

Climate Resilience Technical Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting No.	10
Meeting Name	Climate Resilience Technical Committee (CRTC)
Date	Thursday, 20 November 2025
Time	10:00 am – 2:30 pm
Venue	Cassowary Coast Regional Council - Shire Hall L2 Council Chambers - 70 Rankin Street, Innisfail
Meeting Contacts	Maria Anselmo: 0491 960 940 maria.anselmo@fnqroc.qld.gov.au

1. Acknowledgement of Country, Attendance, Apologies & Guests

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

Name	Organisation	Attendance
Ciara Bridgland	Cairns Regional Council	Present
Bronwyn Opie	Cairns and Far North Environmental Centre	Present
Daniel Stronggrove	Cairns Regional Council	Present
Damon Sydes	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	Present
Karen Bettink	Terrain Natural Resource Management	Present
Karla Vaughan	Local Government Authority Queensland	Present
Keely Macmillan	Mareeba Regional Council	Present
Maria Helena Anselmo	FNQROC	Present
Melissa Mitchell	Douglas Shire Council	Apologies
Michael Anderson	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	Present
Zoe Williams	Gulf Savannah NRM	Apologies
Sophie Barrett	Cairns Regional Council	Present
Tudor Tanase	Tablelands Regional Council	Present
Michelle O'Loughlin	Cairns Regional Council	Present
Councillor Maree Baade	Tablelands Regional Council	Apologies
Councillor Jeff Baines	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	Apologies
Hugo van Roermund	Local Government Authority Queensland	Present

2. Presentations

2.1 The Q CRC Expert Panel – Karla Vaughan, LGAQ

10.1 ACTION: Investigate options for setting up revolving or constrained funds where revenue earned and savings from renewable energy projects finance future climate resilient projects.

- Set up a meeting with the Q CRC Expert Panel to formulate the question.

2.2 The Energy Advantage – Ciara Bridgeland, Cairns Regional Council

Presentation slides along with notes from Ciara's informative presentation on Renewable Energy and emissions reduction from a regional, state and national lens are attached. During the presentation, Ciara introduced online tools.

1. The Power Plant Map of QLD, which can be used to identify current, upcoming and proposed renewable energy projects. [Power plants map of Queensland](#)
2. Ironbark Sustainability Climate Snapshot that provides an overview of community-generated emissions. [Snapshot Climate - Australian Emissions Profiles :: Snapshot](#)

2.3 Cutting costs with cheaper and cleaner energy – Daniel Stronggrove

2.4 Climate Proofing Cassowary Coast – Michael Anderson, Cassowary Coast Regional Council: Presentation slides available.

3. Project & General Updates

3.1 Regional Drought Resilience Program

- FNQROC were successful in receiving \$900,000 in funding to deliver drought resilience initiatives across the Wet Tropics and Gulf Hinterland region. Project end date is June 2026.
- FNQROC will deliver a regional water leak detection pilot project three councils in the FNQROC region.
- Gulf Savannah NRM will receive funding to support businesses and landholders in building resilience.
- Due to timeframes, Terrain NRM have retracted from their submission for this round of funding. FNQROC are currently looking to expand their water leak detection program and is reaching out to Councils in the Wet Tropics RDRP region.

Program Update - On the 11th of November attended a meeting with the Federal Department of Agriculture and Queensland Department of Primary Industries.

Key points

- Phase One project end dates expanded to November 2026.
- Phase Two of funding announced.
- Over three years, 2026-2029, \$1M funding to deliver project work and \$150k/yr for an implementation officer.
- Prioritising plans' actions and activities to align with Prosper 2050 and general climate change considerations.
- Working groups, led by RECoEs will be established to support prioritising actions for phase two funding submissions.

