

Minutes of the 160th FNQROC Board Meeting

Meeting No	160
Meeting Name	FNQROC Board Meeting
Date	1 June 2023
Time	1.00pm to 4.30pm
Venue	Civic Reception Room, Cairns Regional Council

REPRESENTATIVES

CHAIR	Cr Brett Moller	Cairns Regional Council
	Cr Mark Nolan, Mayor	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
	Cr Robyn Holmes,	Cook Shire Council
	Cr Trevor Pickering, Mayor	Croydon Shire Council
	Cr Michael Kerr, Mayor	Douglas Shire Council
	Cr Barry Hughes, Mayor	Etheridge Shire Council
DEPUTY CHAIR	Cr Angela Toppin, Mayor	Mareeba Shire Council
	Cr Rod Marti	Tablelands Regional Council
	Cr Mary Brown	Hinchinbrook Shire Council (online)

CEOS

Ms Mica Martin, CEO	Cairns Regional Council
Mr Andrew Graffen, CEO	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Mr Brian Joiner, CEO	Cook Shire Council
Ms Jacqui Cresswell, CEO	Croydon Shire Council
Mr Neil Crotty, A/g CEO	Etheridge Shire Council
Mr Steve Linnane, CEO	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
Mr Peter Franks, CEO	Mareeba Shire Council
Mr Gary Rinehart, CEO	Tablelands Regional Council
Mr Richard Wright, CEO	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

OBSERVERS

Cr Peter Garde	Croydon Shire Council
Ms Lucy Greene	LGAQ
Diana Lollato	QTC

INVITED GUESTS

Ms Fiona Simpson	Shadow Minister
Ms Arna Brosna	CSSDS
Ms Tracey Harding	YJESBT
Mr Jeff Jimmieson	DSDILGP
Mr Graham Locke	DSDILGP

FNQROC STAFF

Ms Darlene Irvine	Executive Officer
Mr Travis Sydes	Natural Asset Management & Sustainability Coordinator
Ms Amanda Hancock	Regional Strategic Infrastructure Coordinator
Mr Elliott Meelen	Regional Procurement Coordinator
Ms Paula Power	Executive Support Officer
Ms Maria Anselmo	Climate Resilience Coordinator

APOLOGIES

Cr Bob Manning, Mayor	Cairns Regional Council
Cr Peter Scott, Mayor	Cook Shire Council
Ms Rachel Brophy, CEO	Douglas Shire Council
Mr Ken Timms, CEO	Etheridge Shire Council
Cr Jason Woibo, Mayor	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
Cr Ramon Jayo, Mayor	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
Ms Michelle Webster, CEO	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
Cr Ross Andrews, Mayor	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
Cr Bradley Creek, Mayor	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
Ms Kiley Hanslow, CEO	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council

3096 WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we met today and paid respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Cr Kerr acknowledged Shadow Minister Fiona Simpson's attendance and thanked her for joining the meeting.

Cr Kerr also acknowledged Mr Jeff Jimmieson and Mr Graham Locke from DSDILGP who have taken on new roles in the region.

3097 BOARD PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Ms Fiona Simpson – Shadow Minister for Finance and Better Regulation, Shadow Minister for Integrity in Government and Member for Maroochydore

Ms Ann Leahy, Shadow Minister for Local Government was unable to join the meeting and sends her apologies.

Ms Simpson provided an up-to-date summary of current issues.

- Ms Simpson asked for feedback on the housing crisis and movement since the state housing summit and what each council had planned in their areas. State has significant housing footprint. Want feedback on measures and barriers to help unlock more affordable housing.
- FNQ Regional Plan – concerned about where the process is up to. Ms Leahy has lodged a question on notice in Queensland Parliament about the FNQ Regional Plan and where the consultation process is currently and the timeframes. It is causing angst and uncertainty.
- Concerns about rising costs of infrastructure. Infrastructure freeze Federally on a range of projects that are Federally funded and co-funded with the State. 90 day review which is an extensive risk across the state.
- Changes to Local Government Act went through in Parliament recently. Compliance of grants of funding programs.

