



# Information Guide

COUNCILS WORKING TOGETHER ON AGREED  
REGIONAL POSITIONS AND PRIORITIES

APRIL 2024



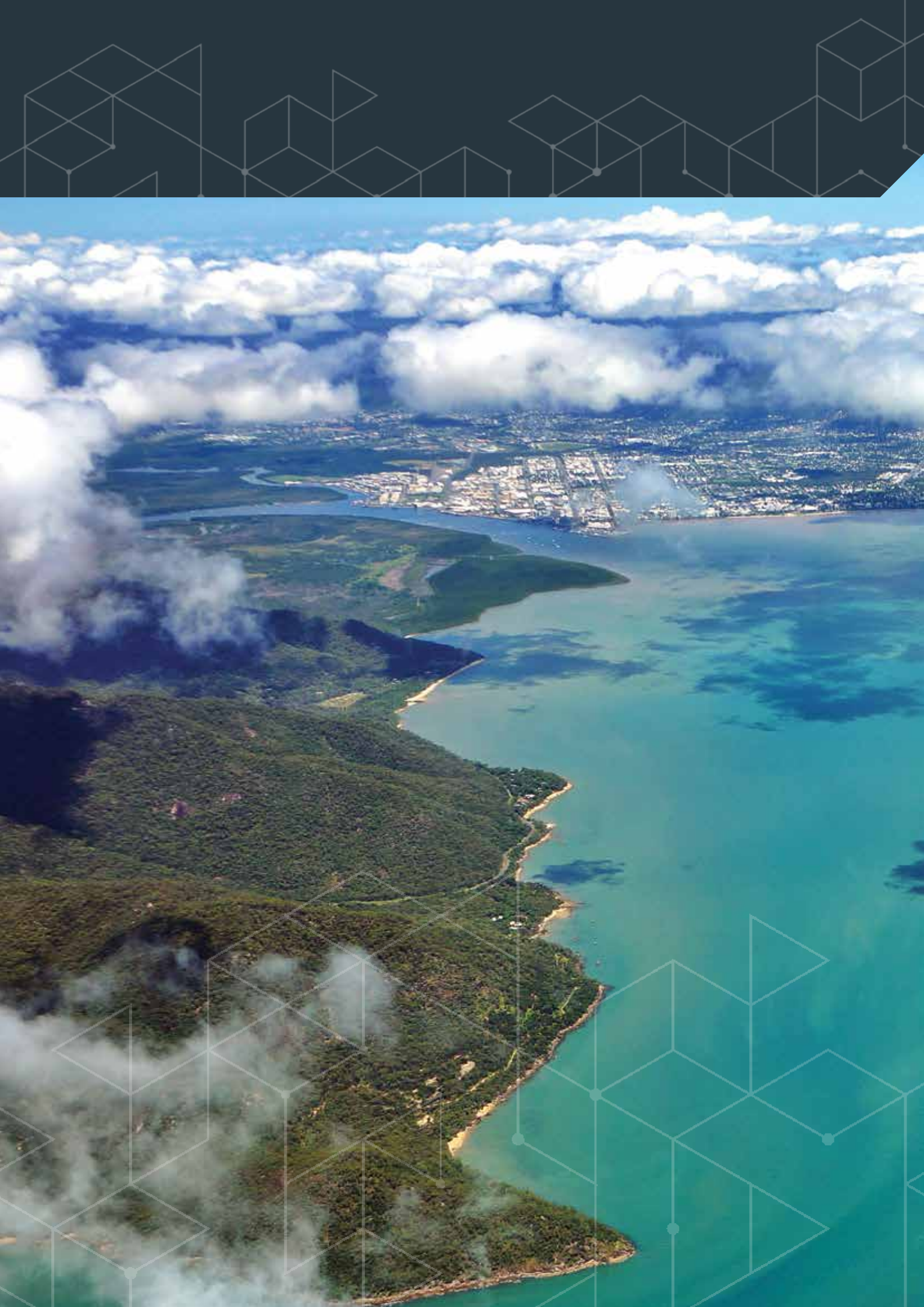




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# ABBREVIATIONS

AMTC	Animal Management Technical Committee
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DAF	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
DCSSDS	Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services
DEC	Department of Energy and Climate
DE	Department of Education
DESI	Department of Environment, Science and Innovation
DESBT	Department of Small Business and Training
DHLGPPW	Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works
DJAG	Department of Justice and Attorney General
DPC	Department of Premier and Cabinet
DR	Department of Resources
DRDMW	Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water
DRFA	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements
DSDI	Department of State Development and Infrastructure
DTATSIPCA	Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities, and the Arts
DTMR	Department of Transport and Main Roads
DTaS	Department of Tourism and Sport
FNQ	Far North Queensland
FNQ2031	Statutory Regional Plan for Far North Queensland
FNQPAF	Far North Queensland Pest Advisory Forum
FNQROC	Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils
FNQ RRTG	Far North Queensland Regional Road and Transport Group
FNQ RRTG TC	Far North Queensland Regional

	Road and Transport Group - Technical Committee
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
IBAPF	Interactive Biodiversity Assessment Planning Framework
JP&RS	Joint Purchasing and Resource Sharing
LG	Local Government
LGAQ	Local Government Association of Queensland
LRRS	Local Roads of Regional Significance
MRF	Material Recovery Facility
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAMAC	Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee (FNQROC)
NBN	National Broadband Network
NRM	Natural Resource Management
OIR	Office of Industrial Relations
QAO	Queensland Audit Office
QFES	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
QH	Queensland Health
QPWS	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
QRA	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
QT	Queensland Treasury
QTC	Queensland Treasury Corporation
QWRAP	Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program
RDRP	Regional Drought Resilience Plan
RTAPT	Roads and Transport Alliance Project Team
RMPC	Road Maintenance Performance Contract
RA	Roads Alliance
ROC	Regional Organisation of Councils
SEQ	South East Queensland
TC	Technical Committee
WHS	Workplace Health and Safety
WTMA	Wet Tropics Management Authority
WTWHA	Wet Tropics World Heritage Area



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC) is a collaborative entity dedicated to fostering regional collaboration, advocacy, and regional strategy for Far North Queensland.

