

Minutes of the 87th FNQROC Regional Roads and Transport Group

Meeting No	87
Meeting Name	FNQ Regional Roads and Transport Group
Date	5 March 2026
Time	9:00am – 10:00am
Venue	Civic Reception Room, Cairns Regional Council, Spence Street, Cairns

REPRESENTATIVES

Name	Organisation
Cr Matthew Tickner (Deputy Chair)	Cairns Regional Council
Cr Teresa Millwood, Mayor	Cassowary Coast Regional Council (online)
Cr Robyn Holmes, Mayor	Cook Shire Council
Cr Trevor Pickering, Mayor	Croydon Shire Council (online)
Cr Lisa Scomazzon, Mayor	Douglas Shire Council (online)
Cr Mladen Bosnic	Mareeba Shire Council
Cr Rod Marti	Tablelands Regional Council
Cr Alister Gibson, Mayor	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
Cr Daryl Sexton, Mayor	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
Ms Louise Dutton	Dept of Transport and Main Roads
Amanda Hancock (Coordinator)	FNQROC

OBSERVERS

Name	Organisation
Andrew Graffen	Cassowary Coast Regional Council (online)
Brian Joiner	Cook Shire Council
Scott Osman	Douglas Shire Council (online)
Peter O'May	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council

Michael Miller	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
Brendon Clancy	Dept of Transport & Main Roads
John Gillespie	Dept of Transport & Main Roads
Tanya Lindenberg	Dept of Transport & Main Roads
Darlene Irvine	FNQROC
Jarrold Hellmuth	LGAQ

APOLOGIES

Name	Organisation
Mark Wuth	Cairns Regional Council
Jacque Creswell	Croydon Shire Council
Cr Barry Hughes (Chair)	Etheridge Shire Council
Ken Timms	Etheridge Shire Council
Peter Franks	Mareeba Shire Council
Cr Annette Haydon	Tablelands Regional Council
Jarrold Hellmuth	LGAQ

538. INTRODUCTION

The meeting commenced at 9:10am.

Cr Tickner, Cairns Regional Council welcomed all attendees to the RRTG meeting.

539. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of Meeting No. 86 held on 2 December 2025.

Motion

“That the minutes of the 86th FNQ Regional Roads and Transport Group Meeting held on 2 December 2025 are confirmed.”

MOVED: Cr Mladen Bosnic

SECOND: Cr Rod Marti

CARRIED

540. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Action Item No.	ACTION	Responsible Person(s)	Status
530	RRTG TC to progress advocacy for State funding for Asset Condition Assessments on Local Government LRRS roads.	Ms. Hancock, FNQROC	The matter was raised with TMR Far North District at the last RRTG TC. John Gillespie from TMR confirmed the matter has been raised with Brisbane and a response is awaited.

541. NOTING OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES & RECOMMENDED MOTIONS

541.1 Minutes of Technical Committee Meeting No. 143 – 29 January 2026

Motions

‘That the RRTG endorse the updated 2025/26 – 2027/28 works program’

“That the RRTG endorse the proposed Banked Projects for 25/26 and 26/27”.

Note motions 143.4 and 143.5 were rescinded at the Program Workshop on 24 February 2026.

Cr Millwood queried the TMR Management Fee in the works program. Amanda advised that up to 2.5 per cent of the RRTGs annual TIDS allocation can be used to assist with the management of the RRTG, including the engagement of a Technical Coordinator.

TMR further advised:

This amount is not a management fee charged by TMR. Instead, it represents a portion of the TIDS funding allocation provided by TMR to the FNQ Regional Roads and Transport Group (RRTG).

Under the TIDS Operating Guidelines, RRTGs may allocate up to 2.5% of their annual TIDS funding allocation to support the engagement of a Technical Coordinator. The Far North Queensland RRTG has engaged the FNQROC to deliver these technical coordination services. Accordingly, this line item reflects the fee charged by FNQROC for performing these functions on behalf of the RRTG.

