

# Minutes of the 172<sup>nd</sup> FNQROC Board Meeting

<b>Meeting No</b>	172
<b>Meeting Name</b>	FNQROC Ordinary Board Meeting (away)
<b>Date</b>	5 June 2025
<b>Time</b>	11.00am – 2.30pm
<b>Venue</b>	Mareeba International Club

## REPRESENTATIVES

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### CHAIR

Cr Angela Toppin AM, Mayor	Mareeba Shire Council
Cr Barry Hughes, Mayor	Etheridge Shire Council
Cr Amy Eden, Mayor	Cairns Regional Council
Cr Ramon Jayo, Mayor	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
Cr Bruce Gibson, Mayor	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
Cr Alister Gibson, Mayor	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
Cr Rod Marti, Mayor	Tablelands Regional Council
Cr Trevor Pickering, Mayor	Croydon Shire Council
Cr Lisa Scomazzon, Mayor	Douglas Shire Council
Cr Teresa Millwood, Mayor	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Cr Robyn Holmes, Mayor	Cook Shire Council

### CEO'S

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Mr Andrew Graffen, CEO	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Mr Mark Watt, CEO	Etheridge Shire Council
Ms Jacqui Cresswell, CEO	Croydon Shire Council
Mr Scott Osman, CEO	Douglas Shire Council
Mr Brian Joiner, CEO	Cook Shire Council
Mr Peter Franks, CEO	Mareeba Shire Council
Dr Nikola Stepanov, CEO	Tablelands Regional Council

## OBSERVERS

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Cr Matthew Tickner	Cairns Regional Council
Ms Lucy Greene	Manager, Intergovernmental Relations LGAQ
Mr Benton Wecker	Lead Intergovernmental Relations LGAQ
Ms Josie Pickering	Regional Engagement Manager, Northern QLD, Telstra
Ms Rachel Cliffe	Regional General Manager, Northern QLD, Telstra
Mr Paul Gillies	Principle Advisory Division, QTC
Mr Tom Gole	Executive Director – Local Government and Strategic Operations, Advisory Division, QTC

## FNQROC STAFF

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Ms Darlene Irvine	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Travis Sydes	Natural Asset Management & Sustainability Coordinator
Ms Amanda Hancock	Regional Strategic Infrastructure Coordinator
Ms Maria Anselmo	Regional Climate Resilience Coordinator
Ms Ieva Pradal	Regional Procurement Coordinator
Ms Bhakti Devi	Regional Waste Management Plan Coordinator

The meeting commenced at 11:05am

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we met and paid respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

## APOLOGIES

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Cr Daryl Sexton, Mayor	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
Mr Richard Wright, CEO	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
Mr Steve Linnane, CEO	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
Mr Ken Gouldthorp, CEO	Cairns Regional Council
Ms Kiley Hanslow, CEO	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council

## 3235 BOARD PRESENTATIONS

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1. **Presentation by Rachel Cliffe, Regional General Manager, Northern Qld and Josie Pickering, Regional Engagement Manager, Telstra**

Rachel and Josie provided an overview of:

- Investment into the FNQROC region
- Telstra's satellite to mobile technology (including Satellite Messaging), and
- the closure of the 3G network.

(A copy of the presentation will be sent with the minutes.)

2. **Presentation from Paul Gillies Principle Advisory Division and Tom Gole Executive Director – Local Government and Strategic Operations, Advisory Division, QTC.**

Paul and Tom provided an Economic update at the Global, National and regional level, inclusive of Infrastructure and labour demand.

### ACTIONS:

3235a: QTC advised they will provide further information to answer the following two questions:

- i. What is the impact of reducing Copper String, and
- ii. With regard to Beef Tariffs, what opportunities are available to enable those in the industry to get on the front foot with other markets?

3. **Presentation from Lucy Greene, Manager Intergovernmental Relations, LGAQ**

Mayor Toppin provided a brief overview from the policy executive meeting and Lucy provided an overview of LGAQs recent activities and expanded on the Briefing Note circulated prior to the meeting.

## 3236 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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**MOVED:** Cr Matthew Tickner

**SECONDED:** Cr Rod Marti

That the Board:

*Moves the minutes of the 171<sup>st</sup> FNQROC Board meeting held on Thursday 3 April 2025 to be confirmed and adopted.*

**CARRIED**

## 3237 DISCUSSION TOPIC

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**Considering the potential conflict between Extractive Industry and Agricultural Interests**



Nikki Huddy, Director Up North presented.

