



**BOARD MEETING  
OF  
FNQ Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC)  
No. 178<sup>th</sup>**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026,  
11.00am to 2.30pm**

**Cairns Regional Council**

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# Agenda

## 1. WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

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## 2. APOLOGIES

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## 3. PRESENTATIONS

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3.1 MAJGEN (Retd) Jake Ellwood, Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA)  
(10min)

3.2 Andrew Cripps, Special Commissioner for Regional and Rural QLD  
(5min)

3.3 Tess Bishop, CEO, LGMA QLD  
(5min)

3.4 Royal Flying Doctors Services - Dom Tait, RFDS Chief Operating Officer Clinical Service Delivery - Tim Driscoll, RFDS State Manager Mental Health - Shaun Francis, RFDS General Manager Virtual and Digital Health

3.4.1 RFDS will provide an update on operations across the region  
(10min)

3.5 Alison Smith, CEO, LGAQ & Lucy Abbott, Manager, Intergovernmental Relations

3.5.1 LGAQ structure of key personnel

3.5.2 LGAQ will provide an overview of LGAQ's recent activities as per the Briefing Note circulated prior to the meeting

(20m)

## 4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the 177th Far North Qld Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC) Board meeting held on Thursday 7 May 2026

**Recommendation:**

That the FNQROC Board moves the minutes of the 177<sup>th</sup> FNQROC Board meeting held on Thursday 7 May 2026 to be confirmed and adopted.

## 5. CONFIRMATION OF FLYING MOTIONS

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### 5.1 Recommended projects Regional Drought Resilience Plan

Email from CEO dated 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026 providing proposed draft projects for submitting to the Department of Primary Industries for the Regional Drought Resilience Plan Round Two Activity Grant Funding received majority votes in the affirmative.

5.2 Email from the CEO dated 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026 providing final projects for submitting to the Department of Primary Industries for the Regional Drought Resilience Plan Round Two Activity Grant Funding received majority votes in the affirmative.

## 6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

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### 6.1 Action items from 7 May 2026 FNQROC Board Meeting

Item	Action	Responsible person
3298.2	Ms Irvine to seek advice from Mr Andrew Abbott on our advocacy brief re Water and Waste Water being treated as essential assets to ensure there is no conflict/impact on activities behind the scenes related to funding restoration.	FNQROC CEO
Complete – Mr Abbott suggested awaiting the Colvin Review announcement.		
3298.3	FNQROC to share Jake Hammelswang contact details to the Board.	FNQROC ESO
Completed		
3303.1	FNQROC to schedule a virtual meeting with Mayors and CEO's on 26 May 2026 at 3pm, for those wishing to discuss projects being submitted 31 May 2026 under the Wet Tropics and Gulf Hinterland Drought Resilience Plans. The need for a virtual meeting to discussed projects to be submitted 30 June 2026 will be decided at a later date.	FNQROC CEO
Completed		

3305.1	FNQROC CEO to send update on the progress of the Cape York, Gulf and North Queensland Regional Plans to relevant Mayors and CEOs.	FNQROC CEO
Completed		
3308.1.3	LGAQ to provide update on what stage 3 for managing fuel might look like so that councils can develop appropriate contingency plans.	LGAQ
Completed		

## 7. BOARD REPORTS (WITH NOTICE)

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*Nil*

## 8. POLICIES FOR REVIEW

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*Nil*

## 9. DISCUSSION TOPIC

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### 9.1 DRFA Funding Reform

### 9.2 Federal Delegation Brief – August 2026

9.2.1 Finalisation of the brief – circulated separately via email 19.06.26

9.2.2 Proposal to travel and arrive on Sunday to have a full day of meetings on Monday 10 August 2026.

## 10. FINANCIAL REPORTS

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### 10.1 Financial Report Year to date

10.1.1 Profit & Loss Statement 1 July 2025 – 17 June 2026

10.1.2 Balance Sheet as of 17 June 2026

Pages 0015 to 0019

### **Recommendation:**

That the FNQROC Board adopts the Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet reports for the period 1 July 2025 to 17 June 2026.

## 11. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

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### 11.1 Incoming / Outgoing Correspondence

#### 11.1.1 Incoming

*Nil*

#### 11.1.2 Outgoing

11.05.2026 Letter to Sam O'Connor, Minister for Housing

15.06.2026 Follow up Letter to Sam O'Connor, Minister for Housing

Pages 0020 to 0021

### 11.2 CEO Report

To be taken as read. *The CEO will highlight any significant matters requiring the Board's attention and respond to any questions from members.*

Pages 0022 to 0034

#### 11.2.1 Minutes of FNQROC Advisory Committees:

- **FNQROC Regional Roads and Transport Group #88** – Thursday 7 May 2026  
Minutes – [available on website](#)  
Next Meeting – Thursday 2 July 2026
- **FNQROC Planners Meeting** – Friday 5 June 2026  
Minutes will be available on website  
Next Meeting – Friday 27 November 2026
- **FNQROC Regional Roads and Transport Technical Committee #145** – Friday 12 June 2026  
Minutes will be available on website  
Next Meeting – Thursday 16 October 2026
- **FNQROC NAMAC #66** – Friday 12 June 2026  
Minutes will be available on website  
Next Meeting – Friday 18 September 2026
- **FNQROC Regional Waste Management Plan Technical Committee #7** – Thursday 28 May 2026  
Minutes – [available on website](#)  
Next Meeting – Thursday 27 August 2026
- **FNQ Regional Water Alliance #47** – Thursday 18 June 2026  
Minutes will be available on website  
Next Meeting – Friday 28 August 2026

- **FNQROC Animal Management Technical Committee #25** – Friday 19 June 2026  
Minutes will available on website  
Next Meeting – Friday 11 September 2026
- **FNQROC Regional Mountain Bike Strategy TC #6** – Friday 26 June 2026  
Minutes will be available on the website  
Next Meeting – Friday 4 September 2026
- **FNQ Water Alliance - SCADA Sub-Committee - Meeting #1** – 26 June 2026  
Minutes will be available on the website  
Next Meeting - TBA

#### 11.2.2 Minutes of Confidential Meetings:

- **FNQROC Regional Procurement Advisory Committee #50** – Friday 22 May 2026  
Minutes – *available on request*  
Next Meeting – Friday 21 August 2026
- **FNQROC - 25/26 Sewer Relining + Sewer & Manhole Condition Assessment Contract Meeting #5** – Tuesday 26 May 2026  
Minutes – *available on request*  
Next Meeting – Wednesday 22 July 2026
- **FNQROC Bitumen Reseals & Linemarking Contract Meeting #6** – Wednesday 27 May 2026 2026  
Minutes – *available on request*  
Next Meeting – Tuesday 21 July 2026

## 12. GENERAL BUSINESS

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*Nil*

## 13. MEETING CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

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### 13.1 Next Meeting

**Date & Time** Thursday 3 September 2026 – 10.30am  
**Venue** Douglas Shire Council

## Minutes of the 177<sup>th</sup> FNQROC Board Meeting

<b>Meeting No</b>	177
<b>Meeting Name</b>	FNQROC Ordinary Board Meeting
<b>Date</b>	7 May 2026
<b>Time</b>	10.30pm
<b>Venue</b>	Cairns Regional Council

## REPRESENTATIVES

### CHAIR

Cr Lisa Scomazzon, Mayor  
 Cr Teresa Millwood, Mayor  
 Cr Mladin Bosnic, Councillor  
 Cr Amy Eden, Mayor  
 Cr Robyn Holmes, Mayor  
 Cr Trevor Pickering, Mayor  
 Cr Alister Gibson, Mayor  
 Cr Daryl Sexton, Mayor  
 Cr Rod Marti, Mayor

Douglas Shire Council  
 Cassowary Coast Regional Council  
 Mareeba Shire Council  
 Cairns Regional Council  
 Cook Shire Council  
 Croydon Shire Council  
 Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council  
 Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council  
 Tablelands Regional Council

