonwealth guarantee of bonds issued under the Affordable Housing Bond Aggregator from 30 June 2023 to 30 June 2028 to provide certainty to the community housing sector and investors.
- The State Government is also continuing to announce a range of housing support and supply measures, with a full list available on Congruent and some key recent announcements summarised below:
  - a new Expression of Interest (EOI) process has been opened and [announced](#) by the Queensland Treasurer for the \$2 billion Housing Investment Fund, with EOIs due to close on 8 May 2023.
  - a range of social and affordable housing projects announced including new housing in [Southport](#), [Windsor](#), [Cairns](#) and the commencement of construction on the 500<sup>th</sup> community housing dwelling since July 2021 in [Kingaroy](#).
  - AHURI (the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute) has been [engaged](#) by the State Government to develop a robust model to predict future supply and demand for housing across the housing spectrum (including social housing, emergency accommodation and private housing market).
  - An additional \$28 million to continue the Immediate Housing Response Package for another year, a further \$3.9 million to extend and expand food and emergency relief throughout Queensland in 2023-24 and limiting rent increases to once a year [announced](#) on 28 March.
  - Land tax concessions [announced](#) for Build to Rent projects including a 50% discount on land tax payable for up to 20 years for Build-to-Rent projects with at least 10% of rental homes as affordable housing
  - Funding of \$600,000 to partner with LGAQ and 38 councils to develop Local Housing Action Plans (LHAP) under the *Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025* – which aligns with and delivers on part of the LGAQ 2022 Annual Conference 'Resolution #32: Funding support for regional and local housing plans' and follows the success of Gympie Regional Council in delivering the first LHAP in 2022 and the work of the 22 councils that are part of the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils.
- The LGAQ is preparing a detailed housing briefing for the LGAQ Policy Executive at its upcoming meeting in April 2023, including further details regarding the LHAP project and other housing announcements, as well as an update on the LGAQ's housing campaign and release of a new updated Local Government Housing Strategy, that consolidates councils' calls for action across two successive Annual Conferences, the 2022 Queensland Housing Summit and the two roundtables held to date.
- If you have any feedback to provide the LGAQ in relation to housing challenges and/or opportunities in your region or questions in relation to LGAQ's housing advocacy, please email [housing@lgaq.asn.au](mailto:housing@lgaq.asn.au).

*LGAQ Contact for this matter: Crystal Baker, Lead - Planning & Development and Climate Risk & Resilience*

## **11. Rural and Remote Councils Compact**

- The most recent meeting of the Policy and Legislation Committee which underpins the work of the Rural and Remote Councils Compact occurred on **16 February 2023**, with the meeting communique to be finalised and released very soon.
- Compact members discussed important updates on the three strategic priorities of roads, housing and financial sustainability.

- A lengthy workshop was held with Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water Director-General Graham Fraine to discuss rural economic development policy settings and attracting investment into rural and remote parts of Queensland, with the specific focus on water.
- This followed previous discussions about identifying ways in which the State Government can support and empower councils as the drivers of regional economic development.
- The meeting also provided an opportunity for Compact Guardians to personally update the Deputy Premier and Minister for Local Government, Hon. Steven Miles MP, who dropped into the meeting, on the issues being discussed and potential solutions to enhance the liveability of rural and remote communities.

*LGAQ Contact for this matter: Nathan Ruhle, Acting Intergovernmental Relations Manager*

## **12. Olympics Survey**

- In response to a motion endorsed by members at the 2021 LGAQ Annual Conference resolving to ensure all Queenslanders benefit from the Games, the LGAQ surveyed councils in late 2022 seeking members' views on the Brisbane Olympics and Paralympics in 2032.
- The survey was [released to members](#) March 17<sup>th</sup> and revealed what councils believed were the major challenges and opportunities for their communities.
- The [On Your Marks: Queensland local government and the road to 2032](#) report found that 91 percent of members surveyed believe hosting the event will bring the potential for new trade and investment opportunities, 57 percent believe it can achieve a legacy in their communities and 26 percent are hopeful of infrastructure and tourism promotion.
- It made seven recommendations to help drive state-wide benefits, including developing Regional Olympic Plans to support tourism, investment attraction and local business opportunities, that are tailored to local communities right across the state.
- The LGAQ has formally sent the report to key government stakeholders (including the Premier, Deputy Premier, Tourism Minister and Director General and Deputy Director General) and has a State and Federal engagement program planned in support of its recommendations.

