

ADVOCACY REPORT

- Telehealth and communication is a big issue for indigenous communities.
- Thank you for the Sport and Recreation Action Community programs.
- How can we leverage the tourism market given the new jetty and arts precinct in Yarrabah?
- Savannah Way – large traffic numbers over the last couple of years. Road funding is always going to raise its head with competing traffic – tourist vehicles vs heavy vehicles.
- Demand on housing in Georgetown – caravan parks etc are being taken up by workforce which is having an impact on tourists visiting. Having an impact on remote shires.
- Looking to utilise USL for housing. The Minister advised all of those issues are being closely looked at. It wouldn't hurt to follow it up with Minister Enoch and Minister Stewart and tying this into conversations around a new regional plan.
- Tourism enhancement fund – keen to look at this.
- We don't want a tourist driving on our roads – need to get the maintenance backlog down.

Action

- Letter to Minister Enoch and Minister Stewart regarding USL and implementing this in the new Regional Plan.



Mr Tim Mander, Shadow Minister for Housing and Public Works, Shadow Minister for Sports and Racing, Shadow Minister for Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Regional Engagement and **Ms Deb Frecklington MP**, Shadow Minister for Water and the Construction of Dams, Shadow Minister for Seniors, Communities and Disability Services, Shadow Minister for Multiculturalism and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Partnerships and **Mr Tony Perrett**, Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- Overview - FNQROC State Priorities
- FNQ Regional Plan
- Housing, Social Housing
- Kuranda Range Road
- Ootann Road
- Youth Crime
- Cairns Water Security
- Diesel free Daintree

Discussion/Vision

- Overview of our FNQROC State Priorities.
- Kuranda Range Road – important freight route.
- Growth will be occurring in Lakeland and Georgetown. Example is 1 hectare shed built for mushrooms. No point in doing Band-aids. Would like part of the \$210mil quarantined to look at options to meet efficiency and capacity issues.
- Housing is a major issue. Social housing, affordable housing, appropriate housing. Having an impact on attracting workforce as well.
- Kuranda Range Road is critical and takes priority, Ootann is also important for industry efficiency.

ADVOCACY REPORT

- Rising issue of youth crime – we're hoping the pressure will be kept on this. Council has been doing a lot of work in the intervention area, but it is bigger than council.
- Youth issues are not only in the regions but in indigenous areas as well. If council tries to intervene they are then targeted. We need to also target the parents and carers – the people responsible for them.
- Mayor Woibo shared his story with his son.
- The FRC is no longer advised that there was a child in the community who was in the courts. This was taken out of the legislation.



Hon Glenn Butcher MP, Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- FNQROC State Priorities
- Cairns Water Security Stage 1
- Tablelands Regional Water Assessment
- Lakeland Dam
- Yarrabah Water & Waste
- Building Our Regions

Discussion/Vision

- Overview of FNQROC State Priorities.
- Cairns Water Security Stage 1. Federal commitment gained. 3 stage business case. 2 stages completed – 3rd stage August/September. Would like to seek matching funding in forward estimates. The Minister was disappointed in the process undertaken. Didn't appreciate the attacking nature of advocacy. In saying this – it's a very good project and he supports that council has done the hard work. Local state

members are supportive. In future for advocacy – this delegation is the way to do it and in person.

- National Water Infrastructure Funding could potentially change going forward. Etheridge will continue to work with the State – Etheridge expressed their thanks so far.
- Tablelands Regional Water Assessment – appreciative of the study and want to get it right – it has great potential. Minister wants to ensure everyone is supportive and on board. Mayor Rod Marti wants an economic value for the recreational opportunities. Good process and really likes the rigor.
- Lakeland Dam – hoping to have detailed business case in the next couple of months.
- Housing and USL is important as part of the solution.
- State is redeveloping the Regional Forums. Will be aiming to get three points from each of these to then drill down to detail to try and resolve.
- Thank you for bringing forward the Water Assessment in Tablelands.
- Kuranda Range Road is a big issue. We would like to see a portion of the \$210mil to investigate alternative routes which will resolve the heavy vehicle and capacity issues.
- Yarrabah Water through aquifer.
- Regional dry period and the need for storage. We have water no storage.
- Building our Regions – June/July announcing construction applications.