### CEO'S

Mr Brian Joiner, CEO  
 Dr Nikola Stepanov, CEO  
 Mr Scott Osman, CEO  
 Mr Michael Miller, CEO  
 Mr Peter O'May, CEO (*online*)  
 Mr Ken Gouldthorp, CEO  
 Ms Jacqui Cresswell, CEO (*online*)  
 Mr Peter Franks, CEO

Cook Shire Council  
 Tablelands Regional Council  
 Douglas Shire Council  
 Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council  
 Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council  
 Cairns Regional Council  
 Croydon Shire Council  
 Mareeba Shire Council

### OBSERVERS

Mr Benton Wecker  
 Ms Cass Liney  
 Emily Reid

Lead, Intergovernmental Relations, LGAQ  
 Lead, Environment and Climate, LGAQ  
 Region Manager, Department of Local  
 Government, Water and Volunteers

## FNQROC STAFF

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Ms Darlene Irvine	Chief Executive Officer
Ms Amanda Hancock	Regional Strategic Infrastructure Coordinator
Ms Liz Wakelin	Executive Support Officer
Ms Bhakti Devi	Regional Waste Management Plan Coordinator
Mr Travis Sydes	Regional Natural Asset Management and Sustainability Coordinator
Ms Maria Anselmo	Climate Resilience Coordinator
Ms Ieva Pradal	Regional Procurement Coordinator

## 3296. MEETING OPEN AND WELCOME

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The meeting commenced at 10.34am.

Mayor Scomazzon was acting Chair for this meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we met and paid respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

## 3297. APOLOGIES

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Cr Angela Toppin AM, Mayor	Mareeba Shire Council
Cr Barry Hughes, Mayor	Etheridge Shire Council
Cr Ramon Jayo, Mayor	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
Cr Bruce Gibson, Mayor	Hope Vale Shire Council
Mr Lew Rojahn, CEO	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council

## 3298. BOARD PRESENTATIONS

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### 3298.1 Hon Grace Grace MP & Mr Michael Healy MP

Mr Healy spoke to the lack of investment in the Cairns region and the significant impact that has on the local economy.

Key points:

- Watching this space about Cairns Hospital upgrade
- Tourism businesses are under pressure
- Businesses still recovering from COVID
- Top end tourism - domestic numbers are good, international numbers not good. This Feeds into investment in the area
- Mr Healy empathised that his role is to listen to be able to formulate policy.

Ms Grace acknowledged the traditional owners of the land.

*Key points;*

- Currently developing policies going forward
- Pleased to see QRA at the meeting and looking forward to their update
- Plans to link with Aboriginal councils to continue dialogue
- Housing, both social and affordable is a focus – any incentives given to developers has gone, considering how to help with housing so that people can live, work and play in their communities
- How can we assist with cost of living – working on lots of initiatives – how tourists get here, working with TMR, etc.
- Wanting to establish relationship to work together proactively rather than reactively
- Wants to hear from Councils and keen to open up dialogue
- Looking forward to hearing about impacts of weather events on the community so that they can work together.

*From the floor:*

- The point was raised about capital gains tax and how that is expected to help the community when owners pass the cost on to tenants.

Ms Grace acknowledged that this area is a work in progress and there is a need to make it more attractive for investors.

Mr Healy advised that it is a Federal Government issue, noting that better solutions are needed to achieve affordable housing for the coming generations. He has written to the Treasurer and the Prime Minister to advocate for investment in regional area. They are seeing cuts and a lot of talk, but there are real concerns that nothing is happening yet.

- The Chair enquired about a sustainable visitor fund.

Mr Healy is a strong supporter of a Visitor Levy. He noted Cairns, as an example, has 2.2million visitors using the roads and infrastructure which the community are paying for. Concern is that if the State Government doesn't introduce it, allowing councils to create their own revenue, then it may become a State Levy which the region will have to continue to advocate to receive.

Ms Grace highlighted that they understand FNQ is different to Cairns and want to ensure dialogues with those across the whole region.

Mr Healy has heard from over 34 businesses west of Cairns with smaller operations and low resources on cash assets. The feedback is that people are travelling less, not so much due to cost of fuel but because they don't want to get stuck there. Support is needed from State and Federal.

**3298.2 MAJGEN (Retd) Jake Ellwood, CEO & Mr Andrew Abbott, GM of Operations - Queensland Reconstruction Authority**

Mr Ellwood provided an overview of the QRA presentation, circulated with Minutes.

Key points;

- Mr Ellwood encouraged councils to let them know if something is missed.
- Primary producers got hit very hard in the last two events, north west centre and south west
- Unusual season because events were overlapping - QRA requested through the Federal Government to consider it as a single activation – this was significant because regardless of the event, those affected could get access to the measures, rather than wait for new announcement.
- LRAPS – these are important. They have moved away from competitive grants as it gave an unfair advantage to larger council with the resources to put together big submissions.
- QRRRP - \$150m per year looking at betterment and risk reduction. This is where LRAPS come into play, work out what is important to your council area.
  - Round 2, is under review – looking at the things which will have big impacts on resilience.
- Flood warning infrastructure – it doesn't matter who owns it, you get a full picture of what's happening in your area. In October Get Ready Gauges, Councils will get a full view. Won't be effective if master plans aren't in place. Councils urged to make sure their masterplans are updated.
- DFRA for QLD is a lifeline.
  - For councils to use DRFA carefully, it pays to have project managers – DRFA will fund them – you are rewarded for good submissions so worth getting a project manager in.
  - Don't put everything into your applications on a hope it will get funded, put in high quality submissions and you'll be assessed quickly.
  - Scrutiny is high, one tick in the wrong place can cost \$millions.
- Fuel – agreed to keep estimated recovering costs as is – still working out what 25/26 looks like.
  - What does that mean for councils? – keep moving, payments are made on actuals so councils are encouraged to get it done now, and be reimbursed.
- Colvin Review –there's only so much money in the pot. More spent on resilience the less there is for recovery – we want full support on recovery assistance. \$16b of tax payers money required for recovery over the last 4 years – we are the most disaster impacted state, next to NSW. \$760m spent on betterment by Fed and State.
- Urged to be cautious when talking about DRFA and betterment because it's a lifeline for QLD.

*From the floor;*

- Ms Irvine noted that in terms of scale and rate of recovery funding we have had to get, it's less than 0.5% spent on betterment, however reports from QRA show that the return on investment is significant.
- Ms Irvine highlighted that 25,000 people have access affected in Gilbert River, Laura and McLeod Crossings – how do you prioritise resilience upgrades and funding responsibility for those roads?

- Mr Ellwood highlighted that while disaster, betterment, and main roads projects support the same issues, they are from different pots of money. When roads go under, that's the opportunity to go to Federal Government and ask for changes to the infrastructure to focus on resilience.
- He advised that recovery is assumed, not everyone has a recovery bill like us – last year had 600K people seeking personal hardship allowance – no other state has that.
- Mr Franks, sought advice on water and wastewater assets to be considered essential
  - Mr Ellwood noted complexity for those where these assets are profit making.
  - Agreed to seek advice from Mr Andrew Abbott on our advocacy for the inclusion of Water and Wastewater assets as essential.
- Mr Franks raised fuel costs increasing betterment projects. Mr Abbott advised QRA will work with councils to make sure costs are covered.
- Colvin Review – We want no change in recovery assistance.

**ACTION 3298.2** : Ms Irvine to seek advice from Mr Andrew Abbott on our advocacy brief re Water and Wastewater being treated as essential assets to ensure there is no conflict/impact on activities behind the scenes related to funding restoration.

**3298.3 Kim Daniels, Manager, Stakeholder Engagement (online), Sue Oates, Manager, Hazard Preparedness East, Community Services Group (online) & Jake Hammelswang, Senior Hydrologist, Bureau of Meteorology – Flood Warning Infrastructure Network program (FWIN)**

Ms Oates acknowledged the traditional owners of the land. Ms Oates then gave an overview of the presentation, circulate with Minutes.