Statements of Intent for the proposed two new LRRS roads recommended by the RRTG TC were circulated and the following additional information provided by Mareeba Shire Council in relation to Oak Forest Road was provided:

In terms of changes to development on Oak Forest Road since 2008:

- Mona Mona Aboriginal community was re-established in 2010 under a 30-year term lease with the Qld Government, following the return of local Aboriginal people (mainly of Djabugay origin) to the former mission site, which was closed in 1962. 2021 Census – 29 residents.*
- Cairns Hinterland Steiner School relocated from Cairns in 2007 to its current location on Boyles Road, off Oak Forest Road and has expanded over time. It is the regional Steiner School for the FNQ region, recognised as an independent school under Education Qld, with 182 enrolments (July 2024) from Prep to Year 8, in addition to providing early education services.*

- *HQ Plantations acquired a 99-year licence from the Queensland Government to manage, harvest and grow plantations in the Kuranda Plantation Forest from Queensland Government in 2010, and use Oak Forest Rd as an alternate access to Black Mountain Rd (LRRS).*

Motion

“That the RRTG endorse the recommendation by the RRTG TC that Oak Forest Road and Tinaroo Creek Road be added to the FNQ LRRS network”

MOVED: Cr Mladen Bosnic

SECOND: Cr Rod Marti

CARRIED

Statements of Intent for two new LRRS roads circulated with the minutes – see Appendix A

Report R18 attached to the agenda was discussed.

A question was raised as to who the project proponent would be, FNQ RRTG or FNQROC?

It was clarified that the regional network operates tenure blind, and our investment strategy should also be tenure blind, noting this it is hoped that TMR will participate as a partner and:

- If TMR participated as a partner and 50% funding was successful, it would be an FNQ RRTG project with FNQROC being the source of the 50% matching funding.
- If TMR didn't want to participate as a partner and don't wish to contribute 50% funding, then it may become an FNQROC project.

TMR raised concern regarding the Scope, and it was advised that the Scope would be developed in partnership with TMR.

TMR also raised that there are sensitivities with studies such as the RRIS interfacing with the State-Controlled Roads (SCRs) and that there would need to be consideration of the suitability of the RRIS incorporating a SCR that would need to be carefully considered to see if it would be suitable.

Motion

“That:

- 1. The Regional Road Investment Strategy is updated,*
- 2. FNQROC is requested to support the update and commit to funding 50% to a maximum of \$75,000, and*
- 3. That 50% funding is sought via the Statewide Capability Development Fund (SCDF) and unsuccessful, the Transport and Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS)”*

MOVED: Cr Rod Marti

SECOND: Cr Mladen Bosnic

CARRIED

ACTION ITEM 541.1 RRTG Coordinator to circulate link to the current Regional Road Investment Strategy.

Motion

“That the RRTG endorse the updated 2025/26 – 2027/28 Works Program (#7596796) as attached in Appendix B proposed by the RRTG TC at their meeting of 24 February 2026.”

MOVED: Cr Rod Marti

SECOND: Cr Mladen Bosnic

CARRIED

Motion

“That the RRTG endorse the Banked Projects for 2025/26 and 2026/27 proposed by the RRTG TC at their meeting of 24 February 2026.”

Year	Council	Project ID	Road Name	Description	Priority Score	TIDS
25/26	Mareeba Shire Council	ID264	Tinaroo Creek Road	Roadworks (sealed) - New Alignment	24%	\$208,665
	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council	ID418	Museum Road	Realignment of road and construction of 67 sealed car parks & footpath	10%	\$230,159
	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	ID327	Wall Road	Replace 3/600 RCPs	5%	\$48,500
	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	ID353	Warraunullen Road	Replace 1/9000 RRJ RCP	5%	\$12,500
26/27	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	ID556	Butler Street	Design & construct intersection upgrade and asphalt overlay	24%	\$11,274
	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	ID291	North Davidson Road	Replace 1050 RCP	5%	\$22,500
	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	ID334	North Davidson Road	Replace 3/750 RCPs	5%	\$130,000
	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	ID344	Pullom Road	Replace 2/750 RRJ RCPs	5%	\$13,500

MOVED: Cr Robyn Holmes

SECOND: Cr Mladen Bosnic

CARRIED

542. PROGRAM UPDATE – MS LOUISE DUTTON, A/DISTRICT DIRECTOR, NORTH QUEENSLAND, TMR

TIDS Program

- FNQ TIDS expenditure as at the end of February 2026 is currently 59% spent.
- With current weather events and the traditional wet season, councils are reminded to inform Amanda Hancock as soon as possible if projects are unable to be delivered to enable sufficient time to reallocate funds to ensure full expenditure of program by June 30.

Tropical Cyclone Jasper reconstruction works - Far North District Works resume

Reconstruction works have now recommenced for 2026 on all four key range roads along Captain Cook Highway and other state-controlled roads in the Far North district.

Works will continue through the wet season, weather and site conditions permitting.

