



FNQROC

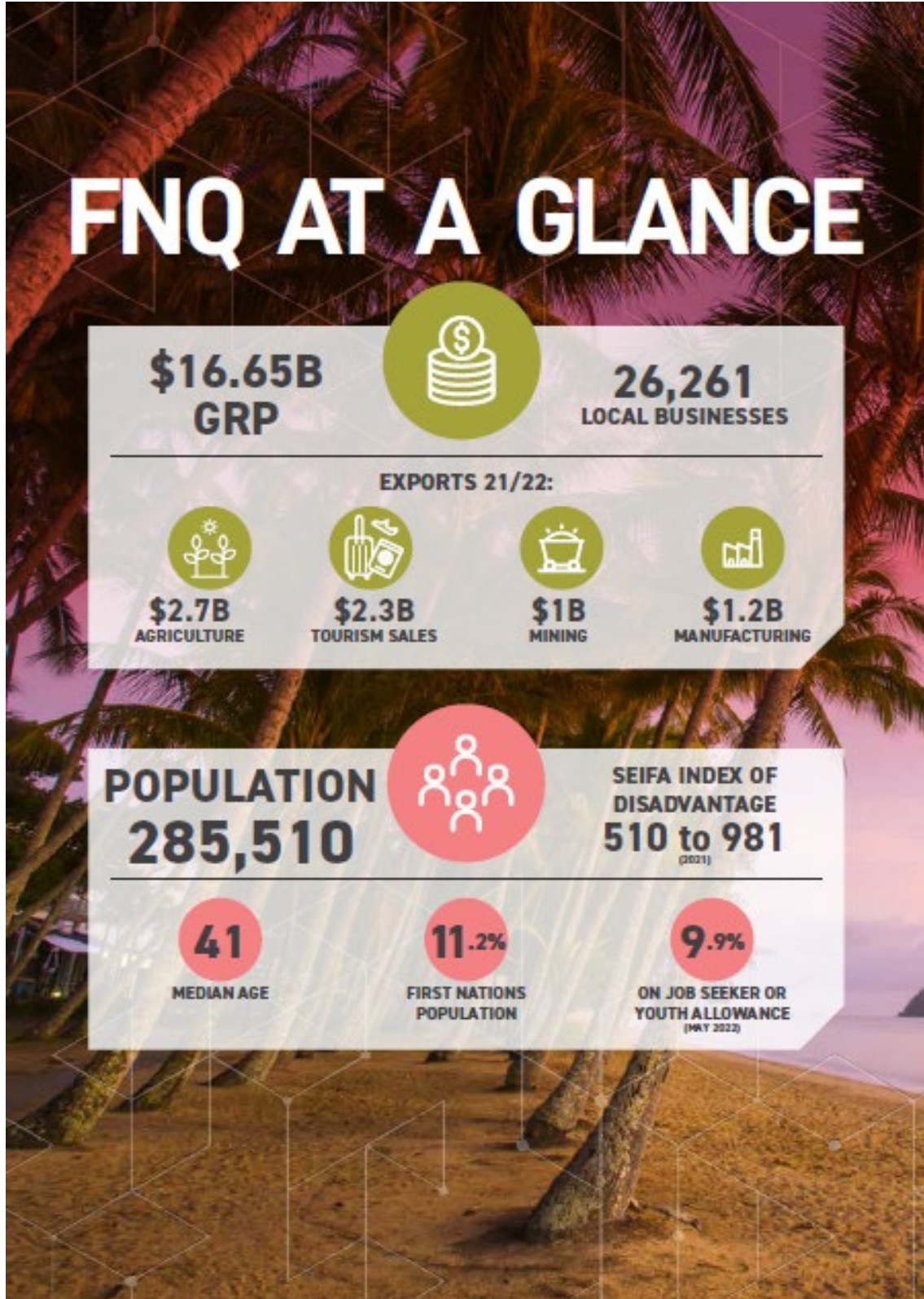
ADVOCACY REPORT

FNQROC

Mayoral Delegation

1-2 August 2023

FNQ AT A GLANCE



ADVOCACY REPORT



FNQ REGIONAL PRIORITIES AT A GLANCE:



INFRASTRUCTURE PIPELINE REVIEW

In undertaking this review, we would also ask the Federal Government to consider:

- a) The impact on program delivery and construction programs in areas with a regular wet season (funding from December to April)
- b) Regular stream grants are much more efficient as councils can plan their capital programs and the money goes where it is needed, not just to the Councils who can afford great grant writers.
- c) The continuation and increase in funding of allocation-based programs, such as R2R and LRCI (with simplified reporting, such as what is required under LRCI)
- d) Local Government own source roads expenditure obligation under R2R is difficult for smaller, financially constrained councils to fulfil.
- e) Streamline application and reporting processes for IIP projects.
- f) The new Growing Regions application process is quite complex, with projects needing to be 'construction ready', however the turnaround in applications is around 6 months. In the current economic climate, holding rates fixed for this period will be problematic.
- g) The continuation of a ROSI type program to provide the full efficiency outcomes for HPV's and the national supply chain.
- h) Dedicated funding program aimed at increasing high productivity vehicles (HPV) access to and from gazetted transport routes with a regional focus on Ootann Road and Richmond-Croydon Road being local government owned road train routes.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

We very much appreciate Financial Assistance Grants up front, we are seeking consistent application of the upfront payment model to enable us to plan our annual budget appropriately and review our long-term financial plans accordingly.