*Key points:*

- It is a complex model in QLD – with disaster management being distributed to local government. It is a different approach to QLD, QPS arrange disaster management.
- BOM are here to support through planning, response and disaster management.
- This has been a particularly heavy wet season, starting before Christmas.
- There are a range of models of flood monitoring – run all info through flood models to see what's happening – with semination of those products, they report to the local disaster management groups – any intelligence from what's happening on the ground is important for community messaging.
- Ms Daniels noted that the bulk of 1600 rain gauge sites are in QLD – BOM will acquire 124 existing sites across our area – it's a small portion, not everything that was requested but working with a number of high priority sites.
- Happy to have a chat about FWIN with each council, share Jake's contacts with Councils

**ACTION 3298.3:** FNQROC to share Jake Hammelswang contact details to the Board.

**3298.4 Benton Wecker, Lead, Intergovernmental Relations and Cass Liney, Lead Environment and Climate, LGAQ**

Benton Wecker gave an overview of the LGAQ Briefing Note.

*Key points:*

- There have been some concerning stories about the personal safety of Mayors and Councillors – the LGAQ Policy Executive is looking at what more we can do to keep elected members safe.
- In preparation for the Annual Conference, the motions portal opening on 1 June, LGAQ will provide an update to each council on all 2021-2025 resolutions that will expire this year. The Policy Executive motions for 2026 will also be provided to councils.
- Fuel - Councils were asked to continue providing updates on requirements to [fuel@lgag.asn.au](mailto:fuel@lgag.asn.au), with LGAQ continuing to advocate to State and Federal governments for councils to be treated as essential users under State and Federal legislation.

Ms Irvine advised the Board that LGAQ CEO, Alison Smith, will attend the July meeting to provide an update on LGAQs structure, key contacts and services provided to members.

### 3299. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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**MOVED:** Cr Daryl Sexton

**SECONDED:** Cr Rod Marti

That the Board:

*Moves the minutes of the 176<sup>th</sup> FNQROC Board meeting held on Thursday 7 March 2026 to be confirmed and adopted.*

**CARRIED**

### 3300. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

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**Action items from 5 March 2026 FNQROC Ordinary Board Meeting**

Meeting	Action	Responsible person
3284.1	FNQROC to share RDA 15 year celebration video link with the minutes.	Ms Lainie Poon, RDA TN

Link provided - <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXURuFgML5c">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXURuFgML5c</a>		
3284.2	JCU (Tiana) to provide further information on RHMT funding and briefing note	JCU
Provided with March Minutes		
3284.3	LGAQ to send 'Councils are your everyday campaign' video.	LGAQ
Completed		
3286.1	Re Tropical Economic Development Strategy (TEDS) – the draft amended strategy presented to FNQROC at the December 2025 meeting be sent to members for any further comments to be included and the report and amended strategy to be reconsidered at our May 2026 meeting.	Member Councils and CEO, FNQROC
Included in the agenda for finalisation		
3287.1	FNQROC CEO to provide detailed breakdown of 2.5% and 2.75% charges for RRTG endorsed works program to Cassowary Coast Regional Council.	CEO, FNQROC
Completed		
3294.1a	FNQROC CEO to Invite Department of Housing Director General to the next FNQROC Board meeting to discuss social housing concerns.	CEO, FNQROC
Completed – declined request, raised with Minister		
3294.1b	Councils to provide a list of social housing addresses where issues are occurring to create a 'heat map' for our State delegation. (note these addresses will not be released).	Member Councils and CEO, FNQROC
Completed, hotspot mapping used in State Delegation		

## 3301. BOARD REPORTS

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### 3301.1 B116 – RDA Tropical Economic Development Strategy

Discussed:

- Some concerns about RDA not engaging directly with Councils
- Can we support a document that also includes TCICA councils? Do they support it and is the data correct for them?
- There was concern that a true reflection of the RDA region may not be possible without direct engagement with all Councils within the RDA boundary.
- Ms Irvine noted that the concern was that the existing TEDs is outdated and this is what they are using to advocate for the region. This proposed updated plan is better than the existing, has been consulted with economic development officers and sent to FNQROC councils for comment March – April.
- Concern was raised that a true reflection of the region, particularly outside FNQROC may not be possible without direct engagement with Council's and that the document had not been endorsed by Torres and Cape Indigenous Councils Alliance (TCICA).

Mr Michael Miller identified a conflict of interest having recently been appointed to the RDA TN Board. As he is not a voting member of FNQROC he was not asked to leave the meeting.

**MOVED:** Cr Robyn Holmes

**SECONDED:** Cr Teresa Millwood

“That the Board:

*Note the plan and request RDA TN to meet with each of the councils to consult on the strategy.”*

**CARRIED**

## 3302. POLICIES FOR REVIEW

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### 3302.1 FNQROC Operational Guidelines

Ms Irvine provided an overview of the amendments to the updated FNQROC Operational Guidelines.

Clarification was sought regarding:

- Section 4, Media Releases, and the reasoning for approval to be by the Chair rather than that whole Board.

Ms Irvine highlighted that this only relates to FNQROC adopted positions.

- Section 12.3 – Out of Session Motions (between Board Meetings) – how many votes constitute approval. Ms Irvine advise it would the same as a quorum as per the Charter - 50%+1.

**MOVED:** Cr Teresa Millwood

**SECONDED:** Cr Rod Marti

*That FNQROC adopts the amended FNQROC Operational Guidelines with the following amendments:*

- 12.2 – additional dot point “has an impact on FNQROC Budget approval levels*
- 12.3 – Add “A successful vote is 50% plus 1*

**CARRIED**

### 3303.DISCUSSION TOPIC

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#### **3303.1 Regional Drought Resilience Plans (RDRP) (Wet Tropics and Gulf and Hinterland)**

Ms Irvine gave an overview of the tabled discussion paper, to be circulated with the Minutes.

*Key points:*

- As hosts/owners of these plans, FNQROC is required to endorse the draft projects to be submitted 31 May 2026 and the final projects to be submitted 30 June 2026.
- FNQROC will also be the principle for any funding allocated when the program opens in July 2026.
- Ms Anselmo noted that Cook, Hopevale and Wujal are included in the Cape and Torres Strate Resilient Plan, which is coordinated by TCICA. She highlighted that all councils are at different stages of drought resilience and advised that it is worth looking at to improve what’s already been done in drought and bush fire resilience.
- The Board enquired as to who were the members of the Climate Resilience Technical Committee. Ms Anselmo advised that the committee comprises council staff. The Committee looks at climate issues which drove the development of the RDRP. The committee also work with the Water Alliance group in the development of projects.
- The question was raised if this was something that FNQROC needed to coordinate
  - Ms Irvine advised that FNQROC endorsed these plans 1 August 2024 which made FNQROC the owners/hosts. Round 2 funding for these plans is \$1.6m for each plan (\$3.2million in funding for the region). If we don’t manage it ourselves, that funding will go to a third party to manage.

## RESOLVED:

*In relation to endorsing projects to be submitted for funding under round 2 of Drought Resilience Plan Program:*

- a) *The FNQROC Climate Resilience Technical Committee (CRTC) to:*
  - *Review the projects for each stage and make a recommendation to the Board*
  - *Representatives are to discuss these recommendations with their CEOs and or Mayors*
- b) *For the Draft projects to be submitted - FNQROC CEO to review the recommended projects, draft flying motion and facilitate a virtual meeting May 26<sup>th</sup> after 3pm for any Mayor wishing to discuss the projects, and*
- c) *For the Final projects to be submitted – FNQROC CEO to review the recommended projects, draft flying motion and facilitate a virtual meeting if requested.*

**ACTION 3303.1:** FNQROC to schedule a virtual meeting with Mayors and CEO's on 26 May 2026 at 3pm, for those wishing to discuss projects being submitted 31 May 2026 under the Wet Tropics and Gulf Hinterland Drought Resilience Plans. The need for a virtual meeting to discuss projects to be submitted 30 June 2026 will be decided at a later date.

