

Minutes of the 163rd FNQROC Board Meeting

Meeting No	163
Meeting Name	FNQROC Board Meeting
Date	7 December 2023
Time	10.30am to 2.00pm
Venue	Cairns Regional Council, Civic Reception, Cairns

REPRESENTATIVES

	Cr Terry James	Cairns Regional Council
	Cr Mark Nolan, Mayor	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
	Cr Peter Scott, Mayor	Cook Shire Council
	Cr Trevor Pickering, Mayor	Croydon Shire Council
	Cr Peter Garde, Councillor	Croydon Shire Council
CHAIR	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

CEOS

Ms Mica Martin, CEO	Cairns Regional Council
Mr Andrew Graffen, CEO	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Ms Jacqui Cresswell, CEO	Croydon Shire Council
Ms Rachel Brophy, CEO	Douglas Shire Council
Mr Ken Timms, CEO	Etheridge Shire Council
Mr Steve Linnane, CEO	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council (online)
Mr Peter Franks, CEO	Mareeba Shire Council
Mr Gary Rinehart, CEO	Tablelands Regional Council
Mr Richard Wright, CEO	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

OBSERVERS

Ms Rudi Pretzler	LGAQ
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INVITED GUESTS

Mr Ryan Longland	DSDILGP
Ms Michelle Cottrell	DSDILGP
Ms Tanjill Whitnell	Department of Justice

FNQROC STAFF

Mr Anthony Archie	Chief 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

Mr Brian Joiner, CEO	Cook Shire Council
Cr Ramon Jayo, Mayor	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
Cr Mary Brown	Hinchinbrook Shire Council (online)
Cr Jason Woibo, Mayor	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
Ms Kiley Hanslow, CEO	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
Cr Ross Andrews, Mayor	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

3144 WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am.

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

Mayor Kerr acknowledged Mayor Bob Manning's retirement and thanked him for all the work he has while on the FNQROC Board. Mayor Kerr welcomed and congratulated the incoming Mayor, Terry James.

3145 BOARD PRESENTATIONS

3.1 FNQ Regional Plan Update - Ms Michelle Cottrell, Executive Director and Mr Ryan Longland, Director, Regional and Spatial Planning, DSDILGP

Mr Longland introduced the new Executive Director Ms Michelle Cottrell to the FNQROC Board. Ms Cottrell spoke about her new role and her background.

Mr Longland provided an update on the FNQ Regional Plan journey to date. **A copy of the presentation has been provided with the minutes.**

Key information

- Local government engagement – group and one on one meetings (ongoing)
- Gaps and opportunities assessments
- Stakeholder engagement strategy
- Regional Economic Cluster, regional economy and housing needs
- Draft Mapping being sourced initially from all departments prior to draft plan being completed
- Vision Survey progress
- Confirmation with the board on the new deadlines of the Draft and Final Regional Plan.

Discussion from the floor:

- Population growth – difference between what was and what could have been if had a plan that encouraged growth.
- Work to be done in area of water. It was identified that we need a long term plan for the future that is supported.
- Mossman Mill – private entities in discussions
- Cairns Port and Mourilyan Master Plan – it was identified that these ports may need different requirements.
- Agreement local government engagement has been good and instilled confidence that they are working in the right direction Looking at scale and scope of the issues councils are putting forward.

3.3 Tanjil Whittnell, Coordinator, Far North Queensland Dispute Resolution Centre, Department of Justice.

Ms Whitnell provided an insight into what the FNQ Dispute Resolution Centre does and how councils can access their services.