ROAD INVESTMENT

- Cairns/Mareeba Access – Kuranda Road Range.
- First And Last Mile – Heavy Vehicle Productivity Routes.
- May Federal Budget Related to Roads – Thank you for the continuing funds for critical road infrastructure programs.



HOUSING FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Story telling: Yarrabah, Hope Vale and Wujal Wujal.



SOCIAL HOUSING

Story telling.



COMMUNITY HOUSING PROVIDER SECTOR SUSTAINABILITY

The viability of the community housing sector needs equal and urgent consideration.



WATER

Acknowledgement and thank you for the \$107.5mil commitment to the Cairns Water Security Stage 1.

WATER SECURITY FOR REGIONAL AND REMOTE FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES

Further information regarding Water Security for Regional and Remote First Nations Communities.

NATIONAL WATER INITIATIVE – PRICING POLICY

Within the National Water Initiative, pricing policy:

- a. Recognise the economic life of a dam as 100 years, and
- b. Recognise irrigators are not the sole economic beneficiaries of bulk water supplies and make changes to the pricing policies that reflect/acknowledge indirect economic beneficiaries.

BULK WATER (AGRICULTURAL)

Story telling: Etheridge Agricultural Precinct and Lakeland Dam progress.



INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

Regional story telling.

EDUCATION

Story Telling: Yarrabah School



HEALTH

Story telling.

HEALTH AND AGED CARE

Regional story telling.

RURAL AND REGIONAL HEALTH Regional story telling and FNQROC supports the Better Health NQ proposal to deliver new place-based primary health care solutions to regional and remote areas. We support a State and Federal Government 'blended funding' model for BHNQ, providing \$1.85million over two years for the project implementation and feasibility.

INDIGENOUS HEALTH

Regional story telling.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

Regional story telling and Cassowary Coast Regional Council Reef Trust Application.

DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE PACIFIC

Regional listening given our position to Asia and the Pacific and Request - \$100,000 matched funding to partner with Cairns Regional Council and other stakeholders to develop a comprehensive Cairns and Far North Queensland Defence Industry Strategy.

SMART GREEN ECONOMY



RESOURCE RECOVERY

FNQROC has developed a resource recovery Plan (RRR Plan) which presents a series of actions to collaboratively deliver resource recovery outcomes and provide positive impact across 11 member councils.

ADVOCACY REPORT



DELEGATION MEMBERS

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

FEDERAL PRIORITIES

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

- **INFRASTRUCTURE PIPELINE REVIEW**
- **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS**
- **ROAD INVESTMENT**
- **HOUSING FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**
- **SOCIAL HOUSING**
- **COMMUNITY HOUSING PROVIDER SECTOR SUSTAINABILITY**
- **WATER**
- **INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS**
- **HEALTH**
- **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY**
- **RESOURCE RECOVERY**

Key Briefing Notes can be accessed via links below.

- [FNQROC Federal Priorities \(Aug 2023\)](#)
- [Kuranda Range Road](#)
- [FNQROC Regional Roads Investment Strategy – Heavy Vehicle Productivity](#)
- [FNQROC - Regional Roads Investment Strategy – Heavy Vehicle Freight Networks](#)
- [FNQROC – Regional Roads Investment Strategy – Tourism Routes and estimated economic value](#)
- [Long Term Analysis of the role of Dams](#)
- [FNQROC Mobile Coverage Audit](#)

ADVOCACY REPORT



Cr Creek, Cr Murgha, P Franks, Cr B Manning, Cr Woibo, The Hon Pat Conroy MP, Cr Kerr, P Franks, Cr Hughes

The Hon Pat Conroy MP, Minister for Defence Industry, Minister for International Development and the Pacific

Attendees

- Hugh Paterson, Cr Creek, Cr Murgha, P Franks, Cr Manning, Cr Woibo, Cr Kerr, P Franks, Cr Hughes

Key Topics and Discussions

- FAG grant discussion about consistency on the timing of when money will be received.
- Thanked the minister and informed him of the growing confidence in tourism in the region. Furthermore, the confidence in the region that defence will be growing in the region along with auxiliary service that will flow into the economy.