FNQROC membership consists of the following Councils:

- Cairns Regional Council
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- Cook Shire Council
- Croydon Shire Council
- Douglas Shire Council
- Etheridge Shire Council
- Hinchinbrook Shire Council
- Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
- Mareeba Shire Council
- Tablelands Regional Council
- Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
- Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

As a key advocate for the area, FNQROC enhances policy formation, funding acquisition, and the implementation of strategic initiatives to support the region. Recent funding arrangements by both levels of government seem to prefer funding projects that can be applied regionally or are linked to a regional strategy.

Our mission and vision are centred on fostering advocacy and collaboration. FNQROC brings together the councils and stakeholders of Far North Queensland, offering a structured platform for sharing expertise and resources. This collaboration strengthens the region's ability to address regional challenges and opportunities.

FNQROC is recognised by federal and state governments for our central role in regional advocacy and delivering regional projects. Our strategic focus on the region and a deep understanding of local needs makes us a key advisor in shaping policies, strategies, and projects that benefit Far North Queensland. We are committed to enhancing infrastructure, ensuring access to

essential services such as water and waste, and protecting the environment to reflect our dedication to the region's future.

As the newly elected mayors of the Far North Queensland region, you will anticipate robust support, collaboration, and advocacy from FNQROC, designed to enhance the prosperity and well-being of our communities:

## Advocacy and Representation

- Strong, unified representation of Far North Queensland's interests at state and federal levels.
- Active lobbying for regional priorities, including infrastructure, funding, and policy support.

## Collaboration Opportunities

- Participation in regular meetings and forums to share insights and learn from peers.
- Joint projects and initiatives that leverage collective resources for regional benefits.

## Resource Sharing

- Access to a wealth of resources and best practices to enhance council operations.
- Opportunities to participate in shared services for cost efficiency and effectiveness.

## Networking and Relationship Building

- Build valuable relationships with other mayors, councillors, executive officers, and council officers across the region.
- Continue with relationships with State and Federal agencies, Regional Leadership Network, Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ), Regional Development Australia Tropical North (RDATN), and others.
- Engage with a network of professionals and experts in local government and related fields.

## Project Support and Development

- Assistance in planning, funding, and executing regional projects that benefit multiple councils.
- Support in developing initiatives that address local and regional challenges.





We acknowledge the traditional custodians of where we live and work and throughout Far North Queensland.  
We pay respects to elders past, present and emerging, and the enduring connections to Country and culture.



# INTRODUCTION TO FNQROC FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Mayors and Councillors

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I extend a warm welcome to each of you on behalf of the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC). As we stand at the threshold of a new term, we are reminded of the immense opportunities and responsibilities that lie ahead in shaping the future of our region.

FNQROC was founded on the principles of collaboration and shared regional vision. Our mission is to bring together the unique strengths of each member council to advocate for our region's needs, drive sustainable development, and enhance the quality of life for our communities. We believe that together, we are stronger and can achieve greater outcomes than any of us could alone.

As you embark on your journey with FNQROC, you will find a culture of support, open communication, and mutual respect. Our collective efforts focus on strategic planning, resource sharing, and advocating for Far North Queensland's interests at all levels of government. We are dedicated to ensuring that our region's voice is heard loud and clear, from the corridors of local government to the halls of state and federal institutions.

Our work is guided by a strategic framework that aligns with our shared goals for economic prosperity, environmental stewardship, and community well-being. We leverage our collective expertise to address regional challenges, seize opportunities for growth, and celebrate the successes that come from our collaborative endeavours.

Our commitment to you is steadfast; FNQROC is dedicated to delivering value without 'empire building'. We pride ourselves on a proven cost-benefit ratio, with past independent reviews highlighting a return of \$13.00, and most recently \$24.31, for every \$1.00 invested in our collective efforts. This testament to our efficiency underpins every initiative we undertake, ensuring that our work not only advocates for the region's needs but also delivers tangible benefits to Councils.

I invite you to engage fully in FNQROC's activities, contribute your insights and experience, and join us in our mission to make Far North Queensland a vibrant, thriving, and resilient region. Together, we will navigate the challenges ahead and seize the opportunities that promise a brighter future for all our communities.

Welcome to FNQROC. Your leadership and collaboration will be instrumental in driving our region forward. I look forward to working closely with you to achieve our common goals and aspirations.

Warmest regards



**Anthony Archie, Chief Executive Officer**



“

Congratulations on being elected as Mayor of your region. You will quickly find out that the FNQROC and the relationships that you form with the other Mayors will be one of your biggest support networks and greatest allies. This incredibly well-respected body sits in the background, assisting local councils in more ways than can be mentioned in this short paragraph, and over the next four years, you will come to understand the endless benefits and resources that this wonderful team will bring to your council. I have no doubt that they will bring the support to you and your councils as they have to the many before you. Remember that #togetherweacheivemore.

