

## Animal Management Advisory Committee

### Meeting Details

<b>Meeting No.</b>	24
<b>Meeting Name</b>	Animal Management Advisory Committee (NAMAC)
<b>Date</b>	Friday 6 February 2026
<b>Time</b>	9.30am – 2:00 pm
<b>Venue</b>	Kingsford Room, Cairns Regional Council - Online
<b>Meeting Contacts</b>	Travis Sydes 0448 852 732

### Minutes

1.	<b>Attendance</b> Stacey Bambrick TPHU, Michelle Nicholls TPHU, Greg Bowden TRC, Bonny Cumming AMRRIC, Bindi Kelly TRC, Shane Brumby DSC, Benn Washington MSC, Kylie McAllister CSC, Tina Lawson CRC, Kirsty Lamperd CCRC, Matt Gardiner CCRC
2.	<b>Apologies</b> Peter King RSPCA,
3.	<b>Guests</b>
4.	<b>Acceptance of previous minutes</b> Moved: Tina Lawson Seconded: Kirsty Lamperd
5.	<b>Business arising from meeting #23</b>

Action Item	Action	Status
21.1	<b>Coen Animal Management Facility</b> Cook has offered to facilitate a field trip for interested staff and parties to inspect new facility and program once it is operational.	
22.1	<del><b>Business case for workforce capability and workforce modernisation review</b></del> <del>Action: 1. circulate revised business case for review. 2. Collate brief case study of West Cairns pilot project to include business case. 3. Table proposal for Stage 1 to the FNQROC Board December 4, 2025.</del>	<del>1. Complete</del> <del>2. Outstanding</del> <del>3. Complete</del>
22.2	<b>Training and staff development</b> Action: 1. Identify suitable agent to deliver government investigations training. 2. circulate survey	
22.3	<b>Disaster scenario exercise planning and scheduling for last quarter of 2025</b> Action: 1. Circulate outcomes report from 2024 event to committee. 2. Circulate proposed dates for 2025 exercise.	1. Complete 2. Complete

Action Item	Action	Status
23.1	<p><b>Business case for workforce capability and workforce modernisation review (replaces 22.1)</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> 1. recirculate updated options paper to committee. 2. Collate case study of CRC/RSPCA collaboration. 3. Seek feedback from DPI policy</p>	<p>1. Complete</p> <p>2. Outstanding</p> <p>3. Complete</p>

### Discussion arising from actions of meeting #23

21.1 – June will be the most suitable date for taskforce exercise in Coen. This could coincide with a committee meeting; or could be a stand-alone exercise. Cook Shire would be undertaking door to door animal health checks.

### 24.1 (replaces 21.1) – Coen animal management taskforce

**Action:** 1. confirm details and develop proposal for taskforce operation. 2. circulate proposed dates and operation outline to the committee.

6.	<p><b>6.1 Dept housing (property maintenance/animal management impacts) (agenda order revised to inform item 6.2)</b></p> <p>Kirsty and Matt shared a recent presentation regarding the volume and workload for Local Laws relating to public housing properties. Customer requests and breeches relating to overgrown properties, rubbish removal, animal management and accumulation/unsightly complaints are disproportionately related to a very small subset of properties. Issues are exacerbated by lack of engagement and action from Department of Housing. In data collated by CCRC, over 50% of Local Law customer requests related to less than 2% of residential properties. For clarity, there is acknowledgement that there are exemplary tenants in the Public Housing system and councils do work closely with exceptional DOH officers on the ground in some regions. However, the operational burden of responding to public housing related issues is at breaking point for most local governments.</p> <p>Situation analysis - concerns from local government Local Laws teams</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There are serial issues arising from public housing properties including animal management; rubbish accumulation/disposal issues; and overgrown properties.</li> <li>2. Local laws teams are spending an inordinate amount of time responding to ongoing issues at a very small subset of properties.</li> <li>3. There is an inconsistent approach from DOH and outcomes on the ground are often strongly influenced by personalities rather than processes. High rates of staff turnover or lack of local representatives, compound issues for tenants and councils.</li> <li>4. There is significant concern that appropriate support is not being provided to vulnerable people issued with public housing resulting in impossible circumstances beyond their control to manage. Properties of interest are often subject to the attention of the whole range of social, health and justice services. Much of this attention is in response to breeches/penalties rather than in the form of support or solutions. i.e. the situation rarely changes.</li> <li>5. Additional drivers which exacerbate underlying issues including overcrowding, poor infrastructure, economic disadvantage, complex and unaddressed health needs, lack of resources and social support - issues very clearly beyond the remit of local laws.</li> <li>6. Buildings and properties are often not fit for purpose and defects are often poorly addressed or ignored. Long wait-times and convoluted processes make navigation of request systems impossible to manage for many tenants. Fencing defects have an inordinate impact on adjoining properties. Maintenance cycles are often not suited to a tropical environment.</li> <li>7. Lack of due process, poor communication, misalignment, duplication and even contradiction of advice and direction provided to tenants often fuels animal management issues within DOH properties. Lack of suitable enclosures, poor living conditions and overpopulation from</li> </ol>
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lack of desexing result in a wide range of animal health and welfare issues. These issues then manifest themselves as breeches of animal welfare requirements or impacts on people and other animals from wandering, aggression and dog attacks.