ADVOCACY REPORT



Ms Fiona Simpson MP, Shadow Minister for Finance and Better Regulation and Shadow Minister for Integrity in Government

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- FNQ Regional Plan
- Roads
- Water Security
- Waste Management
- Housing, Social Housing
- Kuranda Range Road
- Yarrabah Water
- Building Our Regions

Discussion/Vision

- FNQ Region Plan and a number of our issues and priorities can be dealt with through this.
- Roads, Water security, Waste Management is important to the region.
- Kuranda Range Road – Federal Labor has committed \$210mil for safety – we'd like to quarantine some of this funding to investigate alternate routes to resolve the efficiency and capacity issues.
- Housing is a high priority right across the board. Not only is social housing an issue but housing for the workforce. Etheridge Shire is struggling – need to focus on livability. House in Etheridge would be between \$350,000 – \$450,000, could get down to \$250,000 for prefabricated. Is there a concern regarding return on investment? Yes, however, with the economic growth happening in the region housing is needed.
- It would be helpful to release USL.
- Tablelands Regional Council has had discussions regarding modular housing for workers to build windfarms with the expectation that ownership of them post construction would go to a housing

community group. Tablelands Regional Council will provide the land.

- We don't want the Regional Plan to be desktop driven from Brisbane.
- Building standards coming in this year will have an impact on housing affordability. The elements may also cause a concern, particularly in the tropics. Accessibility requirements may also have an impact on yields.
- Housing shortfall in indigenous communities is causing numerous stresses in neighbouring councils. Drugs in communities – they are profiteering on our kids.



Hon Mark Ryan MP, Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- FNQROC State Priorities
- Youth Crime

Discussion/Vision

- The Minister advised that a collection of Mayors is called a magnificence
- Overview of FNQROC State Priorities
- Focus on portfolio of policing and corrective services.
- Mareeba – thank you for the extra resources. We still have issues with the high-end offenders which are causing concerns particularly with our aged population. 90% are good, its 10% of kids are they issue.
- Police resourcing alone won't fix the complex issues in the region.

ADVOCACY REPORT

- Has been beneficial for the region to have been split from Townsville to create an FNQ Police District. This has resulted in additional policing not having to be shared with Townsville.
- Happy to work with councils to support our initiatives.
- We do have a duty of care to those young kids. We need to give kids options.
- Mayor Jason Woibo shared his personal story of growth in his family. It's not just the kids' fault – it is a community issue.
- If there is anything we want to trial in partnership – please let the Department know. They are happy to hear any thoughts. Eg Mt Isa has asked for a Police Officer to partner with the Local Laws Officer at nighttime which they have been happy to trial.
- Etheridge – 40,000 sq km – police housing is substandard and their office small in size. This is happening in Forsyth and Mount Surprise. Minister advised that under the EB one or two officer stations – automatically they are provided housing. The challenge is that a previous government offloaded housing to Public Housing. It is a challenge to get this housing back/build new. Rolling out housing policy to create a better fund for Police housing. Still working on the condition of their assets. The Minister will pass this on to the Commissioner.
- Law enforcement – juvenile crime and drugs in our community are a challenge. They are profiteering off our kids – particularly in Yarrabah, they are feeling this.



Mr Steve Minnikin MP, Shadow Minister for Customer Service and Shadow Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- Overview - FNQROC State Priorities
- Roads
- ROSI

Discussion/Vision

- Overview of FNQROC State Priorities
- Housing, Drs, workforce liveability and release of USL.
- Mr Minnikin praised FNQROC for working so collegiately as a region and he rates us highly.
- We like to see a portion of the \$240m put towards an alternative route to fix our efficiency and capacity issues.
- Government needs to take those things with risk and de-risk them. Need to get a proper strategic plan. Need to provide business certainty.
- ROSI is extremely important to regional shires – it is our only mode of transport for goods and services imported and exported. We need continuity and security.
- On invitation Mr Minnikin would like to visit our region to look at our roads.

Action

- Councils to invite Mr Minnikin to inspect our roads.