”



**Michael Kerr**

**Former FNQROC Chair and former Mayor Douglas Shire Council**

“

FNQROC is recognised nationally as an exemplar in Local Government collaboration. Membership is a privilege and opportunity to leverage the benefits of bulk purchasing, place based regional strategy and group political representation. Congratulations and welcome to our proven ROI, expert support team and the experience and collegiality of your fellow Mayors.

”



**Peter Scott**

**Former FNQ RRTG Chair, Former Representative on the LGAQ Policy Executive Committee (District 10 Far North) and former Mayor Cook Shire Council**



# MISSION AND VISION



## Mission

Advocate on behalf of, and foster cooperation and resources sharing between FNQROC member Councils



## Vision

Sustainable Economic Growth and Development for Far North Queensland



## Strategic Economic Goals

1. Develop resilient transport infrastructure and connectivity
2. Provide reliable and affordable water
3. Provide reliable and affordable energy
4. Respect and manage our natural assets and environment
5. Develop equitable social infrastructure
6. Provide equitable communication networks

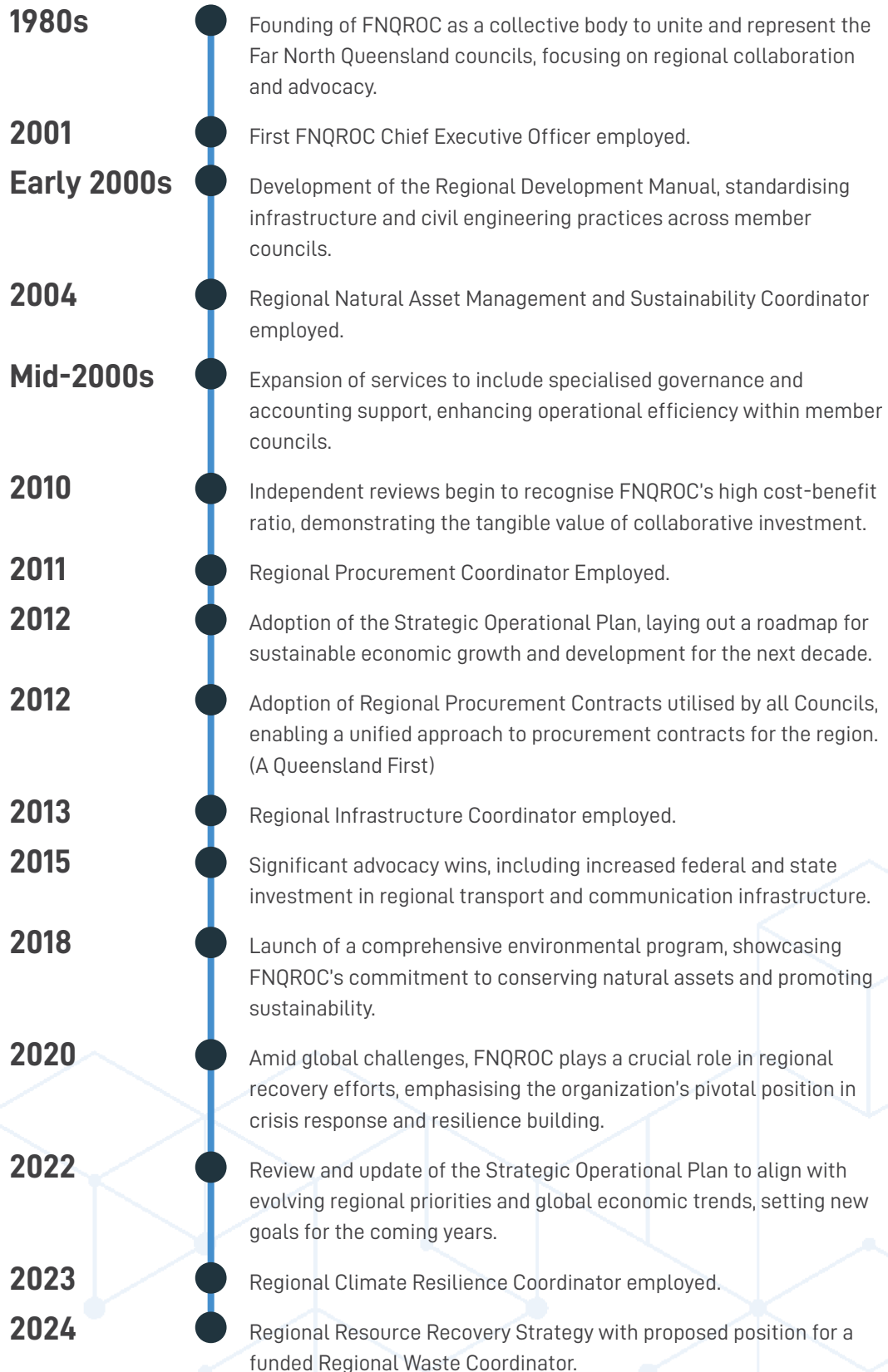


## Strategic Operational Plan

This plan - how we use our mission to achieve our vision and strategic economic goals over the next 5 years.



