



FNQROC Annual Report

2023/2024

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VISION

Sustainable Economic Growth and Development for Far North Queensland

MISSION

Advocate on behalf of, and foster cooperation and resource sharing between FNQROC member Council



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

supporting liveability and economic development in our region.

Chairs Foreword

In 2023/2024, the organisation has achieved a significant amount:

- In July, we celebrated 30 years of working collaboratively under the FNQROC Banner
- We endorsed the FNQROC Regional Resource Recovery Strategy
- Commenced reviewing the FNQ Regional Mountain Bike Strategy
- The Regional Climate Resilience Portfolio commenced, and
- Commenced the FNQ Regional Plan Review in partnership with the State.



Figure 1 Celebrating 30 years of FNQROC

The FNQ Regional Plan is crucial for the region, it needs to articulate our economic vision and put in place the actions from all three levels of government and private industries to achieve this. This Plan provides us with an opportunity to set our direction and work towards achieving it.

We are councils in a region reliant on each other; agriculture is reliant on tourism, service centres are reliant on agriculture, mining, tourism etc. We each have our role to play in



Figure 2 Dinner with local members during the Brisbane delegation

When you read through the rest of the report, it is quite amazing what a small team can achieve with the support of Council's technical officers so we can all benefit.

Lastly, I would like to welcome Elliott Meelen (Procurement Coordinator) Maria Anselmo (Climate Resilience Coordinator) and Anthony Archie to the team. Anthony is taking on the Interim CEO role while Darlene takes a well-earned break for a year. She has promised to come back!

Best wishes for this exciting next term.

Cr Angela Toppin
CHAIR



Chief Executive Officer

I am still honoured to continue in my role at FNQROC. I've never been prouder of the FNQROC Board and how they have come together and actively supported the regional decisions they have made.

We've had two (2) delegations over the last year, with another fast approaching in August 2023.

The year has seen some changes, with Amanda Hancock moving from Procurement to Infrastructure, Elliott Meelen joining the team in October 2022 as Procurement Coordinator and Maria Anselmo joining us as Climate Resilience Coordinator.

I'm proud of the team and their passion for the region and the roles they perform. However, they could not do this without the support of council staff contributing to the technical committees. Your knowledge and expertise enable us to do great things in and for the region. Thank you!

We have continued to focus on the long term and building clear strategies forward. The largest of these was advocating for a new FNQ Regional Plan, which has now commenced. It is up to us collectively to ensure it achieves our endorsed expectations.

Operationally

For half of this year, the FNQROC team was down one (1) FTE and the team has done well to continue to deliver. We're all in the same boat, with many councils seeing staff turnover and limited suitable applicants to replace them.

As you read through the report, you'll see how much such a small team is doing with the support of technical officers from member

councils and critical stakeholders. There are some significant collaborations occurring.

Finally, some figures this year from our regional procurement contracts:

- Bitumen Program – 650,000m² sealed using 1.4million litres of bitumen;
- 2.5 million litres of sodium Hypochlorite;
- Over 800,000 litres of Liquid Alum;
- 10,000 tonnes of ferrous metal;
- 200 tonnes of ULABs;
- 130 tonnes of non-ferrous metal;
- Approximately 30,000 tonnes of biosolids with 100% beneficially reused;
- 15,000 linear metres of sewers were relined
- Condition assessments were carried out on over 500 Manholes

The team and I are very focused on what is in front of us and how we can support councils and prepare for this.

Lastly, I write this on my last day in the office for 1 year. After 22 years, it is time to spend a year focusing on my health and gaining new ideas and perspectives. Anthony Archie will be replacing me during this time and I have no doubt he will love the role as much as I do.

See you in 1 year!



Darlene Irvine
Chief Executive Officer



FNQROC Organisation Chart - 2024



FNQROC Strategic Economic Priorities

The twelve Councils in Far North Queensland reviewed our Strategic economic priorities, focusing on understanding our opportunities, identifying our gaps and working collaboratively to support sustainable economic growth and development for Far North Queensland. Our advocacy efforts will be based on evidence.

The full transcript of the **FNQROC 6 Strategic Goals** can be located on the [FNQROC website](#).



FNQROC Operational Advocacy

Federal and State Delegations

1-2 August 2023 (Federal)

Meetings with:

- 10 Senators
- 12 Ministers
- 9 Shadow Ministers
- 2 Local Members
- FNQROC Federal Advocacy Report is available on the [FNQROC website](#).

