BOARD MEETING

OF

FNQ Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC)

No. 180th

Thursday 5 November 2026

11.00am to 1.00pm

Crystalbrook Bailey – Room Aria III

163 Abbott Street, Cairns

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Agenda

1. WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

2. APOLOGIES

Mr Brian Joiner, CEO Cook Shire Council

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 FNQROC's Road Network Prioritisation and Reasoning, Darlene Irvine, CEO

(30min)

3.2 Craig Lunn, Director Marine Infrastructure, Maritime Safety Queensland

3.2.1 MSQ's Dredging Program and potential for coordination

(20min)

3.3 Luke Twyford, Chief Executive and Child and Family Commissioner, Queensland Family and Child Commission

3.3.1 Local Government implementation of Child Safe Organisations Act 2024 – Requirements and implementation expectations

(30min)

3.4 Lucy Abbott, Manager, Intergovernmental Relations & Benton Wecker, Lead, Intergovernmental Relations

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

(10min)

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the 179th Far North Qld Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC) Board meeting held on Thursday 3 September 2026

Pages 0001 to 0011

Recommendation:

That the FNQROC Board moves the minutes of the 179th FNQROC Board meeting held on Thursday 3 September 2026 to be confirmed and adopted.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 Action items from 3 September 2026 FNQROC Board Meeting

Item	Action	Responsible person
3327.1	Councils to share examples of development delays and cost increases directly to Keegan Oliver at Energy QLD to assist in the review process.	ALL Councils
Complete		
3327.2	LGAQ to provide a copy of the submission to QPS with regard to the proposed changes to the SES Deed of Agreement (which used to be an MOU).	LGAQ Complete
Complete		
3332.1	FNQROC to invite the Queensland Child Safe Standards Commission to present to the Board on the requirements and implementation expectations.	FNQROC
Complete		
3334.2	FNQROC to forward the Chair's response to Mr Katter's letter to the Board and CEO's.	FNQROC
Complete		
3334.4	FNQROC to include a 30-minute section at our next meeting to workshop FNQROCs network prioritisation and reasoning.	FNQROC
Complete		
3337.3	FNQROC to write to Matt Smith MP's office expressing concerns about the DRFA changes and inviting him to the next FNQROC Board Meeting to present on how councils will not be worse off in the next event.	FNQROC
Matt Smith is unavailable on 5 November. His office noted that he is attending the LGAQ Conference and he will address DRFF with the Board there. He is not ready to talk about Visa changes with LG yet.		

3337.5	Councils to provide FNQROC CEO their dredging locations and any background data and the CEO will build a brief to present at the next FNQROC Board meeting.	ALL
Complete		

6. BOARD REPORTS (WITH NOTICE)

6.1 B121 – FNQ Road Treatment Practical Guides

Pages 0012 to 0014

Recommendation:

That the FNQROC Board endorses the FNQ Road Treatment Good Practice Guides.

7. POLICIES FOR REVIEW

7.1 Reviewed FNQROC Administration Instruction No. 1 – State and Federal Delegations

Pages 0015 to 0020

Recommendation:

That the FNQROC Board moves to adopt the amended Administration Instruction No. 1 – State and Federal Delegations.

8. DISCUSSION TOPIC

8.1 State Delegation – March/April

Topics for discussion:

- State Electoral Boundary methodology (New)
- Regional and Remote Incentive Scheme
- Regional Growth Strategy
- Water and Wastewater and update on asset criticality work
- Transport priorities
- Marine Development (update from CCRC and DSC) and
  - Dredging/bed levelling (Potentially – New)
- Sustainable Tourism Levy
- Closing the Gap on Service delivery

- Health Care outside major centers
- Government Employee home ownership
- Fair rating reform
- Management of properties and impact on LG resources
- Education in remote communities
- Waste generated in State and National Parks

8.2 Regional and Remote Incentives Scheme (RRIS)

Pages 0021 to 0030

9. FINANCIAL REPORTS

9.1 Financial Report Year to date

9.1.1 Profit & Loss Statement 1 July 2026 – 21 October 2026

9.1.2 Balance Sheet as of 21 October 2026

Pages 0031 to 0034

Recommendation:

That the FNQROC Board adopts the Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet reports for the period 1 July 2026 to 21 October 2026.

10. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

10.1 Incoming / Outgoing Correspondence

10.1.1 Incoming

23.09.2026 Mark Olsen, CEO, Tourism Tropical NQ - Request for Nomination for First Nations Tourism Action Plan

Page 0035

Recommendation:

That the FNQROC Board nominates as FNQROCs representative on the steering committee for the First Nations Tourism Action Plan.

10.1.2 Outgoing

Nil

10.2 CEO Report

To be taken as read unless there are queries.

Pages 0036 to 0049

10.2.1 Minutes of FNQROC Advisory Committees:

- **FNQROC Regional Roads and Transport Group #90** – Friday 11 September 2026
  Minutes – *available on website*
  Next Meeting – Thursday 5 November 2026

- **FNQROC Regional Mountain Bike Strategy Steering Committee #7**
  Thursday 10 September 2026
  Minutes will be available on website
  Next Meeting – Thursday 12 November 2026

- **FNQROC Animal Management Technical Committee #26 –** Friday 11 September 2026
  Minutes – available on website
  Next Meeting – Tuesday 8 December 2026

- **FNQROC Natural Asset Management Committee #67** – Friday 18 September 2026
  Minutes will be available on website
  Next Meeting – Friday 6 November 2026

- **FNQROC Regional Roads and Transport Technical Committee #147** – Friday 16 October 2026
  Minutes will be available on website
  Next Meeting - TBA

- **FNQROC Climate Resilience Technical Committee #13** – Friday 30 October 2026
  Minutes - available on website
  Next Meeting – Friday 30 October 2026

- **FNQ Regional Water Alliance #48** – Friday 23 October 2026
  Minutes will be available on website
  Next Meeting – Friday 4 December 2026

10.2.2 Minutes of Confidential Meetings:

- **FNQROC Regional Procurement Advisory Committee #51** – Friday 21 August 2026
  Minutes – *available on request*
  Next Meeting – Friday 20 November 2026

- **FNQROC Regional Collection and Disposal of Ferrous, Non-Ferrous Metals and ULABS –** Wednesday 4 November 2026
  Minutes – *available on request*
  Next Meeting – TBA

- **FNQROC - 25/26 Sewer Relining + Sewer & Manhole Condition Assessment Contract Meeting #6 –** Friday 2 October 2026
  Minutes – *available on request*
  Next Meeting – Tuesday 24 November 2026

- **FNQROC Bitumen Reseals & Linemarking Contract Meeting #8** – Thursday 1 October 2026

Minutes – *available on request*
Next Meeting – Wednesday 25 November 2026

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 Scheme Supply Fund - Pathway 2 Project

Funding extension submission request - Peter Franks, CEO, Mareeba Shire Council

11.2 Extending FNQROC Board Meeting Invitation to Councillors

11.3 Working Holiday Maker Visa Program

11.4 Date and location of 'away' meeting in 2027

11.5 Disaster Recovery Funding Reforms Mayoral Reference Group.

12. MEETING CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

12.1 Next Meeting

Date & Time Thursday 5 February 2027 – 11.00am

Venue Cairns Regional Council

Minutes of the 179th FNQROC Board Meeting

Meeting No	179
Meeting Name	FNQROC Ordinary Board Meeting
Date	3 September 2026
Time	11.00am
Venue	Douglas Shire Council

REPRESENTATIVES

CHAIR	Cr Angela Toppin AM	Mayor, Mareeba Shire Council
	Cr Lisa Scomazzon	Mayor, Douglas Shire Council
	Cr Teresa Millwood	Mayor, Cassowary Coast Regional Council
	Cr Robyn Holmes	Mayor, Cook Shire Council
	Cr Trevor Pickering	Mayor, Croydon Shire Council
	Cr Alister Gibson	Mayor, Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
	Cr Kevin Cardew	Mayor, Tablelands Regional Council
	Cr Amy Eden	Mayor, Cairns Regional Council
	Cr Ramon Jayo	Mayor, Hinchinbrook Shire Council
	Cr Barry Hughes	Mayor, Etheridge Shire Council

CEO'S

Mr Brian Joiner	Cook Shire Council
Dr Nikola Stepanov	Tablelands Regional Council
Mr Derek Langman	Douglas Shire Council
Mr Ken Gouldthorp	Cairns Regional Council
Ms Jacqui Cresswell (*online*)	Croydon Shire Council
Mr Peter Franks	Mareeba Shire Council
Mr Andrew Graffen	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Mr Peter O'May (online)	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
Mr Lew Rojahn	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council

OBSERVERS

Cr Mary Brown	Deputy Mayor, Hinchinbrook Shire Council
Lucy Abbott	Manager, Intergovernmental Relations, LGAQ
Benton Wecker	Lead, Intergovernmental Relations, LGAQ

Unconfirmed

Keegan Oliver	A/General Manager, Renewables and Distributed Energy, Energy QLD
Karina Hocke	Senior Advisor First Nations Engagement, Energy QLD
Darrin Hoffensetz	Northern Regional Network Manager for EQL, Energy QLD
Ross Contarino (*online*)	Electorate Officer, Representing Terry James MP, Member for Mulgrave
Ms Nikki Boyd MP (*online*)	Shadow Minister for Local Government and Shadow Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery, Emergency Services and Volunteers

FNQROC STAFF

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

3325. MEETING OPEN AND WELCOME

The meeting commenced at 11.33am.

3326. APOLOGIES

Cr Daryl Sexton	Mayor, Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
Cr Bruce Gibson	Mayor, Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
Mr Mick Miller	CEO, Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
Ms Louise Knol	CEO, Etheridge Shire Council

3327. BOARD PRESENTATIONS

3327.1 Energy QLD - Keegan Oliver, A/General Manager, Renewables & Distributed Energy, Darrin Hoffensetz, Northern Regional Network Manager for EQL and Karina Hocke, Senior Advisor First Nations Engagement

Keegan Oliver presented to the board on the following topics:

- Disaster Management

Unconfirmed

- Ergon's forward planning, network capacity and current limitations
- Opportunities to strengthen collaboration before, during and after disaster events to support faster community recovery
- LED light replacement update for Cassowary Coast Regional Council, and
- Addressing concerns raised by Board members regarding quotations, project delivery and customer experience.