# HISTORY AND GROWTH OF FNQROC

- 
- 1980s** ● Founding of FNQROC as a collective body to unite and represent the Far North Queensland councils, focusing on regional collaboration and advocacy.
  - 2001** ● First FNQROC Chief Executive Officer employed.
  - Early 2000s** ● Development of the Regional Development Manual, standardising infrastructure and civil engineering practices across member councils.
  - 2004** ● Regional Natural Asset Management and Sustainability Coordinator employed.
  - Mid-2000s** ● Expansion of services to include specialised governance and accounting support, enhancing operational efficiency within member councils.
  - 2010** ● Independent reviews begin to recognise FNQROC's high cost-benefit ratio, demonstrating the tangible value of collaborative investment.
  - 2011** ● Regional Procurement Coordinator Employed.
  - 2012** ● Adoption of the Strategic Operational Plan, laying out a roadmap for sustainable economic growth and development for the next decade.
  - 2012** ● Adoption of Regional Procurement Contracts utilised by all Councils, enabling a unified approach to procurement contracts for the region. (A Queensland First)
  - 2013** ● Regional Infrastructure Coordinator employed.
  - 2015** ● Significant advocacy wins, including increased federal and state investment in regional transport and communication infrastructure.
  - 2018** ● Launch of a comprehensive environmental program, showcasing FNQROC's commitment to conserving natural assets and promoting sustainability.
  - 2020** ● Amid global challenges, FNQROC plays a crucial role in regional recovery efforts, emphasising the organization's pivotal position in crisis response and resilience building.
  - 2022** ● Review and update of the Strategic Operational Plan to align with evolving regional priorities and global economic trends, setting new goals for the coming years.
  - 2023** ● Regional Climate Resilience Coordinator employed.
  - 2024** ● Regional Resource Recovery Strategy with proposed position for a funded Regional Waste Coordinator.



# FNQROC ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE 2024





# COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES

Each of our technical committees is composed of skilled experts from the respective councils, pooling their specialised knowledge to form a formidable think-tank. The FNQROC Board guides these committees by suggesting key areas to explore, while the committee members themselves are adept at devising innovative solutions, proactively addressing current challenges and seizing new opportunities to benefit the entire region. This collaborative environment is where expertise meets creativity, resulting in actionable strategies that propel us forward.

- FNQ Regional Roads and Transport Group (RRTG)
- FNQ Regional Roads & Transport Group Technical (RRTG TC)
- FNQ Water Alliance
- FNQ Biosolids Sub-Committee
- Regional Waste Management and Resource Recovery Advisory Committee
- FNQ LG Planners Advisory Group
- FNQ Procurement Advisory Committee
- FNQ Climate Resilience Technical Committee (CRTC)
- FNQ Regional Mountain Bike Strategy Steering Committee
- FNQ WHS & Wellness Advisory Group
- FNQ Natural Asset Management Advisory Group (NAMAC)
- FNQ Animal Management Technical Committee
- FNQ LG Economic Development Advisory Group

## CURRENT STRATEGIES AND ARRANGEMENTS

- [Regional Asset Management Strategy 2010](#)
- [TNQ Regional Mountain Bike Strategy 2015 \(currently under review\)](#)
- [Mobile \(Blackspot\) Coverage Report - 2019](#)
- [Far North Queensland Regional Road Investment Strategy 2021](#)
  - [Regional Roads Investment Strategy – Heavy Vehicle Productivity - 2021](#)
  - [Regional Roads Investment Strategy – Heavy Vehicle Freight Networks - 2021](#)
  - [Regional Roads Investment Strategy – Tourism Routes – 2021](#)
- [FNQROC Long Term Analysis of the Role of Dams – March 2021](#)
- [Regional Animal Management Strategy 2023-2033](#)
- [FNQROC Regional Resource Recovery \(Waste\) Plan Summary - April 2023](#)
- [FNQROC Regional Resource Recovery Plan \(Waste\) – March 2023 \(Technical Document\)](#)
- Regional Water Capability Project (Underway)



# KEY RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

## Advocacy

- Engagement in Delegations: FNQROC conducted seven (7) delegations at State and Federal levels, meeting with 99 Federal and 79 State dignitaries despite COVID-19 challenges.
- Policy Contributions: Submitted 23 comprehensive responses to various State and Federal Policies, Strategies, Bills, and consultative documents, including key areas such as waste management, water quality, and biosecurity.

## Procurement

- Savings Through Collective Procurement: Enabled significant savings and risk elimination for member councils through collective procurement, particularly in areas like the annual Bitumen Reseal Program, Regional Sewer Relining and Condition Assessment, supply and delivery of Sodium Hypochlorite, Liquid Aluminium, and other chemicals, and the collection and disposal of ferrous metal, non-ferrous metal and used lead acid batteries.
- Innovative Programs: Facilitated the procurement of Flood Warning Infrastructure and a regional arrangement for the removal and beneficial reuse of biosolids, with 100% diverted from landfills.

## Infrastructure and Regional Development

- Strategic Infrastructure Initiatives: Significant progress was made in regional transport, waste management, and water and wastewater management, including the development of the FNQ Regional Road Investment Strategy and a Regional Resource Recovery Strategy.
- FNQROC Regional Resource Recovery Plan endorsed by the board. Implementation has begun with an application to the State to fund a regional coordinator.
- FNQROC Development Manual – Review of the Development Manual leading the adoption of Version 9.