Submissions

- Qld Feral Deer Management Strategy
- Select Committee of Northern Australia – Inquiry into Northern Australia Workforce Development
- Draft PFAS NEMP 3.0
- E-products Action Plan
- Qld Waste Management & Resource Recovery Strategy

External Boards and Working Groups

- LGAQ Policy Executive (Cr Peter Scott and Cr Jason Woibo)
- Wet Tropics Waterways Partnership (T Sydes)
- Regional Managers' Coordination Network (D Irvine)
- Wet Tropics Waterways Technical Working Group (T Sydes)
- State Oversight Group – Land Protection Fund (T Sydes)
- Biosecurity Act Regulations Reference Group (LGAQ/BQ) (T Sydes)
- National Tropical Weeds Management Committee (T Sydes)

- Natural Resources and Environment Sub-Committee (T Sydes)
- LGAQ Roads & Transport Advisory Group (D Irvine / D Fletcher)
- Local Authority Waste Management Advisory Council (LAWMAC) (A Hancock)
- GBR Wetlands Network (DES) – LG representative (T Sydes)
- Yellow Crazy Ant Reference Group (T Sydes)
- Cassowary Recovery Team (T Sydes)
- Littoral Rainforest Recovery Working Group (T Sydes)
- Spectacled Flying Fox Recovery Team (T Sydes)
- LGAQ Natural Assets and NRM Advisory Group (T Sydes)
- LGAQ Climate Risk Management and Resilience Advisory Group (T Sydes)
- Cassowary Credits Technical Working Group (T Sydes)
- DES Food Organic & Garden Organics Working Group (A Hancock)
- Sewerage and Water Environmental Advisory Panel (SWEAP) (A Hancock)
- Yellow Crazy Ant Reference Group (T Sydes)
- Spectacled Flying Fox Recovery Team (T Sydes)
- Cassowary Credits Technical Working Group (T Sydes)
- Cairns & TNQ Smart Green Economy (D Irvine)

Presentations

- What would a resilient transport network in FNQ do for Qld – Qld Transport Infrastructure Conference
- Transformer weed impacts on threatened species and ecological communities – NQ Threatened Species Symposium, 2023

- Rivers to Reef Climate Resilient Councils Alliance – Queensland Climate Resilient Councils Symposium, 2023
- Role of local government; threatened species and ecological communities - Spectacled Flying Fox Recovery Team, 2022
- Role of local government; threatened species and ecological communities - CAFNEC Round Table, 2022
- Role of local government; threatened species and ecological communities - Cassowary Recovery Team, 2022
- Role of local government; threatened species and ecological communities - Littoral Rainforest Working Group, 2022
- Natural Assets – roles and risk in heatwaves – Cairns Urban Heat Seminar, Planning Institute of Australia, 2022

Regional Executive Support – Operational Report

Planning

The FNQROC Planning Advisory Committee met three (3) times throughout the 2022/23 financial year. The meetings held were very well attended by representatives from Councils, the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP) and the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ).

The group's primary purpose is to provide a forum where the officers can discuss issues around planning legislation and state government policies, share information and resources amongst the group and ensure timely awareness of emerging issues and opportunities.

The key focus of discussion at these meetings was the FNQ Regional plan and our expectations. The planners will be meeting fortnightly throughout 2023/24 as the new FNQ Regional Plan is drafted.

A draft plan is due December 2023, with a final plan in mid-2024.

Economic Development

The FNQROC Economic Advisory Committee met twice (2) throughout the 2022/23 financial year. The meetings held were well attended by representatives from member Councils,

DSDILGP, Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ) and Regional Development Australia Tropical North (RDATN).

The group's primary purpose is to provide a forum where the officers can discuss issues, share information about programs and projects in participating councils, and ensure timely awareness of emerging issues and opportunities.

Presentations by:

- **Economy.id** (2023) – provided a snapshot of the State of the Region Report (SOR) from the 2021 Census data looking at State and Regional statistics and provided training on the Economic Impact Model and Event Impact Calculator.
- **TTNQ** (2023) – provided a presentation on Indigenous Tourism in Far North Queensland. TTNQ provided an update on the Review of the Tourism Plan and the support it is giving to Local Tourism Organisations.



Figure 15: TTNQ Presentation – TNQ Indigenous Tourism Update.