- Nationally accredited.
- Assess whether a dispute is suitable for mediation.
- Different disputes including workplace and commercial.
- Training offered to become a mediator.
- Free Confidential Service – except for Workplace mediation.
- Useful for many areas of compliance or general community interactions.
- For further information Ms Whitnell can be contacted via email Tanjil.Whitnell@justice.qld.gov.au

3.3 Rudi Pretzler, Lead Public Health and Works (LGAQ)

Mr Pretzler provided an overview of LGAQ recent activities per the briefing note circulated prior to meeting. (Appendix 3)

- The 2023 Annual Conference was held in Gladstone from 16-18 October 2023. 152 motions were listed for debate. In total, 140 resolutions were passed. The Final Outcomes Document can be accessed via Congruent.
- New legislation has passed to overhaul the functions of the Office of the Independent Assessor and councillor complaint system on 15 November 2023. The State Government accepted all 40 recommendations from the recent inquiry and progressed these changes through the Bill which has received royal assent from the Governor. Key reforms include the introduction of a new statutory preliminary assessment process for complaints, a process to declare someone a 'vexatious complainant' and the removal of the mandate to publish certain details on the LG conduct register.
- Local government participated in the Queensland's State Delegation to Canberra with Deputy Premier Miles to discuss the outcome of the Federal Infrastructure Investment Pipeline Review. Minister King indicated that councils impacted by the budget cuts should work with the state government to ensure they are ready and then put them forward for the upcoming budget and that there would be no budging on the the 50:50 split. However, local government specific programs would not be impacted by the new split rules.
- Following the collection of data in 2022 and 2023, the LGAQ has presented preliminary insights from the Cost-Shifting survey to councils at the Annual Conference. These show that there has

been a 378% increase in reported cost-shifting over the past 20 years. The LGAQ will launch the finalised report in early 2024 with a campaign preceding the launch.

- The State Government announced \$6.1M at Annual Conference to establish the Local Energy Partnerships framework, aiming to improve practice and engagement in the renewable energy sector. The LGAQ will arrange a briefing with the Department of Energy and Public Work ton the announcement with further details to come.
- Following advocacy by the LGAQ and the Local Government Animal Management Taskforce, the State Government has tabled the Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, which includes key changes to the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008. Key changes include stronger penalties for offenders, state-harmonised effective control measures, restrictions to QCAT appeals and the banning of restricted dogs across the state.

3146 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The draft minutes of the 162nd FNQ Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC) Board meeting of 5 October 2023.

MOVED: Cr Rod Marti

SECOND: Cr Mark Nolan

Motion

That the FNQROC Board move that the minutes of the 161st Board Meeting held on 5 October 2023 be confirmed and adopted.

CARRIED

3147 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Action items from 5 October 2023 FNQROC Board Meeting

Minute Number	Action	Responsible Person(s)	Status
3128	FNQROC to make contact with Tyre Stewardship Australia to invite them to present to the FNQROC Board on the results from the survey at the next meeting on 7 December 2023.	P Power FNQROC	On-going
3142a	FNQROC to draft a letter from the FNQROC Chair supporting the PNG NRL team established in Cairns.	A Archie Cr Michael Kerr FNQROC	Completed – sent to Minister Conroy's office 2 December 2023
3142b	A Archie to look at a strategy paper on Cyber Security for local government councils as a whole with the possibility of a shared Chief Security Officer.	A Archie FNQROC	On-going

Action 3128 - No submissions received and results not to be published. An update will be provided through Lucy Greene LGAQ at next meeting.

Action 3142a – Letter was sent to Minister Pat Conroy on 5 December 2023; awaiting reply.

Action 3142b – Discussions with LGMS, no outcome. Looking at next year for possible strategies.

3148 ADVOCACY

Nil

3149 STRATEGIC OPERATIONAL PLAN

Local Housing Action Plan Project

- Many Councils should be at draft plan by the end of the month and maybe able to have a briefing session with Councillors. If Council is unable to get to this stage they should contact LGAQ to inform them of any delay and proposed timeline.

3150 DISCUSSION TOPICS

Nil

3151 CORRESPONDENCE

Incoming – noted

1. Letter from Mayor Terry James, Cairns Regional Council – 28 November 2023

Outgoing – noted

1. Letter to the Hon Pat Conroy - 28 November 2023

3152 FNQROC POLICY REVIEW

Nil

3153 FNQROC REPORTS AND MOUS

- B95 – Water Capability Project – Stantec Submission (Appendix 1)

MOVED: Cr Mark Nolan

SECOND: Cr Bradley Creek

Motion

That the FNQROC Board endorse that Stantec Australia Pty Ltd are awarded a contract to develop the FNQ Regional Water Capability Plan.

