

Climate Resilience Technical Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting No.	11
Meeting Name	Climate Resilience Technical Committee (CRTC)
Date	Friday 30 th January, 2026
Time	10:30 am – 3:00 pm
Venue	Kingsford Room Spence, Cairns Regional Council, 119-145 Spence Street, Cairns
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
Bronwyn Opie	Cairns and Far North Environmental Centre	Present
Ciara Bridgland	Cairns Regional Council	Present
Councillor Jeff Baines	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	Present
Damon Sydes	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	Present
Dr Lucinda (Indi) Dunn	Gulf Savannah NRM	Present
Ellen Webber	Wet Tropics Management Authority	Present
Karen Bettink	Terrain Natural Resource Management	Apology
Karla Vaughan	Local Government Authority Queensland	Present
Keely MacMillan	Mareeba Regional Council	Apology
Leonard Vogel	Douglas Shire Council	Present
Maria Helena Anselmo	FNQROC	Present
Melissa Mitchell	Douglas Shire Council	Present
Michelle O'Loughlin	Cairns Regional Council	Present
Sophie Barrett	Cairns Regional Council	Present
Tudor Tanase	Tablelands Regional Council	Apology
Zoe Williams	Gulf Savannah NRM	Present

2. Presentations

2.1 ZAP CAT Home Electrification Program for Local Councils

Presented by David & Piroaska.

Program overview provided with meeting minutes (PDF).

Links to Local Council demos share via email with CRTC Council members.

3. Regional Drought Resilience Program

The Regional Drought Resilience Program will remain on the agenda until the end of the program.

3.1 Delivery Partner Project Updates

- Project 1 – Pilot Water Leak Detection Program for Wet Tropics and Gulf Hinterland
 - Project Manager - FNQROC Procurement Coordinator.
- Project 2 – Business and Community Project
 - Project Managers are Gulf Savannah NRM.
 - As part of the funding, a new position has been established to oversee implementation.
 - Dr Lucinda Dunn commenced this week and will provide project updates to the CRTC and advice on the RDRP program on behalf of the Gulf region.

3.2 Phase Two Implementation

- Activity grants: up to \$1 million per region
- Remuneration grants: up to \$600,000 per region
- Regional Economic Centre for Excellence (ReCO) is chairing working groups to help identify projects for Phase Two.
- CRTC members will receive updates at quarterly meetings.
- Application due dates are expected mid-2026, awaiting confirmation from the State Government.
- Opportunity to fund drought-heat-related projects under phase two, especially for the Wet Tropics RDRP.

4. Project & General Updates

5.1 QRA Local Resilience Action Plans (LRAPs)

- Provided an update on the LRAP update project timeline.
- Actions listed in LRAPs will be eligible for future funding from NEMA and QRA.
- Members discussed the opportunity to fund actions identified in the CRTC Climate Action Plan through QRA and NEMA grants, thus the importance of including climate-resilient actions in the LRAPs.

ACTION 11.1: Share original LRAPs with Council members.

5.2 HHIMACQ – The Hi-Mac Project

The HI-MAC Project will remain on the agenda until the end of the project.

The FNQROC Climate Resilience Technical Committee is on the Project Working Group for the Heat-Health Impact Monitoring, Action and Communication for Queensland (HHIMACQ - The Hi-Mac project).

The objective of the project is to identify the diversity of heat risk resilience actions (HRRAs) implemented by Queensland Local Government Areas (LGAs), and to develop a methodology for annual review and communication of heat-health impacts.

- 3-year DRF-funded research project
- Four meetings a year, with the first one in October last year.