Minister Conroy

- The new maintenance contract for defence will be announced shortly.
- Upgrades to HMAS Cairns.
- Upgrades to RAAF Base Serger which is mainly construction to upgrade the base ready for deployment if required.
- Patrol Boats and Border Force maintenance will be completed and training.
- US Navy are possibly rotating assets through Cairns.
- Pursuing Rugby for Port Morsby - \$5.5mil in player pipeline, training hub in FNQ, games in PNG. 2025 training and playing with PNG, Pacific and Australian players. Early 2030's. Port Moresby permanent base.
- Pacific Labour scheme is progressing.
 - Hoping to increase to 29,000
- Increasing trade with PNG
 - Bio Security issue to overcome

- Spoke about wanting to promote the Singapore army arrangement and extension.
- Pacific Workers arrangement has led to certain people:
 - Bringing social issues with them
 - Racial tensions in the community
 - Border force not chasing up people and employers not adhering to the visa requirements.



Cr Woibo, Cr Pickering, Cr Kerr, Cr Creek, Cr Murgha, The Hon Emma McBride MP, Cr Toppin, Cr Hughes, P Franks, Cr Scott, Cr Nolan, Cr Manning

The Hon Emma McBride MP Assistant Minister for Mental Health & Suicide Prevention, Assistant Minister for Rural & Regional Health

Key Topics and Discussions

- The Assistant Minister will send a list of initiatives they are working on including links.
- Regional and remote accessibility to health services.
- Increase Medicare bulk billing incentives for rural and regional areas.
- 80 additional commonwealth health places for rural/regional student in regional universities.
- More places through John Flynn Program – Drs in training can spend more time in communities like ours and if they choose to work in regional/rural remote, they will wipe their HEC debts. Can also carry across entitlements.
- Innovative model of Care Grants, look at the next round for the CCRC proposal, closes 7 August but next round later this year.

ADVOCACY REPORT



Cr Hughes, Cr Hughes, Cr Kerr, Cr Murgha, The Hon David Littleproud MP, Senator Susan McDonald, Cr Hughes, Cr Nolan, Cr Manning

Senator Susan McDonald, Shadow Minister for Resources, Shadow Minister for Northern Australia

The Hon David Littleproud MP, Leader of the Nationals, Shadow Minister for Agriculture

Key Topics and Discussions

- Lumpy Skin issue as we speak. David Littleproud is confident they didn't have it in Australia. Indonesia is taking it seriously which is good.
- Importance of the feasibility study of Lakeland that will create:
 - Employment
 - Industrial town of 4000
 - Promote agriculture in the region
 - Complimentary to existing Solar, that could work with Hydro and a proposed windfarm.
 - There is a MOU between Cook, Western Yalanji and RDA.
- Lakeland Irrigation Scheme - will be looking for \$30mil for full business case.
- Gravel Pit issues. 24JA Gravel licences requirement upon the expiry of the licence term and the importance of the requirement in emergent situations.
- Is there any appetite to continue drought resilience funding?
- Tax provision option – Farm Management Fund, \$800,000 each so a couple could do up to \$1.6mil when times are good for when times are bad.
- Future Drought fund – is for communities and available.
- Up to \$50k to match work on farm to mitigate drought. Qld has also matched this previously. Needs to be indexed to economic inflation.
- Drought and fodder subsidy has been removed.
- Bulk water in the region.
- Averaging provision has been removed for Pacific Workers Program. They will now be paid a minimum of 30 hours a week.

- The feasibility statement process only being for 30 years is not enough.
- Pacific Workers arrangement has led to certain people:
 - Bringing social issues with them
 - Racial tensions in the community
 - Border force not chasing up people and employers not adhering to the visa requirements.
- Indigenous Communities still experiencing tenure issues.
- Boundary re-alignment with Douglas and Wujal Wujal to complete 9 house development.
- Cape Flattery Jetty. Senator McDonald will talk to Ports North about having a 3rd party arrangement.



Cr Kerr, Cr Toppin, Cr Woibo, Cr Pickering, Cr Hughes, Senator Matthew Canavan, Cr Creek

Senator Matthew Canavan, Senator for Queensland

Attendees: Cr Kerr, Cr Toppin, Cr Woibo, Cr Pickering, Cr Hughes, Cr Creek.

Key Topics and Discussions

- FAGs brought forward was good but we don't know when we'll get the next one. There is a need for consistency on the timing.
 - Grow the pool to 1%
 - Consistent application of when we will get the funds.
- Senator Canavan is sympathetic to smaller and indigenous Council issues.
- ROSI – Senator Canavan would like to continue. We need to unlock the opportunities that support economic growth. Ootann Road funds are on hold.
- Doppler radar near Croydon.
- Gregory Development Road and impact from Genex and upcoming Windfarm with 560 OSOM vehicles.
- Wujal Wujal Housing – 34 homes needed. Housing Action Plans still in draft after 15 months.
- Hope Vale – land tenure issues associated with housing.
- Burke Development Road

ADVOCACY REPORT

- Banking Closures in Communities
- CSIRO study into Mitchell River.



Cr Manning, Cr Scott, The Hon Michael McCormack, Cr Nolan, Cr Murgha, P Franks

The Hon Michael McCormack, Shadow Minister for International Development, and the Pacific

Attendees: Cr Manning, Cr Scott, Cr Nolan, Cr Murgha, P Franks.

