



# ADVOCACY REPORT

**FNQROC  
State Mayoral Delegation  
29 to 30 March 2023**

# ADVOCACY REPORT

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## DELEGATION MEMBERS

- Cr Michael Kerr, **FNQROC Chair & Mayor Douglas Shire Council**
- Cr Angela Toppin, **Deputy Chair & Mayor Mareeba Shire Council**
- Cr Bob Manning, Mayor **Cairns Regional Council**
- Cr Peter Scott, Mayor **Cook Shire Council**
- Cr Mark Nolan **Cassowary Coast Regional Council**
- Cr Trevor Pickering **Croydon Shire Council**
- Cr Barry Hughes **Etheridge Shire Council**
- Cr Jason Woibo **Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council**
- Cr Bradley Creek, Mayor **Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council**
- Cr Ross Andrews, Mayor
- Cr Hezron Murgha **Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council**
- Ms Darlene Irvine **FNQROC Executive Officer**

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## FNQ Regional Priorities

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

- ❖ [Develop Resilient Transport Infrastructure Connectivity](#)
- ❖ [Water Security](#)
- ❖ [Energy](#)
- ❖ [Respect and Manage Our Natural Assets](#)
- ❖ [Provide Equitable Communication Network](#)
- ❖ [Develop Equitable Social Infrastructure](#)

FNQROC State Priorities Briefing document can be accessed via the following FNQROC Website link:

- ❖ [FNQROC STATE PRIORITIES](#)

# ADVOCACY REPORT

## FNQROC PRIORITY PROJECTS – SNAPSHOT

OUR REGION	OUR COMMUNITY	OUR ECONOMY
12 Local Governments representing 15.5% of Qld Council The largest and fastest growing region in Northern Australia.	281,441 (ABS ERP 2021) 252,152km <sup>2</sup> of land area including 1235km of Eastern seaboard	\$16.74B GRP Tourism \$2491.9M (20/21) Exports (20/21) Agriculture - \$1.9M Mining - \$1.1M Manufacturing - \$1.48M

**CURRENT REGIONALLY IMPORTANT ISSUES TO US INCLUDE:**

-  Housing for our indigenous communities
-  Education facilities in Yarrabah
-  Social Housing
-  Roads
-  Health Services for Rural and remote areas
-  Waste
-  Bulk Water – Etheridge Agricultural Precinct and Lakeland Irrigation Area
-  Urban water and Sewer
-  Digital Connectivity



# ADVOCACY REPORT



## FNQROC hosted a dinner with FNQ Elected Members

### Attendees

- **Hon Curtis Pitt MP**, Member for Mulgrave
- **Hon Craig Crawford MP**, Member for Barron River
- **Mr Michael Healy MP**, Member for Cairns
- **Ms Cynthia Lui MP**, Member for Cook
- **Mr Shane Knuth MP**, Member for Hill
- **Mr Nick Dametto MP**, Member for Hinchinbrook
- **All Mayors**

FNQROC hosted a dinner with the FNQ Elected Members listed above to discuss FNQROC State Priorities:



**FNQROC Chair, Mayor Michael Kerr, Minister Craig Crawford**, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Member for Barron River, **Mayor Bradley Creek** and **Ms Cynthia Lui**, Member for Cook.



**On behalf of the Hon Mick de Brenni MP**, Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement and representatives from Department of Energy and Public Works.

### Attendees

- **Irene Violet**, Acting Director-General
- **Graham Atkins**, Deputy Director-General
- Public Works
- **Paul Hyde**, Assistant Director-General, Q Build
- **Gianni Sottile**, Senior Policy Advisor
- **Nick Heath**, Chief of Staff
- **All Mayors**

### Key Topics

Social housing in indigenous communities crucial, Yarrabah never part of NAPHRI.

Bush living/makeshift buildings.

There is opportunity for training and employment and leaving the skills in the community.

Housing is a big issue in Wujal and Hopevale and plays a big role in education etc.

Volumetric homes – climatically suited. Cairns location under negotiation looking to resolve in 3 – 4 months.