Goals & Solutions:

- Review global HRRAs with a specific focus on effectiveness.
- Identify HRRAs being undertaken across Queensland and share examples of what is working and challenges/enablers

- Analyse health data (mortality, hospitalisations, emergency visits) to build a framework for annual heat-health impact reporting.
- Deliver annual report on summer impacts

Actions for Council Members

- Disseminate relevant information to key stakeholders within their local council organisation
- Identify key stakeholders to participate in interviews, including 'end of summer' surveys.
- Share where possible, relevant information with researchers including heat-health resilient actions

Discussion Notes

- Council members would like the opportunity to review and provide feedback on survey questions before circulating to internal stakeholders.
- Council members discussed which role within local government is best placed to engage in heat-health.
- Public Health is the primary sector responsible for heat-health and when considering the health act and the roles that are authorised to engage in community health, it would be Environmental Health officers.
- Workplace Health and Safety, Disaster Management and Planning departments were also identified as stakeholders.

5.3 CCRC Disaster Preparedness Plan

- Final draft plan, along with mapping resources are completed.
- Next step is a disaster scenario workshop to test the plan.

5.4 Research Project: Activating Cool Spaces – Griffith University

FNQROC were invited to participate in a heat resilience initiative by contributing in-kind support for the '*Activating Cool Spaces Research project*' that will be submitted for the next round of DRF funding.

This project aims to identify and evaluate potential 'Cool Spaces' within the functional area of various Queensland local government areas (LGAs), while also assessing the institutional changes needed across governance structures to support their uptake.

An invitation to Council Planners was sent via email at the end of last year with no interest.

Cairns Regional Council's sustainability team are interested in the research project and supports involvement via the Climate Resilience Technical Committee.

Council members discussed the benefits to the council and the expected deliverables from the council. Limitations in councils resources limits requested time commitment. It was discussed that shared commitment through the Climate Resilience Technical Committee will allow all councils the opportunity to participate in some activities and have access to research outcomes.

Before committing to a letter of support, council members asked for further information to be emailed for them to share among facilities managers and other key stakeholders.

11.2 ACTION: Distribute information about the research project with internal council stakeholders to determine the level of involvement.

5.5 Other Updates

Environment and Sustainability Village Exchange

This Village provides a forum for officers to get together, share information, receive updates on the latest legislation and policies and, ultimately help each other improve service to our communities. Link to register for upcoming forums: <https://www.lgmaqld.org.au/event-6281808>

5.5.1 Renewable Energy Business Forum Two

Cairns Chamber of Commerce and Cairns Regional Council are hosting Tenders, Energy Savings and Jobs for Sustainable Success. A 1-hour workshop on Tenders, 1hr presentation on energy savings and future jobs; followed by a tour of CleanCo's Barron Gorge Hydro Power Station. Transfers to and from Barron Gorge Hydro Station is sponsored by Tropic Wings. Registration via the following link: [Tenders, Energy Savings and Jobs for Sustainable Success - Event Booking - Cairns Chamber of Commerce](#)

5.5.4 ACTION 10.1 Schedule meeting with Q CRC Expert Panel

Updated members on the initial meeting with the Expert Panel, Alluvium. Three options were presented for Council members to consider and vote on which one to move forward with.

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.

- a) Set up a meeting with the Q CRC Expert Panel to formulate the question.
- b) CRTC members to vote on the option to move forward with.**

5. Round Table Updates

Organisation	Current and upcoming project/s
Cairns Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of climate change strategy to 2030 – a progress report and update, looking at commitments. Mid-year wrap-up review• Commitment to align with federal gov targets. Snapshot on that• New GHG Emissions Management system is working well and allows other businesses within Council report directly to the system and generate their own reports.• Cairns Regional Council have PhD students working on the following;<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban Heat• Methodology for Canopy Cover• GIS support to understand canopy cover in Schools.
Cassowary Coast Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GHG Emission Inventory: data collection still paused due to recruitment of a procurement and finance manager.• CCRC were engaged for a social impact assessment for the Tully Battery project.
Douglas Shire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Douglas Shire Council's Senior Management team working on Climate Risk Assessments for Council services and infrastructure.• GHG Emission Inventory: gathering data for next reporting period, challenges with finding time to gather data, looking for streamlined approach to collecting data that saves time.• Recovery funding from TC Jasper is supporting Coastal works.

