

Minutes - FNQROC Planners Meeting – No.73

Meeting Details

Meeting No	73
Meeting Name	FNQROC Planners Meeting
Date	19 March 2024
Time	10am
Venue	Draper Room, Level 3, Cairns Regional Council / Teams

Attendees

Name	Organisation
Nastassja Lazarus	Cairns Regional Council
Jonas Griffin-Fodaro	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Keanu Johnston	Cook Shire Council (Consultant Planner)
Jenny Elphinstone	Douglas Shire Council
Carl Ewin	Mareeba Shire Council
Kelly Reaston	FNQROC
Paula Power	FNQROC
Anthony Archie	FNQROC
Sean Lisle	Tablelands Regional Council

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Ed Johnston	Cairns Regional Council
Fleur Anderson	Cairns Regional Council
Claire Simmons	Cairns Regional Council
Deb Wellington	Cairns Regional Council
Daniel Horton	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Brian Millard	Mareeba Shire Council
Byron Jones	Cassowary Coast Regional Council

Tony Croke	DHLGPPW
Brett Nancarrow	DHLGPPW
Neil Beck	Douglas Shire Council
Liz Taylor	Etheridge Shire Council (Consultant Planner)
Matthew Leman	LGAQ
Julie Colman	WTMA

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting opened at 10.05am.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Nil

ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Agreed Action Items - Friday 8 March 2024

#	Action	Responsible Person(s)	Status
71.1	Discussion around the co-existence term – DSDILGP to arrange for someone to talk to the FNQROC Planners Group on co-existence mapping, ag uses, and the definition.	L Brown DSDILGP	On-going
72.1	Homes for Queensland - Planners to send Brett Nancarrow an email listing things that would qualify for the fund.	B Nancarrow DHLGPPW	On-going
72.2	Councils to review the notes from the workshop that were circulated and provide comments on how they want to see SRAs treated in the new Regional Plan.	P Power FNQROC	On-going

PRESENTATIONS/UPDATES

LGAQ Update – Matthew Leman (LGAQ) –

M Leman was not present at the meeting, however, has provided an LGAQ update.

- HAAPOLA Bill - the Bill has been amended to reflect some of the key concerns LGAQ raised in their submission, and through ongoing conversations with the Department. In particular:
 - The ‘Urban Investigation Zone’ concept has been removed – with a commitment from the Minister to revisit the concept in genuine consultation with local governments.
 - Local governments will now maintain their ability to protect local heritage places; and
 - Amendments to the Planning Regulation 2017 are being publicly consulted on - allowing Queensland councils to understand and scrutinise how the proposed ‘State Facilitated Development’ pathway, and other operational matters, will work in practice.
- Hosting a webinar with the Department on their proposed amendments to the Planning Regulation, before writing a submission (check your inbox for an invitation, soon).
- Had several concerns with EDQ’s EDOLA Bill, which are covered in our submission, here. In summary, we were concerned with:
 - The longstanding impact of EDQ’s practices on local governments’ financial sustainability.
 - The introduction of new threats to the financial sustainability of Queensland councils, as proposed by the Bill.
 - A lack of proactive engagement with councils to address ongoing concerns.
 - A lack of checks-and-balances, to provide local governments with confidence in EDQ’s PDA and infrastructure planning processes; and
 - Disproportionate ministerial powers, and the impacts these powers may have on councils, ratepayers, distributor-retailers and information security.
- LGAQ appeared before the Committee on Friday and will await their recommendations before deciding on next steps.

ROUNDTABLE UPDATES

Nastassja Lazarus – Cairns Regional Council

- Currently rolling out onboarding workshops
- Towards 2050 – Growth Strategy
 - Currently reviewing Directions Paper
 - Directions Paper Public consultation anticipated to occur June/July
- Provided comment on sub-regional Narrative to State for FNQ Regional Plan

Action: Planners to bring to the next meeting, DA report for each Council for the last couple of months.

Jonas Griffin-Fodaro – Cassowary Coast Regional Council

- New Planner for Cassowary Coast Regional Council - Jonas introduced himself to the group.

Keanu Johnston – Consultant for Cook Shire Council

- Like other LGAs, Cook Shire have a new Mayor and new faces in Council. Back-to-back Councillor onboarding and workshops last week.
- Reel Planning and the Cook Shire Council Planning Department ran a Councillor onboarding session last week. Planning one on one workshop, looked at Lakeland Master Plan. Good feedback and discussion amongst the new Council.

- DA numbers are steady – no major influx and a mix of application types. Contentious MCU DA progressing – discussed in Councillor onboarding / workshop.

Sean Lisle – Tablelands Regional Council

- Noticeable slowdown in DA's, however still steady number of minor DA's being received.
 - A 14,000m2 GFA regionally significant large format retail precinct approved by Council recently.

Strategic projects:

- Amendment with State for approval to adopt
- LGIP review underway
- 10yr statutory scheme review to commence shortly
- LHAP – working draft – some issues experienced in the review of the draft between LGAQ and State
- Regional Plan narrative and profile feedback presented to the State for consideration

Carl Ewin – Mareeba Shire Council

- DA numbers down.
- Haven't gone through planning one on one.

Jenny Elphinstone – Douglas Shire Council

- New Mayor and 2 new Councillors. Inducted last Monday.
- Planning workshop on Monday 22 April 2024.
- Mill closed – significant change for the Community.
- Extension from state on all DAs – extra 20 days during January and February 2024.
- Water intake approval/private land – DA; Boundary realignment.
- LGAQ – federal funding 100% to Local Government for Housing/Planning.
- LGIP Review May/June for some infrastructure upgrades.

General Business

- Read in the UDIA Newsletter about a bill that was passed on changes to the planning and other legislation (amendment bill).
- EDQ changing to a corporation. How does that affect social affordable housing? Currently a bill.
- LGAQ Diploma in Planning and Local Government. Does LGAQ have any information on the diploma?
- Councils to look at different ways of recruiting and retention for Planners. ie. Cadetships, graduate programs, engaging with schools.

Action: Investigate LGAQ Diploma in Planning and Local Government and ways to bring in new Planners.

- LGAQ advised the Diploma, will be returning this year after a COVID-hiatus. When more information is available it will be forwarded to the group.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for **Friday 10 May 2024**.

The meeting closed at 11.30am.

Agreed Action Items - Friday 19 March 2024

#	Action	Responsible Person(s)	Status
73.1	Planners to bring to the next meeting, DA report for each Council for the last couple of months.	All	
73.2	Investigate LGAQ Diploma in Planning and Local Government and ways to bring in new Planners.	All LGAQ	