## 3304. FINANCIAL REPORTS

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### Financial Report Year to date

**MOVED:** Cr Rod Marti

**SECONDED:** Cr Trevor Pickering

That the Board:

*Adopts the Profit and loss and Balance Sheet reports for the period 1 July 2025 to 16 April 2026.*

**CARRIED**

## 3305. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

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### 3305.1 FNQ Regional Plan Update

The FNQ Regional Plan was launched yesterday and is being adopted by today after which time it will be available online.

Ms Irvine also reiterated she is ready to assist these councils if needed – she will act if asked.

**ACTION 3305.1:** FNQROC CEO to send an update on the Cape York, Gulf and North Queensland Regional Plans to relevant Mayors and CEOs.

## 3305.2 State Delegation – April 2026

Ms Irvine advised that the delegation report had now been sent to Mayors and was available on the FNQROC Website. All action items and key information has also been sent to Mayors as a reminder.

### *Key points:*

- One of the action items was to meet with Mr Andrew Cripps – Special Commissioner for Regional and Rural Queensland. The meeting took place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

### Feedback from the meeting:

- Mr Cripps is now a public servant and can only take direction from the Premier. He has been given three key areas to focus on:
  1. Review leadership network
  2. Find a way of getting senior management positions into regions
  3. Identify ways to better anticipate and mitigate major industry disruptions, such as the Mount Isa smelter situation and Mossman Mill so the State isn't pushed into a corner and can plan better.
- Ms Irvine discussed the Rural & Regional – Special Economic Zone and a suggestion was made to include a map of the different zones and the number population numbers in each of them.
- It was noted that having a high-level bureaucrat in the region was a positive but that it is important that the right messages are conveyed.
- Ms Irvine advised that she will start to work on the brief for the Federal Delegation in August.
- It was requested that special focus be put on obtaining a meeting with Minister Catherine King MP.
- In the absence of the Chair, Cr Marti shared Mayor Toppins sincere thanks to all the work the Mayor's did during the delegation, it was a very successful delegation.

## 3305.3 Incoming / Outgoing Correspondence

### 3305.3.1 Incoming

*Nil*

### 3305.3.1 Outgoing

*Nil*

**NOTED**

## 3306 CEO REPORT

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The CEO report was taken as read.

## 3307 FNQROC MEETINGS

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### 3307.1 Minutes of FNQROC Advisory Committees

- **FNQROC Regional Roads and Transport Group #87**  
Friday 5 March 2026  
Minutes – [available on website](#)
- **FNQROC Planners Meeting #84**  
Friday 20 March 2026  
Minutes – [available on website](#)
- **FNQ Regional Water Alliance #46**  
Friday 17 April 2026  
Minutes – [available on website](#)
- **FNQ Regional Roads and Transport Group Technical Committee**  
Friday 24 April 2026  
Minutes – [available on website](#)

NOTED

### 3307.2 Minutes of Confidential Meetings

- **FNQROC Bitumen Reseal Contract Meeting #5**  
Wednesday 15 April 2026  
Minutes – *available on request*
- **FNQROC Sewer Relining Contract Meeting**  
**Tuesday 14 April 2026**  
Minutes – *available on request*

NOTED

## 3308 GENERAL BUSINESS

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### 3308.1 Fuel

#### 3308.1.1 South West QLD ROC Fuel Tracker

#### 3308.1.2 Fuel Prioritisation

#### 3308.1.3 DSC SLM seeking guidance on regionally consistent approach to fuel price supply volatility and initiatives

*Key points:*

- Ms Irvine advised that as part of her review:
  - The SWQROC Fuel Tracker required self-reporting and with some of the update timelines exceeding a week it might not be helpful to alleviate fears.
  - She noted Redlands has it on their disaster dashboard with the information being drawn from the Qld Government (Fuel Prices API) (it is a legislative requirement for fuel information to be provided to the State on a daily basis.
- There are many fuel tracker apps out and about such as FACQ Fuel and Deals, Petrol Spy, Fuel Map Australia. These apps use Qld Government data.
- Fuel prioritisation was briefly discussed:
  - LGAQ was taking the lead for LG's in advocating for designation as an essential service
  - Ms Irvine advised prioritisation was something we could do in the future if the Mayors wanted – we have done something similar before with Sodium Hypochlorite.
- In terms of providing guidance to councils so that can put in place plans, Ms Irvine asked Mr Wecker if there were forward plans if we did go to stage 3. It is hard for councils to plan how they will plan for the next stage if they don't know what it will look like.
  - Mr Wecker advised that the LGAQ fuel forum was occurring at the time of the meeting, and will provide feedback on this.

**ACTION 3308.1.3.** LGAQ to provide update on what stage 3 for managing fuel might look like so that councils can develop appropriate contingency plans.

### 3309 NEXT MEETING

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The next meeting will be held on Thursday 2 July 2026, 11.00am at Cairns Regional Council.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 13.11pm.

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**Cr Lisa Scomazzon - Acting FNQROC Chair**

## ATTACHMENT 1

### Actions from Board Meeting held on 7 May 2026

Item	Action	Responsible person
3298.2	Ms Irvine to seek advice from Mr Andrew Abbott on our advocacy brief re Water and Waste Water being treated as essential assets to ensure there is no conflict/impact on activities behind the scenes related to funding restoration.	FNQROC CEO
3298.3	FNQROC to share Jake Hammelswang contact details to the Board.	FNQROC ESO
3303.1	FNQROC to schedule a virtual meeting with Mayors and CEO's on 26 May 2026 at 3pm, for those wishing to discuss projects being submitted 31 May 2026 under the Wet Tropics and Gulf Hinterland Drought Resilience Plans. The need for a virtual meeting to discussed projects to be submitted 30 June 2026 will be decided at a later date.	FNQROC CEO
3305.1	FNQROC CEO to send update on the progress of the Cape York, Gulf and North Queensland Regional Plans to relevant Mayors and CEOs.	FNQROC CEO
3308.1.3	LGAQ to provide update on what stage 3 for managing fuel might look like so that councils can develop appropriate contingency plans.	LGAQ

# Profit and Loss

## Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils 30241 For the period 1 July 2025 to 17 June 2026

1 JULY 2025-17  
JUNE 2026

### Trading Income

#### FNQROC

FNQROC: Annual Contribution	628,092.00
FNQROC: Annual 2.75% TIDS funding contribution	165,673.21
FNQROC: Miscellaneous: Staff Christmas Party	260.00
<b>Total FNQROC</b>	<b>794,025.21</b>

#### Waste and Resource Recovery

Regional Waste Management Plan Funding	188,750.00
<b>Total Waste and Resource Recovery</b>	<b>188,750.00</b>

#### Regional Roads & Transport

RRTG: Funding/Subsidies	152,064.00
SCDF Project - Procurement and Contracts Training	11,636.88
<b>Total Regional Roads &amp; Transport</b>	<b>163,700.88</b>

#### Regional Climate Resilience

Climate Resilience: Resilience Program	19,940.91
Climate Resilience: Corporate Greenhouse Gas Inventories	9,330.00
CCRCDisPrePlan	12,272.73
Regional Drought Resilience Funding - Wet Tropics	150,000.00
Regional Drought Resilience Funding - Gulf Hinterland	150,000.00
<b>Total Regional Climate Resilience</b>	<b>341,543.64</b>

#### Natural Assets

Wet Tropics Bio Security Future	37,436.77
<b>Total Natural Assets</b>	<b>37,436.77</b>

#### Water

Water: Short Term Projects: DWQMP Audit	7,500.00
Water: QWrap Funding	35,000.00
QWRAP Short Term Project - Sewer Relining	85,200.00
<b>Total Water</b>	<b>127,700.00</b>

FNQROC: Miscellaneous Sales	150.00
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>1,653,306.50</b>

### Other Income

Interest Income	36,662.83
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>36,662.83</b>