Kennedy Highway (Kuranda Range Road)

Overall, 24 geotechnical sites have been completed on the Kennedy Highway since reconstruction work began in November 2024, 21 of the completed sites are on the Kuranda Range Road.

Traffic Site 1 (Henry Ross Lookout area)

- This section is under 24/7 single-lane traffic control as day and night works are ongoing on the major downslope slip, about 200m towards Cairns from the lookout.
- Recent stabilisation works have included shotcreting and ongoing soil nail drilling.

Traffic Site 2 (about 1km above the hairpin bend area)

- Soil nailing, drilling and stabilisation works have recommenced at an upslope slip about 1km above the hairpin bend.
- This section is under single-lane traffic control when works are underway at the site.

Traffic Site 3 (between Saddle Mountain Road and Streets Creek)

- Stabilisation works are underway at two upslope sites between Saddle Mountain Road and Streets Creek.
- As the geotechnical repair sites are about 1km apart, a single-lane section will move from one repair site to the other, depending on works required, to minimise the extent of lane closures.

Traffic Site 4 (Kennedy Highway near Tichum Creek)

- Stabilisation works are recommencing by the end of January at two upslope slips on the Kennedy Highway, between Spena Road turnoff and Tichum Creek.
- This section of road will be under single-lane traffic control during the daytime, when required for the works.

Traffic control

- Scheduled night closures from 9pm to 4am are ongoing until the end of March 2026, weather and site conditions permitting.
- Traffic will be let through once in each direction at midnight (12am).
- There are no scheduled night closures on Friday and Saturday nights.

Scheduled night closures

Short-term scheduled night closures (9pm to 4am, Sunday to Thursday nights) will be required on Kuranda Range Road for a period from Sunday 15 February until end of March 2026, weather and site conditions permitting.

- Traffic will be let through once in each direction at midnight (12am).
- There are no scheduled night closures on Friday and Saturday nights.

This is to enable construction activities to be completed that are not possible using single-lane closures or long traffic holds.

Captain Cook Highway

Works at Pebbly Beach start from Monday 16 March 2026, pending weather and site conditions.

Stabilisation and reconstruction works will include:

- clearing and preparing the reconstruction site
- slope stabilisation works
- installation of over 550m of rock protection.

After reconstruction works to stabilise and protect the road corridor are completed, TMR will restore beach access and revegetate the site with coastal plants and trees.

Night works

Night work (6pm to 6am) reconstruction activities require access via the beach during low tide.

Ongoing works in this area include:

- Beach access from Tuesday 7 April until early July 2026, subject to weather and site conditions.
- Earthmoving, placing rockfill and rock protection on the beach to repair erosion.
- Once complete, works will continue during standard daytime hours (6am to 6pm) until the site is repaired.
- There are no scheduled full road closures, the night works scheduled for Pebbly Beach will be completed under single-lane traffic control.

Ellis Beach to south of Wangetti

Ongoing works in this area include:

- drilling and establishing anchors for debris flow barriers and the installation of concrete footings at several sites.
- Current traffic control requires a 24/7 single-lane section to the north of Ellis Beach.
- Night works will be undertaken at debris flow barrier sites north of Ellis Beach from Monday 2 March 2026.
- There are no scheduled full road closures for the upcoming night works at these sites, they will continue operate under the existing single-lane traffic control conditions

Rex Lookout to Turtle Creek Beach

Ongoing works in this area include:

- Drilling and rock-bolting works are ongoing at the site just north of Rex Lookout.
- Crews have recently cleared and prepared upslope sites south of Turtle Creek Beach and stabilisation works including earthworks, soil nailing and the installation of retaining structures have started.

Traffic control

- 24/7 single-lane traffic control at Turtle Creek Beach
- daytime single-lane traffic control north of Rex Lookout.

Palmerston Highway

Reconstruction works are continuing on the Palmerston Highway, at the following sites:

Site 1 (2.5km west of Crawfords Lookout)

- Piling works on the downslope slip are now complete.
- Construction of a capping beam is continuing.

Site 2 (1.5km west of Henrietta Creek Day Use area)

- Work to repair a 20m high upslope landslip were completed late 2025.

Traffic control

- The site is under traffic control for ongoing reconstruction works.
- Work is taking place Monday to Saturday (inclusive), weather permitting.
- TMR reminds heavy vehicle operators to call traffic control on UHF 20 channel (Site 1) and UHF Channel 21 (Site 2) when approaching the upslope.