Audited Financial Statements 2023/24

A Snapshot of Federal Mayoral Delegation Visits

Federal Delegation 1-2 August 2023



Figure 1: **The Hon Pat Conroy MP**, Minister for Defence Industry, Minister for International Development and the Pacific



Figure 2: **The Hon Emma McBride MP** Assistant Minister for Mental Health & Suicide Prevention, Assistant Minister for Rural & Regional Health



Figure 3: **Senator Susan McDonald**, Shadow Minister for Resources, Shadow Minister for Northern Australia **The Hon David Littleproud MP**, Leader of the Nationals, Shadow Minister for Agriculture



Figure 4: **Senator Matthew Canavan**, Senator for Queensland



Figure 5: **The Hon Michael McCormack**, Shadow Minister for International Development, and the Pacific



Figure 6: **Senator Perin Davey** Shadow Minister for Water, Shadow Minister for Emergency Management



Figure 7: **The Hon Catherine King MP** Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government



Figure 8: **Senator Malarndirri McCarthy** Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians, Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health



Figure 9: **The Hon Madeleine King MP** Minister for Resources, Minister for Northern Australia



Figure 10: **The Hon Warren Entsch MP** Member for Leichhardt



Figure 11: **Senator Anthony Chisholm** Assistant Minister for Education, Assistant Minister for Regional Development, Deputy Manager of Government and Business in the Senate



Figure 12: **Senator Murray Watt**, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Minister for Skills and Training, Minister for Education, Minister for Early Childhood Education, Minister for Youth



Figure 13: **Senator James McGrath**, Shadow Assistant Minister to the Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Assistant Minister for Finance **Mr Phillip Thompson OAM MP** Shadow Assistant Minister for Defence



Figure 14: **The Hon Kristy McBain MP** Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories



Figure 15: **Senator Larissa Waters** Senator for Queensland, Leader of the Australian Greens in the Senate



Figure 16: **Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price** Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians



Figure 17: **Mr Bob Katter** Member for Kennedy



Figure 18: **The Hon Jim Chalmers MP** Treasurer



Figure 19: **Senator Carol Brown** Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport



Figure 20: **The Hon Darren Chester MP** Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, Shadow Minister for Regional Education **Mr Tony Pasin MP** Shadow Assistant Minister Infrastructure and Transport



Figure 21: **The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP** Minister for the Environment and Water

FNQROC Team Contact Information



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Acronyms Defined

AASB	Australian Accounting Standards Board
AER	Australian Energy Regulator
AMTC	Animal Management Technical Committee
BQ	Biosecurity Queensland
CAAP	Capability Agreement and Action Plan
CAFNEC	Cairns and Far North Environment Centre
CCRC	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
CEO's	Chief Executive Officer (member Councils)
CHAS	Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CRC	Cairns Regional Council
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DAF	Dept. of Agriculture and Fisheries
DATSIP	Dept. of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
DDG	Deputy Director General
DES	Dept. Environment and Science
DNRME	Dept. Natural resources, Mines and Energy
DSDMIP	Dept. of State Development, Tourism and Innovation
ED	Executive Director
EMQ	Emergency Management Queensland
EMS	Emergency Management Strategy
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
FNQWA	Far North Queensland Water Alliance
FY	Financial Year
GBR	Great Barrier Reef
GIS	Geographic Information System
HSC	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPWEA	Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia

IPWEAQ	Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Qld
IQRAP	Inland Queensland Road Action Plan
JCU	James Cook University
JPRS	Joint Purchasing and Resource Sharing
LAWMAC	Local Authority Waste Management Advisory Committee
LG	Local Government
LGAQ	Local Government Association of Queensland
LRRS	Local Roads of Regional Significance
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Member of Parliament
NAMAC	Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee
NAQS	Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy
NCCARF	National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NWROC	North West Regional Organisation of Councils
QAO	Qld Audit Office
QPWS	Qld Parks and Wildlife Service
QTRIP	Qld Transport and Roads Investment Program
QWRAP	Qld Water Regional Alliance Program
RAMG	Regional Asset Management Group
RAV	Restricted Access Vehicle
RDA TN	Regional Development Australia – Tropical North
RECoE	Rural Economies Centre of Excellence
RILIPO	Remote Indigenous Land Infrastructure Project Officer
RTAPT	Road and Transport Alliance Project Team
RWMG	Regional Waste Management Group
SARA	State Assessment and Referral Agency
SCDF	State-wide Capability Development Fund
SOG	State Oversight Group
TIDS	Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme
TMR	Transport and Main Roads
TNQ	Tropic North Queensland
TSS	Tariff Structure Statement
TTNQ	Tourism Tropical North Queensland

ULAB	Used Lead Acid Batteries
WTMA	Wet Tropics Management Authority
YCAEP	Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Project
YEP	Your Entrepreneur Project