

Climate Resilience Technical Committee

Meeting Minutes

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| Meeting No | 05 |
| Meeting | Climate Resilience Technical Committee (CRTC) |
| Date | June 14, 2024 |
| Time | 10:30 am – 2:00 pm |
| Venue | Cairns |

1. Acknowledgement of Country

Climate Resilience Technical Committee acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands which we are gathering from and the lands we have crossed to be here today. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

2. Attendance & Apologies

Welcome new members:

- Michael Anderson from Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- Stephen Frost from Croydon Shire Council
- Sophie Barrett from Cairns Regional Council

| Name | Organisation |
|---------------------|---|
| Damon Sydes | Cassowary Coast Regional Council |
| Keely Macmillan | Mareeba Regional Council |
| Michael Nash | Hinchinbrook Shire Council |
| Michelle O'Loughlin | Cairns Regional Council |
| Sarah Frew | Cook Shire Council |
| Michael Anderson | Cassowary Coast Regional Council |
| Lucy Graham | Cairns and Far North Environmental Centre |
| Jessie Gray | Bureau of Meteorology |
| Stephen Frost | Croydon Shire Council |
| Maria Anselmo | FNQROC |
| Melissa Mitchell | Douglas Shire Council |
| Sophie Barrett | Cairns Regional Council |
| Tony O'Malley | Terrain NRM |
| Annalise Varghese | LGAQ |
| Jack Prigg | BOM Brisbane Office |

Apologies

| Name | Organisation |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Zoe Williams | Gulf Savannah NRM |
| Sarah Hoyal | Terrain NRM |
| Scott Buchanan | Wet Tropics Management Authority |

| Name | Organisation |
|-----------------|---|
| Cr Barry Hughes | Etheridge Shire Council |
| Lucy Graham | Cairns and Far North Environmental Centre |

3. Previous Minutes

Accepted

4. Presentations

4.1 The Bureau of Meteorology – Seasonal Outlook Presentation

Dr Jessie Gray - Climatologist/Climate Risk Officer Hazard Preparedness and Response, The Bureau of Meteorology presented the *FNQROC Climate Update*.

Key Messages

- **July to September** days and nights are very likely to be **warmer than average** across Northern Queensland.
- There is an **increased chance (> 70%) of unusually warm days and nights** for lower, western and central Northern Queensland.
- For **July to September, rainfall is likely to be below average** across Northern Queensland.
- The Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO) is currently weak (as of 8 June) and is expected to remain generally weak for the coming fortnight. A **weak MJO has little impact on Australian rainfall**.
- The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently neutral.
- The Bureau's ENSO Outlook is at La Niña Watch due to early signs that an event may form in the Pacific Ocean later in 2024.
- The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral.
- The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is currently neutral (as of 8 June).

Discussions & Additional Information

- Council briefing sessions
 - The Bureau is currently developing products, updates will be provided. In the meantime, general services are available.
 - For special requests, Councils can contact The Bureau Northern Officer via email: DSS_HPR_East_NQ@bom.gov.au.
- Bushfire Predictions
 - After the large volume of rain during the Wet Season, fuel loads will be high.
 - National Parks and numerous other agencies across the region have started managing fuel loads through prescribed burning.
 - Information regarding seasonal bushfire warnings is provided by AFAC: [Seasonal Bushfire Outlook Winter 2024 \(afac.com.au\)](http://afac.com.au)
 - The Bureau issues the following [fire weather warning service](#):
 - based on fire weather districts
 - when forecast weather conditions are likely to be dangerous
 - early in the morning for the current day
 - in the afternoon for the following day.
 - We update warnings regularly and reissue them as needed.

5. Actions

| No. | ACTION | Responsible Person(s) | Status |
|-------|---|-----------------------|------------|
| 4.1 | Share a copy of The Bureau's previous briefing to Councils. | FNQROC | Completed |
| 4.2 | Share 2023-24 Season Recovery Update Slides from QRA slides with all attendees. | FNQROC | Completed |
| 4.3 | Provide CRTC members with an update on the final draft and FNQROC Board decisions. | FNQROC | Completed |
| 4.4 | Send EOI to CRTC Council Members for presenting climate resilience in Far North Queensland to elected Local Government members. | FNQROC | Completed |
| 4.3.8 | Include on the Council website, information about heatwave preparedness. (Carryover as Action 4-3.8.) | CRTC Council Members | Carry-over |
| 4.3.7 | Arrange a Heat Mitigation and Adaption presentation from Darwin. Carryover as Action (4-3.7) | FNQROC | Carry-over |

CRTC Members agreed to the following.