CARRIED

- B96B – TIDS Program Management Tool (Appendix 2)

MOVED: Cr Barry Hughes

SECOND: Cr Terry James

Motion

That the FNQROC Board endorse that Shepherd Services Pty Ltd are awarded a contract to develop a new Program Prioritisation Tool to manage the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme program

CARRIED

3137 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet – 1 July 2023 to 30 November 2023

MOVED: Cr Angela Toppin

SECOND: Cr Trevor Pickering

Motion

That the profit and Loss and Balance Sheet Reports for the period FY 1 July 2023 to 30 November 2023 be adopted and accepted.

CARRIED

Note: QTC online savings account with higher interest rates has been set up awaiting activation.

3138 ATTENDANCE & MINUTES OF MEETING

Noted.

3139 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.

3140 MINUTES OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES

FNQROC WHS & Wellbeing Committee Meeting – 10 October 2023

Noted

FNQROC Regional Water Alliance Meeting - 19 October 2023

Noted

FNQROC Local Housing Action Plan Working Group # 2 – 24 October 2023

Noted

FNQROC Animal Management Technical Committee Management – 31 October 2023

Noted

FNQ RRTG TC Meeting – 10 November 2023

Noted

NAMAC Disaster Management Workshop – 11 November 2023

Noted

FNQROC Climate Resilience Technical Committee Meeting - 28 November 2023

Noted

FNQROC Planners Meeting – FNQ Regional Plan – 1 December 2023

Noted

3141 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

FNQROC Regional Biosolids Sub-Committee Meeting No.1 – 14 September 2023

Noted - Minutes – [available on request](#)

FNQROC Regional Supply & Delivery of Liquid Alum, ACH & Caustic Soda – Contract Meeting - 2 November 2023

Noted - Minutes – [available on request](#)

FNQROC Regional Waste Management & Resource Recovery – RRR Plan Implementation – 3 November 2023

Noted - Minutes – [available on request](#)

FNQROC Sewer Relining Contract Prestart - Contract Meeting # 1 - 2 November 2023

Noted - Minutes – [available on request](#)

FNQROC Regional Supply & Delivery of Citric Acid – Contract Meeting #2 - 27 November 2023

Noted - Minutes – [available on request](#)

FNQROC Regional Collection & Disposal of Ferrous Metal, Non-Ferrous Metal & ULABs, Contract Meeting #2 – 30 November 2023

Noted - Minutes – [available on request](#)

3142 GENERAL BUSINESS

Presentation

Telstra Bin Sensors Project

Cassowary Coast Regional Council provided a presentation on the Telstra Bin Sensor Project being conducted. **A copy of the presentation has been provided with the minutes.**

General Business

FNQROC CEO Anthony Archie proposed a motion to support Mareeba Shire Council's submission to Minister Mark Bailey on their position on the Barron River Bridge.

Motion

That the FNQROC Board support the decision to make a submission to support Mareeba Shire Council's position on the Barron River Bridge. Submission to be forwarded to Minister Mark Bailey.

MOVED: Cr Angela Toppin

SECOND: Cr Barry Hughes

CARRIED

3143 NEXT MEETING

The Chair advised that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 1 February 2024.

The Chair thanked A Archie and the FNQROC team for their hard work this year and acknowledged the FNQROC Board members for their contribution.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.00pm.



Cr Michael Kerr, FNQROC Chair

AGREED ACTION ITEMS

Thursday 7 December 2023

Action items nil.

FNQROC Board Meetings for 2024

Date	Venue
Thursday 1 February 2024	Cairns
Thursday 18 April 2024	Cairns
Thursday 6 June 2024	Tully
Thursday 1 August 2024	Cairns *
Thursday 3 October 2024	Cairns *
Thursday 5 December 2024	Cairns

**Away meeting to be determined*