Questions from the floor

B Joiner – A large amount of work required to acquit. ie. \$10,000 library grant. Takes a few days to acquit for such a little amount.

R Wright – Any assistance from opposition for advocating for Yarrabah is appreciated.

3.2 Ms Tracey Harding, Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training (YJESBT) and Ms Arna Brosna, Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services (CSSDS)

Ms Harding and Ms Brosna provided a presentation on debunking the myths of youth offenders.

- FNQ – 3 service centres – Tablelands and Cassowary Coast with a new hub scheduled in Mareeba.
- 130 people – maintaining staff has been an issue. 20% vacancies remain a challenge.
- Youth justice orders – at end of April just under 250. 10-15 involved through restorative justice process. Strong focus on looking to engage with those families and communities to try and change data.
- Across region 1500 children moved from parents care after evidence provided.
- There are hard core re-offenders that they are struggling to find solutions for. Greatest challenge.
- New Hub for Mareeba is modelled on Morton Bay and is more therapeutic. Engaging with elders in rehabilitation. Smaller facility around 40 children allows for more targeted engagement.

Presentation will be forwarded with the minutes.

Questions from the floor

- Why do the same youth re-offend? Complex issue
- Youth Crime - How do Mayors and Councillors answer questions from the community about why it is happening?

Answer – Can only work with the system they have. The system does work on majority of cases. Acknowledge problem with repeat offenders. Over last 10 years, young offenders have reduced but number of offences has increased.

- With regard to repeat offenders – how many come from a usual residence that is overcrowded?
Answer – suggest that number would be high but they haven't collected that data.

- Children breaking and entering in Hope Vale. Problem for last 12 months. Police unable to resolve so community took into own hands.

3.3 Ms Lucy Greene, (LGAQ)

Ms Greene provided an overview of LGAQ recent activities per the briefing note circulated. (Appendix 1)

- Policy Executive meeting – At the latest LGAQ Policy Executive meeting on 21 April 2023, a presentation on the Voice to Parliament was provided by Yarrabah Council Mayor Ross Andrews.
- Annual Conference motions – Motion submissions will formally open on Wednesday 7 June for the 2023 LGAQ Annual Conference in Gladstone (16 – 18 Oct). Closing date for motions is 8 August. If councils have any questions, need any assistance, or wish to discuss any ideas on potential motions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Lucy on 0439 701 223 or at lucy_greene@lgaq.asn.au
- Queensland State Budget - Will be handed down by the Treasurer on Tuesday 13 June at 2pm. The LGAQ will email its analysis to member councils later that afternoon. SGFA for First Nations councils, TIDs, Works for Qld, housing, and water and sewerage infrastructure are key funding requests included in the LGAQ's Budget Submission and have been highlighted across various Ministerial meetings.
- Housing – The State Government recently announced its partnership with the LGAQ and 38 councils to develop Local Housing Action Plans (LHAP). The LGAQ's Crystal Baker has recently written to the Mayor and CEO of each eligible council in the FNQROC outlining the process going forward.
- Federal Government Infrastructure Review – Minister Catherine King has written to the LGAQ seeking feedback from Queensland councils on infrastructure projects as part of the 90-day Federal infrastructure pipeline review. The LGAQ is specifically seeking feedback on the delivery of sub-programs available to the local government sector. Please get in touch with the LGAQ's Mike Furniss at mike_furniss@lgaq.asn.au to provide feedback.
- Animal Management – The State Government's Animal Management Taskforce met this week to discuss a range of actions and potential policies regarding dangerous dogs. Minister Furner will now be taking a discussion paper to Cabinet focusing on an education campaign; tougher penalties for owners of dangerous dogs; a QCAT process review; and the banning of restricted dogs. Once endorsed by Cabinet the State Government will be seeking feedback from councils.