A copy of the presentation is available on request.

Members were quite happy with Ergon's partnership with councils surrounding disasters, both in preparation and post event.

Members noted that what council's needed was certainty around development costing so that they could effectively budget. Mr Oliver advised that there has been an overhaul in processes and pricing is the next matter to be reviewed.

3327.1 ACTION: Councils to share examples of development delays and cost increases directly to Keegan Oliver at Energy QLD to assist in the review process.

3327.2 Ms Lucy Abbott, Manager, Intergovernmental Relations, & Benton Wecker, Lead Intergovernmental Relations, LGAQ

Policy Executive Meeting

Mayor Toppin gave an overview of the meeting, noting;

- There doesn't appear to be any plans to change the DRFA 50/50 funding.
- Concerns about changes to Working With Children Check Act factsheets stating that Mayors, CEO's and elected members are required to hold a Blue Card.
- No further update on the short-term accommodation and visitor levy project.

Discussion:

- There is concern regarding who is required in council to obtain a Blue Card – it is not a requirement in the LG Act for a CEO or elected members to hold a blue card however the Commissions fact sheet advises they do. LGAQ has sought a legal opinion from King and Co
- Members sought to establish who would be responsible for this cost and what are the expectations.
- Mr Wecker noted that it has been published in a fact sheet and LGAQ are looking into if there is anything which local government will be required to act on.
- Lucy Abbott advised in regard to the enquiry into councillor conduct – the Hearing will be run at the Annual Conference from 10am-2pm Monday 19 October at Cairns Convention Centre. Members are invited to let LGAQ know if they would like to appear.
- Proposed changes to the SES Deed of Agreement with QPS.

Unconfirmed

3327.2 ACTION: LGAQ to provide a copy of the submission to QPS with regard to the proposed changes to the SES Deed of Agreement (which used to be an MOU) copy of the correspondence to the Commission.

Lucy Abbott took the briefing note as read, noting;

- DRFA – entering in next phase of campaign, being focused at a political level, getting advocacy of local government to Minister Leahy. The Dud Deal campaign continues,.
- QRA impact data has been shared with all councils, local MP's and will be sent to the opposition in the cross bench.
- The LGAQ Annual Conference will be held in Cairns on 19-21 October.

3328. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MOVED: Cr Trevor Pickering
SECONDED: Cr Lisa Scomazzon

That the Board:

Moves the minutes of the 178th FNQROC Board meeting held on Thursday 2 July 2026 to be confirmed and adopted.

CARRIED

3329. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Action items from 2 July 2026 FNQROC Ordinary Board Meeting

Item	Action	Responsible person
3312.1	QRA will provide breakdown of potential impact of DRFA Reform for each council.	QRA
Completed		
3312.2	FNQROC CEO to share contact details for Mr Andrew Cripps	FNQROC CEO
Completed		
3318.1	FNQROC to draft a DRFA Reform submission to be sent via email	FNQROC CEO
Completed		

Unconfirmed

3330. BOARD REPORTS

Nil.

3331. POLICIES FOR REVIEW

Nil

The meeting adjourned at 12.28pm
The meeting resumed at 12.36pm

3332. DISCUSSION TOPIC

3332.1 Regional Child-Safety Compliance Audit

Members discussed the scope of the audit and the implications on councils.

Key points;

- It was noted that the Queensland Child Safe Standards Commission (the Commission) information sheet identified that CEO and elected members be required to hold a Blue Card.
- Additional compliance requirements need to be defined, including reviewing whether existing policies, procedures and controls are adequately implemented and embedded within councils.
- Members raised concerns about who would pay for the Blue Cards, and if they should be Employer or Volunteer classification.
- Suggestion that it could form part of a shared Procurement model.
- The Commission has been funded to assist councils, there should be no need for third party engagement.
- It was noted that as a Statutory Commission expectation, council needs to have expectation clearly defined so that they are not left at risk.
- The grace period has now ended and insufficient information has been provided
- The Commission has received funding to assist Councils with the transition
- SWROC are currently part of a pilot programme – raising concerns that those councils not part of a pilot program being at risk of breaching legislation.

3322.1 ACTION: FNQROC to invite the Queensland Child Safe Standards Commission to present to the Board on the requirements and implementation expectations.

3332.2 RDRP Round Two Approval Processes

The discussion paper was taken as read.

Unconfirmed

MOVED: Cr Barry Hughes
SECONDED: Cr Lisa Scomazzon

That the Board:

Delegates to the FNQROC CEO matters related to the delivery of the Regional Drought Resilience Plans (Wet Tropics and Gulf and Hinterland) and require the CEO to refer any proposed changes that would materially alter the priorities of the plan back to the Board.

CARRIED

3333. FINANCIAL REPORTS

3333.1 Financial Report Year to date

MOVED: Cr Ramon Jayo
SECONDED: Cr Trevor Pickering

That the Board:

Adopts the Profit and loss and Balance Sheet reports for the period 1 July 2026 to 26 August 2026.

CARRIED

3333.2 Audited Financial Reports 2025/2026

MOVED: Cr Lisa Scomazzon
SECONDED: Cr Barry Hughes

That the Board:

Adopts the Audited Financial Statements for 2025/26 and notes the management letter.

CARRIED

3334. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

3334.1 Incoming / Outgoing Correspondence

3334.1.1 Incoming

20.07.2026 - The Hon Bob Katter MP
10.08.2026 - Royal Flying Doctors Service
11.08.2026 – The Hon Ann Leahy MP

NOTED

3334.1.2 Outgoing

Nil

Unconfirmed

NOTED

Discussion:

- There was a discussion about the letter from Bob Katter and the Kuranda Range Road, Palmerston Highway.
- It was noted that there is currently no justification to pursue major changes to the Palmerston Highway - in terms of upgrading and significant changes, the focus is to make sure that it is maintained and kept as a B-double route.
- Concerns were raised regarding TMR's engagement with Council's and reluctance to attend meetings.
- It was commented that MSQ contracts contain a clause which effectively says the council cannot be disparaging of the State.
- The RMPC contracts now require councils to undertake investigations (incident investigation has previously not been included in a road stewards role).
- Ms Irvine committed to including a 30-minute section at our next meeting to present FNQROCs network prioritisation and reasoning.

3334.1 ACTION: FNQROC to forward the Chair's response to Mr Katter's letter to the Board and CEO's.

3334.2 ACTION: FNQROC to include a 30 minute section at our next meeting to workshop FNQROCs network prioritisation and reasoning.

3335. CEO REPORT

The CEO report was taken as read.

NOTED

3336. FNQROC MEETINGS

3336.1 Minutes of FNQROC Advisory Committees

- **FNQROC Regional Roads and Transport Group #89**
  Thursday 2 July 2026
  Minutes – *available on website*

- **FNQROC Climate Resilience Technical Committee #13**
  Friday 31 July 2026
  Minutes – *available on website*

  Ms Irvine noted the additional points as per the Agenda

- **FNQROC Regional Roads and Transport Technical Committee #146**

Unconfirmed

Wednesday 12 August 2026 and Monday 17 August 2026
Minutes will be available on website

- **FNQROC Regional Waste Management Plan Technical Committee #8**
  Thursday 27 August 2026
  Minutes will be available on website

- **FNQ Regional Water Alliance #48**
  Friday 28 August 2026
  Minutes will be available on website

3336.2 Minutes of Confidential Meetings

- **FNQROC Regional Procurement Advisory Committee #51**
  Friday 21 August 2026
  Minutes – available on request

- **FNQROC - 25/26 Sewer Relining + Sewer & Manhole Condition Assessment Contract Meeting #6**
  Wednesday 22 July 2026
  Minutes – available on request

- **FNQROC Bitumen Reseals & Linemarking Contract Meeting #7**
  Tuesday 12 July 2026
  Minutes – available on request

NOTED

3337. GENERAL BUSINESS

3337.1 Proposed changes to the SES Deed of Agreement with QPS

Mr Wecker provided an update.

Key points:

- LGAQ are engaging with QPS.
- Feedback is that QPS procedure is to operate by Deed of Agreement, as opposed to Memorandum of Understanding, hence the proposed change.
- LGAQ have written to Commissioner of QPS, outlining concerns and identifying matters that council don't agree with.
- It was noted that the proposed changes don't affect day to day operations, but the long term affects need to be considered. Councils should not have to provide funding if it's being run by QPS.
- Tamara Moore from LGAQ is dealing with the matter and will advise if a meeting is booked.

Unconfirmed

3337.2 Canberra Debrief

Ms Irvine thanked those who attended.

Key Points;

- R&R-SEZ –
    - it was noted that ALP feedback is that you can't charge tax in different areas, and they don't believe it will work.
    - After many discussions, and one of our last meetings with Nita Green highlighted that perhaps changing the name would be beneficial as the name conjures a different feel to what we are looking for, and move it away from a tax content.
    - Suggestion to change the language to garner support for the concept.
    - Focus to be on attraction and retention of community members/workers.

The Chair thanked the Mayors who attended, and Ms Irvine for the advocacy report.

3337.3 Ross Contarino, Office of Terry James MP

- Concerns regarding DRFA changes and would like the FNQROC Mayors to join Terry James in a media drive to fight the proposed changes.

Discussion:

- Members had been pushing with LGAQ and their campaign.
- Given it appears that the Federal Government is not going to budge on 50/50 there is some concern that any hard level campaign with Terry James office might cause some issues in future when seeking funding support from the Federal Government.

3337.3 ACTION: FNQROC to write to Matt Smith MP's office expressing concerns about the DRFA changes and inviting him to the next FNQROC Board Meeting to present on how councils will not be worse off in the next event.