Key Topics and Discussions

- Importance of the feasibility study of Lakeland that will create:
 - Employment
 - Industrial town of 4000
 - Promote agriculture in the region.
 - Complimentary to existing Solar, that could work with Hydro and a proposed windfarm.
 - There is a MOU between Cook, Western Yalanji and RDA.
 - Needing \$30 million to finish business case.
 - Advice from Senator McCormack
 - Stick with the benefits of Agriculture, Green energy, and job/population in regions.
 - Stay away from mining
 - Bring this to the right people in January when budget preparation begins.
- Discussed the PNG League and how there will be a training headquarters in Cairns for the foreseeable future.
- Pacific Workers arrangement has led to certain people:
 - Bringing social issues with them
 - Racial tensions in the community
 - Border force not chasing up people and employers not adhering to the visa requirements.
- Provide details on infrastructure shortfalls and requirements in Yarrabah.



Senator Perin Davey Shadow Minister for Water, Shadow Minister for Emergency Management

Key Topics and Discussions

- FAG grant discussion about consistency on the timing of when money will be received.
- Linda Scott taking 1% to labour conference this year.
- Discussion about First Nations Water from a federal point of view, more research to be done.
- Lakeland Irrigation Scheme
- Importance of the feasibility study of the Lakeland that will create:
 - Employment
 - Industrial town of 4000
 - Promote agriculture in the region.
 - Complimentary to existing Solar, that could work with Hydro and a proposed windfarm.
 - There is a MOU between Cook, Western Yalanji and RDA.
 - Needing \$30 million to finish business case.
- 24JA Gravel licences requirement upon the expiry of licence term and the importance of the requirement in emergent situations.
- Provided details on infrastructure shortfalls and requirements in Yarrabah.
- Not enough money to maintain let enough to improve the standard of living or improve the assets to be more efficient or effective for indigenous councils.
- Cr Manning (Cairns) discussed the proposal for Cairns to provide water with 15km more pipe to service the community of Yarrabah.
- Senator Davey raised issues that she had with business case assessment for water programs specifically the following:
 - 30 years
 - Other qualitative factors
 - Social benefits
- Waste - Councils are going to need financial support to set up circular waste programs in our region.
- Water reticulation renewal programs and how they are not grant-funded opportunities for funding.

ADVOCACY REPORT

- Need to share water strategy with the Minister's aids after talking about the red tape of problems to get their scheme up and running.
- Lack of water storage in the region or water programs and how Cairns is about to hit its threshold.



Cr Nolan, Cr Scott, Cr Toppin, The Hon Catherine King, Cr Kerr, Cr Woibo, Cr Pickering, Cr Hughes

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

Attendees: Cr Kerr, D Irvine, Cr Toppin, Cr Hughes, Cr Pickering, Cr Nolan, Cr Woibo, Cr Scott

Key Topics and Discussions

- FAG grant discussion about consistency on the timing of when money will be received.
- 1% FAGs, if you add up FAGs, R2R, LRCI, Bridges renewal, growing regions etc it is over 1%. Can't give 1% plus all those programs. The Minister feels there is currently no appetite to change this.
- LRCI will not be ongoing.
- R2R & Bridges renewal etc – Currently in review to look at how to streamline the grant approval and acquittal process
- The Infrastructure Pipeline Review aimed to be complete end of August.
- 800 projects for \$80B, 10-year program. Cost escalations, underestimated projects and projects, and the program is not mature enough to deal with these matters and has been causing them issues; hence the review.
- Kuranda Range Road – not part of the review. TMR is planning the funds now. Qld government has to agree to options analysis – Qld government needs to decide.
- 24JA Gravel ILUA requirement upon the expiry of licence term and the importance of Council's being about to access gravel in disaster emergent situations.
- Hope Vale – Silica Mine and Diatreme want to use the existing port at Cape Flattery. Currently, only Mitsubishi

can use it. The federal government wouldn't fund a private investor but would look at common user infrastructure agreement.

- Aging infrastructure in the region, Gilbert River Bridge.



Cr Manning, Cr Creek Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, P Franks, Cr Murgha

Senator Malarndirri McCarthy Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians, Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health

Attendees: Cr Manning, Cr Creek, Cr Murgha, P Franks, A Archie.

Key Topics and Discussions

- Talked about drug and alcohol programs and how the programs in Cairns are all sitting empty or closed.
- Talks about shelters and hostels for short-term accommodation, once again, all the state facilities closed.
- CDP/Employment programs and how My Pathways is not working in the Wujal Wujal region and seems like profiteering. Yarrabah is running its own with high success.
- Youth crime is a problem in the Mareeba region and how that's connected to social housing.
- Housing shortage was spoken about and how infrastructure is needed, and the federal government could support land tenure openings and payment of developments/infrastructure. How this also has a connection to youth crime, health, and other matters.
- Big discussion about health and how Cairns is the hub for the cape from a:
 - Logistics/travel
 - Family usually in Cairns to support patients.
 - Distance, which is much larger.
- Palliative care and the need for dialyses machines in the regional areas.
- Senator McCarthy travelling to Cairns in the next 2 weeks.