- Carry-over heatwave-related actions (4.3.8 & 4.3.7) to align with the Heatwave Season (October-November).
- Adjusting the CRTC Meeting agendas to include an educational section for presentations and open invitations to multiple stakeholders from across the region.

6. Project Updates

6.1 Regional Drought Resilience Plans

- 10th April 2024, the final round of engagement, with an online Wet Tropics and Gulf Hinterland forum. Identified stakeholders to lead the implementation of pathways gathered to provide final feedback on the draft plans. Overall, we received support on the actions and supported to deliver actions pending funding. Minor changes were applied to a few actions.
- The FNQROC Board endorsed the Final Draft of the Regional Drought Resilience Plan Wet Tropics & Gulf Hinterland on 20th May 2024.
- CSIRO Review completed. Currently reviewing recommendations and completing feedback template.
- Summary of strengths and recommendations provided during the meeting included.
 - Gulf Hinterland Plan Strengths:
 - engagement with diverse stakeholders.
 - builds on diverse material, including current and past work
 - Drought impact assessment
 - Gulf Hinterland Recommendations:
 - Build on existing system description
 - Explore intervention options for transition and transformation
 - Establish adaptive governance arrangements and expand on the theory of change
 - Develop a component on action learning.
 - Wet Tropics Plan Strengths
 - Locally relevant definition of drought
 - Comprehensive and well-organised description of the region
 - A component of a broader resilience strategy for the greater region
 - Wet Tropics Plan Recommendations
 - Develop a theory of change
 - A more comprehensive assessment of resilience to drought
 - Conceptualising transformation as per resilience thinking
 - Explore a range of drought impacts on different system components

- Feedback from CSIRO across both plans identified a need for clarification on the process for facilitating and delivering the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework.
- Final submission due 30th June 2023. A copy of the final plan will be sent to CRTC members, Water Alliance Members and the FNQROC Board.
- Thank you CRTC members for your valuable input.

Key Discussion Points

- Discussions regarding the implementation of the Regional Drought Resilience Plans highlighted a need for ongoing funding to facilitate the coordination and implementation of the Plans.
- When reflecting on CSIRO feedback regarding the MEL Framework, CRTC members supported a motion to facilitate the MEL Framework if resourced appropriately.

6.2 GHG Emissions Inventory Project

- Quick status update on delivery
- Still searching for a temporary employee to assist ASCs. If you know anyone who can assist, please contact FNQROC Climate Resilience Coordinator.
- GHG Emissions Working Group convened and motioned for the following:
FNQROC start looking at a Regional Profile for GHG Emissions (local government – in-house).
 - Motion supported by Climate Resilience Technical Committee Members.
- Members recognise the value of working collectively to achieve a reduction in GHG Emissions. For example, flaring landfill sites.
- Members recognise the value of the regional GHG Emissions Inventory for accessing funding and advocating regional priorities.

6.3 QRRRF, NEMA and NCRA Stage 2

6.3.1 Funding for QRRRF: Regional Resilience and Risk Strategy - status pending.

6.3.2 Funding for NEMA: Regional Disaster Management - status pending.

6.3.3 FNQROC NCRA Stage 2 CSIRO conducting interviews to understand the views of Far North Queensland region communities about the National Priority Risks identified in State 1 of the National Climate Risk Assessment. CSIRO is seeking approval from CRTC to proceed with interviewing members. CRTC Members approve participation in the interview and request interview questions to be emailed before the interview for preparation.