*LGAQ Contacts for this matter: Lucy Greene, Lead Intergovernmental Relations and Samantha Dean, Campaign Planner*

## **13. Local government electoral expenditure caps**

- On 1 December 2022, the State Government introduced legislation into the Parliament that will establish local government electoral expenditure caps, to be in place ahead of the 2024 quadrennial local government elections.
- These changes are the result of significant consultation, including two discussion papers, a previous Parliamentary Inquiry, and a special meeting convened by the LGAQ in 2019.
- The expenditure cap scheme being proposed for local government elections is similar to the laws that are already in place for Queensland state elections.
- While the overall policy framework settings adopted in the Bill are sound and have been developed as a result of significant consultation, this is a new scheme and mitigating against loopholes can be challenging, which is why safeguards are important.
- While not subject to the current Bill, there was previously a proposal to change the voting system for local government elections to introduce compulsory preferential voting and/or proportional representation. This was first mooted in the 2019 discussion paper, but subsequently ruled out. The LGAQ submission includes restating the firm view that our members are strongly opposed to the introduction of compulsory preferential voting for local government elections, as the LGAQ firmly outlined in 2019 following the passing of a member resolution and our sector-wide campaign on the

issue. Queensland councils strongly restated their opposition to any changes, unanimously endorsing a resolution at the 2022 Annual Conference in Cairns, stating:

*“The LGAQ calls on the State Government to retain the current voting system for local government elections, respecting the views of Queenslanders, Queensland councils and the recommendations of the State-commissioned report into local government elections.”*

- The LGAQ appeared at a public hearing on 31 January, in support of our submission, which is available [here](#).
- A final report was provided to the Parliament on **24 February 2023**, with the Bill expected to be considered by the Parliament in the coming weeks. Once the legislation is passed, the cap scheme will apply from August 2023.

*LGAQ Contact for this matter: Nathan Ruhle, Lead – Acting Intergovernmental Relations Manager*

#### **14. 2022 Community Attitudes Survey**

- The LGAQ commenced work last year in preparation for its upcoming campaign positively promoting the role of local government in creating liveable Queensland communities.
- As in previous years, the LGAQ commissioned an updated set of community sentiment research to set a baseline of the community attitudes and perceptions Queenslanders hold toward their local councils – to ensure the campaign is evidence-based and measurable.
- The final report was delivered in November 2022, and showed priority issues for Queenslanders were well maintained footpaths, green spaces, and provision of waste and water services.
- As in previous years of the survey, local government was viewed by Queenslanders as the most trusted level of government – closer to the people, and most approachable.
- For the first time, the survey featured questions asking Queenslanders what a ‘liveable’ community means to them. Three out of four Queenslanders rated the liveability of their local area as ‘good’ or ‘excellent’.
- Research highlights can be viewed by members on [Congruent](#).

*LGAQ Contact for this matter: Samantha Dean, Campaign Planner*

#### **15. Crime and Corruption Commission report: Examination of influencing practices in the public sector**

- On 30 January 2023, the CCC released a publication summarising insight from its examination of influencing practices in Queensland’s public sector. A copy of the report is available [here](#).
- The report made reform recommendations relevant to local governments, including:

*Local government councillors make public information about their meetings with the private sector, including details of the purpose or reason for the contact and who was present at the meeting.*

- Disappointingly, the report failed to mention that councillors are already subject to strict disclosure rules, so the extra step is completely unnecessary and would only serve to further isolate councillors from the communities they represent.
- In response to the report, the LGAQ raised our opposition publicly through the media and have had direct conversations with the State Government.
- We have also expressed our disappointment with the CCC and requested further information on how they arrived at the recommendations.
- We are extremely disappointed the CCC made these recommendations without consultation.
- Thankfully, the Premier has publicly responded to the report saying that the recommendations are ‘unworkable’.

*LGAQ Contacts for this matter: Sarah Vogler, Acting Head of Advocacy and Nathan Ruhle, Acting Intergovernmental Relations Manager*

## **16. Natural Resources and Environment Update**

### 2023 LGAQ Natural Resource Management (NRM) Forums

- The LGAQ is running a series of NRM Forums across Queensland between March and May this year, providing an opportunity for local government NRM managers and officers to showcase local work, hear from a range of presenters about innovative delivery of NRM projects, and network with other councils and stakeholders.
- Interested elected members and senior executives are also welcome to attend.
- In May, Cook Shire Council is hosting the Cooktown NRM Forum on Thursday 11 May and Croydon Shire Council is hosting the Croydon NRM Forum on Tuesday 16 May (rescheduled from March due to weather). Both councils have arranged for site visits, field trips, and networking activities for attendees.
- [Registrations](#) are now open and programs will be published on Congruent [here](#) in early April.