Questions/discussion from the floor

- Trying to get Neem trees outlawed. A problem in Gilbert River as the trees growing all the way to the Gulf of Carpentaria.
- State Government not recognising potential problem in terms of choking up waterways. It should be put on the obnoxious weeds list.
- T Sydes – risk assessment done and is well known. Pest management process – currently State doesn't acknowledge as a pest. The process undertaken by other councils in the region is to adopt as a local law. If multiple councils react at the same time, it gives a better case to have regulation passed. The downside is the state process can take a long time. Initial step is to get it recognised and try and manage it.
- Working group North/West to discussed this. During that working group they weren't given that explanation in relation to the biosecurity guide.

3097 Action: T Sydes to work with Croydon and Etheridge on a process forward to declare Neem Trees through local laws and then through the State process.

3098 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The draft minutes of the 159th FNQ Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC) Board meeting of 6 April 2023.

MOVED: Cr Angela Toppin

SECOND: Cr Brett Moller

Motion

That the FNQROC Board move that the minutes of the 159th Board Meeting held on 6 April 2023 be confirmed and adopted.

CARRIED

3099 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 Action items from Thursday 6 April 2023 FNQROC Board Meeting.

Thursday 6 April 2023

Minute Number	Action	Responsible Person(s)	Status
3047	Cr Kerr to raise housing investment with the Superannuation Board.	Cr Kerr DSC	On-going
3070a	T Sydes to continue with desktop analysis and establish Steering Committee for the FNQROC Regional Mountain Bike Strategy.	T Sydes FNQROC	Complete
3071	D Irvine to investigate higher yielding interest rates for savings/cheque accounts for FNQROC.	D Irvine FNQROC	Complete
3081	Minutes of the 159 th Board meeting to reflect that Cr James, Cairns Regional Council attended the meeting on 2 February 2023.	P Power FNQROC	Complete
3095a	Crankworx VIP tickets - email to be sent to all councils asking what days they would be available to attend. Events on Wednesday 17 May, Thursday 18 May and Friday 19 May 2023.	P Power FNQROC	Complete
3095b	Schedule meeting with FNQROC Councils to explain the Development Manual in detail. That process will do once the proposed amendments are done next week. Council staff next week. Consultation for councils.	D Irvine FNQROC	Ongoing
3095c	Update calendar invites to reflect the change to the time of the next FNQROC Board meeting on 1 June 2023 to 1pm and the RRTG meeting to 12 noon.	P Power FNQROC	Complete
3095d	Advance Cairns membership to be discussed at the next FNQROC Board meeting on 1 June 2023.	D Irvine FNQROC	Complete

- 3047 – CEO of the Association of Superannuation Funds. D Irvine will follow-up directly and send information back to FNQROC Board.

3100 ADVOCACY

Nil

3101 STRATEGIC OPERATIONAL PLAN

FNQ Regional Plan update

- Active engagement has commenced with DSDILGP.
- Scheduled in monthly meetings with the FNQROC Planners Group. DSDILGP attending first meeting on 6 June 2023.
- At the first FNQROC Planners workshop will work through the expectations document and see what's achievable and what is for discussion.
- The tender for technical consortium has been decided and will be announced soon. Hoping to map out impact for the next 6 months.
- More information will be available after the Planners meeting Tuesday 6th June.

FNQ Regional Resource Recovery Plan

- Our region is the first one to be completed. Working with state in modelling what a Project Coordinator might look like. Unable to launch the plan during State Parliament in Cairns as Minister Scanlon was unavailable. We now have a new Minister, the Hon Leanne Linard. We are still following the process through and keen to keep the momentum going on this. Other regions are still in discussions. We are ready to go and want the funding to keep the momentum going and have a line of sight on M7.

Local Housing Action Plan Project – Discussion re short term committee and linkages to FNQ Regional Plan

- Local Housing Action Plans – timeline March 2024.
- Proposing we create a short-term committee working on those local housing action plans. Identified in regional plan that these action plans will feed into it. Timeline LGAQ Local Housing Action. Supported by the Board
- Linked in is the indigenous councils. Cape York Regional Plan will follow 6 months behind with Gulf following shortly after that.
- Yarrabah meeting with Department representatives and are modifying their draft Local Housing Action Plan.
- Hope Vale money received. Programs are coming close to being completed. Meetings with Federal Government as they wanted future funding proposals. Historically Federal Government not responsible for housing it usually sits with the State Government.