ADVOCACY REPORT



Mr David Crissafulli MP, Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Minister for Tourism, Shadow Minister for Olympics and Paralympics and;
Ms Anne Leahy MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government, Shadow Minister for Disaster Recovery, Shadow Minister for Volunteers

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- FNQROC State Priorities
- Kuranda Range Road
- Cairns Water Security – Stage 1 Project
- Gilbert and Lakeland Agriculture Precincts
- Housing, Indigenous Housing, Social Housing
- Digital Connectivity/ Telehealth
- Youth Crime
- Tourism Enhancement Fund

Discussion/Vision

- Overview of FNQROC State Priorities
- Kuranda Range Road and \$210mil Federal commitment and quarantining of funds to identify a solution to the efficiency and capacity issues.
- Cairns Water Security – Stage 1 Project.
- Gilbert and Lakeland agricultural precincts coming online – they need Kuranda Range Road.
- The FNQ Regional Plan needs to be driven by the region.
- Housing is a big issue affecting all of us. We're all having challenges getting people into homes. We've been discussing with ministers about bringing USL online for long term permanent housing usage.
- Etheridge in an emergency situation for housing with construction companies purchasing caravan sites etc. They are considering building a work

camp for their own road works crew. They are constricted by a shortage of land and houses.

- Indigenous housing issues are causing numerous issues in neighbouring councils. Growing number of bush living in Yarrabah. Difficult process to initiate home ownership. IBA is complex.
- Also have communication issues – telehealth is failing due to this. Would appreciate support around this.
- Hope Vale has 50 blocks and about a dozen or so are privately owned.
- Postcode issues associated with lending.
- Would like to see a proposal of how to get houses in indigenous councils i.e. reinvestment etc.
- Escalation of youth crime issues in the region. David acknowledged the work in the region which has occurred at a local government level.
- Financial Assistance Grants.
- Tourism Enhancement Fund.
- Cairns and Far North are important.



Mr Brent Mickelberg MP, Shadow Minister for Employment and Training, Shadow Minister for Small and Family Business and Shadow Minister for Open Data

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- FNQROC State Priorities
- Roads – backlog. ROSI
- Roads – Kuranda Range Road
- Cairns Water Security – Stage 1
- Kidston Project
- Housing
- Apprenticeships

ADVOCACY REPORT

Discussion/Vision

- Overview of FNQROC State Priorities
- A new modern Regional Plan which includes Etheridge and Cook Shire Councils
- Roads – backlog and Kuranda Range Road
- Waste Management
- Water security – Cairns Water Security – Stage 1 project – federal commitment gained and need state matching these funds.
- Kuranda Range Road - \$210mil labor commitment to safety – would like to have a portion quarantined to identify a solution to the efficiency and capacity issues. B-doubles can't travel on it.
- ROSI is important for our regional roads which are our lifeline with no alternative. Our communities are impacted heavily by our roads and small businesses bear the brunt of this. Conflict between tourists and heavy vehicles. Impact on the costs of import and exports. Need to bring our roads to an acceptable standard.
- The ROSI arterial routes are vital.
- Kidston will see 600 employees over the next couple of years.
- Housing a huge issue – shortages in indigenous councils is having an impact on not only in communities but also neighbouring councils.
- Real shortage of apprentices. Believes we need to de-risk apprentices on businesses – the first 2 years is at a cost to the employer and then there is the risk they will lose them when trained. Apprenticeship is also only one avenue for skilled staff.



Ms Rosslyn Bates MP, Shadow Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Shadow Minister for Medical Research and Shadow Minister for Women

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- FNQROC State Priorities
- Cairns Water Security – Stage 1
- Health Services
- First Responder Units
- Digital Connectivity / Telehealth

Discussion/Vision

- Overview of FNQ State Priorities
- Cairns Water Security – Stage 1 project – looking for matching funding to Federal commitment.
- Mareeba looking for an increase in services at their hospital – they have a large contingent of islanders they are servicing. There has been no increase to service that.
- She will be visiting the region shortly. More than happy to know who she should be meeting with and where she should be going.
- She's looking for programs/packages to attract nurses and doctors to the region.
- Looking at extending the rural generalist program.
- Georgetown ambulance is voluntary – the Director of Nursing is extremely concerned as volunteers are reducing. Would like an ambulance base in Georgetown – Closest is Mt Garnet. Need to get Robbie Katter to push this as well. As an interim, could look at First Responder Unit as an option.
- Housing and using USL.
- Mossman Hospital - \$10mil revamp but still waiting over 3 hours as there is no staff to run them.
- Yarrabah and issues with communications to support telehealth.

ADVOCACY REPORT



Hon Curtis Pitt MP, Speaker of the House and Member for Mulgrave

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- FNQROC State Priorities
- Cairns Water Security - Stage 1
- Housing, Indigenous Housing, Social Housing
- Kuranda Range Road

Discussion/Vision

- Overview of the priorities we have been discussing while down here.
- Cairns Water Security – Stage 1 Project
- Yarrabah housing and land supply. Yarrabah feasibility study (YLF). Thank you for the investments around the jetty program.
- Kuranda Range Road – quarantining a portion of the \$210mil to get a solution to the efficiency and capacity issues.
- USL for housing
- Councils support for the music trails concept.
- It is okay to take your local state member to Canberra as part of specific delegation requests.



