Minutes – FNQROC Planners Meeting – No.85

Meeting Details

Meeting No	85
Meeting Name	FNQROC Planners Meeting
Date	5 June 2026
Time	10.00am
Venue	Level 3 Committee Room, Cairns Regional Council / Teams

Attendees

Name	Organisation
Deb Wellington	Cairns Regional Council
Hamish McIntosh	Douglas Shire Council
Jenny Elphinstone	Douglas Shire Council
Georgia Graham	Douglas Shire Council
Kelly Reaston	Tablelands Regional Council
Brian Millard	Mareeba Shire Council
Byron Jones	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Daniel Horton	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Michelle Perkins	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Paul Cohen	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
Maddison Granzin	LGAQ
Matt Leman	LGAQ
Nick Hardy	Etheridge
Taase Taase	Cook Shire Council
Chalton Best (CNS)	Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning
Javier Samanes (CNS)	Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning
Darlene Irvine	FNQROC

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting opened at 10.00am.

2. APOLOGIES

Name	Organisation
Patrick Clifton	Etheridge Shire Council
Lisa Miller	Cook Shire Council
Carl Erwin	Mareeba Shire Council

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

4. ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

#	Action	Responsible Person(s)	Status
84.1	DSDIP to identify if there can be a state agency team similar to SEQ to review the planning scheme updates related to the Scheme supply fund to expedite the process in FNQ.	DSDIP FNQ	Complete
State Industry Reference group is available for those more complicated larger bodies of work			
84.2	FNQROC to include "DA and Enforcement matters" as a regular planners agenda item	FNQROC	Complete
84.3	DSDIP FNQ to investigate the opportunity of reinvigorating the Planning forums.	DSDIP FNQ	
Time and Resourcing is a restraint at the moment			
84.4	Water quality SPP – See if we can get someone to the next meeting to help pull it apart and understand the impacts in this region.	FNQROC with DSDIP	

5. DSDIP UPDATE

- Can't answer all the SPP Review questions in the agenda
- SARA work continuing
- Issue with Staffing and resources
- 20 Scheme supply fund amendments
- Release of FNQ Regional Plan
- Cape York Regional Plan – still meeting with councils, in early stages
- North West Regional Plan – just commenced, early stages

- SARA work increasing in lead up to EOFY

State Planning Policy Review

- We would like to see more info re timeframes to include in planning schemes.
- Not likely to be done by September anymore
- Councils need certainty, what are the transitional provisions?

SARA Planning Triggers Review:

- Engagement plan for triggers
    - DSDIP to contact the SARA team and find out what can be provided and the engagement plan
    - It would be good if vegetation management comes to the front of the review.

ACTION 85.1 – DSDIP to contact the SARA team and find out the engagement plan for triggers review

6. LGAQ UPDATE

- **State Planning Policy**
    - LGAQ Survey sent to Dept. Drafting & consultation may not be as expeditious as previously advised.
    - Continue with the Water Quality bit?
    - What is the States objectives? Empowering LG vs giving them the support they need.
- **Submissions**
    - Heritage Discussion paper – State will draft a new Heritage strategy
    - Federal Productivity Commission re Housing productivity – focussed on infrastructure component.
- State Public Works Organisation (Critical Minerals) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill **(STPWO) Bill**
- **Research into Natural Hazards**
- **Tensions between Building and Planning Acts and Regs** – send to Matt at LGAQ
- **State Planning Policy**
    - Engaged in SARA Trigger Review – not sure there is much ability to influence the first tranche
- **Qld Housing code** set in stone now
- **Future Koala strategy**
- **EPBC Reforms**

ACTION 85.2 – Where there is tension between Building and Planning Acts and Regs – send through to Matt at LGAQ

ACTION 85.3 – FNQ Planners would like to know more re Natural Hazards Scope.

7. FNQ DA AND ENFORCEMENT MATTERS

No matters raised

8. ROUND TABLE

CCRC

- Appeal on tourist park decision
- New Development Incentive policy
- Mourilyan Port Development Business Case
- Residential Activation fund (RAF)
- DP in town for Eden landing (RAF) media
- Port Hinchinbrook
- Mission beach village green now updated
- People living in shipping containers, living in tents etc
- First battery storage for renewable energy with a CBA
- Thanks to the State for taking on their comments for the FNQ Regional Plan.