Organisation	Current and upcoming project/s
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reef guardian funding supporting solar installation, erosion sediment management and feral pig control.
LGAQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGAQ are moving forward with developing funding bids for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QHeat2050 Extension to the Q CRC program QCRC Regional Forum 2026 is open for registrations - 12th May 2026 in Hervey Bay (program coming) Registration - Queensland Climate Resilient Councils Regional Forum 2026 Progressing First Nations climate risk and resilience strategy – risk assessments will engage 4 councils, including Yarrabah ASC. Reminder to engage with the Q CRC Expert Panel for any questions or problems Councils need help with related to Climate Risk, Adaptation, reporting GHG Emissions and reducing emissions.
Cairns and Far North Environment Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborating with other organisations to host FNQ's first Heatwave Awareness Day in Cairns. Putting in the budget to support QHeat2050 Advocating for heat to be recognised as a hazard in State Planning. Uplift natural-based solutions over hard-based Meeting with the environment minister, considering climate change in the strategy for the new offset legislation Participatory video workshop to create visual stories on the impact of climate change and energy transition on communities, e.g. mining for critical minerals.
Wet Tropics Management Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review climate adaption plan 10th February community pf practice pane If you want to be included in stakeholder engagement to advise review of the plan: ellen.weber@wtma.qld.gov.au

Renewable Energy Community Benefit Agreement

- The new battery installation project in the Cassowary Coast Region started discussions on community engagement to inform a community benefit agreement.
- An example of Renewable Energy Community Benefit agreement guidelines and policy can be found through the Isaac Council Community. [Renewable Energy Community Benefit Agreement - Isaac Regional Council](#).

6. Workshop - Regional GHG Emissions Report

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

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. 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. <p>6.2c: Request Council CEOs to nominate a Council representative for the committee.</p>	FNQROC	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	Combine with the report card action 5.9
9.5	Project delivery - Community Emissions Reduction Media Kit <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Circulate the toolkit to council members for review and finalisation. 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	On Hold/Completed – as there are no new road projects, Darlene has suggested that we advocate for climate modelling to be included in the development of the Growth Strategy, where modelling climate hazards informs new housing development, road infrastructure and other critical infrastructure and services.
9.7	Coordinate collation of infrastructure lists and modelling information across councils/agencies to inform the climate modelling proposal on FNQ critical infrastructure. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Check with LGMS about any relevant asset and infrastructure survey data. 	FNQROC, Karla Vaughan	On Hold – as per above.
9.8	Update FNQROC Local Resilience Action Plans. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> FNQROC engage Disaster Coordinators to understand the updating process, gaps and needs to update plans. 	FNQROC	Completed
10.1	Investigate options for setting up revolving or constrained funds where revenue earned and savings from renewable energy projects finance future climate resilient projects. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Set up a meeting with the Q CRC Expert Panel to formulate the question. 	FNQROC, CRTC Council members, LGAQ	In progress
10.2	Present Emergency Response Planning for protecting Natural Assets – Regional and Local Lens. Terrain NRM and FNQROC.	FNQROC & Terrain NRM	In Progress

MINUTE NUMBER	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)	STATUS
10.3	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	FNQROC, CRTC Council members	Completed

9. Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 4pm.

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

ACTION ITEMS

MINUTE NUMBER	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
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
9.5	Project delivery - Community Emissions Reduction Media Kit 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
10.1	Investigate options for setting up revolving or constrained funds where revenue earned and savings from renewable energy projects finance future climate resilient projects. a) Set up a meeting with the Q CRC Expert Panel to formulate the question. b) CRTC members to vote on the option to move forward with.	FNQROC, CRTC Council members
10.2	Present Emergency Response Planning for protecting Natural Assets – Regional and Local Lens. Terrain NRM and FNQROC.	FNQROC & Terrain NRM
11.1	Share original LRAPs with Council members.	FNQROC
11.2	CRTC Council members to distribute information about the research project to relevant internal council stakeholders to determine the level of involvement.	FNQROC & CRTC Council Members