Engage with local communities for site works etc. Land identified for 56 of the 64 houses – government housing to release housing to the public.

Croydon school teacher accommodation - house is on the schedule.

Identified that councils need housing for staff. Will there be an opportunity to tap into this? Department is keen to have a chat.

# ADVOCACY REPORT

Energy and renewables (Nick Heath). Daintree how can we support these houses to become 240V ready. Mayor Kerr needs advice before meeting with investors next week.

Lakeland and opportunity for Hydro. The bigger your head to length ratio is, the more viable hydro will be.

Kidston and difficulties at a cost to Council.

Coordinated project but grassroots level has not been considered and having an impact on council ie. having to close roads over the wet season stopping construction. Would like more focus on the impact on council assets when considering coordinated projects. Making sure the infrastructure is compatible with the construction.

**Action: Mayor Hughes to provide information in writing. Regional energy transformation partnerships framework – currently out for consultation – will be the ‘manual’ for future.**

Croydon could reach to Ergon regarding solar energy opportunities.

Yarrabah microgrid project – Minister is keen to see how this could be progressed – could be May during regional sitting. Croydon – would like to lead the way as the smallest population shire – Q Fleet should be able to help with this.

Minister would like to expand the charging stations – looking at government buildings which could support this. The criteria is still being developed at the moment.



## Mr Tony Perrett MP

Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

## Ms Deborah Frecklington MP

Shadow Minister for Water and Construction of Dams,  
Shadow Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing

## Ms Ann Leahy MP

Shadow Minister for Local Government, Shadow Minister for Disaster Recovery, Shadow Minister for Volunteers

## Attendees

- All Mayors

## Key Topics

Blue cards in indigenous communities, should not be held back because of misdemeanor when they were young – communities know if they should have one or not.

Kuranda Range Road.

Mareeba Agriculture – availability of water is an issue. It is really holding back expansion.

Etheridge Agriculture Precinct – bringing all the red and green tape issues under one umbrella rather than addressing them individually. Looking for \$350,000 to progress this.

North West Mineral Province funding has been over allocated. Mr Perrett shares this frustration – it makes good sense to deal with these as a collective. Currently it is too difficult, and business just walks away.

Lakeland – will be looking for the full business case and detailed design. Every year we import \$100mil of table grapes from California. There is the opportunity to provide this from Lakeland.

Feral pigs – State and Federal governments have left it to the rate payer to fund an issue that is breeding in National Parks. Mr Perrett can make this commitment – they are very much focused on biosecurity of which feral pigs will play a big part. Closure of the quarantine and inspection facility in Coen is of big concern to Mr Perrett. Particularly with foot and mouth and lumpy skin on our doorstep.

Issues out west - Gravel pits off limits as they are now being considered a ‘wet area’. Example – 600 to 135 gravel pits and only able to take 5,000 tonne in Etheridge. Significantly driving up costs and community looking at us like we are idiots carting such distances. This then damages the roads further.

Discussion regarding the scope of urban water infrastructure needs in the region. Changing the regulatory goal posts is a big causal issue.

Housing and land lock issues in Hope Vale. Hope Vale has the data to show domestic violence spiked in 2011 and has maintained that spike. This was the year the royalties went to TO’s, council now left to deal with an issue the State created. Hope Vale should ask for a Priority Development Area over the area they are looking at.

Multipurpose coordinated training/evacuation centre in Georgetown.

# ADVOCACY REPORT



On behalf of Hon Leeanne Enoch MP, Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts. Representatives from Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy.

## Attendees

- Mr Felix Gibson, Chief of Staff
- Kirby Cook, Housing Advisor
- Mark Waugh, Community and Housing
- All Mayors

## Key Topics

Mayor Andrews and Mayor Creek – Trunk infrastructure and land constraints. Would be good for the Minister to visit while in region in May. People are moving out of communities putting a stress on surrounding areas.

Thank you for housing panel.

Public sector housing and councils would like to participate. Would like to use trustee land, could use this but are being hamstrung in trying to get them released.

