

DATE: Tuesday, 3 December 2024

TO: Cr Angela Toppin, Mayor – Mareeba Shire Council

SUBJECT: LGAQ Policy Executive Update for the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils meeting (FNQROC) – Thursday 5th December 2024

1. ***Policy Executive Meeting Update***
2. ***New State Government Cabinet***
3. ***New State Parliament***
4. ***State Government Grant Programs – Works for Queensland and Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program (LGGSP)***
5. ***2024 Annual Conference motions***
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13. ***Public Health Update***
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1. Policy Executive Meeting Update

- The Policy Executive will meet on Friday, December 6.
- Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers the Hon. Ann Leahy MP will be joining the Policy Executive to discuss key issues on the new State Government's agenda and to answer questions.
- Other items to be discussed include:
 - The Policy Executive will be briefed on the LGAQ's draft Federal Election platform, due to be launched early next year.
 - The draft 2025 Advocacy Action Plan (AAP) will be presented to the Policy Executive for consideration ahead of the launch of the AAP early next year. The 2025 AAP includes the resolutions passed by members at the 2024 Annual Conference in October as well as key priorities passed by members in previous years.
 - Endorsement will be sought from the Policy Executive for the LGAQ's Councillor's Guide to Disaster Management 2024. This guide has been developed to support Councillors do what they do best: represent the community, share vital relevant information, advocate for needs, and refer the community to services, while helping members understand the best way to work effectively within Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements and operate safely in stressful and hazardous times.
 - A new draft MOU between the LGAQ and NRM Regions Queensland will be presented to the Policy Executive for consideration ahead of its finalisation and signing.
 - The Policy Executive will be given an update on important work happening as part of the Local Government Advisory Panel (LGAP) on State Land Matters including efforts to progress key member issues in this space including DOGIT, land transfer issues and the management of road reserves.
 - update will be provided on the priorities to be pursued by the Compact Guardians this term, as well as changes to strengthen the framework within which the Compact operates.
 - A final wrap up of the LGAQ's State Election campaign will be provided to the Policy Executive.
- Please contact your Policy Executive representative Cr Angela Toppin to raise any issues you would like discussed at a future meeting.

LGAQ Contact for this matter: Sarah Vogler – Head of Advocacy

2. New State Government Cabinet

- On Friday 1 November 2024, the newly elected Crisafulli State Government Cabinet was sworn in at Government House after forming a majority government following the October 2024 State Election.

Hon. David Crisafulli MP	Premier and Minister for Veterans
Hon. Jarrod Bleijie MP	Deputy Premier Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations
Hon. David Janetzki MP	Treasurer Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership
Hon. Ros Bates MP	Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training
Hon. Dale Last MP	Minister for Natural Resources and Mines Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development

Hon. Tim Nicholls MP	Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Hon. Deb Frecklington MP	Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity
Hon. John-Paul Langbroek MP	Minister for Education and the Arts
Hon. Dan Purdie MP	Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Hon. Laura Gerber MP	Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services
Hon. Brent Mickelberg MP	Minister for Transport and Main Roads
Hon. Ann Leahy MP	Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers
Hon. Sam O'Connor MP	Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth
Hon. Tony Perrett MP	Minister for Primary Industries
Hon. Fiona Simpson MP	Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism
Hon. Andrew Powell MP	Minister for Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation
Hon. Amanda Camm MP	Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence
Hon. Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Hon. Steve Minnikin MP	Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business

- New and Acting Directors-General have also been announced and can be found via this [link](#).
- The LGAQ has already been working closely with new Ministers, their Directors-General, and their teams to progress local government priorities, through meetings and by writing to each new Minister and Director-General outlining key issues and Annual Conference resolutions.

LGAQ Contact for this matter: Lucy Greene, Manager - Intergovernmental Relations

3. New State Parliament

- The new State Parliament will sit for two weeks in late 2024 –
 - 26 – 28 November and
 - 10 – 12 December
- The 2025 Parliamentary calendar has now been released and can be found [here](#).