## Natural Asset Management and Sustainability

- Comprehensive Management Efforts: Progress was achieved in biosecurity, water quality, landscape restoration, biodiversity conservation, and animal management, guided by the Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee (NAMAC) and the Animal Management Technical Committee (AMTC).
- Amazon Frogbit Biosecurity Response Plan endorsed by the board, with implementation yet to commence.
- Regional Animal Management Strategy endorsed by the board. Initial implementation has begun and will continue in 2024.

## Climate Resilience

- Climate Resilience Coordination: Actively worked towards a climate-resilient, low-carbon future, establishing the Climate Resilience Technical Committee (CRTC) to drive initiatives in climate mitigation, transition, and adaptation.
- Focused Projects: Conducted projects under the Queensland Climate Resilient Councils Program and developed action plans for climate adaptation and mitigation, including regional drought resilience planning.



# CURRENT INITIATIVES

- **Strategic Planning and Collaboration:**  
Developing and supporting regional strategies and plans for natural asset management, including the development of an updated FNQ Regional Mountain Bike Strategy and response to emerging environmental issues.
- **Capability Building:**  
Commenced the Regional Water Capability Project to address challenges in the water and wastewater sector and the development of a Regional Water Capability Plan.
- **Road Seal Treatments Study:**  
The commencement of a study to understand the whole of life cost pricing for various road sealing treatments across our region to better inform decisions when procuring.
- **Regional Disaster Management Coordinator:**  
Facilitation of discussion and completion of funding submissions for an FNQROC Coordinator to manage a committee to address current regional wants and needs.
- **Establish greenhouse gas inventories/audit emissions study** funded through the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.
- **Regional Drought Resilience Plan (RDRP):**  
working with the TNQ Drought Hub from JCU to develop the plan for the Wet Tropics and Gulf Savannah.



## GETTING INVOLVED

### Upcoming FNQROC Board Meetings

- Thursday 18 April 2024 – Barlow Park, Cairns
- Thursday 6 June 2024 – Away Board Meeting; Hosted by Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- Thursday 1 August 2024 – Cairns
- Thursday 3 October 2024 – Away Board Meeting; Hosted by Tablelands Regional Council
- Thursday 5 December 2024 – Cairns

Mayors and CEOs can easily bring important matters to our attention by submitting a report or resolution under general business, or simply by picking up the phone for a chat with the FNQROC CEO — we're always open to hearing what's on your mind and ready to support you in getting your item on the agenda.

A substantial number of agenda items are thoughtfully introduced through our technical committees, with dedicated staff from each council bringing their expertise to the forefront, ensuring a comprehensive approach to regional issues.





# KEY AREA SUMMARIES

## FNQROC Board Advocacy

The FNQROC Board, as a collective of Mayors regularly travel to Canberra and Brisbane to meet with Senators, Ministers and Shadow Ministers to advocate for our region. The intent of these delegations is to show consensus and advocate those issues or opportunities, which have an impact on the region. These delegations provide Mayors with networking, knowledge, and confidence to bring their councils back for local issues. Over the past two years, the previous Board developed the FNQROC brand during their delegations and gained respect for our united front.

During delegations, we undertake anywhere from 16 to 26 meetings over 2 days. Generally, there will be one or two key regionally agreed issues that have priority and are discussed at all these meetings. We then leave time for any portfolio specific issues to be conversed. Over time, the FNQROC Board have become polished in how these meetings are performed communicating key messaging.

The Delegation Agenda which includes meeting times, accommodation and flights are coordinated and funded by FNQROC for the benefit of the region.



# FNQ Regional Road and Transport Group (FNQ RRTG)

## Membership

- Cairns Regional Council
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- Cook Shire Council (southern part)
- Croydon Shire Council
- Douglas Shire Council
- Etheridge Shire Council
- Mareeba Shire Council
- Tablelands Regional Council
- Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
- Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
- Department of Transport and Main Roads (FNQ)

## Roads Alliance

The Roads Alliance (RA) is a partnership arrangement between LGAQ on behalf of all Queensland Local Governments and DTMR. Established to create a more collaborative and coordinated approach to road management and investment.

The Roads Alliance evolved due to increasing community expectations for better road infrastructure and recognition that DTMR and Local Governments confront similar problems in managing the road network. In May 2001, DTMR and LGAQ committed to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a State-wide Management and Investment Alliance (Roads Alliance), this has continued with the signing of a new MOU in 2018.

The key objectives of the Roads Alliance are to:

- Maximise economic development and benefits through better funding allocations.
- Achieve maximum efficiencies for the State and Local Governments through a combined approach to road network planning and project scheduling.
- Invest in improved road management and delivery capability through increased training, advanced technology and systems transfer.

Local Roads of Regional Significance (LRRS) are generally higher-order Local Government roads and lower-order DTMR roads. This network should link communities, economic drivers, transport nodes and tourism locations. LRRS roads available for viewing [here](#).

The Roads Alliance is not just about the distribution of road funding, but about working toward improved long term planning, better asset management practices, smarter purchasing, resource sharing and investment, and improvement of DTMR and Local Government technical capability.

A number of principles as contained in the Roads Alliance MOU underpins the Roads Alliance. In total, the Roads Alliance framework has eight (8) recognised elements to its operation:

- Regional Road Groups and Technical Committees (RRTG)
- Local Roads of Regional Significance (LRRS)
- Asset Management
- Program Development and Reporting
- Road Safety
- Regional funding arrangements, incl. Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) funding
- Joint Purchasing and Resource Sharing
- Workforce Capability

FNQ RRTG meetings generally follow the FNQROC Board meeting and comprises elected members (generally the Mayor) from each Council, together with the District Director of DTMR.