Council has staff housing issues, would like to participate in public service housing build. The State tender allowed this option as part of their tender.

Croydon – land available where the state removed a house – could do a duplex. Mark confirmed it has been identified for a manufactured duplex. Mayor Hughes asked about the police residence in Georgetown. There has been a void in maintaining of State housing assets for state employees – causing them to leave.

Yarrabah PBC in administration. Indigenous Councils land locked.

Want the State to know from our perspective, we cannot drive on our roads, we have water issues, housing issues, health issues etc and we then see obscene amounts spent in SEQ on non-essential assets.



## Ms Fiona Simpson

Shadow Minister for Finance and Better Regulation, Shadow Minister for Integrity in Government

## Mr David Janetzki

Shadow Treasurer, Shadow Minister for Investment and Trade

## Attendees

- All Mayors

## Key Topics

Water capital needs and costs.

Lakeland Irrigation area scheme – grape example, ready to go to fill the \$100mil gap purchased from California each year.

Etheridge Irrigation Precinct – red and green tape discussion  
The region needs bulk water to expand agriculture.

Housing and land constraints if we can keep in community, it reduces stress on neighboring areas.

School at Yarrabah.

Tourism levy.

Depreciation of assets which we don't intend on replacing having an impact on Financial Statements. Significant cost shifts to local government.

Regional Plan development and importance of region economic plan for the region.

Gulf being cut off and the impact on communities.  
Housing funding to cater for our real immediate needs.

# ADVOCACY REPORT



## Hon Scott Stewart MP, Minister for Resources

### Attendees

- All Mayors

### Key Topics

Kidston Project and issues with the road and bridges. Will soon have 600 OSOM coming in soon. Go back to the start – impact on council’s assets was not taken into consideration as part of the coordinated project and council is now feeling the pressure from the developers as our roads and bridges are failing.

Trustee reserves – need to release some of these for land for housing. Minister looking at changes to land act to deal with this. Reviewed ~36,000 parcels of land now down to approximately 2,500 parcels of land if you take out flooding etc.

**Action: If you have particular parcels you would like them to have a look at – write a letter to the Minister?**

Lakeland Irrigation Area Scheme update.

Housing – Croydon sold out of all their blocks of land. Go to the State to ask for another 50 – 60 blocks knowing 17 will be bought straight away.

**Action: Croydon to send an email to the Minister giving details.**

Hope Vale – still land locked like all indigenous are. Local flow of the community is being held up by one parcel of land (freehold). Looking at doing a PDA.

**Action: Hope Vale to provide information to the Minister.**

Silica mining and want to be on the front foot in benefit for the community. Diatreme, Metallica, Red bull and Cape Flattery Silica. Gave the example of the impact of moving royalty money to congress rather than councils and the

increase in domestic violence in the community. Do not want to be waiting for a handout all the time.

Mayor Andrews - do not feel there has been a lot of investment into dealing with land tenure issues. The interface isn’t working or hasn’t been working for a number of years. Yarrabah PBC is in administration again. Need land officers in region to start dealing with this.



## Assistant Minister Nikki Boyd MP, Assistant Minister for Local Government

### Attendees

- All Mayors
- Benton Wecker
- Alyssa Van Butzelaar

### Key Topics

Really like Works for Qld. One of the things the State is keen to do is look at the guidelines, keen to explore the inclusion of planning.

Water/Sewer Capital infrastructure investment needed. Water investment is a priority for the State, sometimes scale investments can expand the useful life. They are conscious of the enormous expense of water and sewer infrastructure. Community is seeing all the issues in region they consider as basics needs (essential) and are finding it difficult to swallow the amount of money being invested in infrastructure not considered essential. There is frustration in regions about this.

Etheridge – two communities without reticulated water (one with approx. 80 residents and the other 40) – they are feeling the pressure.

Waste Strategy – thank you for the \$300,000. Our strategy is very near completion. What we have found is to meet State targets the return on investment is not there due to the remoteness, number of rate payers etc we will need to be supported by regulations, policy and funding.