In summary, much of the service burden devolved to councils is the result of a lack of the support services required to assist vulnerable tenants and could be avoided or addressed differently if appropriately resourced. Other deeply entrenched disfunction in the public housing service are well beyond councils remit to address but also drive many of the issues raised. It appears that almost every element of the public housing program encountered by councils requires urgent review and significant investment.

The Animal Management Options Analysis project provides an opportunity to develop a much greater understanding of the practical application of a one health one welfare approach which is directly relevant to the issues encountered.

AMTC will collate data as per the approach proved by CCRC to add a regional overview of the situation to inform local and regional advocacy.

Data request will be sent as attachment to these minutes.

**Action:** 1. Collate data attributes for compilation at regional level. 2. Return data for regional compilation by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February to be ready for FNQROC Board meeting on March 5.

## **6.2 Animal Management Options Paper – scope of works for RFQ and supplier recommendations**

The committee undertook a detailed review of the background, purpose and scope of works of the RFQ for Animal Management Options Analysis. Considerations relating to item 6.1 were considered and included where relevant.

The updated scope of works will be updated with final considerations and circulated for comment.

The specialised nature of the work means there will be a limited pool service providers who can deliver the scope. The recommendation is to invite tenders from suppliers identified by the committee rather than go to an open tender process. Adjustment will also be made to the RFQ to provide latitude within the scope of works to negotiate areas of focus based on the specialisation of the tenderers.

**Action:** 1. Revise RFQ based on the outcomes of AMTC consultation and FNQROC review and circulate for final comment. 2. Provide details of service providers to be invited to tender. 3. Open tender process.

## **6.3 QCAT Review**

LGAQ has finalised the submission to the QCAT review. It is available to local government officers [here](#)

## **6.4 Training opportunities for 2025**

No immediate training opportunities were raised.

AMRRIC is finalising two streams of animal management training, one focused at operational staff to be delivered on-ground, and one at managers which will be delivered online.

## **6.5 Conferences and forums**

	<p>ICAM Conference 8 - 12 June online and free <a href="https://www.icam-coalition.org/">https://www.icam-coalition.org/</a></p> <p>AIM conference yet to be determined.</p> <p><b>6.6 Disaster scenario exercise – outcomes for 2025 DPP exercise</b> Travis shared observations and higher-level lessons and learnings from the 2025 disaster scenario exercise. An initial report was provided by Maria. A more detailed report will be provided in due course.</p> <p><b>6.7 Updates from around the room</b></p> <p><b>6.8 FNQROC, 2026 workplan</b> Workplan will be focused on guiding delivery of the Animal Management Options Analysis and responding to the findings of the project in relation to the Regional Animal Management Strategy</p>
7.	<p><b>Points for noting to FNQROC Board</b> Department of housing property issues.</p>
8.	<b>Next meeting</b>
9.	<b>Meeting close</b>

**Actions arising from meeting #24**

Action Item	Action	who
23.1	<p><b>Business case for workforce capability and workforce modernisation review (replaces 22.1)</b> <del>Action: 1. recirculate updated options paper to committee. 2. Collate case study of CRC/RSPCA collaboration. 3. Seek feedback from DPI policy</del></p>	2. CRC, RSPCA
24.1	<p><b>Replaces 21.1) – Coen animal management taskforce</b> <b>Action:</b> 1. confirm details and develop proposal for taskforce operation. 2. circulate proposed dates and operation outline to the committee.</p>	1. CSC, FNQROC 2. FNQROC
24.2	<p><b>6.1 Dept housing (property maintenance/animal management impacts)</b> <b>Action:</b> 1. Collate data attributes for compilation at regional level. 2. Return data for regional compilation by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February to be ready for FNQROC Board meeting on March 5.</p>	1. LGs 2. LGs, FNQROC
24.3	<p><b>Animal Management Options Paper – scope of works for RFQ and supplier recommendations</b> <b>Action:</b> 1. Revise RFQ based on the outcomes of AMTC consultation and FNQROC review and circulate for final comment. 2. Provide details of service providers to be invited to tender. 3. Open tender process.</p>	1. FNQROC 2. AMTC 3. FNQROC