Mossman – Daintree Road (Humbug Reach)

- The first 10 structural piles, each over 14m long, have been successfully drilled and completed.
- Drilling has started on the next group of piles, over 18m long, to stabilise the next section of the slope.

Traffic control

- No night closures scheduled for Mossman - Daintree Road.
- Single lane traffic control.
- Road users can expect delays for movement of heavy machinery and crews.

Mossman – Mount Molloy Road (Rex Range)

- The major upslope site about 350m down the range from Mossman – Mount Molloy Road Lookout (lower lookout) is currently being repaired.

- Approximately half of the rock bolting works are now complete and a hydromulch layer applied to the top portion of the works to support vegetation regrowth.
- Two more upslope sites have begun site preparation for rock bolting works.

Traffic control

- Currently under single lane traffic control

Gillies Range Road

Critical slope stabilisation works commenced mid-February on the Gillies Range Road between Lake Barrine and Wrights Creek Road.

Clearing and grubbing works have prepared the site for stabilisation works. Ongoing works in this area include:

- Soil nailing, shotcreting and stabilisation works

Traffic control

- Work is taking place Monday to Saturday (inclusive) from mid-February 2026, weather and site conditions permitting.
- Variable Message Signs (VMS) and signage will be in place to advise of the changed conditions.
- Reduced speed limits and lane closures for duration of the work

543. ROADS AND TRANSPORT ALLIANCE UPDATE – TANYA LINDENBERG, MANAGER, LG PARTNERSHIPS DTMR

Statewide TIDS Expenditure

- Statewide TIDS Expenditure is currently at 44% as of 28 February 2026.
- The FNQ RRTG expenditure is currently at 59% although due to delays with the new project management expenditure reporting trial, this is not currently reflected in TMRs system.
- Tanya also acknowledged the current weather events, and wet season impacts on delivery.
- Tanya reminded the group about the TIDS funding adjustment that takes effect 1 July 2026. There was a very minor decrease in the FNQ RRTG TIDS allocation of \$6,435 to be reflected in next year's work program.

Statewide Capability Development Fund

- Applications have closed for SCDF for this financial year, and the annual review of the program is underway.
- While applications can continue to be lodged, there is no assurance that funding will be available during the current financial year.
- As part of the mitigation strategy the team will investigate options to redistribute unallocated funds to Aboriginal Shire Councils who have delivered their 2025-26 projects and have capacity to deliver additional works within this financial year.

ATSI TIDS

- The ATSI TIDS nominations closed on 13 February and generated a lot of interest. The fund is well oversubscribed, and the assessment panel will consider the nominations in the coming month.

Temporary Traffic Management

- Temporary Traffic Management Training hub recently launched by TMR, was designed to strengthen industry capability.
- The hub's Temporary Traffic Management Awareness course is available online and is free.
- Councils are encouraged to enrol, with other courses being released over next 12-18 months.

TMRs Safer Roads Team

- TMRs Safer Roads Team are hosting a Working Bee in Cairns on 24 March.
- All member councils will have received an invitation.
- The purpose is to bring together local government and state road authorities to explore regional crash trends and identify practical engineering solutions under a shared “one network” approach.

544. LGAQ UPDATE

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

- The State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee’s Report No. 21, *Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland*, was tabled on the 4 March 2026.
- The report examines whether Queensland's current policy, regulatory and enforcement settings for e-scooters, e-bikes and other personal mobility devices are fit for purpose, focusing on public safety, injury trends, illegal and modified devices, lithium-ion battery fire risks, retail regulation, enforcement and community education.
- The report states that e-mobility use is increasing rapidly and that its 28 recommendations are intended to support a coordinated, multi-agency approach to combining regulatory change, enforcement, education and infrastructure investment.
- For local government, the most relevant recommendations to the Queensland Government include:
 - Amend legislation to reduce speed limits on all pathways for e-mobility devices to 10km/h.
 - Support local governments to use local laws to regulate e-mobility devices including setting lower speed limits in high pedestrian traffic zones
 - For local governments to increase and improve signage of speed limits on footpaths and requirements to give way to pedestrians.
 - Improve the collection and sharing of data regarding incidents involving personal mobility devices and e-bikes.
 - Embed e-mobility into strategic infrastructure planning and work with local governments to achieve greater investment in active transport infrastructure.
 - For local governments to provide dedicated parking for e-mobility devices in appropriate designated areas.
 - Support local government and/or private waste disposal sites in facilitating battery disposal.
 - For local governments to stipulate that shared scheme operators use technology to prohibit the use or limit the speed or shared devices to 10km/h or lower in high pedestrian zones.
- The report reinforces the important role local governments play in the safe planning, management and regulation of e-mobility in local communities. It also suggests that further policy, legislative and operational changes are likely to follow as the Queensland Government considers the reports findings and recommendations.
- The full report is available [here](#).