LGAQ Contact for this matter: Lucy Greene, Manager - Intergovernmental Relations

4. State Government Grant Programs – Works for Queensland and Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program (LGGSP)

- Announcements on successful applications for both Works for Queensland and the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program (LGGSP) were released on Monday 30 September.
- All Council CEOs have been written to as well now.

- In total 369 infrastructure projects, 63 planning projects and 14 capability projects approved under Works for Queensland while under LGGSP, 30 infrastructure projects were approved for 27 councils and 23 planning projects were approved for 23 councils.
- Next steps (W4Q and LGGSP Planning projects):
 - Councils are now required to enter into a project funding schedule (PFS) with the department to formalise project approvals.
 - First milestone payments can be made once a PFS is executed.
- Next steps (LGGSP Infrastructure projects):
 - Guidance on Stage 2 applications has now been provided to councils.
 - Councils will have until 31 May 2025 to submit Stage 2 applications.
 - A LGGSP infrastructure project will only become an approved project once a stage 2 application is assessed and a PFS executed.

LGAQ Contact for this matter: Lucy Greene, Manager – Intergovernmental Relations

5. 2024 Annual Conference motions

- 116 motions were debated at the AGM on Wednesday 23 October, including two late motions from Ipswich City Council and Noosa Shire Council.
- 109 motions were carried, one motion was withdrawn and six motions were defeated.
- The Final Outcomes document is available on Congruent now.

LGAQ Contact for this matter: Grace McSorley, Planning & Projects Coordinator

6. 2024 State Election commitments

- The incoming State LNP Government made several commitments to the local government sector across the election campaign, including during the now Premier David Crisafulli's speech to Queensland councils at the LGAQ Annual Conference, held the week of the election. Including:
 - The permanency of the Works for Queensland program, locked in at a minimum of \$100 million annually.
 - Support towards the Queensland Indigenous Council Leaders Accord to help improve outcomes for First Nations communities.
 - A \$2 billion trunk infrastructure fund, which directly responds to the LGAQ's evidence-backed call for support to unlock new housing supply.
 - A commitment to update regional plans and fast-track planning scheme amendments, which will also help ensure housing supply can be unlocked in a responsive manner, tailored to the needs of the respective local government area and their community.
 - Announcements to set up a taskforce to cut red tape, overhaul the councillor complaints system, establish a new \$80 million Betterment Fund with the Federal Government, address community safety (through funding for CCTV) and to review the waste levy.
 - A commitment to undertake a review into cost-shifting and to address depreciation.
 - Funding for last mile sealing.
- Premier Crisafulli also spoke to the Prime Minister on his first day in the job and discussed the return of the 80-20 Bruce Highway funding split between the Federal Government and the State Government.
- The LGAQ team is working to progress these and other key commitments and will be reaching out to councils in coming months to help shape the sector's response.

LGAQ contacts for this matter: Lucy Greene, Manager - Intergovernmental Relations and Samantha Dean, Manager – Campaigns.

7. Telecommunications funding opportunities

- **Round 3 of the Mobile Network Hardening Program** is now open for industry applications, with up to \$20 million in funds available for projects to deliver upgrades that reduce the risk of outages and improve restoration times.
- Councils are invited to submit potential mobile network resilience upgrade projects or locations impacted by, or at risk of, Natural Disasters to the Project Noticeboard **by Friday 13 December 2024**. Registering on the Project Noticeboard does not guarantee a project or funding will be allocated, however it can help industry identify risks in regional areas and demonstrate support for new projects. For more information and to register, click [here](#).
- Round 8 of the **Mobile Black Spot Program** will open for industry applications later this year, with \$55 million targeted at natural disaster-prone locations in regional areas to better assist local communities during and after emergencies.
- Councils are invited to register their potential projects or locations to the Project Noticeboard now, outlining the mobile coverage, reception and quality of service issues being experienced, information about natural disasters in the proposed location, details on organisations that support your proposal, and any other relevant information. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