3.2 Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

- The Great Barrier Reef Foundation opened a legacy funding round, FNQROC applied for funds to conduct a high-level cost-benefit analysis of emission reduction actions on regional emissions and model action to 2035.
- FNQROC were successful and received \$6K to continue working with Ironbark Sustainable Consulting.
- Ironbark will take the data they have for 7 councils (Hinchinbrook, Cassowary, Douglas, Yarrabah, Wujal Wujal, Tablelands and Hope Vale) and project emission reduction in alignment with the current QLD target to 2035 (75%).
- This will be included in the Regional GHG Emissions Report.

3.3 QRA Local Resilience Action Plans

- Update our regional resilience action plan by supporting local action plans to be updated and ready for DRF funding opportunities.
- An invitation to Councils not currently represented on the CRTC will be sent out to nominate a representative to participate in this project and facilitate the update of your council's Local Resilience Action Plan.
- In the meantime, a survey is being developed to understand Council's current processes for updating the LRAPs and how they are used, along with testing Council's interest in participating in a working group to update Regional Resilience Action Plans by supporting the update of their Council's LRAPS.
- The CRTC Council members will champion these surveys, ensuring the responsible officers within their councils receive the survey.

3.4 CCRC Local Natural Disaster Preparedness Plan

- First draft, along with mapping, is currently under review with the CCRC team.
- Once the draft is approved by CCRC and their local NAMAC, it will be presented to CRTC.

3.5 Regional Plan

- The state government proposed a 20-year plan for the region.
- Organisations and Individuals can submit feedback
- Consultation is open until 11:59 pm Monday, 5 January 2026.

3.6 Other Updates

- LGAQ Annual Conference submissions outcomes:
 - Two addressing renewable energy
 - Two addressing the reef guardian program
 - Eight addressing Natural Hazard/Disaster Resilience, including QHeat2050.

4. Round Table Updates

Organisation	Current and upcoming project/s
Cairns Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviewing Climate Change Strategy over the next few months.• Updating the energy emissions data collection system with Trellis.• Organising the renewable energy business forum in February 2026.• Reef Guardian Program – Clean Creeks Program, where conservation partners and traditional owners collaborate to revegetate riparian areas.• Through Disaster Resilience Funding, looking at an integrated resilience plan for the council across different areas. This will use recent LIDAR data.• Integrating coastal hazard staff into planning scheme – notifying households that are impacted – doing work on future growth of population and housing.• Water efficiency working group to develop a water efficiency strategy and continue to roll out smart water meters.• Disaster Management team facilitating community-led disaster resilience plan through post-Jasper funding.
Cassowary Coast Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update provided during the presentation by Michael Anderson – details provided in the attached slideshow presentation.

Organisation	Current and upcoming project/s
Douglas Shire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installing solar PV systems (approx. 185kW) on four Council facilities, the last part of the Reef Guardian funding, due 31 March 2026. Council received disaster resilience funding – investigating options for installing batteries at facilities with solar PV systems.
Terrain NRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heading to the Ecological Society of Australia Conference – presenting on actions to build biodiversity and vulnerable natural assets through the emergency response planning process – challenges and gaps. Focusing on a state-coordinated approach. Running a workshop to talk about the national approach feeding into state state-coordinated approach. <p>10.2 ACTION: Present Emergency Response Planning for protecting Natural Assets – Regional and Local Lens. Terrain NRM and FNQROC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft FNQ Regional plan discussion group on the 1st of December. Some key points being raised: Strategic rehabilitation areas, lack of climate change in the plan and other gaps. Regional Agriculture and Land Management Program – additional funding from the Federal Government to support change in sustainable agricultural practice, e.g. fertiliser use and sediment loss on cane and banana farms. Two climate-related agricultural projects. 1. Climate-smart ag, working with landholders to change practices, e.g. implementing a bio-composter. Spraying trials and diverse crop trials. 2. Qld gov. Future Farms Nature Repair projects focus on remediating drains on cane properties, restoring the systems to natural systems to restore water movement and regeneration of stream banks. Overall farm resilience to climate change impacts – starting early January.
Mareeba Shire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance review of current solar system, including applications for monitoring and obtaining energy data and export value. Also investigating energy management, e.g. tariffs. Looking at energy data and ergon tariffs with Daniel Stronggrove.
Cairns and Far North Environment Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QHeat2050 motion passed. Street tree planting trial in 2026. Working with Barron floodplain communities – 2026 participatory video, make short videos about solutions and adapting to increasing flooding. Round table event last week with over 50 people attending. EPBC reforms.: Take Action for Better Environmental Laws! - CAFNEC Upcoming - Webinar series on energy transition covering topics on misinformation, mining and marketisation. Sign up for updates on the transition webinar series: https://cafnecc.nationbuilder.com/transition_webinar_series. Feedback on the FNQ Draft Regional Plan - No mention of climate change, which raises concerns as it doesn't address worsening conditions. CAFNEC will be developing a submission.
Tablelands Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional plan TRC are progressing to the council Energy management is the focus – chasing funds to implement recommendations in the report. Reef Guardian projects underspent – additional funds redirected to install solar PV system on the disaster coordination centre, saving emissions and costs.