Department of Primary Industries – Waterway Barrier Works Version 2.0

The Department of Primary Industries have published the final copy of the accepted development requirements for operational work that is constructing waterway barrier works. The Department held a webinar session summarizing the changes to the ADR with stakeholders and following several requests have published a recording of the summary. If you have not had chance to familiarize yourself with these changes, it is recommended you watch the summary by DPI as there are several relaxations across various work types intended to support councils.

Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program Tranche 5

- The Australian Government's Safer Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (SLRIP) Tranche 5 is currently open for applications.
- SLRIP provides funding to address current or emerging road infrastructure needs across Australia, merging the former Bridges Renewal Program and the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program.
- Projects funded by the program must align with one of more of the following infrastructure priorities
 - Road Safety
 - Productivity improvements (projects which improve efficiency of supply chains, or connect regions, communities and major gateways, growing economies and communities)
 - Bridge renewal
 - Road resilience (projects which improve the resilience of critical road corridors by upgrading existing road assets that are vulnerable to closure or reduced capacity, and upgrading infrastructure to a higher standard to withstand and recover from disasters)
 - Road sustainability (Use of low or zero emissions building materials, innovative design and construction methodologies that minimise environmental impacts)
 - Heavy vehicle rest areas
- Funding of at least \$200 million per year is available, with a maximum Australian Government contribution of \$5 million per project.
- The Australian Government will contribute up to 80% of the total project cost for projects located in regional and remote areas, and up to 50% of the total project cost for projects located in urban areas.
- Applications close on the 30th April 2026. Further information can be found on the SLRIP website [here](#).

Local Government Regulation 2012 changes

On the 12th of December 2025 recent amendments from the *Local Government Regulation 2012* came into effect and the following procurement related changes now apply to councils operating under the default procurement rules:

- Thresholds for tenders and quotes have been increased in line with Brisbane CPI from when they were first introduced.
- This increases the threshold for medium sized contractual arrangements from \$15,000 to \$21,000 excluding GST, and the threshold for large sized contractual arrangements has increased from \$200,000 to \$280,000 excluding GST.
- The limits for valuable non-current assets have also increased, with plant and equipment rising from \$5,000 to \$7,000 and other non-current assets increasing from \$10,000 to \$14,000.
- Existing procurement obligations including 3 written quotes required for medium sized arrangements remain unchanged.
- Additionally, thresholds will now automatically adjust on 1 July each year in line with CPI, removing the need for future regulatory amendments, and the updated indexed thresholds will be published on the Departments website.
- Finally, the regulation clarifies that thresholds must be applied to the total expected value of all contracts with a supplier for goods or services of a similar type over the life of the arrangement. Local Buy arrangements remain an approved exception.

Further information available [here](#).

545. JOINT PURCHASING & RESOURCE SHARING

Nil.

546. ROAD SAFETY

Nil.

547. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Cr Holmes queried the status of the business case for McLeod River Bridge.
 - TMR advised that the business case was completed in 2021 when all three Mulligan bridges were reviewed.
 - The bridge currently has pre-construction funding so is undergoing detailed design but there is currently no construction funding.
- Cr Holmes asked if the business case could be shared with Cook Shire Council.

ACTION ITEM 547 TMR to advise if the business case for the McLeod River Bridge can be shared with Cook Shire Council.

548. NEXT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 144

Friday 24 April 2026 (Cairns)

549. NEXT FNQ RRTG MEETING NO. 88

Thursday 7 May 2026 (Cairns)

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at: 10.10am

Minutes prepared by FNQOC Regional Strategic Infrastructure Coordinator

AGREED ACTION ITEMS

5 March 2026

Action Item No.	ACTION	Responsible Person(s)
530	RRTG TC to progress advocacy for State funding for Asset Condition Assessments on Local Government LRRS roads.	Ms Hancock, FNQROC
541.1	RRTG Coordinator to circulate link to the current Regional Road Investment Strategy.	Ms Hancock, FNQROC
547	TMR to advise if the business case for the McLeod River Bridge can be shared with Cook Shire Council.	Ms Dutton, TMR

Unconfirmed