ADVOCACY REPORT

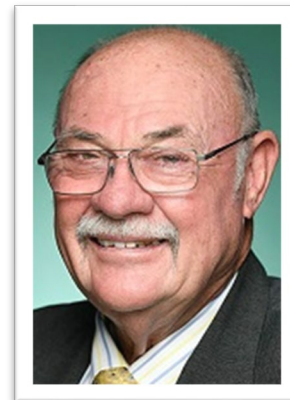


The Hon Madeleine King MP Minister for Resources, Minister for Northern Australia

Attendees: Cr Kerr, D Irvine, Cr Toppin, Cr Hughes, Cr Pickering, Cr Nolan, Cr Scott, Cr Woibo, Cr Scott.

Key Topics and Discussions

- Minister was called away, Chief of Staff attended the remainder of the meeting.
 - FAGs – we appreciate early funding however, it is causing financial statement issues with the surplus 2022/23 and an expected deficit 23/24 – difficult to explain to State and Communities. Council’s would like some consistency on the timing.
 - Partnership and Precinct grants – Chief of Staff to send some information on this.
 - Hope Vale – Diatreme Silica Mine, it is believed that Diatreme, Congress and Councils will be able to work together on this. The issue with State-owned Port only being used by Mitsubishi, who appear to have exclusive rights to it.
 - 24JA Gravel ILUA requirement upon the expiry of licence term and the importance of Council’s being about to access gravel in disaster emergent situations.
 - Gregory Development Road and impact from Genex and upcoming Windfarm with 560 OSOM vehicles, support for upgrade would be appreciated.
- Cassowary has 65 staff vacancies but no place for them to live.
 - Ethridge with social housing and utilising economic development to drive growth within a community.
 - Growing our Regions was discussed.
 - Our region's desire for ROSI to continue.
 - Land tenure issue causing housing shortages for indigenous communities.
 - Cooktown Hospital is underfunded, aged care providers are needed, and Cook has an MOU with Wujal Wujal and Hope Vale to provide aged care services, but funding is needed.
 - Yarrabah housing and the issues that housing resolves ie. Health, education, youth justice, DV etc.
 - Tax Offset for living in remote areas. Support for those working/living in the rural and remote areas of Australia.
 - PNG NRL Team – continues to be closely worked on.
 - Regional Resource Recovery Plan. Ambitious to meet State and Federal targets, we do need financial support to achieve them.
 - ATSI Housing scheme is important to build capacity within these communities.
 - Renal and palliative care and the need for dialysis machines in Hope Vale region, not more in Townsville.



The Hon Warren Entsch MP Member for Leichhardt

Attendees: Cr Kerr, Cr Scott, D Irvine, A Archie, Cr Woibo, Cr Toppin, P Franks, Cr Creek.

Key Topics and Discussions

-
- ## Ms Hannah Frank, Senior Policy Advisor – Prime Minister
- Attendees:** Cr Kerr, D Irvine, Cr Toppin, Cr Hughes, Cr Pickering, Cr Nolan, Cr Scott, Cr Woibo, Cr Scott.
- ### Key Topics and Discussions
- FAG grant discussion about consistency on the timing of when money will be received.
 - Infrastructure Pipeline review and potential impact with our upcoming wet season discussed.
 - Housing was discussed:
 - Port Douglas story of the DM Councillor lost due to lack of professional housing available.
- FAG grant discussion about consistency on the timing of when money will be received.
 - 24JA Gravel licences requirement upon the expiry of licence term and the Importance of the requirement in emergent situations.
 - Land tenure issue causing housing shortages for indigenous communities.
 - Mr Entsch spoke about wasted money due to poor contract management on the PDR upgrade works.

ADVOCACY REPORT

- Cape Flattery Jetty and that FNQROC should look into 3rd party legislation similar to WA on their rail networks. Warren would be happy to support such an arrangement.
- Diatreme working well with both Congress and Council.



Cr Manning, P Scott, Cr Kerr, Senator Anthony Chisholm, Cr Pickering, Cr Woibo, Cr Toppin, Cr Murgha, Cr Nolan, Cr Hughes, Cr Creek

Senator Anthony Chisholm
Assistant Minister for Education, Assistant Minister for Regional Development, Deputy Manager of Government and Business in the Senate

Key Topics and Discussions

- FAG grant discussion about consistency on the timing of when money will be received.
- Thanked Senator Chisholm for opening the Country University Centre and Bush Councils Convention.
- 24JA Gravel licences requirement upon the expiry of licence term and the Importance of the requirement in emergent situations.
- Another round of Country University Centre. Additional 5 in rural/regional areas.
- Mareeba requesting to be included in funding for regional access to university. An example with low socio and Indigenous unable to get to Cairns/JCU. Senator happy to contact Cr Toppin.
- Yarrabah Schools is in a depleted condition and capacity is not enough for all children to attend.
- Lakeland Irrigation Scheme. Will be seeking \$30m to do a full business case.
- Infrastructure pipeline review and impact of the wet season will have on the delivery of works if delayed any further.
- Department keen to work with us on wet season issues. The Infrastructure Pipeline Review will identify the best way to go forward.
- Growing our Regions Fund and a request for consistency.
- LRCI discussed.
- ROSI discussed.