*LGAQ Contact for this matter: Jacqui Hurwood, Policy Officer (Environment and Building)*

### Stock Route Advocacy Update

- The *Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill* (Qld) was tabled at Parliament Wednesday, 22 February 2023 and passed. In general, the Bill proposed:
  - 100% of revenue collected on the stock route to return to councils;
  - An option for councils to charge an application fee, which they can waive for hardship (i.e. drought);
  - Less red tape for councils around stock route planning.
- Fee increases will be applicable once the Regulation is finalised.

### 1080 – Provisions to allow for increased landholder involvement

- Queensland Health has allowed for 2 x provisions under the current 1080 framework to allow for increased landholder involvement in delivering 1080 baiting campaigns:
  - The first allowance is for landholders to be trained and supervised by a local government authorised person to assist injecting meat baits during a local government run baiting event. The training provided by the local government authorised person is informal and does not allow the landholder to use (and store) local government 1080 inventory without being under the direct supervision of the local government authorised person (i.e. the landholder can't conduct a 1080 baiting even by themselves using local government 1080 inventory).
  - The second allowance is for a landholder, who holds the relevant competencies (through a third party training provider), to be listed as an authorised person under a local government's entity approval through their 'Substance Management Plan' (SMP) (same as how local government officers will be listed) (the SMP is mandatory for a local government to receive an entity approval (it is essentially a risk based document to reduce the likelihood of 1080 incidents)). In this instance, a landholder, who is listed as an authorised person under a local government's SMP, can store and use local government 1080 concentrate and deliver 1080 local government-led baiting events independent of a council officer's supervision, however in compliance with the SMP.
- Queensland Health is developing a 1080 fact sheet to assist local government in understanding the new amendments to the 1080 framework.

### Draft Policy on Fish Aggregating Devices and Artificial Reefs

- The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has prepared a *Draft Policy on Fish Aggregating Devices and Artificial Reefs* to provide clarity on its policy position regarding fish aggregating devices (FADs) and artificial reefs in the Commonwealth Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

- Please provide feedback directly to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority by 12 April 2023. The Draft Policy and feedback link are available on Congruent [here](#).

#### Updated Fish Habitat Area maps

- The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries are in the process of finalising updated Fish Habitat Area (FHA) maps under the *Fisheries Act 1994*. The updated map incorporates more recent datasets and refines areas identified as FHA.
- Before finalisation, the Department will liaise with local governments through Regional Road Transport Groups to ensure that the maps are fit for purpose.

#### State-wide Oversight Group – Terms of Reference Review

- The Statewide Oversight Group (SOG) was developed in 2015 by Biosecurity Queensland in response to, among other things, local governments' concerns on:
  - The ability for regions to provide advice on regional invasive species management priorities; and
  - The ability to provide input into projects funded through the Land Protection Fund.
- At a February 2022 SOG meeting, the LGAQ identified concerns that the SOG was not operating in accordance with the Terms of Reference, specifically, that Regional Pest Management Sub-committees were not involved in the selection of funded priorities through the Land Protection Fund's *On-ground component* delivered by Biosecurity Queensland.
- To manage these concerns, Biosecurity Queensland has committed to undertake a review of the SOG Terms of Reference, allowing local governments the opportunity to provide input on the future of the SOG and its activities.
- To assist in the review, the LGAQ will coordinate the Terms of Reference review across Queensland's Regional Pest Management Sub-committees over the coming months.

*LGAQ Contact for these matters: Joshua Dyke, Lead – Environment and Natural Resources*

#### Cleaner Road Runoff Project

- The Cleaner Road Runoff project continues to progress in the delivery of Stage 2b – Pilot Projects (Wet Season 2) with the five participating councils collecting runoff samples from their study sites.
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council is participating in the study, with a study site established at Granadilla Road, El Arish. The LGAQ team would like to recognise the significant in-kind contributions the council has contributed to date for the project.
- As of 31 December, there had been **19 significant rainfall events** (a rainfall event that generated enough runoff flow in drains to collect a sample) with a total of **13 runoff samples** being collected. The next updated results will be available June 2023.
- Preliminary results from the study are showing large volumes of fine sediment are being generated from unsealed roads. The **Average Total Suspended Sediment (TSS) was 7,358mg/L** with a median of 6,709mg/L. This is aligned with findings from a previous North Queensland Dry Tropics study.

*LGAQ Contact for this matter: Megan Forrest, Project Manager – Cleaner Road Runoff Project*

## **17. Waste Update**

#### Regional Waste Management Plans

- Work is continuing across Queensland to progress regional plans at a regional/ROC level, with in total 9 regional plans being finalised within this financial year.
- The LGAQ is working closely with the Department of Environment and Science to ensure the regional plans currently in development are supported by the state government appropriately for implementation of identified actions.