LGAQ Contact for this matter: Jen Johnson – Lead, Regional Development and Economic Policy

8. Planning, Development and Housing Update

Local Government Housing Strategy – Progress and Update:

- In March 2023, the LGAQ released its [Local Government Housing Strategy](#) (the Strategy) – consolidating the housing-related calls of Queensland councils over consecutive LGAQ Annual Conferences.
- Since March 2023, several of the strategy's calls have been answered or progressed.
- In August 2024, the LGAQ refreshed the Strategy to capture new resolutions, and to renew the call of Queensland councils. The updated [Strategy](#) is organised into four key themes which were mirrored in the LGAQ's 2024 State Election priorities.
- The LGAQ has expressed our interest to the new LNP State Government in ensuring their 'Securing our Housing Foundations' Plan reflects the calls of Queensland councils.

Trunk Infrastructure Funding:

- In April 2024, the LGAQ launched research projecting a \$2.2B trunk infrastructure funding shortfall over the next four years.
- Simultaneously, the LGAQ launched advocacy calling for several immediate improvements to the trunk infrastructure funding framework and calling for ongoing collaboration with councils.
- In June 2024, the LNP committed to fill the trunk infrastructure funding gap, if elected, with a \$2 billion fund.
- The LGAQ is now preparing to advocate for funding guidelines which reflect the interests of local government, and will continue to call for ongoing collaboration with councils around permanent solutions.

Updates to SDAP State Code 23: Wind Farm Developments

- On 30 September 2024, the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works updated State Code 23: Wind farm development in the State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP).
- Changes include: an enhanced focus on sustainable decommissioning practices and progressive rehabilitation during and after construction to minimise environmental impacts.

- Additionally, the new version provides clearer guidelines for responding to natural hazards, acoustic criteria, and protecting scenic amenity and transport networks, ensuring better environmental and community safeguards.
- The updated SDAP Code 23 follows public consultation on proposed amendments in late 2023, with the LGAQ making a submission on the draft State Code in September 2023, available [here](#).
- Further information can be found on the Department's website [here](#).

Draft Queensland Housing Code and Secondary Dwelling Code

- On 30 September 2024, the State Government released the following discussion papers and draft codes seeking to establish state-wide codes for detached houses and secondary dwellings as key initiatives under the Homes for Queenslanders Plan:
 - A draft opt-in Queensland Housing Code for detached houses (released for confidential, targeted consultation with key stakeholders only)
 - A draft mandatory code for Secondary Dwellings (released for public consultation)
- The draft Queensland Housing Code (QHC) aims to ensure that design and siting standards for detached dwellings are fit-for-purpose, contemporary, and simplified. The QHC is proposed as an opt-in code for councils to adopt for single detached homes and, if implemented, would replace the relevant parts of the Queensland Development Code that is made under the *Building Act 1975*.
- The proposed mandatory code for Secondary Dwellings (the Secondary Dwelling code) on the other hand, is the first part of the Distinctly Queensland Design Series and aims to regulate the siting, size, height and design of a secondary dwelling, the interaction between a primary and secondary dwelling, and the use of the lot. The Secondary Dwelling code proposes consistent statewide design and siting provisions that would, if implemented, apply in residential zones (other than medium density or high-density residential zones), emerging community zones, rural residential zones and rural zones, and override a local planning scheme in these areas.
- Further information on the proposed draft mandatory code for Secondary Dwellings is available on Congruent [here](#). For further information on the draft QHC, please contact Matt Leman, Lead Planning & Development Policy via matthew_leman@lgaq.asn.au directly due to the confidential nature of this consultation.
- The LGAQ made submissions on both proposed codes in consultation with councils, before the closing date for submission on 12 November 2024. Copies of the submissions are available on [Congruent](#).

