

Minutes of the 88th FNQROC Regional Roads and Transport Group

Meeting No	88
Meeting Name	FNQ Regional Roads and Transport Group
Date	7 May 2026
Time	9:00am
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
Cr Robyn Holmes, Mayor	Cook Shire Council
Cr Trevor Pickering, Mayor	Croydon Shire Council
Cr Lisa Scomazzon, Mayor	Douglas Shire Council
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
Mr Darryl Jones	Dept of Transport and Main Roads
Amanda Hancock (Coordinator)	FNQROC

OBSERVERS

Name	Organisation
Brian Joiner	Cook Shire Council
Jacqui Creswell	Croydon Shire Council (online)
Scott Osman	Douglas Shire Council

Peter O'May	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council (online)
Michael Miller	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
Brendon Clancy	Dept of Transport & Main Roads
Tanya Lindenberg	Dept of Transport & Main Roads
Darlene Irvine	FNQROC

APOLOGIES

Name	Organisation
Mark Wuth	Cairns Regional 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

550. INTRODUCTION

The meeting commenced at 9:00am.

Cr Tickner, Cairns Regional Council welcomed all attendees to the RRTG meeting and advised that, in Cr Hughes absence, he would be chairing the meeting.

551. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of Meeting No. 87 held on 5 March 2026

Motion

“That the minutes of the 87th FNQ Regional Roads and Transport Group Meeting held on 5 March 2026 are confirmed.”

MOVED: Cr Robyn Holmes

SECOND: Cr Mladen Bosnic

CARRIED

552. 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 has been raised with both TMR's FN District and LG Partnerships team. Update to be provided at the next RRTG.
541.1	RRTG Coordinator to circulate link to the current Regional Road Investment Strategy.	Ms Hancock, FNQROC	Complete
547	TMR to advise if the business case for the McLeod River Bridge can be shared with Cook Shire Council.	Ms Dutton, TMR	Darryl Jones advised that the 2021 Business Case will not be shared. The Business Case for the 3 bridges on the Mulligan Highway included cost estimates which are now out of date and the Business Case also included some commercial-in-confidence elements. Detailed design including new costings is currently underway.

553. NOTING OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES & RECOMMENDED MOTIONS

553.1 Minutes of Technical Committee Meeting No. 144 – 24 April 2026

Motion

"That the RRTG endorse the updated Banked Projects for 2025/26 proposed by the RRTG TC"

Year	Council	Project ID	Road Name	LRRS?	Description	Priority Score	TIDS
25/26	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	ID355	El-Arish-Mission Beach Road	State LRRS	Road renewal pavement, kerb & channel, pathways and stormwater. Part of Mission Beach Revitalisation project	34%	\$360,454
	Mareeba Shire Council	ID264	Tinaroo Creek Road	LRRS	Roadworks (sealed) - New Alignment	24%	\$208,665
	Yarrabah Aboriginal Hire Council	ID418	Museum Road	-	Realignment of road and construction of 67 sealed car parks & footpath	40%	\$230,159
	Mareeba Shire Council	ID638	Tinaroo Creek Road	LRRS	Roadworks (sealed) - New Alignment	5%	\$70,000
	Mareeba Shire Council	ID645	Oak Forest Road	LRRS	Bridge Renewal	5%	\$90,512
	Mareeba Shire Council	ID647	Henry Hannem Drive	LRRS	Gravel resheet	5%	\$23,086
	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	ID290	Flying Fish Point Road	LRRS	Replace culvert	5%	\$29,735
	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	ID327	Wall Road	Non-LRRS	Replace 3/600 RCPs	5%	\$110,387
	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	ID353	Warrubullen Road	Non-LRRS	Replace 1/9000 RRJ RCP	5%	\$70,784
TOTAL							\$963,623

MOVED: Cr Lisa Scomazzon

SECOND: Cr Rod Marti

CARRIED

Motion

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

MOVED: Cr Daryl Sexton

SECOND: Cr Lisa Scomazzon

CARRIED

Additional points for noting to the FNQ RRTG

Action Item 144.7 Seek clarification from TMR regarding its policy and decision-making framework in relation to funded projects and the application of fuel levies outside of fixed-price contracts, including whether any flexibility or exception provision exists.

Darryl Jones advised that the application of fuel levies outside fixed-price contracts were being considered by TMR and acknowledged that councils would also be considering such variations where appropriate.

Cr Alister Gibson arrived at 9.30am

554. PROGRAM UPDATE – MR DARRYL JONES, DISTRICT DIRECTOR, NORTH QUEENSLAND, TMR

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

TMR has made significant progress on recovery work across the Far North district.

Palmerston Highway:

- Works at two sites started in February last year and are nearing completion.
- TMR expects the road to be fully open to traffic in the coming weeks.