- The LGAQ will work with councils upon completion of the plans to advocate for appropriate funding to achieve sustainable waste management solutions for all communities.

#### E-waste action plan/National e-stewardship

- Both the Department of Environment and Science and the federal Department of Climate Change, the Environment, Energy and Water are currently progressing work to develop e-product stewardship for a range of e-products, in excess of the currently eligible products under the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme.
- The Department of Environment and Science has recently released the e-products action plan which proposes a range of progressive action both on the state and national level. The LGAQ will prepare a submission on this and invites comments from any council by COB 7<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Please find more information on our member page [Congruent](#).
- The federal e-stewardship process is less evolved and is currently consulting on four individual discussion papers, which address the different elements of a successful product stewardship scheme:
  - Product scope – which products should be included.
  - Collection mechanisms – how can e-waste be economically collected from all communities.
  - Targets and obligations – which targets should be given to scheme administrators.
  - Administrative structure
- The LGAQ has provided feedback on the first three papers and will provide further feedback on the final one. Once these high-level comments are included, DCCEEW will start a full public consultation process, which the LGAQ will provide a whole-of-sector response to. Please look out for the consultation request for this one.

*LGAQ Contact for this matter: Rudi Pretzler, Lead – Public Health and Waste*

## **18. Water and Wastewater Update**

#### QWRAP Project Update

- The QWRAP Annual Report 2021 to 2022 has been endorsed by the PSC (Partner Steering Committee) and has been published on the qldwater website and [Congruent](#). The annual report has been well received and communicates the progress of QWRAP over the last 12 months.
- The partner steering committee (PSC) has agreed to prioritise State-wide research on identified workforce issues and has committed \$127,000 for this purpose. The QWRAP working group is currently scoping the research and will discuss further steps with local QWRAP groups in the coming months.
- The current focus of FNQ QWRAP remains on a project with QTC looking at skills gaps, service delivery issues, aging workforce and to become more proactive in the planning process and harness the collaborative intent of the group. This project has progressed to the next stage for FNQROC Board endorsement of selected initiatives and key findings via an options analysis.
- Simmonds and Bristow have been successful with their tender submission for the QWRAP Water Industry Worker Program. This program will fund Certificate 3 and 4 in Water Industry Operations. The program is open to trade and non-trade employees in the council water sector. Expressions of interest, factsheets and FAQs have been sent to regional councils. Please reach out to Jennifer Hartwig for more information.

*LGAQ Contact: Jennifer Hartwig, Program Manager – Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program*

#### Cross Government Urban Water Committee Established

- A Cross Government Urban Water Committee (CGUWC) has been established to provide water sector representatives the opportunity to discuss, inform and collaborate on local government water and sewerage service-related issues, priorities, and projects.
- The Cross Government Urban Water Committee (CGUWC) is not a decision-making committee.

- Membership consists of representatives from Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP), Department of Environment and Science (DES), Queensland Treasury (QT), Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT), Queensland Health (QH) and the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (RDMW) who also chair the Committee.
- LGAQ have been invited to participate as Water Sector Representatives for local government as key service providers in Queensland, along with Queensland Water Directorate (qldwater) and Engineers Australia.
- LGAQ's CEO, Alison Smith and relevant officers attended their first meeting of the CGUWC on Friday 10 March 2023.

#### Urban Water Management Target Project

- LGAQ have been invited to participate as a key stakeholder in the Urban Water Management Target Project by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) as part of the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan updating process.
- While the driver for new urban water management targets as part of this project is addressing the shortcomings of the existing *Reef 2050 WQIP (Water Quality Improvement Plan) non-agricultural land management target* in Reef catchments, other potential benefits across the sector include:
  - Stimulating buy in from urban water managers to strive for improvement through having targets that are sector-specific, consensus-based and realistically achievable.
  - Creating a rationale for targeted investment in support programs and management tools development aimed at improving urban water management.
  - Creating a rationale for policy review aimed at removing any identified barriers to improving management practice change under existing policies (State and local government).
- While targets will incorporate management practices linked to compliance and enforcement, achieving the proposed new targets is not an enforceable action. Management practice improvement to help achieve the proposed targets will remain a voluntary, stewardship action.
- The first workshop was held on 7 March 2023.