3101 Action: D Irvine to convene short term technical committee focussed on Local Housing Action Plans

3102 DISCUSSION TOPICS

7.1 Advance Cairns Membership

Given Cairns Regional Council is again a member of Advance Cairns the question was raised as to whether FNQROC became a member again. It was noted:

- FNQROC was previously a member when we funded a regional economic development officer through Advance Cairns
- The question was raised why FNQROC would be a member, are the other regional organisations paid members of each other?

RESOLVED:

As regional organisations we should continue to work in partnership as we have been doing without having to be members.

3103 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

3104 FNQROC POLICY REVIEW

Nil reports

3105 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet – 1 July 2022 to 23 May 2023

MOVED: Cr Barry Hughes

SECOND: Cr Rod Marti

Motion

That the profit and Loss and Balance Sheet Reports for the period FY 2021 to 23 May 2023 be adopted and accepted.

CARRIED

3106 ATTENDANCE & MINUTES OF MEETING

Meetings Attended by Executive Officer – as noted.

3107 LGAQ POLICY EXECUTIVE DISCUSSION – CR PETER SCOTT

Nothing to report. If any issues, please raise with Cr Peter Scott to take to LGAQ Policy Executive.

3108 MINUTES OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Inaugural FNQROC WHS & Wellbeing Advisory Group Meeting – Tuesday 18 July 2023

Noted

- Physcosocial hazards in councils - From a procurement perspective Gerard Mead from Ochre will be discussing a suite of procurement documents and council's liabilities at the next meeting. The procurement committee will be invited to participate in this section of the WHS technical committee.
- Discussed was the new Code of Practice which came into force April 2023.

RRTG TC – 9 May 2023

Noted

FNQROC Economic Development Advisory Group – 11 May 2023

No minutes as training session.

Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee (NAMAC) #54 – 31 May 2023

Noted

FNQROC 2022/2023 Reseal & Line Marking Meeting No.5 – 11 May 2023

Noted

FNQROC 2022/2023 Regional Sewer Relining – 12 May 2023

Noted

3109 GENERAL BUSINESS

General Business

- LGAQ re Works for Queensland. Seeking CEO's endorsement for the letter to go to the Deputy Premier.
- Federal Delegation 31 July to 31 August 2023. D Irvine has drafted up the brief and will be available for review mid-June. This time will be done differently and include Water, Roads, Regional Roads Strategy list and a different direction on Indigenous Housing.

All in the room were asked to leave with the exception of FNQROC board elected members and CEO's.

Confidential Matter – Interim CEO

An update on the process to find an interim CEO was provided and guidance was provided to the selection panel with the exception of D Irvine who was not present during discussions.

3110 NEXT MEETING

The Chair advised that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 1 August 2023, time to be advised during the Federal Delegation. No video conference will be available.

The Chair thanked members for their contribution. There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.18pm.

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Cr Michael Kerr, FNQROC Chair

AGREED ACTION ITEMS

Thursday 1 June 2023

Minute Number	Action	Responsible Person(s)
3047	Housing initiatives through superannuation. Darlene will follow-up directly with the CEO of the Association of Superannuation Funds and send information back to FNQROC Board	D Irvine FNQROC
3095b	Schedule meeting with FNQROC Councils to explain the Development Manual in detail.	D Irvine FNROC
3097	T Sydes to work with Croydon and Etheridge on a process forward to declare Neem Trees through local laws and then through the State process.	T Sydes Cr Pickering and Cr Hughes
3101	D Irvine to convene short term technical committee focussed on Local Housing Action Plans	D Irvine

FNQROC Board Meeting Dates for 2023

Date	Venue
Thursday 03 August 2023	CANBERRA
Thursday 05 October 2023	HOPE VALE
Thursday 07 December 2023	CAIRNS