### Gross Profit

**1,689,969.33**

### Operating Expenses

Audit & Accounting Fees	5,800.00
Bank Service Charges	258.61

**FNQROC**

FNQROC: Chairs Honorarium	10,000.00
FNQROC: Delegations	3,560.25
FNQROC: Mayoral delegations - accommodation, meals, travel expenses	37,340.36
FNQROC: External Meeting Expenses: Registration Fees	2,367.34
FNQROC: External Meeting Expenses: Travel, Accom & Meals	11,113.84
FNQROC: Internal Meeting Expenses: Miscellaneous	1,702.37
FNQROC: Internal Meeting Expenses: Catering	2,364.75
FNQROC: Staff Christmas Party	636.71
FNQROC: Mobile Phone Expenses	3,767.26
FNQROC: Salaries	209,149.51
FNQROC: Stationery & Office Expenses	12,809.92
FNQROC: Stationery & Office Expenses:Website	1,641.28
FNQROC: Subscription/membership	29,913.73
FNQROC: Training	1,219.09
FNQROC: Vehicle Expenses	8,784.82
FNQROC: Uniforms	249.59
Miscellaneous	7,565.65
<b>Total FNQROC</b>	<b>344,186.47</b>

**Infrastructure**

Infrastructure: Salaries	181,420.12
Infrastructure: Mobile Phone Expenses	703.67
Infrastructure: Subscriptions/membership	730.00
<b>Total Infrastructure</b>	<b>182,853.79</b>

**Regional Roads & Transport**

Infrastructure: Bitumen Reseal Project:Project Coordinator Fees	56,400.00
RRTG: Bridge Inspections	(13,347.88)
RRTG: External Meetings: Registration Fees	4,578.01
RRTG: External Meetings: Travel, Accom & Meals	137.39
RRTG: Internal Meeting Expenses: Catering	1,775.60
RRTG: Regional Road Trip	1,451.15
RRTG: Regional Road Surfacing Study	19,450.00
<b>Total Regional Roads &amp; Transport</b>	<b>70,444.27</b>

**Regional Urban Water**

Water: Internal Meeting Expenses: Catering	226.18
Water: External Meeting Expenses: Travel, Accom & Meals	(266.30)
Water: Short Term Project: DWQMP Audit	7,500.00
<b>Total Regional Urban Water</b>	<b>7,459.88</b>

**Regional Waste & Recycling**

Waste: Meeting, Travel, Accom & Meals	4,409.16
Waste: training, and Industry Events	506.50
Waste: Vehicle Expenses	7,250.00
Waste: Mobile Phone	703.67

Waste: Resource Recovery Salaries	153,005.14
<b>Total Regional Waste &amp; Recycling</b>	<b>165,874.47</b>
<b>Regional Natural Asset Management</b>	
Nat Asset: External Meetings: Travel, Accom & Meals	681.46
Nat Asset: Internal Meeting Expenses: Catering	930.34
Nat Asset: Mobile Phone Expenses	708.21
Nat Asset: Salaries	119,952.53
Nat Asset: Subscriptions/Memberships	1,000.00
WTBFP - Media and Collateral Development	30,836.77
<b>Total Regional Natural Asset Management</b>	<b>154,109.31</b>
<b>Regional Climate Resilience</b>	
Climate Resilience Salaries	63,638.51
Climate Resilience - Internal Meeting Expenses	252.10
Climate Resilience - External Meeting Expenses	16.50
Climate Resilience - Conference/training	1,197.85
Climate Resilience: Climate Resilient Councils Program	1,345.76
Climate Resilience: Corporate GHG Inventory	972.72
Regional Drought Resilience Plan - Gulf/Hinterland - Remuneration Costs	130,166.64
Regional Drought Resilience - Wet Topics - Remuneration Costs	66,496.72
<b>Total Regional Climate Resilience</b>	<b>264,086.80</b>
<b>Regional Planning &amp; Economic Development</b>	
Reg Planner/economic development:Internal Meeting Expenses: Miscellaneous	101.82
<b>Total Regional Planning &amp; Economic Development</b>	<b>101.82</b>
<b>Regional Procurement</b>	
Regional Procurement: Sewer Relining - Consultant Fees	85,200.00
Regional Procurement: External Meeting Expenses: Travel, Accom & Meals	2.82
Regional Procurement: External Meetings Expenses: Registration Fees	36.37
Regional Procurement:Internal Meeting Expenses: Catering	522.73
Regional Procurement: Internal Meeting Expenses: Miscellaneous	108.55
Regional Procurement: Mobile Phone Expenses	703.67
Regional Procurement: Salaries	92,330.52
Regional Procurement: Training	(726.54)
Regional Procurement: Preparation of procurement and construction documents	904.44
<b>Total Regional Procurement</b>	<b>179,082.56</b>
<b>Regional Mountain Bike Strategy</b>	
Regional MTB Strategy	2,907.18
<b>Total Regional Mountain Bike Strategy</b>	<b>2,907.18</b>
Climate Resilience: Motor Vehicle Expenses	5,789.23
Regional Drought Resilience - Wet Topics - Vehicle Expenses	3,200.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1,386,154.39</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>303,814.94</b>



# Balance Sheet

Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils 30241  
As at 17 June 2026

17 JUNE 2026

## Assets

### Bank

Cheque Account	143,570.82
QTC Savings	1,533,994.69
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>1,677,565.51</b>

### Current Assets

Accounts Receivable	140,537.40
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>140,537.40</b>

### Total Assets

**1,818,102.91**

## Liabilities

### Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	14,626.34
ANZ Credit Card:FNQROC	14,667.32
GST	(23,962.94)
Payroll Liabilities:AL Payable Current	97,008.22
Payroll Liabilities:LSL Payable Current	10,715.00
Payroll Liabilities:LSL Payable Non-Current	71,033.70
Rounding	7.45
Waste Grant Liability 2024/2025 - Need approval to expend	42,643.73
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>226,738.82</b>

### Total Liabilities

**226,738.82**

## Net Assets

**1,591,364.09**

## Equity

Current Year Earnings	303,814.94
Opening Bal Equity	293,928.07
Retained Earnings	993,621.08
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>1,591,364.09</b>

Ref: 7875733

11 May 2026

Hon Sam O'Connor MP  
Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth

Via email to: [housing@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:housing@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

Dear Minister

### **FNQROC Mayoral Delegation 21-23 April 2026**

The Far North Queensland Organisations of Councils (FNQROC) delegation would like to sincerely thank you for taking the time to meet with our member Mayors to discuss the FNQROC State Priorities, share opportunities and challenges facing our region, and hear directly from our councils and communities.

We greatly value the opportunity to represent the goals and aspirations of our twelve member councils and their communities. Through our advocacy at both the State and Federal level, we seek to support the continued growth, resilience and prosperity of Far North Queensland.

Thank you for agreeing to follow up with the Director General regarding attendance at the next FNQROC Board meeting 2 July 2026 in Cairns. We appreciate your support in facilitating a discussion on how we can work collaboratively to address those Department of Housing properties that of concern to councils and the broader community.

I extend a standing invitation and encourage you to engage further with our FNQROC members when next visiting the Far North Queensland region. To arrange an appointment please contact Liz Wakelin via [liz.wakelin@fnqroc.qld.gov.au](mailto:liz.wakelin@fnqroc.qld.gov.au).

Again, thank you for your time, and willingness to engage with us.

Please feel free to contact me direct on 0447 371 297 should you require any further information relating to any individual priority.

Yours sincerely



**Cr Angela Toppin AM**  
Chair

REF: 7899437

15 June 2026

Hon Sam O'Connor MP  
Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth

Via email to: [housing@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:housing@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

Dear Minister

**FNQROC Board Meeting – Thursday 2 July 2026**

I write further to our previous correspondence regarding engagement with the Department of Housing and the possibility of the Director-General attending the upcoming FNQROC Board meeting on Thursday 2 July 2026 at 11.00am.