*LGAQ Contact for this matter: Josephine Raftery, Lead - Water and Wastewater Infrastructure*

## **19. Planning & Development Update**

- The Queensland Government has [released](#) three consultation papers, containing a range of proposed changes to the *Planning Act 2016* and the *Planning and Environment Court Act 2016*, with consequential changes also proposed to:
  - the *Economic Development Act 2012*
  - the *Sanctuary Cove Resort Act 1985*, and
  - the *Integrated Resort Development Act 1987*.
- The proposed changes relate to the following three areas:
  - proposed operational changes outlined in the [Improving Queensland's planning framework – proposed amendments consultation paper](#).
  - proposed changes to the operation of Development Control Plans is provided in the [Supporting and improving the operation of Development Control Plans consultation paper](#).
  - proposed changes to the urban encroachment provisions is provided in the [Supporting regional and State significant businesses through the urban encroachment provisions in the planning framework consultation paper](#).
- The closing date for submissions to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning is **COB Friday 5 May 2023**.

- The LGAQ will be making a submission and encourages council feedback to be sent to Crystal Baker, Lead for Planning and Development ([crystal\\_baker@lgaq.asn.au](mailto:crystal_baker@lgaq.asn.au)) by **COB Wednesday 26 April 2023**.
- To assist in collating council feedback, the LGAQ will be hosting two virtual consultation sessions for councils to discuss comments on the proposed changes, at the following times. Register [here](#) to attend one of the consultation sessions via Microsoft Teams:
  - Thursday 20 April, 1:00 - 2:00pm
  - Wednesday 26 April, 2:00 - 3:00pm

*LGAQ Contact for this matter: Crystal Baker, Lead - Planning & Development and Climate Risk & Resilience*

## **20. Animal Management – Targeted review of the *Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008***

- Following a request by the LGAQ in late 2021, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries commenced a limited scope review of the *Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008*. The review is overseen by a Taskforce involving local government representatives, the State Government and relevant peak bodies.
- The Taskforce has convened three working groups to pinpoint specific regulatory changes and other solutions to issues identified by local government.
- DAF is expected to finalise their report on the process in the coming month, which will lead to a regulatory change request. The LGAQ has worked diligently with the department and participating member councils to include as many positive changes as possible.

*LGAQ Contact for this matter: Rudi Pretzler, Lead – Public Health and Waste*

## **21. Works for Queensland: #BackTo100Mill**

- The LGAQ is continuing in its advocacy to restore funding to the Works for Queensland program back to \$100 million a year and to secure funding certainty that it will continue to be funded at least at this level going forward.
- A request for an additional \$100 million to be allocated to the program was included in the LGAQ's submission to the Queensland Treasurer ahead of Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review in December 2022. This ask has also been included in the LGAQ's submission to the Treasurer ahead of the 2023/24 State Budget.
- The LGAQ recommenced its public facing 'Works for Queensland' campaign in June 2022. View the videos and case studies [here](#). To date, the campaign has generated over 200K impressions and 52K video plays across social media.

*LGAQ Contacts for this matter: Samantha Dean, Campaign Planner and Sarah Vogler, Acting Head of Advocacy*

## **22. LGAQ Submissions Update**

### Recent Submissions

- *Powering the Regions (3 February)*
- *State Budget Submission (10 February)*
- *Climate-related financial disclosure (17 February)*
- *NHVR Discussion Paper - Performance Based Standards 2.0 (17 February)*
- *Senate Select Committee on Australia's Disaster Resilience (20 February)*
- *Draft guidelines for Round 3 of the Regional Connectivity Program (24 February)*
- *Land Access and Coexistence: A review of coexistence principles and coexistence institutions (24 February)*

- *Improving Queensland's Land Release Process (24 February)*
- *An Enhanced Regulatory Framework for Mining Claims (24 February)*
- *National Environmental Management Plan for PFAS 3.0 (28 February)*
- *Inquiry into the implications of severe weather events on the national regional, rural, and remote road network (28 February)*
- *Inquiry into the Future Drought Fund (3 March)*
- *Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 (10 March)*
- *Cost of Living Senate Inquiry (10 March)*
- *Property Law Bill 2023 (10 March)*
- *Path to Treaty Bill 2023 (17 March)*
- *National Battery Strategy – Issues Paper (17 March)*
- *NHVR Discussion Paper - The application of telematics conditions for risk management and productivity enhancement (24 March)*
- *Battery Industry Opportunities for Queensland discussion paper (31 March)*

*Upcoming Submissions*

- *Australian Universities Accord Panel Discussion Paper Consultation (11 April)*
- *Draft Policy on Fish Aggregating Devices and Artificial Reefs (12 April)*
- *Proposed changes to the Planning Act 2016 and the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016 (5 May)*
- *Regional Energy Transformation Partnerships Framework (mid-2023)*