LGAQ Contact for these matters: Matthew Leman – Lead, Planning and Development Policy

9. Water and Wastewater Update

Funding for Water Research

- Australian Government through the Australian Research Council have approved funding for QUT and partners (including DESI) to establish the "IoT for Water Hub ITRH (Industrial Transformation Research Hub)" from 2025-29.
- The vision is for the IoT for Water Hub to support water managers in Queensland and across Australia through the development and deployment of innovative technologies to overcome real, on the ground, challenges.
- LGAQ are meeting with the project's lead researchers to discuss how our members can be engaged in the research to ensure that it remains relevant to current and emerging challenges in the water and wastewater sector.
- A workshop for the IoT Water Hub was held on 8th October

PFAS Drinking Water Guidelines:

- The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has released updated guideline values which indicate the amount of *per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances* (PFAS) in drinking water that a person can consume daily over a lifetime without any appreciable risk to health.
- A fact sheet has been developed by the NHMRC to outline the key changes to the current health-based guideline values. The values are conservative, protective of human health, and are based on comprehensive evaluations of the latest evidence. There is a significant reduction in the proposed values when comparing the current guideline values for several PFAS chemicals.
- LGAQ has made a submission following a review of the consultation papers and discussion with technical experts in council and the State Government.

LGAQ Contact for these matters: Josephine Raftery, Lead - Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

10. Natural Resources and Environment Update

Reef Councils' Rescue Plan: Cleaner Water for the Reef

- The LGAQ has finalised a review of the Reef Councils' Rescue Plan – Cleaner Water for the Reef, with the Policy Executive endorsing the Plan at its October 2024 meeting.
- The updated Reef Councils' Rescue Plan includes five initiatives for funding by the Federal and State governments, being:
 - Climate Risk and Resilience – Mitigating and adapting to local climate-related impacts and risks
 - Cleaner Wastewater – Reducing water quality risks associated with wastewater management.
 - Cleaner Stormwater – Reducing water quality risks associated with urban stormwater management
 - Cleaner Road Runoff – Reducing water quality risks associated with unsealed roads management
 - Resilient landscapes – Protecting and restoring landscapes.
- The Plan will be formally released in the coming weeks.

National Environmental Reforms

- Due to the withdrawal of immediate support from the Federal Labor party, the proposed environmental reforms to the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, which included the development of an Independent Environmental Agency, are now likely not to proceed prior to the next Federal Government election.

Land Protection Fund Review

- Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, Queensland councils contribute funds to the Land Protection Fund for the delivery of a range of invasive species management activities by the Queensland Government – including the coordination of invasive species research and on-ground activities.
- In 2014, the LGAQ and the Queensland Government developed the Invasive Species Co-Investment Model, which provided a framework for how Land Protection Fund funds will be allocated.
- In response to 2023 LGAQ Annual Conference Resolution #88 - Reduction in Land Protection Fund precept to reflect the State's reduction in 1080 provisions, the Queensland Government has agreed to commence a review of the Land Protection Fund and Co-investment Model.
- Correspondence of the review will be sent to councils in the coming months.

Queensland Invasive Plant & Animal Strategy

- The [Queensland Invasive Plant and Animal Strategy 2025-2030](#) was released in October 2024. The Strategy aims to provide an overarching framework for guiding invasive plant and animal activities in Queensland from 2025-2030.
- The LGAQ continues to seek on-going regional funding to support Regional Pest Management Groups in delivering priority invasive species management activities.

Avian influenza (H5N1)

- Australia is on high alert for a new virulent strain of avian influenza (H5N1) - which impacts not only bird species but can also be transmitted to other mammals (including humans).
- [A webinar update from Biosecurity Queensland can be found here](#), which includes the notification that Queensland local governments will be required to remove and dispose of deceased birds from land that they manage. No announcement on funding arrangements has been announced to date.
- More information to come as it comes to hand.