5.1 ACTION: Develop an FNQROC Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Profile.

5.2 ACTION: Notify CSIRO of CRTC support to participate and request interview questions prior interview.

7. Climate Resilience Updates

7.1 Federal Budget

- Funding for Mitigation: \$22.7 billion for Future Made in Australia to maximise the economic and industrial benefit of the move to net zero. The factsheet is available in the CRTC Teams resource library.
- Funding for Resilience:
 - \$138.7 million to improve Australia's response and resilience to natural hazards and disasters.
 - \$174.6 million from the National Water Grid Fund
 - \$519.1 million from the Future Drought Fund

Acknowledged the importance of understanding our regional gaps, needs and strengths to maximise potential opportunities from Federal funding and programs.

7.2 State Government

- State Budget: Around \$26 billion over 4 years to deliver the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.
- State Budget: \$100 million over 3 years to support high-priority disaster resilience and mitigation projects.
- GHG Emission Reduction Targets legislated:
 - 30% below 2005 levels by 2030
 - 75% below 2005 levels by 2035
 - net zero emissions by 2050.
- GHG Emissions Guidelines for new and major amendments to environmental authority applications EA Applications.
 - CRTC members who attended the LGAQ-facilitated online information session confirmed that the State Government will provide tools to assist applicants.
 - A copy of the presentation slides will be shared once received.

7.3 LGAQ

- Calls for Motions opened Monday 3rd June and close July 29.
- Motion through Ref Guardian Councils will be put up to the Council; there is an option, upon review, to write a letter of support for motions relating to Climate Resilience on behalf of FNQROC CRTC.
- For now, there is no action required.
- FYI: LGAQ submitted a Request for Quotation to assess the impact of environmental compliance for landfills and waste management in Rural and Remote QLD. As part of the request the project asks to consider:
 - GHG emissions from transport for regional or out-of-region processing
 - Emissions and operational environmental costs of new equipment, both mobile or stationary; and
 - The social and economic cost of improvement compared to the impact on state and federal waste reduction, recycling and circular economy targets.
- CRTC members recognise the value of information that will derive from this project and want to be informed of project outcomes.

Additional Updates

- Tony participated in workshops run by Wet Tropics Authority Management about threats and causes to biodiversity. Climate change was identified as a threat.
- TRAINING - Coastal Focussed Nature Based Solutions, Innisfail on 20 June 2024, hosted by Cassowary Coast Regional Council.
- HAVE YOUR SAY - The National Electric Vehicle Strategy is implementing several policy initiatives to accelerate the uptake of EVs. Close 26th July 2024.
- EVENT: Adapt Land & Sea Climate Adaptation Workshop in Cairns, Friday 9th August 2024.
 - This is close to the Coastal Leaders Workshop by QCoast2100.
- Animal Management Technical Committee share resource – Emergency Management Response for Companion Animals in Remote Communities. <https://www.amrric.org/>
- The FNQROC Board endorsed a 12-month extension of the FNQROC Regional Climate Resilience Coordinator position.

5.3 ACTION: Share LGAQ Facilitated Information Session on GHG Emission Guidelines for EA Applications to CRTC Members.

5.4 ACTION: Update CRTC on the LGAQ Request for Quotation to assess the impact of environmental compliance for landfills and waste management in Rural and Remote QLD outcomes.

8. CRTC Round Table Updates

| Organisation | Current and upcoming project/s |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Cairns Regional Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council have received five electric vehicles and is installing charging infrastructure in the building. • Developing case studies on the green economy transition. Inviting other Councils to share case studies in their region. • Attended the Decarbonisation Hub and Regional Development Showcase. • Eco fiesta on Sunday 2nd June 2024. Approximately, 7,000 people attended. There were 70 market stalls. There was plenty of educational content this year and conversations regarding disaster resilience and questions on climate change. • Sustainable building policy under review. • Energy emissions policy aligns with the energy framework and includes Science-based target emissions. • Energy emission systems have been onboarded. Inventory updates are underway. |
| Hinchinbrook Shire Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating procurement policies to align with Scope 3. • Installing solar panels onto Council buildings through the reef guardian plan • Commencing annual reporting on reef guardian actions • Another 10,000 revegetation projects underway. • Attended the Science of Disasters Event • Hinchinbrook installing two new EV charging stations. Council will be managing. |
| Cassowary Coast Regional Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GHG emission data inputted waiting for results • Running concurrently climate action plan – science-based target • Reviewing community gardens and sustainability policy • Procurement, and purchasing policy under review. • Working with GRF to assess seagrass restoration as a nature-based solution • Currently 4-5 seagrass research projects occurring in Cassowary Coast Region. • Attended the Science of Disasters Event |
| Croydon Shire Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missed out on REC funding for energy solutions. • Need to develop policies that clarify the Council's direction and climate goals. |
| Mareeba Shire Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In recovery mode, cleaning waterways post-disaster season. • Reviewing Reef Guardian action plan. • Worksop to look at solar sights to see what savings have been made. • Looking at installing more solar. • GHG Emissions update available and have developed an in-house dashboard for results. We will need to ask permission to share the dashboard template. |