Gillies Range Road:

- Two downslope sites have been completed
- Works underway between Lake Barrine and Wrights Creek Road.
- Works are expected to be complete in mid-2027.

Kuranda Range Road:

- 25 sites damaged during Tropical Cyclone Jasper have been completed; four are underway; and three are to yet to start.
- Works arising from TC Jasper are expected to be completed this year, site and weather conditions permitting.
- A further 10 sites damaged during the 2025 weather event are also to start this year.
- Full closures of Kuranda Range Road are needed until 4 June 2026. These closures are needed to accommodate large construction equipment that needs the full width of the carriageway.

Barron River bridge, replacement

- The tender process is underway to select the design and construction contractor.
- Detailed design will forge ahead in 2027, ahead of construction in 2028.

Bruce Highway Targeted Safety Program

- Aimed at reducing crash severity and frequency between Gympie and Cairns
- Includes wide centre line treatment, pavement strengthening, overtaking lanes, rest areas, improved intersections, and widening narrow structures.
- Safety upgrades at Mourilyan Harbour intersection

Captain Cook Highway:

- There are over 80 geotechnical failure sites on Captain Cook Highway.
- No night closures anticipated

TMR were asked about the works taking place near Cowley Creek which TMR advised had been delayed due to naturally occurring asbestos found on site

TMR were also asked for more details regarding the works being carried out at Mourilyan Harbour Road and TMR advised that this includes the addition of traffic lights and other associated safety.

Action Item 557.1 TMR to meet with Cassowary Coast Regional Council to discuss works on Mourilyan Harbour Road.

TMR were asked if there were any plans to improve public transport in the region or provide relief in the form of taxi vouchers given the opportunity for community to benefit from 50c fares is limited in some regions. It was suggested that this should be included in overall FNQROC advocacy.

555. ROADS AND TRANSPORT ALLIANCE UPDATE – TANYA LINDENBERG, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL POLICY, DTMR

- Statewide TIDS Expenditure is currently at 60% as of end April 2026. This is a critical time to review the work program and ensure that full expenditure will be reached.
- The FNQ RRTG expenditure is understood to be approximately 60% (based on accruals and forecasting only). Due to TMRs transition to the new project management expenditure reporting trial, this is not currently reflected in TMRs system which is showing 17%. It is important that this be updated as soon as possible.
- Etheridge is the only council fully claimed – thank you.
- FNQ currently have 3 approved Statewide Capability Development Fund projects to be delivered in 2025-26.
- Following the annual mid-year review of SCDF, three councils have received an additional \$100,000 each in unallocated SCDF. Funds are generally redistributed to Aboriginal Shire Councils who have delivered their 2025-26 projects and have capacity to deliver additional works within this financial year.
- Congratulations to Yarrabah ASC for being awarded additional funds. Thanks also to Amanda for assisting with the process.
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander TIDS application process for 2026-27 has been finalised. It was well oversubscribed receiving 25 nominations to the value of \$43 million.
- Both Yarrabah and Wujal Wujal Aboriginal SCs were successful in securing funding for projects from this TIDS sub program.

- The LRRS mapping update has now been complete with future changes to be added to the master register as they are received.
- A call for stories for inclusion in the RRTG Annual progress will be sent out soon. Consider promoting the delivery of TIDS projects in this report

Action Item 557.2 TMR to respond to the request for the consultation on Disability Parking, previously targeted at specific councils including Cairns Regional Council, to be distributed to all FNQ RRTG member councils.

556. JOINT PURCHASING & RESOURCE SHARING

Nil.

557. ROAD SAFETY

- TMR were asked to outline its policy regarding roadside vegetation management.
- TMR advised that mowing activities are undertaken for safety purposes rather than aesthetics.
- It was also noted that washouts are generally identified and dealt with by the RMPC steward.

Action Item 557.3 Douglas Shire Council to provide TMR with details of roads where vegetation management has been identified as a concern for further investigation.

- TMR were asked about the policy for tree trimming, noting a need for additional works within Cassowary Coast.
- TMR advised that requirements depend on a range of factors, including the road type and surrounding vegetation and are guided by Ausroads guidelines.
- It was also noted that vegetation management within the Wet Tropics is constrained by strict criteria, with tree removal generally limited to circumstances where there are safety concerns.

Cr Trevor Pickering arrived at 9.45am

TMR were further advised:

- As a result of mining activities, 76,200 tonnes of gold ore is expected to be transported from Croydon to Georgetown for processing on the Gulf Development Road between June 2026 – December 2026 involving over 1,020 road trains.
- It is anticipated that additional maintenance will be required on the narrow sections of the road to manage the shoulders.

Action Item 557.4 Croydon Shire Council to write to TMR to request a review and potential variation of the maintenance arrangements for the Gulf Development Road under their RMPC maintenance contract.