- Landowner versus Exploration Permit Holder Rights
- Councils not informed of proposals at Exploration stage
- Our region has not looked at the ag/minerals interface before
- Need to inform ourselves to understand what we have and are weighting up
  - o What studies do we need
  - o What does marginal or viable look like in agriculture
  - o We need to understand what we have if we want to protect it – identify the best basins of agricultural soil and mining.

(A copy of the presentation will be sent with the minutes)

**Comments from members:**

- No policing of the permit requirements
- Leases sit over the land not on the land – as such there is no mechanism to recover rates as the lease is not on the land – Mareeba Shire Council have an example at Chillagoe
- Government needs to understand the shift to high value ag rather than high volume ag.

## **3238 FNQROC STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

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### ***ENERGY AND WATER***

Darlene provided a brief history and guidance on FNQROC involvement today with energy and water

**ACTIONS:**

3238a: FNQROC CEO to identify what the CSO is for Etheridge and other councils in the region

3238b: FNQROC CEO to request from Ergon the programmed rollout to switch streetlight to LED by 30 June 2030.

3238c: FNQROC CEO to bring forward a recommendation to the FNQROC Board on progressing the asset criticality assessment.

**RESOLVED:**

*That FNQROC continue with implementing the recently adopted FNQ Regional Water Capability Plan and that a recommendation come to the FNQROC Board on progressing the asset criticality assessment.*

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Darlene provided an overview of the final report prepared by Elissna, summarising the outcomes of the survey and the Board Strategy Workshop.

The Board also discussed the proposed draft Strategic Priorities and provided the following comments:

- **The vision be:** "Prosperous, sustainable and connected councils in Far North Queensland – where councils collaborate, and communities thrive.
- **Our Mission** remains the same "Advocate on behalf of, and foster cooperation and resource sharing between FNQROC member Councils.
- **Our Tagline be:** United Councils, connected communities, stronger region.
- **Delete** from the waste introduction "i.e. reduction of waste to landfill including, when feasible, moving towards a circular economy model for resource recovery.
- **Minor amendments** to First Nations Housing
- **Add advocacy** for Integrated land use planning to develop and implement clear regional planning frameworks and land use protections that manage the conflicts between high quality agricultural land, urban expansion, extractive industries and ad hoc reforestation efforts.
- **Delete** from waste under Needs and Opportunities the paragraph related to transforming assets, and the key infrastructure and service improvements.
- Under Waste (Needs and Opportunities), **Replace** 'Circular economy principles' with 'State government targets'

**MOVED:** Cr Barry Hughes

**SECONDED:** Cr Rod Marti

That the Board:

*Adopts the FNQROC Strategic Priorities document taking into account the above amendments.*

**CARRIED**

### ACTIONS:

3238d: The FNQROC CEO to finalise the FNQROC Strategic Priorities ready for publication.

## FNQ REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE

Darlene provided an update on the progress of the finalisation of the Draft Regional Plan and the community consultation.

## 3239 FNQROC POLICIES

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### ***FNQROC Policy No 13 – RESERVE POLICY***

**MOVED:** Cr Lisa Scomazzon

**SECONDED:** Cr Barry Hughes

That the Board:

*Adopts the new Policy No13 - Reverse Policy.*

**CARRIED**

### ***FNQROC Policy No 11 – FINANCIAL DELEGATIONS POLICY***

**MOVED:** Cr Rod Marti

**SECONDED:** Cr Lisa Scomazzon

That the Board:

*Adopts the amended Policy No. 11 - Financial Delegations Policy.*

**CARRIED**

### ***FNQROC Policy No 12 – FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR EXTERNAL PARTIES***

**MOVED:** Cr Barry Hughes

**SECONDED:** Cr Rod Marti

That the Board:

*Adopts the amended Policy No 12 – Financial Support for External Parties.*

**CARRIED**

### ***FNQROC Policy No. 2 – FNQROC CREDIT CARDS***

Amendments:

- Remove 'deliberate' from deliberate private use,
- Replace receipt with invoice

**MOVED:** Cr Rod Marti

**SECONDED:** Cr Robyn Holmes

That the Board:

*Adopts the amended Policy No. 2 – FNQROC Credit Cards taking into consideration the additional amendments identified at today's board meeting.*

**CARRIED**



## 3240 BOARD REPORTS WITH NOTICE

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**MOVED:** Cr Barry Hughes

**SECONDED:** Cr Robyn Holmes

That the Board:

1. *Adopts the Operational Plan 2025 – 2026, and*
2. *Adopts the FNQROC Operational Budget with:*
  - a. *Member Council contribution for the 2025/2026 financial year being:*
    01. *Cairns Regional Council - \$118,700*
    02. *Cassowary Coast Regional Council - \$87,321*
    03. *Cook Shire Council - \$52,025*
    04. *Croydon Shire Council - \$20,738*
    05. *Douglas Shire Council - \$63,319*
    06. *Etheridge Shire Council - \$21,376*
    07. *Hinchinbrook Shire Council - \$35,925*
    08. *Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council - \$21,796*
    09. *Mareeba Shire Council - \$78,543*
    10. *Tablelands Regional Council - \$83,523*
    11. *Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council - \$20,770*
    12. *Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council - \$24,056*
  - b. *Regional Road and Transport contribution remaining at 2.75% of Council funding received; and*
  - c. *Croydon Shire Council, Etheridge Shire Council, Hinchinbrook Shire Council, Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council, Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council and Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council contribute 20% of any direct savings realised through their involvement in regional procurement activities, and*
  - d. *Councils outside the FNQROC boundary contribute 30% of direct savings realised through their involvement in FNQROC procurement activities.*

**CARRIED**

## 3241 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

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Action items from 3 April 2025 FNQROC Ordinary Board Meeting

Meeting	Action	Responsible person	Status
<b>3220 (Dec 2024)</b>	FNQROC CEO to look further at investing FNQROC savings with QTC	Darlene Irvine, CEO On hold until financial delegation reviewed.	On hold until financial policies adopted
<b>3223b</b>	To enable FNQROC endorsement of the TNQ Economic Development Strategy (TEDS), the CEO is to work with the Economic Development Technical Committee to review and provide recommended amendments to RDA TN. Once completed to the satisfaction of the Technical Committee the FNQROC Board will review and endorse.	Darlene Irvine, CEO and Economic Development Technical Committee	Ongoing - Comments sent and meeting with RDA occurred 4 June. Comments reflect those made to the draft FNQ Regional Plan.
<b>3225a</b>	Cairns Regional Council to provide all member councils with a copy of the Cairns Regional Councils PDA presentation for further consideration and discussion with their respective Councils.	Cr Matthew Ticker / Darlene Irvine, CEO	Complete
<b>3225b</b>	Member councils to reach out to Cairns Regional Council for further information or discussion to enable them to make an informed decision at the next FNQROC Board meeting.	Member councils	Complete
<b>3225c</b>	FNQROC CEO to include a motion in the June Board agenda for the Board to reconsider FNQROC endorsement of the Cairns Regional Council PDA.	Darlene Irvine, CEO	Complete
<b>3228</b>	The Operational Plan and Budget 2025 – 2026 (Report B112) will be deferred until the June Board meeting. In the meantime, the FNQROC CEO	Darlene Irvine, CEO and member councils	Complete



Meeting	Action	Responsible person	Status
	will draft a Reserve Policy to be circulated to member councils for comment prior to the next FNQROC Board meeting, with the intention of adopting the policy at that meeting.		
3233a	Elisna to provide Darlene Irvine, Chief Executive Officer with a report compiled from the findings from the Board workshop.	Ellisna / Darlene Irvine, CEO	Complete
3233b	Darlene Irvine, Chief Executive Officer to table the report at the June meeting for consideration of the Board.	Darlene Irvine, CEO	Complete

## 3242 CRC ADVOCACY EFFORTS FOR PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT AREA (PDA)

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**MOVED:** Cr Angela Toppin

**SECONDED:** Cr Lisa Scomazzon

That the Board:

*Supports Cairns Regional Council in its advocacy efforts for a Priority Development Area (PDA) over the Mt Peter area.*

**CARRIED**

## 3243 FINANCIAL REPORTS

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### *FINANCIAL REPORTS YEAR TO DATE*

**MOVED:** Cr Barry Hughes

**SECONDED:** Cr Alister Gibson

That the Board:

1. *Adopts the Profit and Loss Statement for the period 1 July – 19 May 2025, and*
2. *Adopts the Balance Sheet as at 19 May 2025.*

**CARRIED**

## 3244 INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

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### *INCOMING / OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE*

#### **Incoming**

Nil for noting

#### **Outgoing**

Nil for noting

### *MEETINGS ATTENDED BY FNQROC EXECUTIVE OFFICER*

**Noted**

### *MINUTES OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES*

FNQROC Natural Asset Advisory Committee meeting #62 – 4 April 2025

**Noted**

FNQROC Climate Resilience Technical Committee meeting #8 – 11 April 2025

**Noted**

FNQROC Waste Management Plan Technical Committee meeting #1 – 24 April 2025

**Noted**

FNQROC Animal Management Technical Committee #21 – 17 April 2025

**Noted**

FNQROC Regional Mountain Bike Strategy Steering Committee meeting #13 – 1 May 2025