| Organisation | Current and upcoming project/s |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Tablelands Regional Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New council in place – waiting for the opportunity to present during Council workshop. • GHG emissions inventory progress 80%. • Started 5/6 reef Guardian projects however recovery post-disaster events have paused projects. • Focusing on revegetation projects. • The energy management project is now at stage Two. <p>Stage One: an overview of opportunities via tariff review highlighted cost savings to the Council and indicated sights of interest for further investigation.</p> <p>Stage Two: selecting sites for a thorough investigation to inform energy management projects.</p> |
| Cook Shire Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted GHG Emissions data, progress with projects. • Reef Guardian Projects Starting soon. Delays due to disaster recovery. • Received further funding for Recovery from QRA for flood debris clean-up (residential and agricultural properties), part of the 10 million in Far North Queensland with no set allocation – first in best dressed. To coordinate the clean-up projects, CSC is hiring two project officers. |
| Douglas Shire Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a lot of debris from disaster events that need cleaning up. Currently cleaning up the Bloomfield River. • Still waiting for Category D funds from QRA. • GHG emission inventory in progress. Progress is slow due to departments still working on recovery projects post-disaster season. • Heavy on Disaster Recovery – recruiting through QRA funding. • Reef guardian projects kicked off – end of July reporting. • Reef guardian erosion sediment control training held in Port Douglas. Thirty people received training. • Attended the Ecotourism Australia Summit. Core hotels have set targets for all hotels to be eco-certified. • Nautilus has teamed up with the aviation business to prototype an electric helicopter. • Douglas Shire Council Sustainability policies are due for review however resource availability post-disaster season will see delays on this. • Attended the Science of Disasters Event |

5.5 ACTION: Share the following Cairns Regional Council documents with CRTC members: Flood Resilience Guidelines, Procurement and climate-related policies.

5.6 ACTION: Share Council Climate & Sustainability Policies with CRTC Council Members.

9. Rivers to Reef Climate Action Plan

9.1 Deliverable Update

- Participants reviewed the Rivers to Reef Action Plan and provided updates on actions in the Excel spreadsheet available on the CRTC Teams pages.
- These updates will be included in an Annual Review.

M.6 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Tablelands Regional Council was recently approached by the private sector requesting information to facilitate the installation of EV charging Stations.

To facilitate public EV charging the first step is to determine where such charging stations can and should be located. Some of the information required is:

- Availability and proximity of high voltage/power electricity supply
- Availability and appetite to offer minimum 10-year leases to suppliers
- Planning and traffic management considerations
- Expected usage and projections

Question for discussion: What role do Councils play in the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations and should the CRTC develop a feasibility report on EV Charging Infrastructure on Council land?

- Private sectors are increasing installation with Petrol Stations such as BP installing EV charging stations at all petrol stations and Puma including installation of EV charges as part of the policy.
- There is an opportunity for Council to demonstrate leadership in this space and support community in transitioning towards electric transportation.
- What are the Gaps in our region?
 - How many fast chargers are there? What types of chargers are currently available in the region? Can they charge multiple forms of e-mobility or just electric cars?
 - What is the current process for private investors to install EV Charging stations? What is the process for private investors to install on council-owned land, including leasing arrangements?
 - What are the options for electric micro-mobility? Is there a space for the Council to promote multiple forms of electric mobility and active transportation, e.g. walking, bike riding, etc?
 - Is there a way to encourage the private sector to install e-mobility charging stations e.g. supermarket chains, shopping complex car parks, etc?
 - Who is monitoring EV charging stations in our region? There are online tools available that identify all charging stations in the region.
 - EV Charging in the building code: this is for house residents – what is the process for residential homes to install EV chargers?