LGAQ Contact for this matter: Joshua Dyke, Lead – Environment and Natural Resources

11. Waste Update

Soft plastics collection

- From 2010 to 2022 the REDcycle scheme collected soft plastics (any 'scrunchable' plastic, usually made of LDPE – Low-density polyethylene) at 600 supermarket locations across Australia. The scheme was universally lauded as an innovative solution for a difficult waste stream.
- In late 2022, it was discovered that REDcycle and its partners were stockpiling material as the processing contracts were overwhelmed with the volume. At this time the scheme was estimated to collect about 5% of soft plastic waste in Australia.
- Following the collapse of the 'REDcycle' soft plastics collection scheme through the mayor supermarkets (Woolworths, Coles, Aldi), the Federal Government has called for a Taskforce made up of these chains to identify solutions going forward.
- Simultaneously, the Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) started a national pilot program for soft plastics recycling which worked with 5 councils across Victoria, SA and NSW to pilot collection of soft plastics in kerbside recycling bins.
- Following initial discussions with the AFGC and ongoing assessment by each state local government body, ALGA identified grave concerns with the AFGC project as it did present a clear danger of cost shifting towards local government in not providing clarity on what would happen with the material once it is collected.
- At the June ALGA board meeting, the ALGA board agreed, as part of a decision on kerbside collection, to strongly advocate against the inclusion of soft plastics in kerbside bins, and to advocate for a fully industry funded project that utilises existing structures such as the Container Deposit infrastructure. This was communicated to the State Ministers and the Federal Minister for the Environment, the Honourable Tanya Plibersek.
- On 30 September 2024, the Queensland State Government announced a similar pilot program with four councils (Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Goondiwindi, Cairns) to collect soft plastics in Queensland. While the pilot is broader than just kerbside collection, the LGAQ sees a danger that 'successful' kerbside collection will be used as rational to push the responsibility on councils statewide – the Victorian government has already announced its plan to do so.
- The LGAQ is working with ALGA and the other state organisations to push back on the concept as a whole. On a local level it is suggested to be vigilant regarding approaches by the State Government and the AFGC and ensure that any trial has a whole-of-supply chain funding attached.

Waste levy review advocacy

- Following on from a 2023 Annual Conference Resolution, the LGAQ has been advocating for a full review of the waste levy, including zoning, rates and advance payment arrangements for affected councils. This was in response to data from regional waste management plans indicating that most regions in Queensland are unable to meet the 80% diversion rate as required by the State Waste Strategy.
- During the Queensland election campaign, the LGAQ was successful in receiving bi-partisan support for the review of the waste levy. Following the success of the LNP the LGAQ will continue advocating for the review to take place in 2025.

- While councils were strongly aligned on the levy needing a review, the LGAQ does not have a clear policy position as to what the outcome of a reformed levy should look like.
- In October 2024, the Policy Executive agreed to send a short survey to all waste levy councils (through the CEOs) to gain the collective view of Queensland councils on an appropriate outcome. The survey will address questions regarding:
 - General sentiments on the efficacy of the waste levy
 - Sentiments and alternative measuring methodologies regarding the zoning of the waste levy
 - Sentiments on and impacts of the waste levy rate on council operations
 - Sentiments on the current advance payment schedule
- All waste levy councils have now received the invite to join the survey via their CEOs.
- The LGAQ held a Q&A session on the survey on Tuesday, 3rd December 2024.
- Please reach out to Rudolf Pretzler on 07 3000 2253 if you could not make the session or have any further questions.

LGAQ Contact for this matter: Rudolf Pretzler, Lead – Circular Economy and Energy Policy

12. Roads and Transport Update

Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program

- Round 11 of the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program is open as of the 4th of November for grants between \$5,000 and \$4 million covering 50 percent of eligible costs, or up to 100 percent for indigenous owned/operated aerodromes that meet certain criteria.
- The Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program aims to improve the safety, resilience and accessibility of aerodromes in remote communities.
- Following feedback from previous rounds of the RAU program, Round 11 has been expanded to support improved access to air services for people with disabilities.
- Applications close on **13 December 2024**.