- Kidston GENEX wind farm and the impact on LG assets. 560 OSOM Vehicles - \$5m. 800 people onsite at the moment.
- Croydon is a small shire, and it is having difficulty getting grant applications past the line. Mountain Bike trail example – they’ve done the work and paid for it, and everyone says it is good, but they keep getting knocked back. Resourced Councils will always trump smaller Councils.
- Hope Vale growing region application. Hoping to use the application to support industries such as Diatreme as they live and work in the region.
- Regional liveability - thanked Senator Chisholm regarding the housing bill. Describing how the impact housing has on regional workforces.
- Regional Growth Fund closed – 1 August 2023 please consider Wujal Wujal’s submission.
- Regional Partnership Fund – information coming out soon.



Senator Murray Watt,
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Minister for Skills and Training, Minister for Education, Minister for Early Childhood Education, Minister for Youth

Key Topics and Discussions

- FAG grant discussion about consistency on the timing of when money will be received.
- Lumpy skin was discussed.
- Water and problems with the business case methodology were discussed, such as being only 30 years and not taking into qualitative factors.
- Etheridge Agriculture Precinct was discussed.
- 24JA Gravel licences requirement upon the expiry of licence term and the Importance of the requirement in emergent situations.
- The minister’s office is fully aware of cyclone potential even though it looks like the focus is on fire.
- Disaster Ready Fund the government is looking at what round 2 looks like.

ADVOCACY REPORT



Cr Scott, Cr Hughes, Cr Toppin, Cr Kerr, Senator James McGrath, Cr Woibo, Cr Manning, Cr Creek, Cr Nolan, Cr Murgha, Cr Pickering

Senator James McGrath,
Shadow Assistant Minister to the Leader of the
Opposition, Shadow Assistant Minister for
Finance
Mr Phillip Thompson OAM MP
Shadow Assistant Minister for Defence

Key Topics and Discussions

- FAG grant discussion about consistency on the timing of when money will be received.
- 24JA Gravel licences requirement upon the expiry of licence term and the importance of the requirement in emergent situations
 - McGrath was aware from the Bush Council
 - There will be a motion sent to LGAQ.
- Importance of the feasibility study of Lakeland that will create:
 - Employment
 - Industrial town of 4000
 - Promote agriculture in the region.
 - Complimentary to existing Solar, that could work with Hydro and a proposed windfarm.
 - There is a MOU between Cook, Western Yalanji and RDA.
 - Needing \$30 million to finish business case.
- Thanked Senator McGrath for being in our region.
- Raised the issue of banking withdrawing from his community and that Council is trying to step into fill the void.
- Raised how Council is having to fill the gap with Human Capital training in rural areas and both major levels of government should be doing more.
- Raised the need for more support for aged care in the rural regions.
- Ootann Road and how they were shovel-ready to do something but now, because of the Infrastructure Pipeline Review there are worries about the delay due to

economic increases and wet season with the associated grant on hold.

- Kuranda Range Road discussed.
- Pacific Workers arrangement has led to certain people:
 - Bringing social issues with them
 - Racial tensions are developing in the community due to the behaviours of workers.
 - Border force not chasing up people and employers not adhering to the visa requirements.
- Senator McGrath raised concerns that the cash may be moving more south towards Brisbane and other Southern States.
- Talked about Yarrabah water infrastructure, and school infrastructure being so depleted with not enough upgrades or major maintenance happening over the past 55 years at the schools.
- Yarrabah Housing and the social and health ramifications of not enough housing.
- Cr Manning (Cairns) supported Cr Murgha (Yarrabah) on their suggestion of the larger water network connecting to the Yarrabah network.
- Request that the Federal government come together with the state to provide social housing.



Cr Manning, Cr Murgha, Cr Creek, Cr Pickering, Cr Hughes, Cr Woibo, The Hon Kristy McBain, Cr Kerr, Cr Toppin, Cr Scott, Cr Nolan

The Hon Kristy McBain MP
Minister for Regional Development, Local
Government and Territories

Key Topics and Discussions

- The need for FAGs distribution and timing consistency. The Minister believes there needs to be better equity in the system. If we increase it, you'll get some but cities will also get more – this isn't fair.
- Infrastructure Pipeline Review may result in some projects not being completed or impacted by the wet season discussed.