# ADVOCACY REPORT

OIA needs to be more responsive and in particular deal with issues within the term.

Assistant Minister thanked local government for the patience in fixing the issues with Belcarra. Need a better shared understanding of what it looks like – particularly for those who are considering running next year.

Tourism Levy – its needed for small councils like Douglas Shire, it is difficult when you have 8,000 ratepayers who need to support the infrastructure for tourists. It is not going away. We are concerned the State will turn this into a state revenue stream to help fund the Olympics after the next election.

Yarrabah water – had no water for community for 2 days recently.

Need to turn around the life expectancy for women in rural and remote areas. This is on the States radar.



**Mr Robbie Katter MP, Member for Traeger**

## Attendees

- All Mayors

Water capital expenditure needed within the region. We don't have the capacity fund. \$920mil road maintenance backlog and at the same time our community's frustration to hear how much is being invested in the SEQ for the Olympics.

Road impacts of Kidston development in the region. The road is not to a standard needed for the development. coordinated project approved without considering council assets being used and the impact of their use.

There is a number of other projects in train which will have an impact on roads (State and local) which aren't at the standard needed to support the development of these State supported projects.

Croydon updated mountain bike trail business case and priority economic projects handed to Mr Katter.

Gilbert River Bridge – vital to enable supplies to the Gulf to get through.

Doppler Weather Station.

Mayor Andrews offered thanks for raising the blue card issue. Encouraged Mr Katter to continue to drive indigenous social housing issues.

Yarrabah running out of water, due to ageing infrastructure. Blue card having a significant impact on indigenous communities.

Housing funding and land.

Wherever you can – please push for continuation of ROSI funding.



**Ms Rosslyn Bates**

Shadow Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Shadow Minister for Medical Research, Shadow Minister for Women

**Mr Sam O'Connor**

Shadow Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Shadow Minister for Science and Innovation and Shadow Minister for Youth

## Attendees

- All Mayors
- Jason Tibbits

## Key Topics

Mayor Nolan spoke about the impact of the lack of GPs in the region and our support of the NQPHN proposal for demonstration sites for a locally designed solution.

Ms Bates spoke of the issues with Gladstone Hospital maternity services. Cooktown and Innisfail birthing services.

# ADVOCACY REPORT

Cooktown – lack of staff and personality issues causing staff to leave.

Talk on 50/50 health funding between the State and Federal Governments has gone quiet.

Lack of accommodation for health staff is an issue.

Life expectancy of women in rural and remote areas is 15 – 20 years less. This is not acceptable and this needs to change.

HHS' are not running the way they were envisioned. They are supposed to be the voice of the region to ensure the people on the ground are getting the care they need.

Volunteer ambulance in Georgetown.

Regional Resource Recovery Strategy overview and the return on investment shortfall to meet the State targets.



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

## Attendees

- All Mayors

## Key Topics

Thank you for the funding for Regional Resource Recovery Strategy. Continued funding and regulatory support.

Croydon – emissions audit completed for council business. 120,000 tonnes of emissions. Working closely with Kidston to collaborate on the purchase of power etc. Believe it has put them in a good position. Invitation to the Minister to visit Etheridge Shire. Emissions from agriculture (cows) is huge.

Indigenous women's ranger program to look after the GBR. Reef Guardian councils received ~\$900,000 each which great and thank you.

Lakeland irrigation area scheme and opportunity for Hydro. TO's will be given % ownership of each of the component parts.

Croydon Shire would like to own an electric vehicle. They would like an electric charging station as well. Any help would be appreciated. Minister de Brenni and Minister Miles are looking at this.

Thank you to the Minister for assisting with the Port Hinchinbrook development issues. \$12mil isn't enough due to spike in supply costs. Council is now normalising the development and bringing the assets onto their books.

Yarrabah update on the waste issues facing Yarrabah and the range. Would like some support to develop a transfer station. Also spoke about the sewerage lagoon. Any support around effluent and transfer station would be appreciated. Containers for change should start soon. Thank you for the ranger funding in the southern PBC (Yarrabah).