The RRTG Technical Committee (TC) comprises senior staff (in the engineering field) from each Council and DTMR. Both the RRTG and TC meet regularly and separately with recommendations from the TC put to the RRTG for ratification.



## Water Alliance

One major element of local government in Far North Queensland is the management of urban water supply and wastewater services. This area of responsibility is critical, not just for the day-to-day well-being of our communities, but also for the broader economic development and sustainability of our region.

In Far North Queensland, despite our abundant rainfall, we face challenges with water storage capacity for urban use. This limitation is becoming increasingly significant and, without proactive measures, could restrict future growth and development across our region.

Historical and ongoing experiences within the water management sector underline the substantial advantages of adopting a collaborative approach. By working together, local councils benefit directly through the sharing of skills and achieving improved economies of scale. Indirectly, a united front enhances our engagement with State Government agencies and other key stakeholders, ensuring our collective voice is heard and our regional needs are met.

This collaborative ethos underpins our efforts to secure water security as a cornerstone for economic growth in Far North Queensland. By joining forces, we can address our current limitations and pave the way for a sustainable and prosperous future for our region. The Regional Water Capability Plan is the development of a regional, long-term (up to 10 years) coordinated plan that identifies options and opportunities for member councils to work individually and collaboratively to improve capability in the focus areas of people, data and processes. This exciting project is supported by both Jobs Queensland and Queensland Water and will be used to demonstrate required policy reform and any funding and assistance required from, both levels of Government to reach the desired future state.

## Waste Management

Far North Queensland faces a unique set of challenges in delivering cost effective and sustainable waste services. Considering the region incorporates two World Heritage listed areas (Wet Tropics and the Great Barrier Reef) those challenges can vary significantly from one council to the next.

All councils in the region struggle with issues such as access to secondary markets, transport costs, and the increasing costs and difficulties in developing new waste infrastructure. This all impacts on the ability of Councils to achieve strategic ambitions, deliver, and operate viable networks of resource recovery facilities.

Originally established in 2004 and comprising of member Councils, the Regional Waste Management Group (RWMG) was to undertake a regional Waste Management Strategy. The adopted Regional Resource Recovery Plan (RRR Plan) presents a series of actions to collaboratively deliver resource recovery outcomes and provide positive impact across its 11 council areas. Councils have committed to sharing and cooperating to minimise waste and maximise resilient and effective resource recovery systems for FNQ and have submitted an application for a funded Regional Waste Management Coordinator to facilitate implementation of the Plan.





## Procurement

The Procurement Coordinator role is now in its twelfth year and funded by the contributions of member Councils made on the following basis: Cairns, Cassowary, Cook, Douglas, Mareeba and Tablelands contribute \$25,000 annually; this amount being less than previously identified savings per Council.

The remaining Councils contribute 20% of savings made through their involvement in FNQROC procurement activities.

The FNQROC mandate for procurement is:

- Where there exists limited supply for a product and/or service.
- Where member Councils are competing against each other for the same goods and/or services.
- Where products or services could be scheduled to provide an improved service delivery.
- Where member Councils would benefit from the sharing of knowledge and collaboration.

## Removal and Beneficial Reuse of Biosolids

Biosolids are treated sewerage sludge and the major by-product of the wastewater treatment process. When treated and appropriately managed, biosolids can be beneficially used for a number of purposes. Many member Councils Wastewater treatment plants produce biosolids that currently meet the stabilisation criteria required for beneficial reuse. The collective arrangement focuses on streamlined pricing and on ensuring the provision of consistent terms of contract across the region in order to achieve efficiency benefits to both supplier and Councils alike. Seven (7) member councils participate in this arrangement.

## Regional Bitumen Reseal

We are in our eleventh year of the annual Bitumen Reseal Program. This program commenced as a result of councils competing against each other for works to be completed within the financial year. This competition between councils drove prices up and, in some instances, councils were not getting any or only one response to their tenders and regularly the annual program was non-delivered.

The program successfully delivered over 2.6 million m<sup>2</sup> of road sealed and over 5.6 million litres of bitumen used over the past four (4) years.

## Water Chemicals

The contracts for the supply and delivery of Sodium Hypochlorite and Liquid Alum, the most commonly used chemicals by both Water and Wastewater areas of councils, have been made under a collective procurement arrangement since 2012. Eleven member councils now participate in this arrangement, which not only continue to offer good value for money but also the added benefit of centralised contracts management provided by FNQROC.

Sodium Hypochlorite and Liquid Alum: over 10 million litres of Sodium Hypochlorite and over 3.2 million litres of Liquid Alum used over the past four (4) years.

## Collection & Disposal of Ferrous Metal & Used Lead Acid Batteries (ULABs)

This arrangement has been in place since 2015 involving eleven member councils. The intent of the arrangement is that Ferrous Metal and ULAB stockpiles (predominantly car batteries), are managed at acceptable levels and Councils receive a fair and certain value for the materials.

The contracts are based on a supplier led collection schedule and pricing linked to metal markets. Over 35,000 tonnes of ferrous metal, over 750 tonnes of ULABs, and over 520 tonnes of non-ferrous metal have been collected over the past four (4) years.



## Regional Sewer Relining

Sewer relining involves not only the actual pipe relining but also identifying and accessing manholes, liaising with property owners, arranging traffic control, managing flow-control and other appropriate by-pass methods together with viewing copious amounts of pre and post-works CCTV all of which makes for quite a complex and time-consuming process for both councils and suppliers.