5. Business Arising

FNQROC Disaster Scenario Workshops running, Monday, 8th December, with the Animal Management Advisory Committee and Natural Assets Management Advisory Committee.

6. Workshop - Regional GHG Emissions Report

Closed session to discuss outcomes of the Regional GHG Emissions Inventory Report, key messages and recommendations.

10.3 ACTION Develop FNQROC Corporate Emissions Reduction Report

- a) Update draft report with feedback from workshop
- b) Circulate the updated report to the CRTC Council members
- c) Present updated Report at next CRTC meeting

7. Next meeting

Following dates for CRTC meetings:

- Friday 30th January in Cairns
- Friday 27th March in Cairns
- Friday 17th July in Cairns
- Friday 30th October in Cairns

8. Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 4.39 pm.

Minutes prepared by FNQOC Regional Climate Resilience Coordinator – Maria Helena Anselmo.

9. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

MINUTE NUMBER	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)	STATUS
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	Ongoing
6.2	Strengthen FNQROC Climate Resilience Technical Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.2a: Invite Queensland Health and health practitioners to join as advisory members. 6.2b: Extend an invitation to Councillors for voluntary nomination to the committee. 6.2c: Request Council CEOs to nominate a Council representative for the committee.	FNQROC	In Progress
6.7	Investigate Regional Power Purchasing Agreements. 6.7a Explore examples of revolving funds where savings from Power Purchasing Agreements and other renewable energy projects finance future mitigation projects.	FNQROC	Completed
9.1	Circulate the Renewable Energy Business Forum event details for CRTC members to promote to businesses in their area.	Ciara Bridgland, Cairns Regional Council	Completed
9.2	Develop a progress report on Rivers to Reef Climate Action for 2024.25 and circulate to Council members for review and feedback.	FNQROC	In Progress
9.3	Finalise GHG Emission Report and circulate to CRTC Council members for feedback	FNQROC	Completed
9.4	At the next meeting, run a mitigation-focused session and present the results from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions report, discussing next steps and recommendations.	FNQROC	Completed
9.5	Project delivery - Community Emissions Reduction Media Kit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Circulate the toolkit to council members for review and finalisation. b) Arrange meetings with council communications teams/officers to introduce the toolkit and schedule publication. 	FNQROC	In Progress
9.6	Advocate for the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) to engage with QLD Treasury to model future climate impacts and determine optimal locations for new road infrastructure.	FNQROC	In Progress
9.7	Coordinate collation of infrastructure lists and modelling information across councils/agencies to inform the climate modelling proposal on FNQ critical infrastructure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Check with LGMS about any relevant asset and infrastructure survey data. 	FNQROC, Karla Vaughan	In Progress
9.8	Update FNQROC Local Resilience Action Plans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) FNQROC engage Disaster Coordinators to understand the updating process, gaps and needs to update plans. 	FNQROC	In Progress

ACTION ITEMS

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