3337.4 The Hon Nikki Boyd MP

Key points;

- DRFA – QLD is the most decentralised and disaster impacted state. Keen to see improvements into the future.
- Ms Boyd has been to Canberra to meet with Minister McBain regarding the proposed DRFF and the impact on Queensland.
- Noted Minister Kristy McBain was in Cairns this week and met with some councils.
- Ms Boyd encouraged councils to continue to work with Minister McBain and Matt Smith as they are focussed on solutions.
- Ms Boyd will be in Cairns in a couple of weeks and welcomes the opportunity to meet.
- The need to strongly engage with State Government was expressed, as Federal Government is not amending its decision.

3337.5 Bed leveling – and scheduling maintenance

Unconfirmed

Key points;

- The question was raised if the Board would support regional advocacy for scheduled maintenance dredging of the east coast.
- It was noted that any dredging needs to be thought out, specific, targeted and mindful of environmental impacts.

3337.5 ACTION: Councils to provide FNQROC CEO their dredging locations and any background data, and the CEO will build a brief to present at the next FNQROC Board meeting.

3337.6 2027 FNQROC Board Meeting Dates

2027 meetings to be first Thursday of every even month, as follows;

Meeting No.	Date	Time	Venue
181st	4 February 2027	11am	TBA
182nd	1 April 2027	11am	
183rd	3 June 2027	11am	
184th	5 August 2027	11am	
185th	7 October 2027	11am	
186th	2 December 2027	11am	

The Chair thanked Douglas Shire Council for hosting the meeting.

3338. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5 November 2026, 11.00am at Cairns Regional Council.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.07pm.

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Cr Angela Toppin AM - FNQROC Chair

Unconfirmed

ATTACHMENT 1

Actions from Board Meeting held on 3 September 2026

Item	Action	Responsible person
3327.1	Councils to share examples of development delays and cost increases directly to Keegan Oliver at Energy QLD to assist in the review process.	ALL Councils
3327.2	LGAQ to provide a copy of the submission to QPS with regard to the proposed changes to the SES Deed of Agreement (which used to be an MOU).	LGAQ Complete
3332.1	FNQROC to invite the Queensland Child Safe Standards Commission to present to the Board on the requirements and implementation expectations.	FNQROC
3334.2	FNQROC to forward the Chair's response to Mr Katter's letter to the Board and CEO's.	FNQROC Complete
3334.4	FNQROC to include a 30-minute section at our next meeting to workshop FNQROCs network prioritisation and reasoning.	FNQROC
3337.3	FNQROC to write to Matt Smith MP's office expressing concerns about the DRFA changes and inviting him to the next FNQROC Board Meeting to present on how councils will not be worse off in the next event.	FNQROC
3337.5	Councils to provide FNQROC CEO their dredging locations and any background data and the CEO will build a brief to present at the next FNQROC Board meeting.	ALL

Unconfirmed

FNQROC FNQ Regional Organisation of Councils	**FNQROC BOARD** **5 NOVEMBER 2026**	**B121**

FNQ ROAD TREATMENT PRACTICE GUIDES

Staff name: Amanda Hancock *(DM 7962693)*

Recommendation:

That:

1. **The FNQROC Board endorse the FNQ Road Treatment Good Practice Guides.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Following a request by the FNQROC Board at Meeting No. 164 on 1 February 2024 (Action Item 3159), FNQROC invited qualified consultants to undertake a Regional Road Resurfacings Study. The purpose of the study was to develop a guideline/checklist to assist councils in selecting the most appropriate road surfacing option(s), through a multi-layered assessment process.

Following a procurement process, Philip Hunt of Road Engineering Services was engaged to undertake the study. Mr Hunt has extensive experience in the road design and construction industry, particularly in the concept development, planning, design, construction, maintenance, asset management and pavement research of roads and bridges. 50% of the cost of the study was funded through the Roads and Transport Alliance Statewide Capability Development Fund (SCDF).

The FNQ Road Treatment Good Practice Guides were developed following consultation with the Regional and Transport Group Technical Committee. At its Meeting No 146 on 17 August 2026, the Technical Committee recommended that the Guides be submitted to the Regional Road and Transport Group for approval, and subject to that approval, that the FNQROC Board endorse the Guides. At Meeting No. 90 on 11 September 2026, the Regional Road and Transport Group resolved to endorse the FNQ Road Treatment Practice Guides and recommend their endorsement by the FNQROC Board.

COMMENT:

The study reviewed the Austroads *Guide to Pavement Technology Part 3: Pavement Surfacings* and other relevant industry references, together with factors specific to the FNQROC region, including traffic volumes, pavement condition, road geometry, environmental conditions, material and contractor availability, treatment performance, service life and whole-of-life costs.

Recognising the diverse climatic and geographic conditions across the region, the study assessed these factors on a sub-regional basis and developed the FNQ Road Treatment Good Practice Guides. The Guides provide a consistent assessment process to assist councils in identifying, evaluating and selecting road treatment options based on project-specific technical, economic, environmental and risk considerations.

The study undertaken by Phil Hunt of Road Engineering Services included consultation with member councils, material suppliers and road surfacing contractors. The resulting Guides are intended to support more consistent and informed road treatment selection across the FNQROC region.

To support the rollout and implementation of the Guides, additional funding has been secured through the SCDF for Mr Hunt to deliver a one-day training course on their use.

RECOMMENDATION OPTIONS:

Option 1:

That the FNQROC Board endorse the FNQ Road Treatment Good Practice Guides.

Option 2:

That the FNQROC Board provides an alternative/amended recommendation.

Option 3:

That the FNQROC Board do not endorse the FNQROC Road Treatment Good Practice Guides.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Risks

The risks associated with approving the FNQ Road Treatment Good Practice Guides are considered low. While the Guides provide a consistent framework for assessing and selecting road treatments, councils will need to continue applying site-specific engineering judgement and consider local conditions, priorities and funding constraints. There is also a risk that the Guides may require periodic review to ensure they remain aligned with evolving industry practices, technologies, material availability and costs. These risks can be effectively managed through regular updates to the Guides and their use as a decision-support tool rather than a prescriptive standard.

Finance

The FNQ Road Treatment Study was 50% funded through the Roads and Transport Alliance Statewide Capability Fund (SCDF) with the balance paid from FNQROC reserves.

Additional funding for a one-day training course has been secured with the balance payable by individual councils in attendance.

Statutory

Procurement was undertaken in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009.*

CONCLUSION:

The FNQ Road Treatment Good Practice Guides provide a consistent, evidence-based framework to assist councils in the assessment and selection of road treatment options across the FNQROC region. Developed through industry research and stakeholder consultation, the Guides support informed decision-making while allowing for the application of local knowledge and engineering judgement.

Approval of the Guides will support more consistent, transparent and value-driven road treatment selection practices across the region.

ATTACHMENTS
FNQ Road Treatment Good Practice Guides

Amanda Hancock
FNQROC Regional Strategic Infrastructure Coordinator

Darlene Irvine
FNQROC CEO

Administration Instruction No. 1

State and Federal Delegations

Adopted: 18 June 2018

Purpose of the Administration Instruction

With thirteen member councils undertaking two State and two Federal delegations per year, the purpose of the State and Federal Delegations Administration Instruction is to ensure the roles and financial responsibilities between FNQROC, Member Councils and Delegates are defined to:

- Mitigate the risk of duplication of Bookings;
- Minimise the cost to FNQROC and consequently member councils;
- Allow flexibility for delegates to amend bookings;
- Minimise the administrative burden of invoicing (indirect costs of reimbursement);
- Clearly define logistic roles of FNQROC and member councils;
- Ensure each delegation is perceived as articulate and aligned in our vision for Sustainable Economic Growth and Development for Far North Queensland.

The Administration Instruction has been broken into the following topics:

- Flights;
- Accommodation;
- Meals/Incidentals;
- Taxi's;
- Delegate packs.

UNDER REVIEW

Flights

FNQROC will:

- purchase flights from Cairns to Canberra or Brisbane return and provide a booking reference number to each member council.

Member councils are responsible for:

- getting to Cairns Airport;
- any changes to the flight booking.

Accommodation
FNQROC will:

- book accommodation for each delegate and prove a booking reference number to each member council;
- Pay for accommodation booked related to the delegation.

Member councils are responsible for:

- Any changes to the booking i.e. additional nights.

Meals and Incidentals
Member councils are responsible for their own meals and incidentals in line with their own council policies.

From time to time FNQROC will fund meals.

Taxi's
Taxi/Uber etiquette, person in the front seat pays.

Delegate packs
FNQROC will provide delegate packs which will include:

- Agenda of meetings, location, time and potential discussion topics for all delegate groups;
- Biographies for each of the individuals delegates are meeting with;
- Logistical information such as flight numbers, times and booking reference numbers and accommodation location, dates and booking reference numbers;
- Short sharp briefing notes on the topics for discussion; this is to allow the early identification of discussions which may conflict with other member councils or not yet be FNQROC policy;
- Given the nature of late meeting appointments and changes, if there are amendments, FNQROC will take a copy of the latest version of the amended agendas and will distribute these while in Canberra or Brisbane.

Each member council is responsible for:

- Providing the short sharp briefing note for inclusion within the delegate packs and noting on the agenda for discussion. We are going down under the united banner of FNQROC and we all agree on points of discussion. If a subject matter is not FNQROC policy the member council is welcome to either get consensus or address the matter at another time under that council's banner;
- Taking their own promotional material or professional briefing notes to provide more information to their discussion topic;
- Each member council to package the delegate packs in their own preferred manner.

UNDER REVIEW

FNQROC Administration Instruction No. 1
STATE AND FEDERAL DELEGATIONS

1. Purpose

FNQROC coordinates State and Federal delegations on behalf of its twelve member councils. These delegations provide an important opportunity to present a coordinated regional position, strengthen relationships with State and Federal elected representatives, and advocate collectively for the priorities of Far North Queensland.