Active Transport Fund

- The newly announced Active Transport Fund has opened for applications on the 31 of October, providing funding to construct new or upgraded bicycle and walking paths.
- All projects require a funding co-contribution which may be sourced from local governments, state governments, and other Australian Government programs and/or private funding sources, and all funding sources must be listed in the application form.
- For local government submitted projects, it is recognised there may be limited ability to provide a 50% co-contribution and the guidelines state an alternative co-contribution can be sought as part of the application with sufficient justification to demonstrate the need for an alternative arrangement.

ALGA National State of the Assets project

- As part of the National State of the Assets (NSoA) project, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has partnered with IPWEA to encourage councils to update their infrastructure valuation and performance data with an assessment of their long-term infrastructure planning practices.
- Since 2012, the NSoA project has regularly reported on the condition, function and capacity of infrastructure assets. This data allows ALGA and the LGAQ to use evidence-based advocacy to push for a better deal for Queensland local governments.
- It is now time for councils to update their data via the IPWEA portal using their IPWEA login.
- More information is available at the <https://www.ipwea.org/resourcesnew/namsplus/nsoa> or by contacting IPWEA at admin@ipwea.org or 1300 416 745.
- Data updates are required before **24 December 2024**.

LGAQ Contacts for these matters: Jarrod Hellmuth, Lead – Roads and Transport and Mike Furniss, Senior Policy Officer – Transport and Infrastructure.

13. Public Health Update

Mosquito Management Code of Practice

- The LGAQ is leading the development of the updated Mosquito Management Code of Practice (MMCoP) which is a guidance document that provides councils with standardised methods of achieving compliance with their general environmental duty when performing mosquito management activities.
- Codes of Practice are approved by the relevant Minister under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* for a duration of 7 years. The most recent version of the MMCoP expired in December 2021 and has since undergone extensive review by a technical working group which is comprised of State Government and local government members involved in mosquito management activities.
- The working group anticipates a final version of the MMCoP to be distributed for consultation to local governments in January 2025.
- Following consultation with local government, the MMCoP will be presented to Minister Powell for endorsement.

LGAQ Contact for this matter: Tamarah Moore, Senior Policy Officer – Public Health and Environment

14. Funded Projects Update

- Advocating for funding to help achieve members' priorities is core business for the LGAQ and we strive to be a trusted partner with other levels of government to help develop, manage and deliver outcomes that matter to councils. Currently, the Advocate Funded Projects team has six projects in operation. The table below provides a snapshot of their progress and highlights.

Project Name	Total Funding	Overall Progress	Key Highlights
Cleaner Road Runoff 2021-2024	\$1.6M	On Track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project successfully collected over 250 high and medium confidence Suspended Sediment samples from 5 geographically diverse Council areas. • In summary, this study clearly shows that on a unit area basis suspended sediment yields from unsealed roads are significant compared to dominant land uses in the Great Barrier Reef. • The LGAQ project team have been granted an extension to Stage 3 to provide knowledge sharing opportunities with all councils until May 2025. <p><i>Key Contact: Megan Forrest Megan_Forrest@lgaq.asn.au</i></p>

LGAQ Update

Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils meeting (FNQROC)

Thursday 5th December 2024

Domestic and Family Violence Officer 2024-26	\$700K	On Track	<p>The LGAQ has secured additional funding to extend the project until 2026 to align with the Queensland Government's Fourth Action Plan.</p> <p>A social media campaign for 16 days of activism against gendered-based violence is underway.</p> <p>Jo Dawson started as our new Community Development Policy and Projects Lead on 6 November and will be leading this project.</p> <p>The next Community of Interest Group meeting for Community Development Officers will be held on 10th December 2024.</p> <p><i>Key Contact: Jo Dawson jo_dawson@lgaq.asn.au</i></p>
Queensland Council Energy Partnerships Program 2024-2026	\$1.2M	On Track	<p>In May 2024 the Queensland Government entered into a partnership arrangement with the LGAQ to deliver the Queensland Council Energy Partnerships Program (QCEP), aiming to provide support to eligible councils to engage on grid-scale renewable energy matters and meet the challenges of the energy transformation.</p> <p>Councils were able to access a funding pool to help support across several key areas including capacity building, investigation and planning, connecting with expertise and engaging with their local communities.</p> <p>Applications closed on 11 September 2024. In October the Governance Committee approved four applications, from Cairns Regional Council, Flinders Shire Council, Isaac Regional Council, and Southern Downs Regional Council.</p> <p>Details and updates from these projects can be found on Congruent.</p> <p>Separate to these projects, the QCEP program will gather councils' insights on the current challenges and opportunities they face during the grid-scale shift to renewables.</p> <p><i>Key Contact: Hugo van Roermund (hugo_vanroermund@lgaq.asn.au)</i></p>