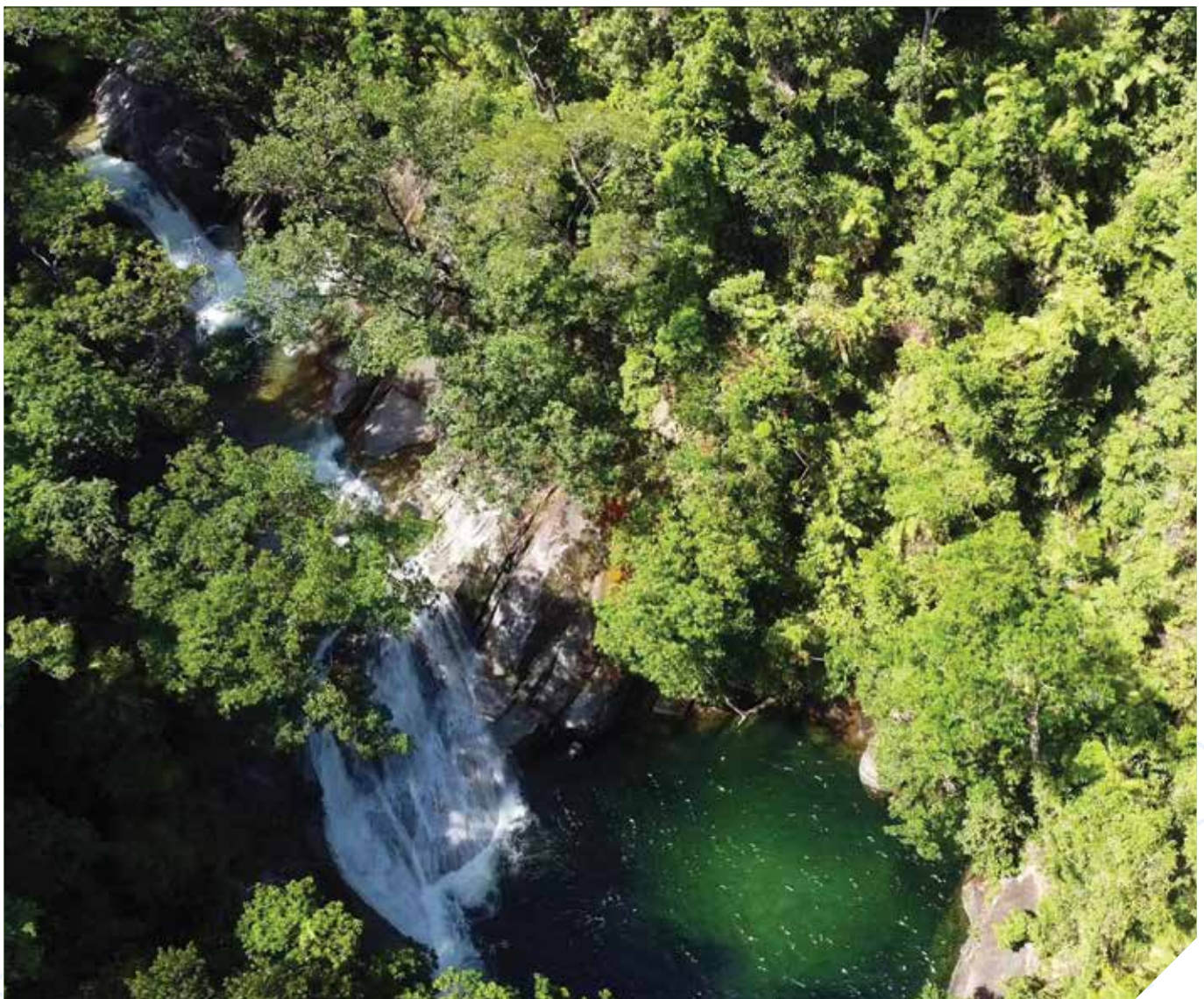
The Regional Sewer Relining arrangement has been in place since 2020.

Over 15,000 linear metres of sewer reticulation were successfully relined across the region in 2022/23. In addition, condition assessments were carried out on over 500 manholes. Cost benefit analysis for this arrangement reveals savings both in terms of the actual cost of relining and further intangible benefits including significant time savings for council officers.

## Regional Procurement & Contract Documentation

The development of regionally consistent contract and procurement documentation was the first of a series of procurement projects endorsed by the Board as part of the Strategic Operational Plan. The project was part funded by the State-wide Capability Development Fund following a funding application submitted by the Far North Queensland Regional Road and Transport Group (FNQ RRTG) and delivered a comprehensive suite of contract and procurement documents to all FNQROC councils.

All 12 FNQROC member councils are participating in this arrangement and council officers are encouraged to make use of the documentation and to provide feedback on what works well or perhaps not so well. The project is one of continuous improvement; therefore, it is important that feedback is captured and actioned accordingly.





## Natural Asset Management and Sustainability

The Natural Asset Management and Sustainability role represents the interests of FNQROC Local Governments across operations related to the natural environment including biosecurity (pests and weeds); water quality and GBR; landscape repair and restoration; biodiversity conservation / planning and climate adaptation.

The Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee (NAMAC) guides the majority of the technical aspects of the role. The NAMAC consists of representatives from member Councils, Terrain NRM and Queensland DAF and so reflects the memorandum of understanding entered into by the State Government (DAF), Natural Resource Management groups (RGC) and Local Government (LGAQ) at a state level.