The purpose of this Administration Instruction (AI) is to clearly define the respective roles and financial responsibilities of FNQROC, member councils and delegates participating in State and Federal delegations.

The AI is intended to:

- Avoid duplication of travel, accommodation and meeting arrangements;
- Minimise costs to FNQROC and consequently, its member councils
- Provide delegates with appropriate flexibility to amend individual travel arrangements;
- Minimise unnecessary administration associated with invoicing and reimbursement;
- Clearly allocate responsibility for delegation logistics between FNQROC and member council; and
- Support a professional, coordinated and articulate regional delegation aligned with FNQROC's vision and agreed advocacy priorities for Far North Queensland.

The AI covers:

- Meetings
- Flights
- Accommodation
- Meals and incidentals
- Taxis and rideshare transport
- Delegate packs and briefing material
- Regional advocacy and individual council matters; and
- Non-attendance and additional costs.

2. Meetings

FNQROC is responsible for coordinating the official delegation program which includes meeting with Ministers, Shadow Ministers, Senators, Members of Parliament and other relevant representatives.

DRAFT

During the formal delegation program, member councils and delegates are not to independently arrange meetings that could conflict with or occur concurrently with the FNQROC delegation days. This is important to:

- Ensure sufficient Mayoral representation is available for meetings arranged on behalf of the region;
- Present a coordinated and united regional position;
- Avoid conflicting or competing meeting commitments; and
- Maximise opportunities for the region to collectively engage with key decision-makers.

Regional delegations also provide Mayors with an opportunity to establish and strengthen relationships with State and Federal representatives. Individual councils may subsequently pursue council specific matters through their own delegations or direct engagement outside the FNQROC program.

Member councils are welcome to arrange their own meetings in the days leading up to and after the formal FNQROC delegation program.

3. Flights

FNQROC will:

- Arrange and purchase return flights between Cairns and the delegation destination for participating delegates, and
- Provide the relevant flight details and booking reference to each member councils, and
- Wherever reasonably practicable, seek to accommodate individual delegate preferences regarding flight times and travel arrangements.

In arranging flights, FNQROC will seek to achieve an appropriate balance between cost, convenience and the requirements of the formal delegation program.

Where a delegate's preferred flight is more expensive than another reasonably comparable flight available on the same day, FNQROC will fund the cost of the lower priced comparable flight. The delegate or their member council will be responsible for the difference in cost associated with selecting the preferred flight.

Where a delegate elects to travel on a different day from the standard delegation travel arrangements, FQNROC will contribute up to the cost that would have been incurred had the delegate travelled on the standard delegation travel day. Any additional cost associated with travelling on an alternative day will be the responsibility of the delegate or their member council.

Member councils/delegates are also responsible for:

- Travel to and from Cairns Airport;
- Any changes to flights, unless the change is initiated by FNQROC, after the booking has been confirmed.

Any additional costs associated with alternative travel arrangements are the responsibility of the relevant member council or delegate.

4. Accommodation

FNQROC will:

- Arrange accommodation for delegates for the nights reasonably required to participate in the formal delegation program;
- Provide accommodation details and booking references to participating member councils; and
- Meet the cost of accommodation booked by FNQROC for the formal delegation
-
- Member councils/delegates are responsible for:
- Changes to accommodation arrangements requested by the member council or delegate;
- Additional nights outside those required for the formal delegation; and
- Any additional costs resulting from individual changes or extensions.

5. Meals and Incidentals

Member councils are responsible for delegates meals and incidental expenses in accordance with the respective council policies and procedures.

From time to time and at the Chief Executive Officers discretion, FNQROC may arrange and fund a meal, function or other hospitality as part of the official delegation program.

6. Taxis and Rideshare Transport

Where delegates share a taxi or rideshare service for delegation related travel, the delegate travelling in the front passenger seat will ordinarily pay the fare. This approach provides a simple and practical method of sharing incidental transport costs across participating councils.

7. Delegate Packs and Briefing Material

FNQROC will prepare and provide a delegation pack to participating delegates. The delegate pack will generally include:

- The delegation itinerary, including meeting times and locations;
- FNQROC's agreed regional advocacy priorities and relevant talking points;
- Biographies and relevant background information for individuals the delegation is scheduled to meet; and
- Logistical information, including accommodation details, flight numbers, travel times and booking refences.

8. Regional Advocacy and Individual Council Matters

State and Federal delegations are undertaken under the collective FNQROC banner. Their effectiveness relies on the region presenting a professional, coordinated and united position on agreed regional priorities.

Delegates are therefore expected to support and advocate the regionally agreed positions adopted by FNQROC during formal delegation meetings.

Individual councils are encouraged to contribute local examples, evidence and experiences that support or demonstrate the importance of an agreed regional position. This local evidence can significantly strengthen the collective region case.

Where a matter is not an agreed FNROC position or advocacy priority, a member councils may:

- Seek regional agreement through the appropriate FNQROC process prior to the delegation; or
- Pursue the matter separately under the individual council's banner outside thee formal FNQROC delegation program.

Council specific matters should not displace, contradict or detract from agreed FNQROC advocacy priorities during the formal delegation program.

Where a matter has been agreed as a regional advocacy priority, member councils are encouraged to provide relevant local examples, evidence, promotional material or professional briefing material that strengthens and supports the regional position.

9. Non-Attendance and Additional Costs

Member councils are responsible for any unrecoverable costs incurred by FNQROC as a result of a delegate withdrawing from, or not attending, a delegation after travel or accommodation arrangements have been confirmed, except where otherwise determined by the FNQROC CEO.

Where possible, FNQROC will seek to minimise or recover costs associated with cancellations or changes before passing those costs on to the relevant member council.

10. Administration and Variations

The FNQROC CEO is responsible for the administration and interpretation of this Administration Instruction.

The CEO may approve reasonable variations to the standard arrangements where necessary to accommodate individual circumstances, provided the variation:

- Does not materially increase FNQROC's costs;
- Does not adversely affect the logistics of the delegation;
- Does not compromise participation in the formal delegation program; and
- Does not compromise the effectiveness or collective nature of the FNQROC delegation.

Original Adoption	**18th June 2018**
Amended Adoption	

Regional and Remote – Incentive Scheme (R&R-IS)

Objective

Establish a Regional and Remote Incentive Scheme (R&R-IS) to revitalise regional, remote and very remote Australia by addressing structural disadvantages in services, infrastructure, and employment. The R&R-IS would attract and retain population though a comprehensive package of incentives i.e. financial, professional, lifestyle, and infrastructure, encouraging individuals, families and businesses to relocated, invest and grow in the regions.

The Scheme is a national productivity and competitiveness initiative; it seeks to correct structural disadvantages created by distance, enable nationally strategic regions to compete, unlock underutilised economic capacity, and recognise outer regional and remote Australia as productive national assets rather than regions defined by disadvantage.

It also responds to long-term investment asymmetry. Established metropolitan centres can be favoured by conventional productivity and cost-benefit assessments because they already possess extensive infrastructure and concentrated markets. In contrast, strategic regional and remote communities face higher initial infrastructure costs, with consequences for health, education, housing, logistics, workforce attraction and broader human development outcomes.

With the upcoming Olympic Games 2032 and continual improvements in liveability in the metropolitan areas, the regions are at real risk of losing skilled individuals to these areas. Tailored incentives can:

- reduce growth pressures on metropolitan areas,
- strengthen local communities,
- improving council sustainability,
- enhance liveability,
- deliver much needed skills to rural and remote Australia, and
- boost both State and National productivity.

As a minimum, tax rebates/offsets as a base for these regions needs a significant review. The value of current offsets no longer achieves their initial intention of offsetting the costs of living in the region and encouraging populations to move or remain in region.

Infrastructure investment in regional and remote Australia should be treated as productivity enabling economic reform, not merely service deliver expenditure. Consideration of this Scheme should recognise avoided future costs, resilience, sovereign capability, regional population retention and the economic value of enabling private investment.

Some international examples of where this type of incentive has worked includes:

- Türkiye – has directed private sector and R&D investments away form saturated economic hubs (like Istanbul) into less developed provinces to curb regional development disparities[1]
- Southern Italy and Rural Villages
- Shenzhen (China) – Shenzhen transformed from a small fishing village into a global technology and manufacturing powerhouse,
- Johor-Singapore, and
- Incheon

Beyond taxation measures, this broad suite of incentives could support the establishment of new enterprises, the expansion of existing businesses, and the creation of vibrant, resilient regional economies.

Policy imperatives

Demographic Renewal

- Reducing workforce, loss of services and reduced community liveability
- Young people leaving for education/employment and not returning
- Reliance on fly/drive in/fly/drive out workforce/services

Service Equity and Community Wellbeing

- Limited services such as policing, healthcare, education, childcare and aged care.
- High rates of suicide[2] and mental health issues
- Higher rates of chronic disease and reduced life expectancy in remote areas

Infrastructure Foundations

- Limited road, rail and air connectivity raises costs and reduces accessibility
- Unreliable and expensive connectivity limiting education, health and business opportunities
- Lack of affordable, quality housing constrains population growth and workforce attraction
- Inadequate health, education and community facilities

Economic and Structural Barriers

- Low return on investment (ROI) deterring private sector participation

[1] https://stip.oecd.org/stip/interactive-dashboards/policy-initiatives/2023%2Fdata%2FpolicyInitiatives%2F2548

[2] Compared with major cities and inner regional areas. In Queensland in 2023. 18.5% of persons died by suicide in outer regional areas, remote areas and very remote areas, however a much smaller percentage of Queensland's population lives in those regions compared with major cities and inner regional areas.

- Investment asymmetry – Standard investment appraisal can favour already-developed metropolitan areas, leaving nationally strategic remote regions with persistent infrastructure gaps and unrealised productive potential.
- High logistics costs, freight and supply chain inefficiencies undermine competitiveness
- Environmental and planning approvals create delays and uncertainty
- Over reliance on a narrow set of industries and resource extraction
- Most raw products leave regions unprocessed, missing higher value opportunities
- Sovereign capability and border resilience, including supply chain security, critical logistics, defence-supporting communities and continuity of essential services
- Population retention and regional workforce attraction, particularly across northern and remote Australia.