LGAQ Update

Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils meeting (FNQROC)

Thursday 5th December 2024

Queensland Climate Resilient Councils 2024 - 2026	\$2M	On Track	<p>The LGAQ has secured an additional \$2M to support program deliver over the next two years. Key activities that are being funded under the extension agreement with the Queensland Treasury are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Climate Risk and Resilience Events • Q CRC Regional Alliance (support for 2 existing and establishing 3 new alliances) • Review of the Q CRC Climate Risk Management Framework to align with Federal guidance. • Establishment of an Expert Panel to support councils in climate risk and resilience advice. • \$1M funding pool to support councils with on-the-ground implementation activities. Applications will be open for funding from December 2024. • First Nations Climate Risk and Resilience Strategy <p><i>Key Contact: Karla Vaughan (karla_vaughan@lgaq.asn.au)</i></p>
Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program 2020-2026	\$1.22M per year	On Track	<p>QWRAP</p> <p>The Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program (QWRAP) is a Queensland Government funded program delivered collaboratively with the LGAQ and the Queensland Water Directorate (qldwater) to support local government in the sustainable delivery of essential water and sewerage services in regional Queensland.</p> <p>FNQWA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Far North Queensland Water Alliance (FNQWA) met in November, led by Chair Amanda Hancock. • In 2024, FNQWA has collaborated strongly in the delivery of a regional study on sustainable water planning. This is a QWRAP-funded project, contributing \$200,000 (excluding GST) to the work. • Project status: final drafts have been prepared and will proceed for review with the FNQROC. <p><i>Key Contact: Gary Fenwick (gary_fenwick@lgaq.asn.au)</i></p>

QCoast₂₁₀₀ 2015-2025	\$20.23M	On Track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation has received \$6 million in grant funding from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) through their Efficiencies Funding Program (EFP) for the implementation of coastal hazard adaption works and actions for disaster mitigation through the QCoast2100 Program. • Round 4 applications are now open. More information on Congruent. • Implementation projects (Round's 2 & 3) status and relevant case studies can be found on the QCoast website here • FNQROC projects that are currently underway include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cassowary Coast Regional Council Investigation of sand shifter/ back pass system and implementation of key actions identified in the council's CHAS. ○ Hinchinbrook Shire Council Lucinda Beach Nourishment and Johnson Park Rockwall project <p><i>Key Contact: Emma Schofield</i> <i>(emma_schofield@lgaq.asn.au)</i></p>
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15. LGAQ Submissions Update

Recent Submissions

- *Consultation paper: Reform of Packaging Regulation (28 October)*
- *Draft Heavy Vehicle Productivity Plan 2024-2029 (31 October)*
- *Draft Secondary Dwelling State Code (12 November)*
- *Confidential Draft Queensland Housing Code (12 November)*
- *Grocery Competition in the Planning Framework Consultation Paper (12 November)*
- *PFAS Drinking Water Guidelines (22 November)*
- *Draft Coastal Management Plan (27 November)*

Upcoming Submissions

- *Renewables Regulatory Framework (TBC)*
- *Energex Regulatory Determination (17 January)*
- *Senate Inquiry into energy, food and water security in Northern Australia (31 January)*