CRTC Council members support a feasibility report on the installation of EV Charging stations on Council land however before commencing the project would like to identify gaps and request further information on the current demand and supply of electric vehicle charging stations and processes for installing infrastructure.

T.2 Carbon and ecosystem services accounting

This is an opportunity to not only encourage nature-based solutions for adaption, conservation and mitigation but it may also provide economic resilience.

Question for discussion: Does the CRTC want to investigate the opportunities for Councils to acquire carbon credits at a Regional Scale?

- With limited land and resources available to support such a project, the Councils are not currently able to commence a carbon credit project.
- Councils can be the knowledge broker to landholders and support events that promote Carbon Credit projects in the region.

5.7 ACTION: Research the current demand and supply of EV charging stations to understand current gaps in the region. Include information on types of chargers currently available, processes in place for installing residential chargers, and private investors installing infrastructure on council-owned land.

10. CRTC Monitoring and Evaluation

As we come close to the end of the 2023/24 financial year, we discussed developing a Report Card and updated progress report for the Rivers to Reef Climate Action Plan.

Members agree to the Evaluation Report for the Rivers to Reef Climate Action Plan.

The purpose of the Report Card is to.

- Promote Council and Regional climate-resilient actions.
- Track progress over time.
- Collate data to understand gaps and needs.
- Report progress to the board.

The Report Card will include.

- Regional and local data on Mitigation, Adaption and Collaboration allowing each Council to utilise information
- Design elements that effectively communicate key actions and needs e.g. information graphics, media tiles, etc.
- Investigation of a dashboard for ongoing reporting and monitoring.

Draft framework and timeline for Report Card discussed and agreed upon. Key dates include:

- Individual Data due 15th August 2024
- Report Draft due 29th August 2024
- Final Draft for approval at CRTC Meeting #6

5.8 ACTION: Develop a progress report on the Rivers to Reef Climate Action Plan.

5.9 ACTION: Develop CRTC Report Card: (i) Council Members update the template with relevant data (ii) draft design of the report card for approval (iii) final report card developed (iv) Investigate options for a reporting dashboard.

11. Points for noting to the FNQROC Board

- CRTC will be developing a Report Card.
- CRTC is happy with the FNQROC Board's decision to support the continuation of the Climate Resilience Technical Committee.

12. Next meeting

- Following dates for CRTC meetings:
 - Friday 6th September 2024 – Tablelands; Innisfail backup.

13. Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 2.08 pm.

Minutes prepared by FNQROC Climate Resilience Coordinator – Maria-Helena Anselmo.

ACTION ITEMS

| No. | ACTION | Responsible Person(s) |
|-----|---|---------------------------------------|
| 5.1 | Develop an FNQROC Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Profile. | FNQROC |
| 5.2 | Notify CSIRO of CRTC support to participate and request interview questions prior interview. | FNQROC |
| 5.3 | Share LGAQ Facilitated Information Session on GHG Emission Guidelines for EA Applications to CRTC Members. | Attendees to the information session. |
| 5.4 | Update CRTC on the LGAQ Request for Quotation to assess the impact of environmental compliance for landfills and waste management in Rural and Remote QLD outcomes. | FNQROC |
| 5.5 | Share the following Cairns Regional Council documents with CRTC members: Flood Resilience Guidelines, Procurement and climate-related policies. | Cairns Regional Council |
| 5.6 | Share Council Climate & Sustainability Policies with CRTC Council Members. | FNQROC |
| 5.7 | Research the current demand and supply of EV charging stations to understand current gaps in the region. Include information on types of chargers currently available, processes in place for installing residential chargers, and private investors installing infrastructure on council-owned land. | FNQROC |
| 5.8 | Develop a progress report on the Rivers to Reef Climate Action Plan. | FNQROC |
| 5.9 | Develop CRTC Report Card: (i) Council Members update the template with relevant data (ii) draft design of the report card for approval (iii) final report card developed (iv) Investigate options for a reporting dashboard. | FNQROC, CRTC Members |