Strategic and National Imperatives

- Food, energy and medical supply chain risk
- Underutilisation of inland/northern regions
- Increasing need for resilient infrastructure and adaptive economies in the face of climate and disaster vulnerability
- Significant opportunity to support Traditional Owners in leading economic development.

Benefits

Economic

- Boost regional and remote economies by stimulating private sector investment and supporting local circular economies
- Attract and retain skilled migrants, professionals, and remote workers to grow the population and expand service delivery
- Encourage regional manufacturing and industry development
- Diversify regional economies by supporting new industries such as renewable energy, critical minerals advanced agriculture, defence supply chains and digital services.
- Enhance export competitiveness and position regions for Asian and Indo-Pacific trade, export and manufacturing opportunities.

Social and Community Benefits

- Increase regional and remote populations, reducing growth pressures on metropolitan areas
- Improve liveability through investment in housing, infrastructure, digital connectivity and essential services

- Facilitate Indigenous economic participation and partnerships, creating new opportunities for cultural, social and financial prosperity
- Retain young people and families in the regions by providing greater education, employment and lifestyle opportunities
- Strengthen local councils and community sustainability though a broader ratepayer base and expanded workforce.
- Strengthen sovereign capability, border resilience and defence-supporting communities through reliable transport, communications, housing and essential
- Reduce vulnerabilities in critical domestic and international supply chains while supporting long-term regional workforce attraction and population retention.

National Interests and Strategic Benefits

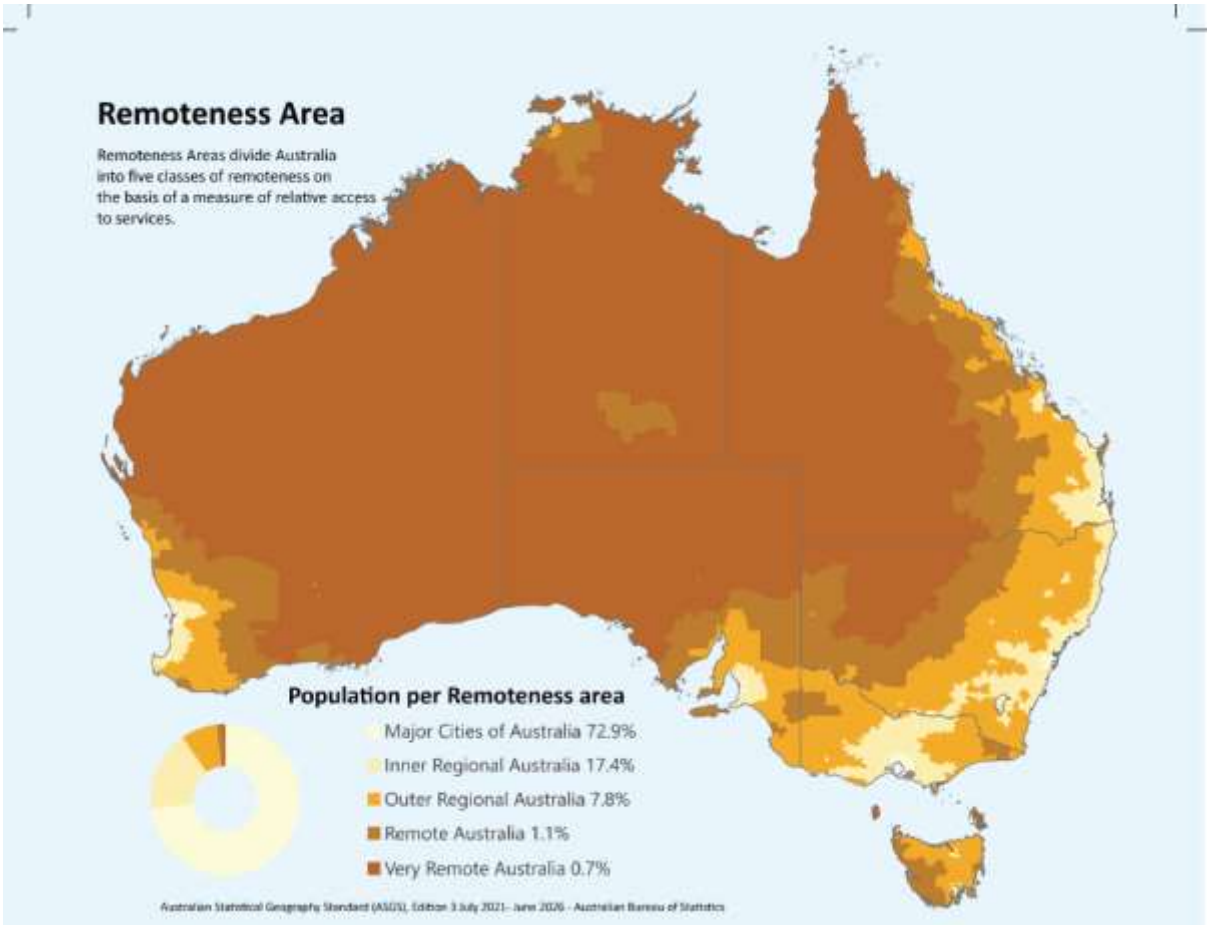
- Strengthen Australia's resilience by enhancing food security, energy security and supply chain reliability
- Support more efficient and sustainable government service delivery thought stronger regional hubs
- Reduce economic and infrastructure pressure on high growth metropolitan areas
- Build resilience in the face of climate, disaster and geopolitical risks
- Position Northern and Inland Australia as a strategic contributor to national security and Indo-Pacific resilience.

Potential functional tiers (to complement, not replace ASGS remoteness eligibility)

Purely as an example, these categories could guide differentiated incentive packages based on economic function, service gaps and community priorities. They may overlap geographically and should be developed with affected councils, industry and governments. Eligibility thresholds and governance arrangement would require further design.

- Strategic Regional Growth Hubs;
- Industrial & Resource Transition Corridors;
- Remote Service Sustainability Regions;
- Indigenous & Cultural Economic Partnership Regions; and
- Northern Sovereign Capability & Resilience Zones

Geography



The Regional and Remote geography is essentially those areas defined as:

- Inner Regional,
- Outer Regional,
- Remote and
- Very Remote Australia

within the mapped Remoteness Area (RA)[3] under the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) within the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

In addition to postcode based remoteness, incentive intensity could be calibrated to the proposed functional tiers, with transparent criteria for infrastructure deficits, workforce shortages, sovereign and supply chain significance, investment readiness and locally identified priorities.

Industries in scope

- Government services
- Transport and logistics
- Mining and resources
- Agriculture

[3] https://maps.abs.gov.au/index.html

- Community services
- Indigenous economic development
- Healthcare
- Education & training
- Critical minerals
- Advanced manufacturing
- Agri-food
- Bio futures/fuels
- Marine & aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO)
- Tourism & events
- Defence
- Renewables & transmission

Platter of Packages

The following suite of incentives could be tailored to the specific needs of each area based on post code and applied on a sliding scale according to remoteness, as defined by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS).

		State Responsibility	Federal Responsibility
Family-Centred Incentives			
Relocation	Relocation + retention bundle (for households), eg $8–12k relocation grant	✓	✓
Childcare subsidy	An extra 15–25% gap subsidy for approved services for first 24 months in R&R-IS post codes		✓
Childcare capacity	Capital grants to add places in undersupplied towns, and incentives for extended hours to match shift work	✓ (and local government)	
Isolated Children Allowance	Provision of Isolated child allowance regardless of low socio-economic classification		✓
Refundable tax offset	Capped at $1,500 per child per annum for approved educational costs		✓
Travel	Travel and accommodation support for remote boarding if it is required	✓	
Vehicle	Car registration discount	✓	
Personal tax	Personal tax incentive, e.g. increased remote area offset/allowance		✓

		State Responsibility	Federal Responsibility
Professional Attraction and Retention			
HECS-HELP	write-off of 10% of HECS-HELP debt per year of service in priority roles (health, teaching, engineering, planning etc)		✓
Salary loading	Regional salary loading guidance for state and federal funded roles	✓	✓
Zone Tax Rebate/offset	Zone Tax Rebate/offset Redesign could be replaced with a Zone Living Allowance Rebate. Could be $5,000+ per adult, $2,500+ per child, tailored specially for R&R-IS areas		✓
Residential taxes/utilities	Offset/rebate for rent, mortgage interest or housing costs in approved R&R-IS postcodes with an annual cap (e.g. $7,500)	✓	✓
Fringe Benefits Tax	Partial FBT exemption on employer-provided relocation assistance, housing allowances, flights, vehicles, childcare, and flights for R&R-IS employees. Could be capped at $25,000 per employee per year		✓
Government Employee Home Ownership Support	Establish a dedicated Remote Home Ownership Assistance Scheme (RHOAS) for Government employees, modelled on the Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme but tailored to regional service delivery needs	✓	✓
Cost-of-living Relief			
Air travel	Airfare fair-go: capped resident fares on designated regional air routes	✓	
Development charges relief	Targeted headworks rebates for workforce housing and childcare built by employers/consortia	✓	
Housing and Liveability			
Transfer duty	Transfer duty concession for home buyers and build-to-rent projects	✓	

		State Responsibility	Federal Responsibility
	delivering key-worker housing in R&R-IS postcodes. Given the high build and logistics costs in very remote regions, full exemption given on transfer duty up to $600K with scaled concession beyond $600K up to $800K (based on incremental brackets)		
Insurance	Reduction/elimination of Stamp duty on insurance	✓	
Arts and Culture	Incentives for cultural, arts and live music/festivals to extend their tours into R&R-IS postcodes	✓	✓
Workforce Pipelines (school → TAFE/university → job → upskill)			
Placement contracts	Guaranteed placement contracts with TAFE/university & employers: final-year placements convert to job offers (with appropriate requirements met), with a retention bonus after 12 months in the role	✓	
VET and apprenticeships	School tech & trades stream: expand VET in schools; paid pre-apprenticeship summer programs	✓	
Workforce			
DAMA	Expand the existing DAMA program to include incentives to move to R&R-IS postcodes		✓
Qualifications	Harmonise international qualifications/skills across the nation and provide more streamlined transfer of accreditation across a range of fields including engineering, medical and allied health.	✓	✓
Industry Incentives			
Lending	Banks underwritten by Federal Government (i.e. NAIF) so banks may be more prepared to loan to local residents to build/buy a house/business (i.e. lower risk profile		✓