As raised during our discussions, concerns relating to a number of Department of Housing properties across the Far North Queensland region continue to grow and, with issues escalating, this is resulting in increasing concern from residents, elected members and local stakeholders.

Given the ongoing nature of these issues, our Board would appreciate any update regarding the Director-General's availability to attend the FNQROC Board meeting. Our Mayors remain keen to work constructively with the Department to better understand the current challenges and identify practical and collaborative responses.

We value the Department's ongoing engagement with FNQROC and appreciate your continued assistance in facilitating these discussions.

The Agenda for the Board Meeting will be sent out at the end of this week so please contact Liz Wakelin via [liz.wakelin@fnqroc.qld.gov.au](mailto:liz.wakelin@fnqroc.qld.gov.au) or call on 0438 782 459 to obtain a calendar invitation and the full Agenda if required.

Please feel free to contact me direct on 0447 371 297 should you require any further information relating to any individual priority.

Yours sincerely



**Cr Angela Toppin AM**  
Chair



# CEO Report to the Board

Prepared by: Darlene Irvine  
Board Meeting Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026

## 1. Executive Summary

We continue to make solid progress across our priorities, advocacy agenda and operational program. Significant effort during this period has focused on preparing for the Augst Federal Delegation, the release of the FNQ Regional Plan and advancing key regional advocacy priorities.

Across our technical programs we continue to deliver practical outcomes for member councils such as the progression of regional climate resilience initiatives and the FNQ Regional Mountain Bike Strategy. Several projects have secured external funding support or reached important delivery milestones. Particular attention continues to be given to procurement, resilience, workforce capability, and infrastructure planning.

FNQROC remains financially sound, with no significant budget pressures identified. Externally funded programs continue to be delivered, and we are well positioned to meet our current commitments while responding to emerging opportunities on behalf of member councils.

## 2. Strategic Progress

STRATEGIC PRIORITY	STATUS	NOTES
<b>2.1 FNQ Regional Plan</b>	In progress	Commenced 8 May 2026
<b>2.2 Regional priorities into long term Strategic Operational Plan</b>	In progress	
<b>2.3.1 Federal Advocacy</b>	Complete	Draft Brief shared June 2026 Next delegation due August 2026
<b>2.3.2 State Advocacy</b>	Complete	Next delegation 2027
<b>2.4 NATURAL ASSET MANAGEMENT</b>		
<b>2.4.1</b> Contribute to the review of the Land Protection Fund methodology.	Pending	Current advice from Department is that the funding methodology will not be reviewed as part of the sunset review of the Biosecurity Act 2014, however how the funding is prioritised and allocated will be reviewed. FNQROC has been invited to contribute to the discussion on the review process and will provide an update when we know more.
<b>2.4.2</b> Represent regional and local priorities on the State Oversight Group	Ongoing	The region currently has two research programs in front of the Oversight Group for consideration. A Neem tree research program is in development in partnership with Gulf Savannah NRM. Recent updates on research projects underway identified many priorities for the region are being addressed through the fund.
<b>2.5 REGIONAL MOUNTAIN BIKE STRATEGY</b>		
<b>2.5.1</b> Investigate whole-of-life trail maintenance approach	Pending	The Regional Mountain Bike Strategy Steering Committee is investigating a regional trail pass concept to assist to return maintenance resources to trail networks. The direction of future work in this space will be strongly influenced by the outcomes of an ROI process for Smithfield Mountain Bike Park.
<b>2.5.2</b> Advocate for the rollout of the mountain bike infrastructure plan	Ongoing	FNQROC met recently with representatives from DETSI to provide an update on the rollout of the Regional Mountain Bike Strategy.
<b>2.6 REGIONAL ROADS AND TRANSPORT</b>		
<b>2.6.1</b> Update the FNQ Regional Road Investment Strategy, including a review of the heavy vehicle network and first/last mile roads in collaboration with TMR		Included in the State Advocacy Brief in April's State delegation. Follow up letter to Minister Mickelberg advising \$75,000 committed by FNQROC for the RRTG to progress the RRIS Early support and engagement from the State sought to provide a foundation for jointly identifying regional priorities, understanding future freight and industry demands, ensuring investment decisions are informed by a shared evidence base. A response is currently awaited.
<b>2.1 WATER ALLIANCE</b>		
<b>2.1.1</b> Asset Criticality assessment		QWRAP funding was approved in early March, later than expected, placing pressure on the original EOFY completion deadline. The current deed expires in June 2026, preventing any

		extension at this stage. We are awaiting advice on a potential new deed/dee variation and whether a project extension will be permitted.
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Comments:

### 3. Regional Advocacy Priorities

ADVOCACY PRIORITIES	STATUS	NOTES
<b>3.1 STRENGTHENING LIVEABILITY AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE</b>		
3.1.1 Address cost shifting	In Progress	LGAQ priority
3.1.2 First nations Housing	In Progress	
3.1.3 Social and Affordable housing	In Progress	
3.1.4 Strengthen climate resilience	In Progress	Regional Drought Resilience projects have gained in principle support and lodged with DPI
<a href="#">Draft concept developed for Regional and Remote Special Economic Zone</a>	Complete	Included in State Delegation April 2026 and Federal delegation August 2026. Document has been opened to the public to tear it apart so we can build it back better.
<b>3.2 RESILIENT TRANSPORT</b>		
3.2.1 Road Network Resilience	Link	Linked to 2.6.1 Review of Regional Road Investment Strategy Included in State Delegation
3.2.2 Public Transport and Urban Mobility	Pending	State Delegation Brief - April
3.2.3 Freight and Supply Chains	Link	Linked to 2.6.1 Review of Regional Road Investment Strategy Included in State Delegation (April)
3.2.4 Multi-Modal Integration	Pending	Recommended that Cassowary Coast be on State Group
3.2.5 Emergency and Climate Resilience	Pending	
<b>3.3 NATURAL ASSETS</b>		
3.3.1 Biosecurity preparedness and resilience	Ongoing	-FNQROC has submitted an EOI for the region to host a biosecurity disaster preparedness exercise in August. The exercise will focus on the role of LG in an animal health response in the region.

<b>3.3.2</b> Collaborative governance	Ongoing	The NAMAC was recently briefed by local operatives from NAQS, Federal DAFF. Participation in the Committee now extends to 3 NRM regions, local government alongside State and Commonwealth biosecurity representatives.
<b>3.3.3</b> Integrated domestic animal management	Pending	The Animal Management Technical Committee is currently processing RFQ submissions for the delivery of the Animal Management Options Analysis. The contract will be awarded toward the end of June.
<b>3.3.4</b> Support ongoing development of outdoor recreation and tourism	Ongoing	The Adventure Trails Working Group has been investigating a range of region-wide adventure cycling opportunities. Briefings for the project have been provided to DETSI and TEQ.
<b>3.3.5</b> Climate and ecological resilience	Ongoing	
<b>3.3.6</b> Innovation and sustainability	Ongoing	
<b>3.3.7</b> Regulatory and Resource efficiency	Ongoing	There has been consultation and feedback sessions regarding the rollout of Commonwealth EPBC Act reforms, Queensland Offsets Policy, and the sunset review of the Biosecurity Act 2014 Regulations. FNQROC has attended policy briefings and provided input into LGAQ submissions.
<b>3.3.8</b> Integrated land use planning	Ongoing	The NAMAC is currently workshopping biosecurity considerations to inform the updates of local planning schemes and the Development Manual.
<b>3.4 WATER SECURITY</b>		
<b>3.4.1</b> Regional water infrastructure funding pool to support smaller councils in preparing robust business cases.	Ongoing	
<b>3.4.2</b> Reform of disaster recovery funding eligibility to recognise water and sewerage as core infrastructure	Ongoing	
<b>3.4.3</b> Increased State and federal investment in long term, multi-use water infrastructure (e.g. Dams, hydroelectric projects)	Ongoing	

<b>3.4.4</b> Climate resilient planning frameworks including risk mitigation for intense rainfall events and debris blockages.	
<b>3.5 WASTE</b>	
<b>3.5.1</b> State and Federal investment in planning, design, construction and operation	Ongoing
<b>3.5.2</b> Fit for purpose solutions for remote and rural communities	Ongoing
<b>3.5.3</b> Minimise costs passed on to households and ratepayers	Ongoing
<b>3.5.4</b> Address transport and logistic barrier unique to FNQ	Pending
<b>3.6 ENERGY</b>	
<b>3.6.1</b> Greater investment in resilient energy infrastructure in regional areas	Ongoing
<b>3.6.2</b> Transparent pricing methodologies	Complete and ongoing
<b>3.6.3</b> Support for decentralised energy solutions and appropriately located renewable technologies.	