Beginning in 2019 the role is also facilitating the delivery of the FNQROC Animal Management Technical Committee (AMTC). The AMTC brings together local laws officers and managers from across the region with Queensland Health, Biosecurity Queensland Animal Health and Queensland Police Service, to collaborate on regional issues and programs. The work of the committee supports councils in executing their responsibilities and services under the Animal Management (Dogs & Cats) Act 2008, Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, Biosecurity Act 20014 and the Local Government Act 2009. Alongside the NAMAC, the AMTC works to deliver the FNQROC Animal Management & Wildlife Stewardship Policy. The FNQROC Board recently adopted the Regional Animal Management Strategy.



## Climate Resilience

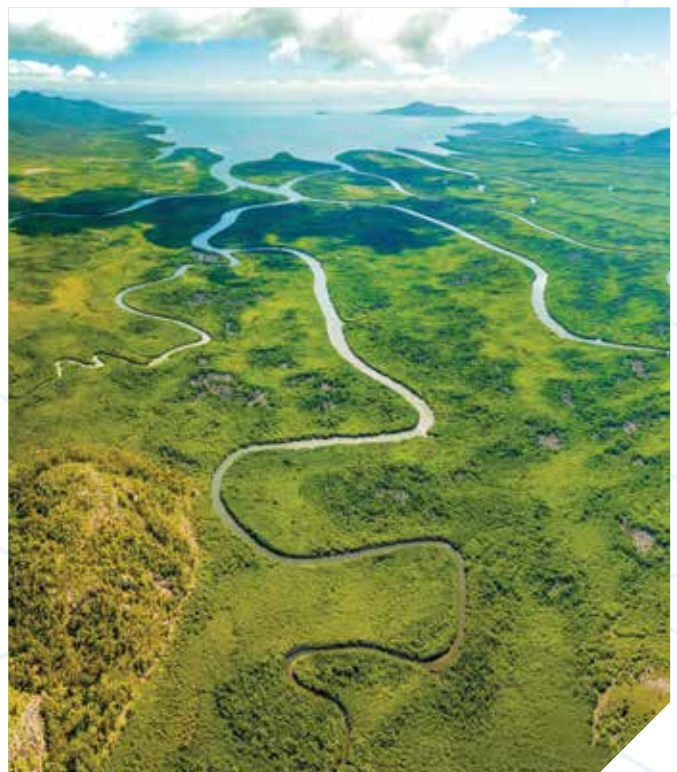
The Climate Resilience Technical Committee (CRTC) is the most recent committee to be established, consisting of all Councils and is dedicated to addressing the challenges and seizing the opportunities associated with creating a climate-resilient and low-emission future.

Building on the achievements of the Rivers to Reef Climate Resilient Alliance, established in 2022, the CRTC is at the forefront of initiatives focused on climate mitigation, transition, and adaptation. These initiatives are designed to yield benefits across social, environmental, and economic spheres.

Under the auspices of FNQROC, the CRTC fosters a spirit of collaboration, enabling members to pool resources and share insights. This collaborative approach is pivotal in shaping and executing strategic plans aimed at enhancing our region's resilience, including:

- The Regional Drought Resilience Plan for the Gulf Hinterland and Wet Tropics.
- The Queensland Reconstruction Authority's Local Resilience Action Plans for our region.
- The FNQROC Rivers to Reef Climate Alliance Action Plan.

Meetings of the committee are convened quarterly, providing a forum for members to deliberate on progress, challenges, and next steps in our collective journey towards a more resilient Far North Queensland.





## Planning

The Regional Planning Committee is a vital part of the FNQROC and currently meets once a month to discuss issues and opportunities related to the development of a new FNQ Regional Plan. Generally, the committee's primary purpose is to share information among the group and provide a forum for discussion. As such, the committee plays a crucial role in representing their respective Council and passing on information to mayors about the ongoing planning initiatives. In the lead up to the State elections in October, the state is keen to have a draft FNQ Regional Plan completed.

Recently, the FNQROC adopted version 9 of the FNQROC Development Manual, a significant and well-utilised planning policy document in the region; the manuals are also used to set a standard for council-constructed infrastructure.



## Economic Development

The FNQROC LG Economic Development Committee consists of representatives from member Council's, Department of State Development and Infrastructure (DSDI), Trade and Investment QLD (TIQ), Regional Development Australia Tropical North (RDATN).

The FNQROC Economic Development Committee discussions focus on the following key strategic deliverables as aligned to the FNQROC Strategic Operational Plan.

- Shared knowledge re Local, State and Federal government programs, grants, policy development and drivers impacting regional Economic Development.
- Collaborate sharing of current Economic Development projects across councils and stakeholders to build regional knowledge and networks.
- Identifying collaborative opportunities for regional branding and sponsorship.
- Identifying sleeper and future economic development issues and opportunities that may impact the region.
- Identifying cross regional events which leverage visitation across council boundaries and present opportunities for joint funding applications.
- Identifying regional training, skill development and future presenters of interest.

## WHS and Wellbeing

The FNQROC WHS and Wellbeing Advisory Group consists of representatives from member Councils and the Office of Industrial Relations (OIR).

The FNQROC WHS and Wellbeing Advisory Group looks at items raised from four (4) yearly audits. The group shares knowledge and information on policies, practical implementation, and best practice.



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