- Increased heavy vehicle traffic volumes associated with Silica Resources Australia (SRA) impacting Murdering Point Road in Kurrimine Beach, Cassowary Coast.

Action Item 557.5 TMR to check and advise Cassowary Coast Regional Council if increased traffic volumes on Murdering Point Road by Silica Resources Australia (SRA) have triggered additional maintenance contributions.

TMR advised for noting:

- At a recent meeting with the Queensland Police Service, an increase in quad bike serious injury or fatal accidents in the region has been noted, both on the road and on private property. A targeted education campaign will follow.
- Motorcycle incidents are also overrepresented in the region

558. GENERAL BUSINESS

558.1 RRTG – Discussions during State Delegation for Consideration

Recognising that not all Mayors are members of the RRTG and that not all RRTG representatives were at the State Delegation, some discussion occurred which the Mayors would like the RRTG to consider.

1. They would like more time to have detailed discussions, particularly those prickly situations. i.e., RMPC. Acknowledging that we don't want these issues to be raised on the day if we could give notice to TMR or Local Government of these issues to be discussed to enable investigation and conversation on the day.
2. Would like to become more proactive and strategic:
 - a. Re Proactive: let councils know in advance when TMR is planning works in their areas.
 - b. Re Strategic: Let's work to have an agreed understanding of the priority's tenure blind. We understand TMR can't do some of the advocacy work under the RRTG banner however this is where the partnership with FNQROC works – they can if the RRTG can't for conflict reasons.
3. Proposed agenda items to be included:
 - a. Strategic & Emerging Issues
 - i. Discussion of complex or priority matters requiring early collaboration, investigation, or escalation. These matters could include the RRIS, RMPC matters, funding concerns, governance/process etc.
 - b. Forward works & Planned activities update
 - i. Overview of upcoming State works planned disruptions and emerging delivery issues.
 - c. Regional Strategic Priorities
 - i. Discussion of regional transport priorities and network outcomes across State and local government assets.

This item is intended to support a collaborative, tenure-blind understanding of regional priorities while recognising the distinct governance and advocacy roles of the RRTG, TMR and FNQROC.

4. The Mayors have agreed to move the FNQROC meeting to commence at 11am with the RRTG to commence at 9am until 10.30am.

Motion

“That the following additional agenda items be included in the RRTG agenda by exception-

- *Strategic & Emerging Issues – complex or priority matters requiring collaboration, investigation or escalation, include the Regional Road Investment Strategy (RRIS), Road Maintenance Performance Contract (RMPC), funding, governance, and process matters.*
- *Regional Strategic Priorities – discussion of regional transport priorities and network outcomes across State and local government assets.*

Further, that the RRTG Program Coordinator to seek agenda items for inclusion immediately following each RRTG TC meeting”

MOVED: Cr Teresa Millwood

SECONDED: Cr Lisa Scomazzon

CARRIED

It was additionally agreed that the TMR program updates will include an overview of forward works and planned activities. Darryl Jones advised that notification letters are currently issued to the elected representative, Mayor, and CEO approximately two weeks prior to works commencing however, the committee requested that additional notice be provided.

The committee also agreed to the FNQROC recommendation that the RRTG meetings be extended by 30 minutes, commencing at 9:00am and concluding at 10:30am.

Action Item 557.6 Existing RRTG meetings to be extended by 30 minutes commencing at 9:00am and concluding at 10:30am.

559. NEXT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 145

Friday 12 June 2026 (Cairns)

560. NEXT FNQ RRTG MEETING NO. 89

Thursday 2 July 2026 (Cairns)

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at: 10:17am

Minutes prepared by FNQOC Regional Strategic Infrastructure Coordinator

AGREED ACTION ITEMS OVERLEAF

AGREED ACTION ITEMS 7 May 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.	Amanda Hancock, FNQROC
557.1	TMR to meet with Cassowary Coast Regional Council to discuss works on Mourilyan Harbour Road.	Darryl Jones, TMR
557.2	TMR to respond to the request for the consultation on Disability Parking, previously targeted at specific councils including Cairns Regional Council, to be distributed to all FNQ RRTG member councils.	Tanya Lindenberg, TMR
557.3	Douglas Shire Council to provide TMR with details of roads where vegetation management has been identified as a concern for further investigation.	Mayor Scomazzon, Douglas Shire Council
557.4	Croydon Shire Council to write to TMR to request a review and potential variation of the maintenance arrangements for the Guld Development Road under their RMPC maintenance contract.	Mayor Pickering, Croydon Shire Council
557.5	TMR to check and advise Cassowary Coast Regional Council if increased traffic volumes on Murdering Point Road by Silica Resources Australia (SRA) have triggered additional maintenance contributions.	Darryl Jones, TMR
557.6	Existing RRTG meetings to be extended by 30 minutes commencing at 9:00am and concluding at 10:30am.	Amanda Hancock, FNROC