#### 4. Operational Overview

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES	STATUS	NOTES
<b>4.1 FEDERAL DELEGATION</b>		Scheduled for August 2026
<b>4.2 STATE DELEGATION</b>		Next delegation 2027
<b>4.3 ANIMAL MANAGEMENT</b>		
<b>4.3.1</b> Facilitate regional cat management taskforce for collaboration on key actions	In progress	The Wet Tropics Cat Management Research Proposal is in it's final draft for consultation and will be tabled to the AMTC and NAMAC prior to being tabled at the next sitting of the State Oversight Group (Land Protection Fund)

<b>4.3.2</b> Develop Scope for Workforce Capability Review and Modernisation of Animal Management in Far North Queensland	In progress	The Animal Management Technical Committee is currently processing RFQ submissions for the delivery of the Animal Management Options Analysis. The contract will be awarded toward the end of June.
<b>4.3.3</b> Assist in disaster management capacity development across councils	ongoing	FNQROC has submitted an EOI for the region to host a biosecurity disaster preparedness exercise in August. The exercise will focus on the role of LG in an animal health response in the region.
<b>4.3.4</b> Re-establish indicators and produce an annual report card	Linked to 4.3.2	Regional report card indicators and format are in review.
<b>4.3.5</b> Conduct four technical committee meetings	Ongoing	Four meetings of the Animal Management Technical Committee planned for 2026, February 6, June 19, September 11, November/December TBC
<b>4.4 NATURAL ASSET MANAGEMENT</b>		
<b>4.4.1</b> Review and implement Council Biosecurity Plans	Ongoing	Reviews completed for Hinchinbrook and underway or planned for Cook and Douglas. Incoming changes to the Biosecurity Act Regulation have been workshopped by the NAMAC and are being incorporated into Biosecurity Plans as required.
<b>4.4.2</b> Implement and review the regional natural asset management strategy	Planned	
<b>4.4.3</b> Support local natural asset and biosecurity advisory committees and working groups	Ongoing	Attended Hinchinbrook Pest Management Working Group
<b>4.4.4</b> Assist in disaster management capacity development across councils	Ongoing	FNQROC has submitted an EOI for the region to host a biosecurity disaster preparedness exercise in August. The exercise will focus on the role of LG in an animal health response in the region.
<b>4.4.5</b> Re-establish indicators and produce an annual report card	Ongoing	Regional report card indicators and format are in review.
<b>4.4.6</b> Support Wet Tropics Healthy Water ways initiatives	In progress	The Regional Partnership Group met recently to review and provide feedback into the 2026 report card (reporting on the 2024/2025 reporting year).
<b>4.4.7</b> Conduct 4 technical committee meetings.	Ongoing	Four meetings of the Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee planned for 2026 – February 27, June 12, September 18
<b>4.5 REGIONAL MOUNTAIN BIKE STRATEGY</b>		

<b>4.5.1</b> Establish a regional adventure trail working group	In progress	The Adventure Trails Working Group has been investigating a range of region-wide adventure cycling opportunities. Briefings for the project have been provided to DETSI and TEQ. We are now meeting individually with councils tourism/ED leads to workshop and fine tune local offerings.
<b>4.5.2</b> Support partnerships between Councils, clubs, and state agencies to deliver strategy actions	Ongoing	-A regional trail pass discussion paper has been developed to guide consultation for the development of a platform to assist returning maintenance resources to trail networks. The draft has been tabled for discussion with the committee, DETSI and TTNQ. It was also tabled as an option for consideration in the ROI proposal process for Smithfield Mountain Bike Park.
<b>4.5.3</b> Support GIS and on-ground rollout and communication of trail upgrades and features.	Ongoing	A regional geodatabase of adventure cycling and bikepacking routes is in development with the Adventure Trails Working Group. The working group have identified multiple short, medium and long multi-day cycling routes across the region in an area spanning between Ingham, Coen and Croydon. The group is now shortlisting the routes for further development and publishing later in the year.
<b>4.5.4</b> Conduct four steering committee meetings.	Ongoing	Four meetings of the Regional Mountain Bike Strategy Steering Committee planned for 2026, February 13, June 26, September 4, November/December TBC
<b>4.6 REGIONAL ROADS AND TRANSPORT</b>		
<b>4.6.1</b> Conduct 2 (min) RRTG meetings	Planned	RRTG meetings scheduled for 2026 as follows: 5 March, 7 May, 2 July, 3 September, 5 November
<b>4.6.2</b> Conduct 4 (min) RRTG TC meetings	Planned	RRTG TC meetings scheduled for 2026 as follows: 29 January, 24 April, 12 June, 14 August, 16 October,
<b>4.6.3</b> Develop and implement the FNQ RRTG Capability Agreement & Action Plan	In progress	Capability & Action Plan recently reviewed and updated following each RRTG TC. Bridge Inspection training and Regional Construction Procurement & Contract Management both took place in May having been identified as regional training priorities, with funding secured through the Statewide Capability Development Fund (SCDF). Additional training requested in 2026/27.
<b>4.6.4</b> Manage four year (\$24.8mil) works program	Ongoing	Latest works program for 2025/26 to 2027/28 endorsed by the RRTG at their last meeting. Currently focused on ensuring full expenditure of 2025/26 TIDS funding by the EOFY.

<p><b>4.6.5</b> RRTG Technical Tour August 2026</p>	<p>Planned</p>	<p>Technical Tour for 2026/27 has been scheduled to take place from 12 – 14 August 2026 and will be hosted by Cassowary Coast Regional Council. Focus will be projects such as the Mission Beach Town Centre Revitalisation Project, as well as potentially including a visit to the Port of Mourilyan given its regional significance and potential strategic expansion of industrial activity. There may also be an opportunity to perhaps incorporate travel via the Palmerston Highway. Itinerary planning currently underway.</p>
<p><b>4.6.6</b> Complete Regional Road Treatment Study</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Draft Road Treatment Good Practice Guide has been finalised and is currently with the RRTG TC for final review before being put to the RRTG to seek endorsement and thereafter FNQROC. Completion required by the EOFY to meet the funding agreement under SCDF.</p>
<p><b>4.7 WATER ALLIANCE</b></p>		
<p><b>4.7.1</b> Conduct 4 Alliance meetings</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>FNQ Water Alliance meetings scheduled for 2026 as follows: 20 February, 17 April, 18 June, 28 August, 23 October, 18 December</p>
<p><b>4.7.2</b> Submit quarterly reports and annual reports to LGAQ</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p><b>4.7.3</b> Commence implementation of the FNQ Regional Water Capability Plan</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>4.7.3.1</b> Initiative 3 – Standardised SOPs, work instructions, templates and processes</li> </ul>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>SCADA subcommittee formed and draft Terms of Reference and Project Scope developed. First meeting taking place Friday 26 June 2026.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>4.7.3.2</b> Initiative 4 – Standardised water and wastewater asset design and specification</li> </ul>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>See 4.7.3.1</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>4.7.3.3 Initiative 11</b> – Building and sustained a strong workforce for FNQ.</li> </ul>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>HR &amp; L&amp;D reps being sought from each council to form a sub-committee to focus on the various actions arising from this initiative.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>4.7.3.4</b> Strategic initiatives – see 2.1.1 See Asset Criticality Assessment in-progress.</li> </ul>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>See 2.1.1.</p>
<p><b>4.7.4</b> Conduct an EOI for Biosolids centralised storage/dewatering, transport and disposal options</p>	<p>Removed</p>	<p>4.7.4 replaced with 4.7.5</p>
<p><b>4.7.5</b> Facilitate implementation of a new Regional Beneficial Reuse of Biosolids arrangement commencing 1 October 2025</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>New contracts with Arkwood came into effect on 1 October 2025 for 3 years with the option to extend by a further 2 x 12 month periods.</p>