		State Responsibility	Federal Responsibility
	of banks so they don't require 70% deposit before approving a loan)		
Regulatory approvals	Streamlined housing development approvals	✓ (and local government)	✓
Manufacturing		✓	✓
Payroll Tax		✓	
Transport and Logistics		✓	✓
Research and Development	R&D tax offset to stimulate rural innovation	✓	✓
Depreciation	Accelerated depreciation of capital	✓	✓
Exports	Subsidy for exports through remote ports/hubs	✓	✓
Health Incentives			
Medicare	Reduction/Elimination of Medicare Levy		✓

Supported by:

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Version Number	Modified By	Modifications Made	Date
1	D. Irvine	Version 1 Adopted by FNQROC Board	2 October 2025
2	D. Irvine	Medicare Levy Gov Employee Home Ownership	17 June 2026

3	D. Irvine	Include Australia Map of showing remoteness areas and population	23 June 2026
4	D. Irvine	Renaming Regional and Remote Special Economic Zone to Regional and Remote Incentive Scheme + comments received when released publicly and from Federal Delegation	15 October 2026

Profit and Loss

Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils 30241
For the period 1 July 2026 to 21 October 2026

	1 JULY-21 OCT 2026
Trading Income	
FNQROC	
FNQROC: Annual Contribution	630,186.00
FNQROC: Annual 2.75% TIDS funding contribution	157,504.77
FNQROC: Short Term Projects	221.15
Total FNQROC	**787,911.92**
Waste and Resource Recovery	
Regional Waste Management Plan Funding	198,000.00
Total Waste and Resource Recovery	**198,000.00**
Regional Roads & Transport	
RRTG: Funding/Subsidies	151,903.00
SCDF Project - Procurement and Contracts Training	3,948.00
Total Regional Roads & Transport	**155,851.00**
Regional Climate Resilience	
Regional Drought Resilience Funding - Wet Tropics	63,340.33
Regional Drought Resilience Funding - Gulf Hinterland	15,000.04
Total Regional Climate Resilience	**78,340.37**
Water	
FNQ Water Capability Plan	4,400.00
Water: QWrap Funding	17,500.00
Total Water	**21,900.00**
Total Trading Income	**1,242,003.29**
Other Income	
Interest Income	12,801.39
Total Other Income	**12,801.39**
Gross Profit	**1,254,804.68**
Operating Expenses	
Bank Service Charges	180.00
FNQROC	
FNQROC: Mayoral delegations - accommodation, meals, travel expenses	12,402.45
FNQROC: External Meeting Expenses: Registration Fees	(240.18)
FNQROC: External Meeting Expenses: Travel, Accom & Meals	2,925.29
FNQROC: Internal Meeting Expenses: Miscellaneous	75.18
FNQROC: Internal Meeting Expenses: Catering	4,571.67
FNQROC: Mobile Phone Expenses	433.38
FNQROC: Salaries	63,058.61
FNQROC: Stationery & Office Expenses	3,446.04
FNQROC: Stationery & Office Expenses:Website	288.00

	1 JULY-21 OCT 2026
FNQROC: Subscription/membership	17,074.64
FNQROC: Training	4,231.24
FNQROC: Vehicle Expenses	385.48
Miscellaneous	(6.36)
Total FNQROC	**108,645.44**
Infrastructure	
Infrastructure: Salaries	50,953.44
Infrastructure: Mobile Phone Expenses	201.81
Infrastructure: Stationery & Office Expenses	141.82
Total Infrastructure	**51,297.07**
Regional Roads & Transport	
Infrastructure: Bitumen Reseal Project:Project Coordinator Fees	14,100.00
RRTG: External Meetings: Registration Fees	568.18
RRTG: External Meetings: Travel, Accom & Meals	538.54
RRTG: Internal Meeting Expenses: Catering	109.09
RRTG: Regional Road Trip	2,382.90
RRTG: RRTG Management Tool	10,000.00
RRTG: Regional Road Surfacings Study	(4,175.00)
Total Regional Roads & Transport	**23,523.71**
Regional Urban Water	
Water: Internal Meeting Expenses: Catering	232.73
Water: External Meeting Expenses: Registration Fees	154.55
Water: External Meeting Expenses: Travel, Accomm & Meals	(192.38)
Total Regional Urban Water	**194.90**
Regional Waste & Recycling	
Waste: Meeting, Travel, Accomm & Meals	68.00
Waste: training, and Industry Events	3,156.68
Waste: Vehicle Expenses	2,400.00
Waste: Mobile Phone	134.54
Waste: Resource Recovery Salaries	42,680.71
Total Regional Waste & Recycling	**48,439.93**
Regional Natural Asset Management	
Nat Asset: External Meetings: Travel, Accom & Meals	330.66
Nat Asset: Internal Meeting Expenses: Catering	577.28
Nat Asset: Mobile Phone Expenses	201.81
Nat Asset: Salaries	33,520.69
Total Regional Natural Asset Management	**34,630.44**
Regional Climate Resilience	
Climate Resilience - Internal Meeting Expenses	90.00
Climate Resilience - Conference/training	700.00
Climate Resilience: Climate Resilient Councils Program	201.81
Cllimate Resilience: Motor Vehicle Expenses	33.28
Regional Drought Resilience Plan - Gulf/Hinterland - Remuneration Costs	5,584.80

	1 JULY-21 OCT 2026
Regional Drought Resilience Plan - Gulf/Hinterland - Activity Assistance costs	(105,860.40)
Regional Drought Resilience - Wet Topics - Remuneration Costs	28,937.64
Regional Drought Resilience - Wet Tropics - Activity assistance Costs	29,654.76
Regional Drought Resilience - Wet Topics - Vehicle Expenses	2,400.00
Total Regional Climate Resilience	**(38,258.11)**
Regional Procurement	
Regional Procurement: Sewer Relining - Consultant Fees	21,900.00
Regional Procurement: External Meeting Expenses: Travel, Accom & Meals	1,287.34
Regional Procurement: External Meetings Expenses: Registration Fees	2,086.36
Regional Procurement: Mobile Phone Expenses	201.81
Regional Procurement: Salaries	30,708.93
Total Regional Procurement	**56,184.44**
Regional Mountain Bike Strategy	
Regional MTB Strategy	4,506.82
Total Regional Mountain Bike Strategy	**4,506.82**
Total Operating Expenses	**289,344.64**
Net Profit	**965,460.04**

Balance Sheet

Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils 30241
As at 21 October 2026

	21 OCT 2026
Assets	
Bank	
Cheque Account	225,039.93
QTC Savings	1,760,272.60
Total Bank	**1,985,312.53**
Current Assets	
Accounts Receivable	519,046.71
Total Current Assets	**519,046.71**
Total Assets	**2,504,359.24**
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	5,687.00
ANZ Credit Card: FNQROC	6,905.92
GST	67,342.80
Payroll Liabilities:AL Payable Current	67,420.99
Payroll Liabilities:LSL Payable Current	12,888.00
Payroll Liabilities:LSL Payable Non-Current	93,968.44
Rounding	7.37
Total Current Liabilities	**254,220.52**
Total Liabilities	**254,220.52**
Net Assets	**2,250,138.72**
Equity	
Current Year Earnings	965,460.04
Opening Bal Equity	293,928.07
Retained Earnings	990,750.61
Total Equity	**2,250,138.72**

Darlene Irvine

From: Mark Olsen <mark.olsen@ttnq.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2026 6:17 AM
To: Darlene Irvine
Cc: Dale Mundraby; Juan Walker; Indigenous Experiences
Subject: First Nations Tourism Action Plan - 2026-2029
Attachments: FINAL Terms of Reference FNTAP (Aug 6).pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[External Email] This email was sent from outside or a non-trusted organisation - be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.

[External Email] This email was sent from outside or a non-trusted organisation - be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.

Hi Darlene,

The Steering Committee for the TNQ First Nations Tourism Action Plan first published in 2023 is currently reviewing the Plan and seeking nominations for the Steering Committee for the next three years.

We have in the past had a representative from the FNQROC and I'm wring to you today on behalf of our Co-Chairs Dale Mundraby and Juan Walker (cc'd) seeking a nomination from the FNQROC for the Committee.

The Terms of Reference for the group from the first Plan (now being updated) is attached, the group now only meets four time per annum.

Please let me know if you need anything else to call for nominations from your members?

Thanks Darlene!

Cheers

Mark

Mark Olsen
Chief Executive Officer | Tourism Tropical North Queensland
Level 1, Ports North building, Cnr Grafton & Hartley Streets, Cairns 4870 | 07 4015 1201 | 0418 773 806



Tourism Tropical North Queensland acknowledges that we work, live and play on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

CEO Report to the Board

Prepared by: Darlene Irvine
Board Meeting Date: 5th November 2026

1. Executive Summary

As we approach the end of 2026, we have made strong progress across our strategic and operational priorities. State and Federal advocacy remains central with preparations underway for the 2027 delegations. Amendments to the now Regional and Remote Incentive Scheme are underway.

The technical programs continue to demonstrate the value of regional collaboration with achievements including the Regional Water Leak Detection Program, Regional Road Treatment Good Practice Guides, and progress on water and wastewater asset criticality assessments.

Progress has also continued across natural asset management, biosecurity, climate resilience, waste, procurement and animal management.

Looking ahead to 2027, our priority will be delivering actions within our approved strategies, strengthening our evidence base for advocacy and ensuring resources are directed towards initiatives that align with our priorities and deliver the greatest collective benefit.