The Minister advised there might be a little bit of funding through the Reef Council's bucket.

Microgrid in Douglas Shire. Next week's meeting with some perspective investors. The issue is making properties 240v ready. We need support to enable this.

New \$14mil medical centre would be a good place for an electric charging station.

Purchasing carbon reduction initiatives could be a way regions like ours could be involved in the Olympics.

Mayor Scott spoke about value adding to raw product coming from indigenous lands. ie. silica into glass, using the indigenous owned sawmill to process raw timber taken from the region.

State focused on critical minerals, looking at Common user infrastructure and first stage processing of critical minerals.

# ADVOCACY REPORT



## Mr Tim Mander MP

Shadow Minister for Housing and Public Works, Shadow Minister for Sports and Racing, Shadow Minister for Olympic and Paralympic Sport and Regional Engagement.

## Mr Steve Minnikin MP

Shadow Minister for Customer Service, Shadow Minister for Transport and Main Roads

## Mr Jarrod Bleijie

Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, Shadow Minister for Olympic and Paralympic Infrastructure and Jobs, Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations

## Mr David Crisafulli

Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Minister for Tourism, Shadow Minister for Olympics and Paralympics

## Attendees

- All Mayors

## Key Topics

Lakeland Irrigation area Scheme. Opportunity to grow the \$100m of table grapes imported from California each year.

Frustration with seeing the amount of money being spent on what looks to be non-essential infrastructure when we have large gaps in our essential service needs.

Gilbert River bridge and the impact of closures on food and essential supplies.

Regional Resource Recovery Strategy and the return on investment to achieve state targets.

Tourism levy and the opportunity it presents for councils. Coordinated projects not considering local government assets/impact on assets in the approval process. Kidston project development had to cease due to road closures caused damage.

Roads and maintenance within the region.

Indigenous housing issues in Yarrabah, Hope Vale and Wujal Wujal. Funding nowhere near enough to meet the needs. Housing is key for health, education, employment, and justice. Need a commitment for new funding for new housing.

\$105mil took two years to get to indigenous councils. Yarrabah not part of NAPARI and continues to miss out. We also have an issue with land constraints. As an example, in Yarrabah, 2% is council, 98% is PBC.

Hope Vale example of domestic violence spiking and holding the spike from 2011 when royalties moved from council to Congress.

State is reviewing the land act, need to review the ALA as well.



**Hon Stirling Hinchcliffe**, Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement and

**Mr Michael Healy**, Assistant Minister for Tourism Industry Development

## Attendees

- All Mayors

## Key Topics

Impact of expenditure announcements in SEQ, particularly around Olympics when the regions are left wanting for essential services.

Minister advised that there is major infrastructure spends outside of SEQ. Will be advocating for outcomes for sport and community sport and facilities delivering into community. He sees the greater opportunity comes from the changes the Olympics will drive.

The region needs support to capitalise on the tourism opportunities, but we can't if they cannot get to us and cultural tourism development/capacity isn't supported. Need to ensure authentic first nations culture and storytelling.

# ADVOCACY REPORT

Works for Queensland Funding.

Tourism is the heartbeat for 7 months of the year for Etheridge Shire, tourism assets help to support an extra night in communities. Works for Queensland has supported this investment.

Roads are important to support tourism in the outback. 84% of the infrastructure needed for the Olympics is already in place. 16% is needed but it is also needed to support the population growth in the region. The Gabba's life was only to 2030 so the State would have to do something with it anyway.

We want to be the leader of our destiny and don't want to be told by the State what our destiny is. Douglas case study - \$32mil in water capital expenditure, Bloomfield Road is a tourism road and they need a way to fund this, the tourism levy provides them a way to do this.

**Minister's response: the government has a commitment to no new taxes. Understands that this is a local government levy but the State sees it as tax which has been allowed to occur.**

Encourage to continue to talk and put examples like Douglas forward.