ADVOCACY REPORT

- RS4, HVFP and Bridges Renewal are being reviewed by Kristy. Not to cut them but to streamline the process for councils.
- Growth regions – expression of interest process first de-identified and multi-panel assessment to ensure transparency.
- R2R dates will come back after the review. The current allocation is still there, only reviewing future allocations. Minister will confirm that and come back to FNQROC.
- Housing and Cassowary Coast for example. Housing Australia Future Fund aimed directly at this.
- Gravel pits – will be raised at LG Ministers meeting later this month.
- Building Better Regions – We need to have a conversation regarding the definition of “region”. Not appropriate that Gold Coast is defined as regional.
- Yarrabah had a discussion on:
 - Housing shortage as well the availability of land due to land tenure.
 - School Infrastructure not fit for purpose.
 - Recent, Current, and Future Water Issues
- Wujal Wujal – Housing
 - Housing shortage and dissatisfaction with the current education the kids are receiving.
 - Asked the minister to look out for Growing our Region's application for office space, please watch out for it.
- Croydon – have put their heart and soul into the Mountain Bike Trail Business Plan, which cost \$300k. The minister has tried to accommodate all this in the last round of funding but will give it attention in the next round of Building Better Regions.



Cr Manning, Cr Nolan, Cr Scott, Cr Murgha, Cr Creek Senator Larissa Waters, Cr Woibo, Cr Pickering, Cr Toppin, Cr Kerr, Cr Hughes

Key Topics and Discussions

- The need for FAGs distribution and consistent timing of when Council's will receive the funding.
- The Minister believes there needs to be better equity in the system.
- Yarrabah raised the issues they are facing with:
 - Housing which then relates to health, education, and employment.
 - Water issues and impact of brownouts/blackouts.
 - Yarrabah School is under-maintained and beyond capacity.
 - Potential solution from Cairns for Yarrabah. Water Asset needs - \$460mil in our regions.
- Importance of the feasibility study of the Lakeland that will create:
 - Employment
 - Industrial town of 4000
 - Promote agriculture in the region.
 - Complimentary to existing Solar, that could work with Hydro and a proposed windfarm.
 - There is a MOU between Cook, Western Yalanji and RDA.
 - Needing \$30 million to finish business case.
- FNQROC Regional Resource Recovery Strategy will need further support from Federal Government to meet targets.
- Wujal Wujal lack of housing and usable land was raised.
- Cassowary Coast raised the issue of a lack of professional or affordable housing.
- Cook suggested the bush living building codes they have implemented in their planning scheme to allow for alternate building techniques more suited to the culture and environment of the region.
- Hope Vale raised how the lack of housing in communities puts pressure on neighbouring councils.
- Possible mine needing the use of Cape Flattery and the need for the port to be available to be used by more than one party.

Senator Larissa Waters
Senator for Queensland, Leader of the Australian Greens in the Senate

ADVOCACY REPORT



Cr Murgha, Cr Pickering, Cr Hughes, Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, Cr Creek, Cr Manning, Cr Woibo

Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians

Additional Attendees: Cr Murgha, Cr Pickering, Cr Hughes, Cr Creek, Cr Manning, Cr Woibo.

Key Topics and Discussions

- The question was asked if she could give her brief on why to vote no on the Voice. Major elements:
 - Talking about LG's could do more for indigenous people.
 - This will create another level of government for indigenous peoples in an area that already has too many.
 - Lands Right Act stopping indigenous communities from growing.
- Spoke about the pressures with housing and people leaving the land.
- Talked about Yarrabah's water infrastructure, and school infrastructure being so depleted with not enough upgrades or major maintenance happening over the past 55 years at the school.
- Housing and the social and health ramifications in indigenous communities and she was empathetic to the issue.



Cr Nolan, Cr Murgha, Mr Bob Katter, Cr Hughes

Mr Bob Katter Member for Kennedy

Attendees: Cr Nolan, Cr Murgha, Cr Hughes,

Key Topics and Discussions

- Talked about Yarrabah's water infrastructure, and school infrastructure being so depleted with not enough upgrades or major maintenance happening over the past 55 years at the school.
- The lack of housing and the social and health ramifications.
- Understands the land tenure issue in indigenous communities.
- Believes more rural land could be divided up to create more development in areas that need it.
- Talked Lumpy Skin and that he is going to track down the Indonesian Ambassador to possibly organise to have a single point of truth for the cattle industry.
- Talked about the health issue in their community, which he later went for a specific meeting to discuss.
- Pacific Workers arrangement has led to certain people:
 - Bringing social issues with them
 - Racial tensions in the community
 - Border force not chasing up people and employers not adhering to the visa requirements.

ADVOCACY REPORT



Cr Manning, Cr Creek, Cr Nolan, P Franks, The Hon Jim Chalmers, Cr Murgha, Cr Pickering, Cr Woibo, Cr Kerr, Cr Toppin

The Hon Jim Chalmers MP Treasurer

Key Topics and Discussions

- Thanked the Treasurer for FAGs and upfront payment. However, Council's would like some consistency with timing. Anything that can be done to give Council's some assurance when and what split will be earlier would be appreciated.
- 24JA Gravel licences requirement upon the expiry of licence term and the importance of the requirement in emergent situations.
- Infrastructure Pipeline review.
 - Impact with wet season coming and the timing of this review being finalized.
 - Equity for the regions.
 - Continuation of allocated budget regarding streamlined reporting.
 - Continuation of ROSI would be appreciated.
 - Any opportunity to fast-track this review could be helpful.
- Croydon raised how small communities struggle with applications. Can't compete with professional grant writers.
- Ideas/incentives for the Treasurer to consider the need for people to move into rural and remote areas ie. Engineers, nurses, teachers.
- Housing – housing is the biggest handbrake all round. Etheridge and Cassowary Coast gave examples of the impact on them.
- Wujal Wujal – housing shortage and how it impacts health and employment.
- Yarrabah – talked of housing shortage, school, water, and brownout/blackouts and how that has affected the water pump station.
- Kuranda Range Road was discussed.
- Etheridge – Genex project and impact on council assets. Asking for \$4-5mil to put in passing lanes on the gravel roads. 560 OSOM vehicles will be travelling. Mayor Hughes to send details through.