2. Strategic Progress

2.1 FNQ Regional Plan	Completed	
2.2 Review Strategic Operational Plan	In progress	
2.3.1 Federal Advocacy	Complete	next delegation2027
2.3.2 State Advocacy	Complete	next delegation 2027
2.4 Natural Asset Management		
2.4.1 Contribute to the review of the Land Protection Fund methodology.	Pending	FNQROC have been accepted to sit on review working group, first sitting is planned for mid October
2.4.2 Represent regional and local priorities on the State Oversight Group	Ongoing	Ongoing - Wet Tropics Cat Research Program will be tabled at next sitting
2.5 Regional Mountain Bike Strategy		
2.5.1 Investigate whole-of-life trail maintenance approach	Pending	Progress review and activation workshop scheduled for November 27
2.5.2 Advocate for the rollout of the mountain bike infrastructure plan	Ongoing	As above
2.6 Regional Roads and Transport		
2.6.1 Update the FNQ Regional Road Investment Strategy, including a review of the heavy vehicle network and first/last mile roads in collaboration with TMR	Pending	TMR are seeking further direction from Brisbane regarding their participation in the project.
2.1 Water Alliance		

2.1.1 Asset Criticality assessment	In progress	QWRAP funding for an Options Analysis was approved on 4 September 2026 and the project must be completed by 18 December 2026. Stantec have been appointed to undertake the project and will now seek information from individual councils including existing asset registers, GIS layers, previous criticality studies, asset management plans etc to inform the options analysis.

Comments:

3. Regional Advocacy Priorities

3.1 Strengthening Liveability and social Infrastructure		
3.1.1 Address cost shifting	In Progress	
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	
Draft concept developed for Regional and Remote Special Economic Zone	Complete	
3.2 Resilient Transport		
3.2.1 Road Network Resilience	Link	
3.2.2 Public Transport and Urban Mobility	Pending	
3.2.3 Freight and Supply Chains	Link	
3.2.4 Multi-Modal Integration	Pending	
3.2.5 Emergency and Climate Resilience	Pending	
3.3 Natural Assets		
3.3.1 Biosecurity preparedness and resilience	Ongoing	Workshop was undertaken on September 28 hosted by TRC. A report on the key outcomes and recommendations is expected in the coming month

3.3.2 Collaborative governance	Ongoing	Ongoing
3.3.3 Integrated domestic animal management	Underway	Project has been initiated. First stage of data collection from animal management units in Councils is underway
3.3.4 Support ongoing development of outdoor recreation and tourism	Ongoing	FNQROC will be attending the 2nd Australian Sea Otter MTB Summit with other industry leaders in October
3.3.5 Climate and ecological resilience	Ongoing	FNQROC and CAFNEC partnered recently to undertake a stakeholder review of the Regional Amazon Frogbit Biosecurity Response Plan
3.3.6 Innovation and sustainability	Ongoing	
3.3.7 Regulatory and Resource efficiency	Ongoing	
3.3.8 Integrated land use planning	Ongoing	FNQROC NAMAC provided regulatory updates required into the Development Manual review
3.4 Water Security		
3.4.1 Regional water infrastructure funding pool to support smaller councils in preparing robust business cases.	Ongoing	Regional Water and Wastewater Asset Criticality Assessment Stage One - Options Analysis underway
3.4.2 Reform of disaster recovery funding eligibility to recognise water and sewerage as core infrastructure	Ongoing	
3.4.3 Increased State and federal investment in long term, multi-use water infrastructure (e.g. Dams, hydroelectric projects)	Ongoing	
3.4.4 Climate resilient planning frameworks including risk mitigation for intense rainfall events and debris blockages.		
3.5 Waste		
3.5.1 State and Federal investment in planning, design, construction and operation	Ongoing	Provided input to DETSI about key considerations for upcoming State Waste Infrastructure Plan
3.5.2 Fit for purpose solutions for remote and rural communities	Ongoing	Provided input to DETSI about key considerations for upcoming funding programs
3.5.3 Minimise costs passed on to households and ratepayers	Ongoing	Provided input to DETSI about key considerations for upcoming funding programs

3.5.4 Address transport and logistic barrier unique to FNQ	Pending	Provided input to DETSI about key considerations for upcoming funding programs
3.6 Energy		
3.6.1 Greater investment in resilient energy infrastructure in regional areas	Ongoing	
3.6.2 Transparent pricing methodologies	Complete and ongoing	
3.6.3 Support for decentralised energy solutions and appropriately located renewable technologies**.**		

4. Operational Priorities

4.1 Federal Delegation		next scheduled for 2027
4.2 State Delegation		next scheduled for 2027
State and Federal Submissions as relevant		
Presentation of FNQROC priorities or actions at relevant meetings/conferences/seminars	Ongoing	
4.3 Planning		
4.3.1 Regular meeting with FNQROC Planners		Meeting held 25 Sept with a focus on the draft State Planning Policy
4.3.2 Contribute to Review of the SARA triggers and State Planning Policy Review		Meeting/workshop held 25 Sept 2026
4.3.3 FNQ Regional Plan Implementation		
4.3.4 Support where requested - Cape and Gulf Regional Plan Development		Draft NQ Regional plan consultation closed 29 Sept Draft Cape Regional Plan is with councils – cursory review and comments provided to Mayor Draft Gulf Regional Plan still developing

4.4 Animal Management		
4.4.1 Facilitate regional cat management taskforce for collaboration on key actions including delivery of 2026 Wet Tropics Cat Management Research Program workshop		Ongoing - Wet Tropics Cat Research Program will be tabled at next sitting of State Oversight Group
4.4.2 Implement Regional Animal Management Strategy.	Ongoing	
o Undertake Regional Animal Management Options Paper to inform Regional Animal Management Strategy.		Project has been initiated. First stage of data collection from animal management units in Councils is underway
- Re-establish indicators and produce an annual report card.		as above
o Assist in disaster management capacity development across Councils.		
4.4.3 Conduct four Technical Committee meetings.		3 of four meetings undertaken
4.5 Natural Asset Management		
4.5.1 Implement individual Councils' natural assets strategy and strategic asset management plan.		
4.5.2 Review and implement Council Biosecurity Plans.	Ongoing	
4.5.3 Implement and review the regional natural asset management strategy.		Review planned for first quarter of 2027
4.5.4 Support local natural asset and biosecurity advisory committees and working groups.		Attended pest management committee workshops and meetings in Douglas, Mareeba and Cook
4.5.5 Re-establish indicators and produce an annual report card.		
4.5.6 Maintain regional biosecurity mapping project.	Ongoing	Biosecurity plans undertaken with Cook and Douglas. New seasonal management calendar series developed in collaboration with Cook
4.5.7 Assist in disaster management capacity development across Councils.	Ongoing	Workshop was undertaken on September 28 hosted by TRC. A report on the key outcomes and recommendations is expected in the coming month
4.5.8 Contribute to the review of the Land Protection Fund methodology.	Underway	FNQROC have been accepted to sit on review working group, first sitting is planned for mid October

4.5.9 Represent regional and local priorities on the State Oversight Group.	Ongoing	Ongoing - Wet Tropics Cat Research Program will be tabled at next sitting of State Oversight Group
4.5.10 Support Wet Tropics Healthy Waterways Partnership and Technical Working Group initiatives.	Ongoing	
4.5.11 Conduct four technical committee meetings	Ongoing	three of four meetings undertaken
4.6 Regional Mountain Bike Strategy		
4.6.1 Implement Regional Mountain Bike Strategy	Ongoing	project initiated - stakeholder workshop planned for November 27
o Investigate whole-of-life trail maintenance approach.	Ongoing	pending revised directions from strategy progress workshop
o Establish a Regional Adventure Trail Working Group.	Underway	underway - draft concepts and discussion papers workshopped with Hinchinbrook, Cook, and Mareeba ED/Tourism officers
o Support partnerships between Councils, clubs, and state agencies to deliver strategy actions.	Ongoing	
o Support GIS and on-ground rollout and communication of trail upgrades and features.	Ongoing	Trail mapping system pilot developed for Atherton Forest (beta version for testing)
o Collaborate on the development of a regional destination marketing plan to develop and promote regional products, services and events.	Ongoing	pending revised directions from strategy progress workshop
4.6.2 Advocate for the rollout of the mountain bike infrastructure plan.		pending revised directions from strategy progress workshop
4.6.3 Conduct four steering committee meetings.	Ongoing	three of four meetings undertaken
4.6.4 Conduct two workshops and four meeting of Adventure Trails Working Group.	Ongoing	Next workshop yet to be confirmed
4.7 Regional Roads and Transport		
4.7.1 Conduct at least two RRTG meetings as per Roads Alliance Guidelines.	Planned	4 x RRTG meetings have taken place so far in 2026. Last meeting for the year scheduled for 5 November 2026.
4.7.2 Conduct at least four RRTG Technical Committee meetings.	Planned	4 x RRTG TC meetings have taken place so far in 2026. Net meeting scheduled for 16 October.