<p><b>4.7.6</b> Develop and implement a Regional Trade Waste Environmental Management Plan</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Model Trade Waste Plan including Model Application Forms and other useful resources are now available on QLD Water’s Water Workforce Toolbox which has been circulated to councils.</p>
<p><b>4.8 DEVELOPMENT MANUAL</b></p>		
<p><b>4.8.1</b> Conduct a review of the Development Manual</p>	<p>Planned</p>	
<p><b>4.9 PROCUREMENT</b></p>		
<p><b>4.9.1</b> Conduct 4 technical committee meetings</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>FNQROC Technical Procurement meetings scheduled for the remainder of 2026 as follows: 21 August 2026 and 20 November 2026</p> <p>Procurement Committee members requested that an additional one-hour meeting be held via Microsoft Teams each month to assist councils in addressing fuel rise and to discuss urgent matters, share information, and collaborate on regional procurement initiatives.</p>
<p><b>4.9.2</b> Review and update the FNQROC Procurement website and document suite</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The FNQROC Contract Document Suite was updated on 12 June 2026, with a particular focus on construction contracts. The updates reflect changes associated with the Road Transport Contractual Chain Order (RTCCO) and are intended to assist councils in meeting their compliance obligations under the Order.</p> <p>FNQROC, together with Ochre Legal, delivered three workshops on the FNQROC Contract Document Suite in May 2026. The sessions provided training on the use of the documents and assisted council staff with procurement and contract-related questions.</p>
<p><b>4.9.3</b> Facilitate identification and evaluation of new regional procurement opportunities</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p><b>4.9.4</b> Undertake contract administration for existing regional contracts.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p><b>4.9.5</b> Conduct contract reviews for:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bitumen Reseal</li> </ul>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Regional Bitumen Reseal – the majority of the 2025/26 Regional Bitumen Reseal Program has been completed, with some remaining works still to be delivered within Tablelands Regional Council and Mareeba Shire Council. FNQROC is currently</p>

		preparing the tender for the 2026/27 Regional Bitumen Reseal Program, which is scheduled to be released in June 2026.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sewer Relining</li> </ul>	In progress	Regional Sewer Relining – 2025/26 Sewer Relining Program is nearing completion across the FNQROC region, with only a small amount of additional work remaining to be completed within the Cairns Regional Council area. FNQROC is currently finalising documentation for the 2026/27 Regional Sewer Relining Program, with the open tender scheduled for release in June 2026.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of Biosolids</li> </ul>	On going	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrap Metal and ULABs</li> </ul>	On going	
<b>4.9.7</b> Oversee procurement for the Regional Water Leak Detection Program	In progress	The fieldwork is scheduled to commence within the Mareeba Shire Council area during the first week of July 2026. The project remains on schedule, and we anticipate that all fieldwork will be completed by September 2026.
<b>4.10 Climate Resilience</b>		
<b>4.10.1</b> Conduct 4 Technical meetings	On going	Next meeting scheduled for 31 July 2026
<b>4.10.2</b> Prepare and implement Greenhouse gas emissions reduction action plan	In progress	Draft FNQROC GHG Emissions Reduction Action Plan under review.
<b>4.10.3</b> Undertake a regional climate risk assessment	In progress	Project planning commenced including submission of grant EOI to deliver climate risk assessment workshops for Local Councils.
<b>4.10.4</b> Develop the FNROC Climate Resilience Action Plan (2026 – 2031)	In progress	Submitted EOI for funding to develop FNQROC Climate Action Plan.
<b>4.10.5</b> Continue to identify funding and implement the Regional Drought Resilience Plans (Wet Topics and Gulf Hinterland)	On going	Priority projects endorsed by FNQROC Bord and submitted to Department of Primary Industries

<b>4.10.6</b> Continue to identify funding and implement QRA Regional Resilience Plans	In progress
<b>4.10.7</b> Continue to support updating QRA Local Resilience Action Plans	<del>On hold</del> Completed. Support to CRTC Council members provided. LRAPs are submitted and Councils are preparing for Disaster Resilience Funding Round 4.
<b>4.10.8</b> Develop regional framework for local natural environment disaster preparedness plan – pilot project with Cassowary Coast Regional Council.	In progress      The Disaster Preparedness Plan for Cassowary Coast Regional Council completed.
<b>4.10.9</b> Expand and implement the Rivers to Reef Climate Action Plan (2021-2026)	In progress
<b>4.11      REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT</b>	
<b>4.11.1</b> Provide updates to DETSI as required	On going
<b>4.11.2</b> Appoint a Regional EBCI Coordinator (Contractor)	Complete
<b>4.11.3</b> Manage the delivery of the regional waste education and marketing plan	In progress
<b>4.11.4</b> Undertake a needs assessment for enhancing data capability in FNQROC Councils	In progress
<b>4.11.5</b> Facilitate collaboration opportunities for enhancing kerbside commingled recycling & resource recovery of priority and problematic waste streams	In progress

## 5. People and Culture

- Staffing:
  - No changes
  - DETSI have confirmed that the Coordinator funding will not be extended past 30 June 2027. Bhakti Devi's contract concludes September 2027 and training (within funding guidelines) and support is being provided to Bhakti Devi during this transition.
- Workforce wellbeing or culture insights
  - Nil workplace or union issues

## 6. Finance

- Financial snapshot
  - We remain in a strong financial position and will be within budget for the year.
  - Continued delivery of externally funded programs, such as the Regional Drought Resilience Plans for Wet Tropics and Gulf/Hinterland and Waste Management Plan.
  - There are no significant variances or cost pressures.
  - We continue to maintain a healthy balance sheet with sufficient reserves to meet current commitments, manage cash flow and respond to emerging opportunities.
  - Current liability primarily relate to employee entitlements and grant liabilities.

## 7. Governance and Compliance

- Compliance actions - Nil
- Changes in legislation, standards or reporting requirements - Nil

## 8. Risks and Issues

RISK/ISSUE	IMPACT	MITIGATION
(Eg project delays due to resourcing)	Medium	(Engaging contract support)
Nil to report		

## 9. Advocacy and External Relations

- Stakeholder Engagement

Date	Engagement
6 May	DP Launch of FNQ Regional Plan
6 May	Meet with Andrew Cripps
11 May	SPP Review – State LGAQ meeting
13 May	Cairns Industrial Land Supply and Demand Study workshop
14 May	FNQ Train and Investment Group

<b>22 May</b>	CRC and GXO and Stakeholders meeting
<b>22 May</b>	Catch up with CEO RDA TN
<b>22 May</b>	Egle Stonke - Researcher
<b>26 May</b>	Regional Drought Resilience Meeting
<b>29 May</b>	Regional MTB Strategy Catch up with Blue Sky Trails
<b>3 June</b>	ROC Executive Catch up
<b>5 June</b>	FNQROC Planners Meeting
<b>9 – 10 June</b>	Engineers Australia Conference
<b>10 June</b>	Presentation “Two Australias: why transport Equity Matters” at Engineers Australia Conference.
<b>18 June</b>	Regional Leaders get together
<b>22 – 26 June</b>	ALGA National General Assembly
<b>30 June</b>	State Budget Address
<b>1 July</b>	ROC Executives Catch Up

## 10. Looking Ahead

- Presentation to Engineers Australia Transport Conference – ‘Two Australia’s – Why transport Equity Matters’ – 9 June
- ROC Assembly ~14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July
- Federal delegation in August (11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>)