State now very nervous with interest rate rises etc to be the only State in Australia with a bed tax. Minister advised they are not looking at this as a future revenue source for the State.

Tourism in the Cape and how to manage the visitors to get the right visitors. Need to provide the services ie. toilets etc.

Telling the stories of our first nations people is fundamental for the Olympics. What needs to be done to share these stories which brings good outcomes for these communities.

**Action: What is acceptable tourism, and what isn't acceptable tourism in each of the communities. Documentation of these would be helpful.**



Hon Mark Bailey MP, Minister for Transport and Main Roads

## Attendees

- All Mayors
- Kylee Petersen, Regional Director, TMR
- Hannah Whittle, Senior Policy Advisory

## Key Topics

Impact of Kidston development on the road network (State and local). 560 OSOM wind components will shortly be arriving. Council have had to close roads which has had an impact on the development. As a coordinated project, impact on the assets, particularly council's assets weren't considered. Council is now the meat in the sandwich in dealing with this.

State meeting with the Coordinator General about this and will touch base with Mayor Hughes.

Two more major projects coming online which will be using the same road sets as Kidston.

Upgrade of the PDR – lack of facilities (toilets, rest areas) etc causing some concern. Would like this to be considered in further tranches of funding.

We want tourists in the Cape, but we want the respectful tourists, not those who just want to rip up the Cape. Perhaps need to consider a user pay system for those coming up to the Cape.

Minister advised we need to start thinking about the next package with the current one ending in 2025.

Croydon wants a charging station.

Gilbert River Bridge and the impact on providing supplies to the Gulf. The blueprint has already been set with the Einsleigh bridge. Trucks won't travel and provide supplies if the bridge is under or will be going under. There have been significant closures this year.

# ADVOCACY REPORT

Yarrabah, ageing trunk infrastructure and housing.

We as discreet communities want to know what is happening with Kuranda Range Road. Looking at the \$210m and how this is best used. Very familiar with the issue. Looking at the impact of the ITS in the short term.

We just want assurity of direction to support economic development.

Lakeland Irrigation Area Scheme.

Hope Vale would like a boat ramp – they don't have one. They have put in several applications but hasn't been successful to date. They have done the planning.

ROSI funding has made a massive difference and asked the Minister to lobby for its continuance.



**Hon Steven Miles MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure**

## Attendees

- All Mayors
- Tess Pickering
- Alyssa Van Butzelaar

## Key Topics

Thank you for starting the regional plan. We understand there is an extension to the timeline to complete it with a draft due at the end of the year. We're supportive of this if it means we get a meaningful plan for the region. Ms Irvine met with the team this morning and it was agreed that there needs to be a strong partnership between FNQROC/Councils and the development of the plan.

Update on the Regional Resource Recovery Strategy and the return on investment to meet the States targets.

Marketing strategies around the Olympics isn't working in regions. Communities are questioning the investment in infrastructure in SEQ while 'we' cannot assess health services, our roads need work etc. Needs to be seen as fair and equitable.

Wet season – Coordination Centre for Georgetown and Evacuation Centre surrounded by floodwater. Looking for a Training Coordination Centre within the one precinct. Would like support around this.

Lakeland Irrigation Area Scheme – The Minister's team is currently reviewing the business case. The next stage is a full detailed design. One of the opportunities it will provide is to close the import gap of table grapes which equates for \$100m per year from California.

Housing in Indigenous Councils. We need more, however we are also land locked. Hope Vale is being restrained by just one land holder. Looking a potentially a PDA / resumption options which fits with the local sequence of growth aligned with available infrastructure. Hope Vale has ~3 blocks left, after that they don't know what.

Yarrabah is also land locked – 2% is local government owned, 98% is PBC. Ageing infrastructure, their bores went down, and the town was without water for a couple of days. Everything is manual as present – manual monitoring, manual testing and dosing etc. No SCADA system.

The prefab houses are promising but land is still the issue. Hope Vale is the only community which doesn't have a boat ramp – they would like one please. They have submitted a number of applications but have been unsuccessful.