**Noted**

FNQROC Aquatic Biosecurity in the Wet Tropics Workshop – 8 May 2025

**Noted**

FNQROC Water Alliance meeting – 9 May 2025

**Noted**

FNQROC Outdoor Qld Mountain Bike Forum – 20 May 2025

**Noted**

FNQROC Waste Management Plan Technical Committee meeting #3 – 23 May 2025

**Noted**

FNQROC RRTG TC meeting #13 – 23 May 2025

**Noted**

### *CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES*

FNQROC Regional Supply and Delivery of Liquid Aluminium Sulphate, Aluminium Chloral hydrate and Caustic Soda meeting #2 – 5 March 2025

**Noted**

FNQROC Regional Procurement Advisory Committee meeting #45 – 21 March 2025

**Noted**

FNQROC Sewer Relining Meeting #5 – 7 May 2025

**Noted**

FNQROC Bitumen Reseal and Line Marking meeting #6 – 8 May 2025

**Noted**

## 3245 GENERAL DISCUSSION

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### *IMPACT OF THE UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE AND CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS ON COUNCILS*

Peter Franks provided an overview, and the Board discussed the impact on councils policies together with the resource impact on councils to comply with the guidelines

Discussion was around:

- We agree child safety is important
- A common response in implementation of the standards
- Concern over the continued 'overreach' placed on councils through standards/policies development at State/Federal level
- Resource implication to implement the standards.

#### **ACTIONS:**

3245a: The impact of the Universal Principle and Child Safety Standards on councils and the resource required be referred to LGAQ and the Policy Executive.

### *DECEMBER BOARD MEETING AND CHRISTMAS DINNER*

The Board discussed the proposed date change for the FNQROC Board Christmas Dinner from 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 and 175<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting from 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> of December due to availability of Elected Members.

#### **RESOLVED:**

*That FNQROC bring forward its December meeting to Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December with the Christmas dinner occurring Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December.*

#### **ACTIONS:**

3245b: FNQROC CEO to send out updated calendar invites for the December Board meeting and Christmas Dinner

## 3246 NEXT MEETING

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The next meeting will be held on Thursday 7 August 2025, 10.30am to 2pm, at Cairns Regional Council.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.20pm



Cr Angela Toppin  
FNQROC Chair



**Attachments:**

1. Agreed Action Items from Board Meeting on Thursday 5 June 2025
2. Board Meeting Dates for 2025

## ATTACHMENT 1

### Agreed Action Items from Board Meeting held on 5 June 2025

Meeting	Action	Responsible person
3220	FNQROC CEO to look further at investing FNQROC savings with QTC	Darlene Irvine, CEO On hold until financial delegation reviewed.
3223b	To enable FNQROC endorsement of the TNQ Economic Development Strategy (TEDS), the CEO is to work with the Economic Development Technical Committee to review and provide recommended amendments to RDA TN. Once completed to the satisfaction of the Technical Committee the FNQROC Board will review and endorse. Comments provided to RDA TN 4 June 2025 – awaiting response from RDA TN	Darlene Irvine, CEO and RDA TN
3235a	QTC advised they will provide further information to answer the following two questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is the impact of reducing Copper String, and</li><li>• With regard to Beef Tariffs, what opportunities are available to enable those in the industry to get on the front foot with other markets?</li></ul>	QTC
3238a	FNQROC CEO to identify what the CSO is for Etheridge and other councils in the region	FNQROC CEO
3238b	FNQROC CEO to request from Ergon the programmed rollout to switch streetlight to LED by 30 June 2030.	FNQROC CEO
3238c	FNQROC CEO to bring forward a recommendation to the FNQROC Board on progressing the asset criticality assessment.	FNQROC CEO
3238d	The FNQROC CEO to finalise the FNQROC Strategic Priorities ready for publication.	FNQROC CEO
3245a:	The impact of the Universal Principle and Child Safety Standards on councils and the resource required be referred to LGAQ and the Policy Executive.	LGAQ / Policy Executive
3245b	FNQROC CEO to send out updated calendar invites for the December Board meeting and Christmas Dinner	FNQROC CEO

## ATTACHMENT 2

### FNQROC Board Meetings for 2025

Date	Venue
7 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	Cairns Regional Council
2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2025	Tablelands Regional Council
2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025	Cairns Regional Council