Croydon

- Retrospective applications re mining and major infrastructure
- Early consultation NQ Regional Plan
- Acknowledge assistance from Javier and Charlton re RPPP works
- Looking at purchasing State land

TRC

- Priors Creek parklands opening
- Building tribunal – very interesting process
- New Compliance Officer starting in a couple of weeks
- TRC moved infrastructure charges from low to schedule in the regulations – it hasn't slowed development.
- Lot of ROL inside and outside of PIA. Infrastructure (lack of) is causing issues in growth.

- Getting building certification of 'tiny homes' is causing an issue with meeting cyclone rating and plumbing. Breaking the hearts of many.
    - What is the best advice and how do we deal with them? CCRC take a $25,000 bond for the likes of shipping containers.
- Increased queries re Allied health operations in Atherton.

Cook

- Planning scheme amendments – Lakeland and Cooktown
- Masterplan for the Airport to lease and put up a hanger
- Resilience/library hub being built
- Cape York Regional Plan – sitting at the narrative portion
- DAs and Building applications – 150 applications
- Compliance – Similar issues as other councils – working slow, will triage based on risk and trying to get best outcome.

DSC

- Not too many people in shacks lately – possibly due to Jasper, council is signed up to human rights legislation so can't move.
- Local developer received $6m RAF to do intersection upgrade – will support 300 residential lots
- Some developments stalling due to issues obtaining PVC pipes.
- Illegal clearing and earthworks on hillsides
- Appeal for refused application for reforesting ag land
- Minor sand quarry, council refused – going to court
- Whitsunday compliance manual – really good manual, available on their website. https://www.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au/Economic-Development-Business-and-Planning/Building-and-Development/Building-Plumbing-and-Compliance
- What to do with Mossman Mill
- Looking at LGIP

MSC

- No planning appeals
- Peopling in sub standard structures
- Subdivision swamping town – fast tracking
- Scheme supply project going well – early next year
- CBD blueprint

HSC

- Not much re Das
- RAF – Sewerage works in new subdivision areas
- Enforcement to demolish building in town
- People living in sheds, councils cracking down
- NQ Regional Plan embargoed
    - Still a gap in Waste Management
- Paul will be the initial contact re Development Manual Review

CRC

- Claire back for DA and Compliance
- Gentle density work – design provision -> code provisions
- Updating Hazard mapping
- 10 year review under section 25 of the Act
- Mt Peter trying to keep up with the State – hoping for consultation in August
- State and Federal funding for infrastructure
- More work on SDA with EDA
- Infrastructure Charging policy reviewed.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

Diploma Local Government Planning – DA 101

- Any good Site Inspection Checklists or Pre Lodgement Checklists – please send to Kelly Reaston.

ACTION 85.4 –Please send any good Site Inspection or Pre Lodgement Checklists to Kelly Reaston.

Discussion:

- Data centres – we would like to be on the front foot if there is interest in them coming here.
- Micro plastics – perhaps banning things like artificial grass (Send Sophie Barretts details to Jenny Elphinstone)
- River Improvement Trusts
    - Not a lot of understanding re processes and protecting gov infrastructure – is a growing issue – they are dropping rock and seeking approval later. RITs and NRMs

have differing opinions of ownership and ongoing maintenance. Private landholders not being informed of their responsibilities.

- QBC still to be released – Livingstone has all setback in a table rather than zone
- National Planning Congress – NRM Chairs, focus on housing with environment dropping off.

10. NEXT MEETING

4 September 2026

Agreed Action Items – Friday 5th June 2026

#	Action	Responsible Person(s)	Status
85.1	– DSDIP to contact the SARA team and find out the engagement plan for triggers review	DSDIP (FNQ)	
85.2	Where there is tension between Building and Planning Acts and Regs – send through to Matt at LGAQ	All Councils	
85.3	FNQ Planners would like to know more re Natural Hazards Scope.	LGAQ	
85.4	Please send any good Site Inspection or Pre Lodgement Checklists to Kelly Reaston.	All Councils	