Tourism levy and examples of the difference it can make to councils. It's not practical for a council the size of Douglas shire to maintain Cape Tribulation/Bloomfield Road. With 8,000 ratepayers there is only so much you can push on to them. It means that the rate payers get back that \$4mil for investment in region.

**Action: Myola property issue with the river washing away their property. Tess Pickering will follow up on this.**

# ADVOCACY REPORT



**Hon Cameron Dick MP, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment**

## Attendees

- All Mayors
- Drew Ellen
- Zac Skyring

## Key Topics

Lakeland irrigation Area Scheme. One of the opportunities is to close the gap on \$100mil table grape imports from California. State has the draft will then be looking for ~\$30mil for full business case.

Land tenure in Coen and trustee reserve. When the land act review is done, the aboriginal land act needs to be reviewed as well.

Councils significant cap expenditure needed in the next few years.

Yarrabah experience with failing water infrastructure – we are left without water for 3-4 days due to failing infrastructure. Communities need support with trunk infrastructure.

Housing in indigenous communities is a big need, however they are land locked. Example in Yarrabah, council has 2% of land and PBC has 98%.

All communities need more funding for housing, Wujal Wujal example. Would also like funding to prepare to be shovel ready.

Perhaps PDAs in indigenous areas might assist with the land issues in indigenous councils.

Ageing Yarrabah school infrastructure and location.

Regional Resource Recovery Strategy and the return on investment to meet State targets.

Etheridge Agricultural Precinct – looking to centralise the process to overcome the complexity around red and green tap + water + ILUA. Looking for \$350k to support the development and administration of this. Andrew to talk about this with Graham (who is in our next meeting).

Cairns marine precinct and common user facility – great opportunities.

Minister sees need to re-shore manufacturing rather than offshore.

Tourism levy and the positive impact it can have on councils to support tourism in their communities. Minister understands the argument. Pathway forward is bipartisan support. Happy to keep discussing.

QAO advised a 10% increase in the cost of their services to undertake council audits. Minister will look at that further.



**On behalf of Hon Glenn Butcher MP, Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water**

**Linda Dobe, Acting Director-General**  
**Bernadette Zerba, Deputy Director-General**  
**Ben Driscoll, Chief of Staff**  
Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water

## Attendees

- All Mayors

## Key Topics

Graham has moved on to be the CEO for Olympics Coordination Committee. Linda is acting in his position.

Water and sewer capital expenditure over the next few years.

Lakeland irrigation Area Scheme. One of the opportunities is to close the gap on \$100mil table grape imports from

# ADVOCACY REPORT

California. State has the draft will then be looking for ~\$30mil for full detailed design and EIS etc. Envisage that this will create a town the same size as Cooktown.

Wujal Wujal aging infrastructure in communities. Want to have long sustainable infrastructure in place.

Yarrabah water issues and running out of water for 3-4 days recently.

How good an understanding do we have about our aging infrastructure? There are gaps in our knowledge – a lot of the infrastructure was placed in the 50's / 60's and data wasn't collected/kept. There is a lot we don't know and we don't know the age. We also have the asbestos issues with pipes. We know there is a fiscal cliff there, we just don't know when we will fall into it.

The State is interested in getting a better understanding of this as well.

Etheridge Agricultural Precinct – seeking \$350k looking to centralise the process to overcome the complexity around red and green tap + water + ILUA. Looking for \$350k to support the development and administration of this. Drew was going to talk to Graham now Linda about this.

**Action: Etheridge to send work to date on this to the ministerial office.**

Hope Vale looking for another water filter and having issues with trunk infrastructure as well.

We're doing our regional plan review and water is a critical resource for the region. There is significant opportunities for agricultural growth in FNQ.

Block of 5 units in Myola all retirees, river is eroding their land and is coming close to property. Insurance won't cover them now. Can't find anyone to take ownership of this. Advised that the land is actually owned by the Department of Resources. Ben advised that there has been an IT issue and they didn't get the correspondence so there has been a flurry of work today to progress this.