Hon Annastacia Palaszczuk MP Premier and Minister for Trade

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- FNQROC Regional Plan
- Housing, Indigenous Housing, Social Housing
- Kuranda Range Road
- Agriculture Development
- Diesel free Daintree
- Flu Vaccinations

Discussion/Vision

- Looking for collegial relationships at a Federal and State Level
- Would like the regional plan to be driven locally.
- Housing and the use of the USL there is a huge opportunity to release that land for housing. Councils have done this with their land.
- Kuranda Range Road – (Premier is well aware of this road.) Requested that a portion of the \$210mil be quarantined to assess an appropriate option to deliver industry efficiency and increased capacity.
- Thank you for Works for Queensland Fund. Premier asked that when she visits she wants to see all these projects.
- Agricultural development opportunities growing in our region
- We look forward to working with the government going forward
- Premier advised that exports are \$90billion which are diverse products.
- Thank you for investment in Atherton Hospital
- Housing – Indigenous social housing is worse, but it is now affecting workforce in the region.
- We'd like to see a housing expert panel similar to SEQ in our region

ADVOCACY REPORT

- Thank you for the significant investment and work in Cairns – Health, ED, Mental Health, Convention Centre, CWAR, Smithfield Bypass and Cairns Marine Precinct to name a few.
- Acknowledge work the State put in through COVID with them as new Mayors which was very helpful.
- Thank you for funds to revitalise Hope Vale.
- Premier asked that we promote the free flu vaccine. Current symptoms are very similar to COVID.
- Thank you from Yarrabah – they are looking forward to tackling housing and wanting to reinvent NPRH. Appreciative of Arts and culture precinct and jetty project. Looking to leverage Tourism.
- Diesel free Daintree – looking for State support to transition houses to 240V.



Hon Di Farmer MP, Minister for Employment and Minister for Training and Skills Development

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- Training/job ready
- Housing
- Apprenticeships/Skilled Workforce
- Kuranda Range Road

Discussion/Vision

- Training and being job ready but no labour market in Yarrabah.
- Kidston and Etheridge ag precinct development and the job opportunities is being stifled by lack of housing.
- On the back of losing NPRH. Hope Vale has lost the training opportunity. They want to grow their own.
- Region has concerns regarding skilled workforce and lack of completion of apprenticeships.

- Kuranda Range Road overview of issues.
- Cr Michael Kerr thanked the Minister for her visits to Douglas Shire. The community knows when she visits and is appreciative.
- Workforce – we're running out of skilled employees – hairdressers, chefs etc
- Positive response from the community to investment in Cook Shire Council
- Attracting retirees back into the workforce.
- Minister believes it is both skilled and unskilled labour is one of our biggest inhibitors to economic growth.
- The housing is very much recognised by the State.
- Looking at apprenticeship completion rates.



Hon Scott Stewart MP, Minister for Resources

Attendees

- All Mayors

Key Topics

- Silica Mines – Hope Vale
- Resource Industry Development Plan
- Kidston and Genex Projects
- Land Leases Yarrabah

Discussion/Vision

- Mayor Woibo discussed the Silica mines in the region. Royalties going to congress not to community. Mayor Woibo would like investment in the community to take care of the elders and support education in the community. Needs to do something now while there is an opportunity. Asking for the minister to work with the council in the process to make sure the community doesn't miss out.
- Look for assurances around employment and royalties to support the community.
- Is there anything within the approval conditions which can help him out?

ADVOCACY REPORT

- Through congress it only supports a couple of people – through council it can support a community.
- Minister – it is difficult. They do talk to the mines about social license. Resource Industry Development Plan – 30 year guide – it clearly talks about how they work with community about co-existence.
- The right to royalty sits with the body corporate under legislation. Social license is where the focus needs to be.
- Yarrabah - Need to sort out land leases and release. Minister can assist with this
- Department can be a facilitator for Hope Vale.
- Minister will come up for a visit to Hope Vale.
- Kidston and Genex. Road networks not up to standard for vehicles transferring products in. The weight – some is 90tonne, some 120 tonne to be moved on the road network.