- 24JA Gravel licences requirement upon the expiry of licence term and the importance of the requirement in emergent situations
- Yarrabah – housing and impact on health and education, school and water.
- Hope Vale discussion was about:
 - housing and now they have built capacity in the to construct homes.
 - Sand mine working with Council and Congress, which is good but need assistance to on multi-use of the port.
 - New precinct plan looking at office spaces for mines, retail, funding application in for the minister to look out for.



Senator Carol Brown Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

Key Topics and Discussions

- FAGs – upfront payment. Would like consistency on the timing we receive the funding to allow us to plan our budget. Budgets due to State by end of July.
- Spoke about the Kuranda Range, which the Minister was not aware.
- Spoke generally about the Infrastructure Pipeline Review.
- A short brief on the Genex green hub in Etheridge and requested improvements to local roads to handle the increased intensification at the site.
- Importance of the feasibility study of the Lakeland that will create:
 - Employment
 - Industrial town of 4000
 - Promote agriculture in the region.
 - Complimentary to existing Solar, that could work with Hydro and a proposed windfarm.
 - There is a MOU between Cook, Western Yalanji and RDA.
 - Needing \$30 million to finish business case.
- 24JA Gravel licences requirement upon the expiry of the licence term and the importance of the requirement in emergent situations

ADVOCACY REPORT

- Talked about Yarrabah’s water infrastructure, and school infrastructure being so depleted with not enough upgrades or major maintenance happening over the past 55 years at the school.
- Lack of housing in indigenous communities and the social or health ramifications.
- There is a need to stop the band-aid approach we need infrastructure that is built to last and is efficient and effective for our region.



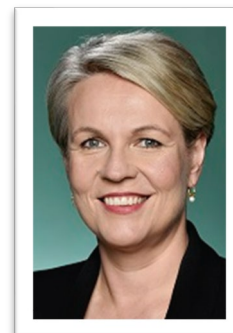
Cr Hughes, The Hon Darren Chester, Cr Hughes, Cr Kerr, Cr Woibo, Cr Creek, Cr Toppin, Cr Murgha

The Hon Darren Chester MP
Shadow Minister for Regional Development,
Local Government and Territories, Shadow
Minister for Regional Education
Mr Tony Pasin MP
Shadow Assistant Minister Infrastructure and
Transport

Attendees: Cr Hughes, Cr Pickering, Cr Kerr, Cr Creek, Cr Toppin, Cr Murgha

Key Topics and Discussions

- Mr Pasin understands the Infrastructure Pipeline Review concerns.
- 24JA Gravel licences requirement upon the expiry of the licence term and the importance of the requirement in emergent situations
- Minister described that grant applications should consider natural disasters and essential community needs.
- Mr Chester was empathetic to this issue the current FAG’s distribution has caused.
- It was described how LRCI is working well for LG.
- Discussion about Councils under-resourced miss out with no professional grant writers and the Croydon case study was used as an example.
- LG needs to also ensure grant applications have elements of climate resilience and climate change.
- Advice given was that when they say there is no money, we need to push back and make ourselves a priority.



The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP
Minister for the Environment and Water

Attendees: Mr Michael Wrathal, Senior Adviser to Minister Plibersek’s office attended on behalf of Minister Plibersek.

Key Topics and Discussions

- Water Infrastructure costs to councils. It is believed that we can now fund regional and remote indigenous urban water.
- Discussion on business case model life of 30 years is too short for a life of a dam and the indirect benefits are not considered.
 - Send a copy of the Dam study to Michael Wrathall.
- National Water Infrastructure Fund. Money is available \$850mil unallocated.
- Importance of the feasibility study of the Lakeland that will create:
 - Employment
 - Industrial town of 4000
 - Promote agriculture in the region.
 - Complimentary to existing Solar, that could work with Hydro and a proposed wind farm.
 - There is a MOU between Cook, Western Yalanji and RDA.
 - Needing \$30 million to finish business case.
- They are renewing the national water initiative. Does make sense to have consistency for drinking water quality.
- Regional and remote Indigenous urban water.
 - CRC funded through this.
 - Accessed through the state with state contribution. The state needs to do the application.
- Minister Glenn Butcher – needs to update FNQROC on this to push for more information through QWRAP.
- Daintree Ferry – letter sent to Minister regarding looking for an environmentally friendly alternative.