4.7.3 Develop and implement the FNQ RRTG Capability Agreement & Action Plan.	Ongoing	RRTG TC have agreed to review the Capability & Action Plan at every other RRTG TC meeting and funding actively sought via the Statewide Capability Development Fund (SCDF) as training identified. SCDF application to be submitted for upcoming Construction Contract Training being delvierd by Ochre Legal.
4.7.4 Manage a four-year works program in the new PMT.	Ongoing	2025/26 TIDS first quarter expenditure 44% compared with a state average of 13%. Program conitnue to be reviewed at every RRTG TC.
4.7.5 Update the FNQ Regional Road Investment Strategy, including a review of the Heavy Vehicle Network and first/last-mile roads (excluding tourism roads) in collaboration with TMR.		see 2.6.1
4.7.6 Organise and participate in the RRTG Technical Tour in September 2026 (Cassowary Coast Regional Council)	Completed	
4.7.7 Finalise delivery of the Regional Road Treatment Study	In progress	The Road Treatment Good Practice Guides were endorsed by the RRTG at its meeting on 17 August 2026. The FNQROC Board will consider the recommendation frpom th RRTH that the FNQROC Board endorse the Guides at their next meeting on 5 November 2026. Funding from the SCDF has been secured for a 1 day training course to roll-out the guide to councils staff which will take place later in the year.
4.8 Water Alliance		
4.8.1 Conduct at least four Water Alliance meetings per year.	Planned	4 x Water Alliance meetings have taken place so far in 2026. Meetings for the remainder of the year scheduled for 23 October and 18 December.
4.8.2 Submit quarterly coordinator reports and an annual report to LGAQ.	Ongoing	
4.8.3 Continue implementation the FNQ Regional Water Capability Plan, including but not limited to the following actions;		
o Undertake a Regional Asset Criticality Assessment – Options Analysis and thereafter progress the Regional Asset Criticality Assessment in accordance with the agreed staging and scope.	Pending	
o Facilitate a SCADA sub-committee to work on developing regionally consistent SCADA Technical Standards and to identify other opportunities for regional collaboration.	In progress	Terms of Reference & Project Scope developed. Next meeting 21 October 2026.
o Investigate opportunities to progress workforce based initiatives.	In progress	

4.8.4 Continue participation in the Regional Trade Waste Uplift Project (TWIG) with a view to implementing a Regional Trade Waste Environmental Management Plan.	Ongoing	
4.9 Development Manual		
Conduct a full review of the Development Manual in 2026/27	In progress	Submissions have closed. Regional workshop to collectively review submissions scheduled for 28 & 30 October 2026
4.10 Procurement		
4.10.1 Work with the Regional Procurement Technical Committee to promote and progress joint purchase and resource sharing initiatives.	Ongoing	see 4.10.2
4.10.2 Conduct a minimum of four Procurement Technical Committee meetings.	Ongoing	The committee continues to meet monthly to identify and discuss emerging issues, share practical advice, and exchange knowledge and experiences among members.
4.10.3 Maintain regular communication with government agencies (e.g., Local Buy) and provide feedback.	Ongoing	FNQROC maintains regular communication with Local Buy regarding procurement arrangements available to FNQROC councils. Local Buy also regularly attends FNQROC meetings to provide updates on available contracts and procurement solutions.
4.10.4 Review and update the FNQROC Procurement document suite.	Ongoing	Significant updates to the FNQROC Document Suite are scheduled for release in October 2026. FNQROC is also developing three additional document suites that will complement the current suite and further enhance the range of standardised procurement and contract management documents available to member councils.
4.10.5 Coordinate procurement and construction contract management training across the region.	Ongoing	FNQROC, in partnership with Ochre Legal, will deliver a face-to-face training workshop for FNQROC councils in late October 2026. Approximately 50 participants from across the region are expected to attend, providing a valuable opportunity for professional development and knowledge sharing.
4.10.6 Facilitate identification and evaluation of new regional procurement opportunities.	Ongoing	see 4.10.8
4.10.7 Undertake contract administration for existing regional contracts.	Ongoing	see 4.10.8
4.10.8 Conduct contract reviews for expiring regional contracts:		

o Bitumen Reseal (30 June 2026)	In progress	Following the completion of the procurement process, the contract has been awarded to the most suitable supplier. Works are expected to commence in November 2026.
o Sewer Relining (30 June 2026)	In progress	Following the completion of the procurement process, the contract has been awarded to the most suitable supplier. Works are expected to commence in October 2026.
o Sodium Hypochlorite (31 May 2026)	Completed	The contract continues to perform strongly, with 11 member councils utilising the supplier to ensure the reliable supply of critical water treatment chemicals across the region.
o Liquid Alum (31 May 2026)	Completed	The arrangement is currently being utilised by six member councils, supporting the reliable and ongoing supply of critical water treatment chemicals throughout the region.
4.10.9 Oversee procurement and project delivery for FNQROC Regional Water Leak Detection Program.	Ongoing	The Regional Leak Detection Program has now been completed. Four member councils participated in the arrangement, which was funded through the RDRP. The program supported the identification and reduction of revenue water losses, contributing to improved water network efficiency across the region.
4.11 Climate Resilience		
4.11.1 Continue implementation of the Rivers to Reef Climate Action Plan (2021-2026); including but not limited to the following actions (funding dependant);		
o Conducting a Regional Climate Risk Assessment (Corporate)	Pending	Awaiting confirmation of funding from DPI to deliver.
o Developing a Regional Decarbonisation Action Plan	Ongoing	Final draft completed. Waste Technical Committee endorsed Waste Pathway and will support funding applications to deliver identified actions.
o Developing Regional Framework for Local Natural Environment Disaster Preparedness Plan	Ongoing	Final draft completed. Presented to Climate Resilience Technical Committee.
o Reviewing the Climate Action Plan	Commenced	Review of action plan underway
4.11.2 Develop the FNQROC Climate Resilience Committee Action Plan (2026-203X).	Pending	Awaiting confirmation of funding from DPI to deliver.
4.11.3 Oversee implementation of the Regional Drought Resilience Plan (Wet Tropics & Gulf Hinterland), including but not limited to:		

o Implementation of Phase 1 Funding to 30th November 2026, this includes receiving progress updates from delivery partners regarding;	Ongoing	Attended DPI Project Control Group meetings.
§ Pilot Regional Water Leak Detection Program	Ongoing	Refer to 4.10.9
§ Gulf Savannah NRM – Business and Community Drought Resilience Program	Ongoing	Engagement complete and development of the gap analysis commenced.
o Implementation of Phase 2 Funding to 2029, this includes;	Ongoing	
§ Recommending projects for implementation, and	Complete	
§ Receiving progress updates from delivery partners.	Commenced and Ongoing	Engaged key stakeholders across the region with updates. This included, Terrain NRM, TCICA, North West ROC, Gulf Savannah NRM and CAFNEC.
o Participate in Project Control Group and Regional Working Group meetings and report back at Technical Committee meetings.	Commenced and Ongoing	Monthly attendance to Project Control Group facilitated by DPI. Program updates at October CRTC meeting.
4.11.4 Conduct four Technical Committee meetings.	Completed	Facilitated 14th Climate Resilience Technical Committee meeting in Cairns on Friday 30th October 2026.
4.11.5 Continue participation in LGAQ Queensland Climate Resilient Council Program	Ongoing	Attended QCRC Alliance Coordinators meeting on Tuesday 6 October 2026.
4.11.6 Continue participating in Heat-Health Impact, Monitoring, Action and Communication Project Advisory Group meetings.	Ongoing	Attended Advisory Group meeting on Tuesday 6 October 2026.
4.12 Regional Waste Management Plan Implementation		

4.12.1 Continue the facilitation of RWMP Implementation Plan	Ongoing	Actions arising from RWMP Technical Committee Meeting have been progressed. Key actions were -1) Delivery of Regional Waste Education & Behaviour Change Toolkit 2) Delivering LGA specific Solar Panel Waste Forecasting , Infrastructure Plan & Business Case or all 11 member councils. 2) RFQ process for regional mobile on site shredding service of multiple problematic waste items
4.12.2 Develop Regional Waste Education & Marketing activity schedule customized to member Councils and tools to support its delivery by Councils .	Completed	Delivery of Regional Waste Education & Behaviour Change Toolkit
4.12.3 Support Council applications for LGIS funding & any other grant funding to incentivise home composting.	Pending announcement of funding	Funding program announcement awaited
4.12.4 Explore funding to support piloting of Cooperative model for resource recovery starting with recovering fuels and other value products from end of life tyres	Pending announcement of funding	Funding program announcement awaited
4.12.5 Facilitating collaboration opportunities for enhancing kerbside commingled recycling within FNQROC member Councils	Completed	Councils (CRC, DSC, TRC and CSC) with kerbside yellow bins are on track
4.12.6 Ongoing advocacy for:		
o More accessible and equitable distribution of product stewardship & take back schemes into FNQROC member Council's region	Ongoing	
o Product stewardship for white goods	To be actioned	
o State policies & programs that enable local government in transitioning to circular economy.	Ongoing	Newly released waste strategy has opportunities for FNQROC to engage with DETSI for providing regional position and perspective in developing funding program and policy designs such a Transport Subsidy program, State Infrastructure Plan and Energy from Waste funding program. This is the result of ongoing advocacy

Comments:

5. Advocacy/External Relations

DPI biosecurity funding programs consultation (DPI - Northern ROCs) - Disaster recovery, regional coordination, regional feral pig action planning - project guidelines expected for release in Nov-Dec.

6. People and Culture

- Staffing:
  - No changes
  - DETSI have confirmed that the Coordinator funding will not be extended past 30 June 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

7. Finance

- Financial snapshot
  - We remain in a strong financial position.
  - 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.

8. Governance and Compliance

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

9. Risks and Issues

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

10. Advocacy and External Relations

- Stakeholder Engagement

Date	Engagement
7-22 Sept	Annual Leave
23 Sept	Nic Carroll - NBN
28 Sept	DPI & ROC Executives – IPA upcoming grant funding
6 Oct	RDA TN Workshop – Unlocking Prefab and Modular Housing in Regional QLD.
8 Oct	RD A TN - TEDS Oversight Committee
13 Oct	.ID Webinar - Australia's population outlook: what is really driving change
14 Oct	EO NQROC re maintenance dredging/bed levelling
19-21 Oct	LGAQ Conference, Cairns

20 Oct	Cairns Local Disaster Economic Recovery Sub-Committee Meeting
20 Oct	Darcy Slattery - DETSI
22 Oct	Screen QLD – State of Screen Breakfast
29 Oct	ROC Executives Catch up
4 Nov	FNQ Trade and Investment Group meeting

11. Submissions lodged:

Nil

12. Looking Ahead

- FNQROC Planners Meeting ~ Friday 27 November 2026
- Staff on Christmas leave with some commencing 4 December 2026