ORDINARY MEETING 27 MAY 2015	4

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S STRATEGIC MONTHLY REPORT

Pmt | 1/3/37 | #4439510V8

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The report this month continues to highlight the fact that the Council across a range of key indicators, be they financial, capital and operational, is performing very well and reflects a commitment from the executive and the staff to deliver on the range of matters outlined in Council's Corporate Plan and the 2014/15 Budget.

REPORT

1 CURRENT SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

CIS Update

The Council Information System (CIS) program has re-commenced. A revised schedule and budget based on the contract variation are in place, as reported to the Project Control Group. The revised commercial terms will see the project complete within the original budget despite the delays to the schedule.

A Cairns Regional Council (CRC) resourcing plan has been completed and the recruitment for back-fill in Finance and Information Services is almost complete.

The tasks outlined in last month's report (building technical environments, reviewing the Chart of Accounts and Work Order classifications) are progressing.

Scoping of the report writing and data migration tasks is also underway. A review of the test strategy and test plans will commence mid-May when the CIS Test Manager commences work on the project

EBA UPDATE

As reported last month the current status of councils EBA is on hold pending the changes to the current industrial relations legislation.

The Industrial Relations (Restoring Fairness) and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 was introduced into the Queensland Parliament on 7th May 2015. This legislation makes changes to the Industrial Relations Act and consequently will have significant impact on the process for making certified agreements and the Local Government

Industry Award. The Amendment Bill seeks to amend or reinstate certain provisions like consultation, dispute resolution, right of entry provisions for Unions, and previously identified prohibited content.

Any Modern Awards made before the commencement of this legislation will be reviewed on the direction to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) from the Minister. The Local Government Industry Award is one of these.

The review process will include restoring clauses in past awards that were removed as prohibited content. The QIRC may increase the number of Moderns Awards covering the industry or occupation. (i.e. the Local Government Industry Award (LGIA) may be split into more than one award).

It is uncertain when the Modern Award review process will commence or end, but being practical it would have to take at least a few months. Expectation is towards the end of 2015.

What it does mean for Council is that our agreement expires in September 2015 and can't be renewed until the Modern Award review is completed. The Current agreement and conditions will remain 'status quo' until it is replaced with a new agreement underpinned by the reviewed award

There may be pressure from Unions to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Council to roll existing agreement and offer a pay increase in the absence of a new agreement being negotiated. Advice from LGAQ is to decline such requests.

SAFETY AUDIT

An independent Workplace Health & Safety audit was conducted in May. The audit was an implementation audit where the auditor confirms what is written in our polices is being implemented on the ground.

In particular the auditors were looking at:

- PPE compliance.
- Prestart checks on equipment being conducted.
- Adherence to Safe Work Method Statements.
- Chemical Safety requirements being implemented.
- Test and Tag requirements implemented.

The auditors inspected over 20 worksites with 163 criteria audited resulting in;

- 13 major non-compliances.
- 49 minor non-compliances.
- 101 conformances.

Overall this is a good result, however we can do better. The major categories for the non-conformances were:

- Safe Work Method Statements either not available, or developed for the worksite;
- Vehicle prestart checks not being completed; and
- Basic PPE requirements not being met

The auditor did make a special mention to the following areas/persons for maintaining exceptional safety compliance:

- Cairns Works Maintenance, Roads and Drains and Parks and Gardens Northern and Central Districts.
- Percy Leis - Cairns Works Construction Services ganger.

2 UPDATE ON CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The status of Council's position on the implementation of these plans is reported quarterly and was last reported to the April Ordinary Meeting.

The Departmental Quarterly Reports have been collated and provided on the website for public viewing.

The link is http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/about-council/reports/quarterly

3. MAJOR KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

FINANCE

Council's operating position at month end was an operating surplus of $7.7M representing a favourable variance of $8.2M compared to budget.

This favourable variance is driven by greater than anticipated revenue from net rates and utility charges ($3.3M), miscellaneous revenue ($2.2M) and fees and charges ($1.4M).

EMPLOYEES

Council's FTE as at 15/5/2015 was 1239 of which 1005 are full-time permanent.

Turnover rate has declined over the last 12 months and is currently tracking at 8.90%, which is below the KPI of 10% (this figure is based on full time permanent / part time permanent staff and does not include casual, temporary or agency staff).

Councils Lost Time Injury Rate (LTIFR) of 29.96 is slightly lower than the three year average of 30.38

The Lost Time Injury Duration Rate (LTIDR) of 11.25 is well below the three year average of 24.52

Councils Days Lost due to injury for the financial year to 30 April of 669 days is well below the three year average of 1546 days

CAPITAL

The 2014/15 Capital Works Summary report is tabled on a monthly basis. Each department and the relevant committee would have discussed and reviewed this at the relevant workshop.

As at the end of April, Council has spent approximately 67.33% of the capital budget with expenditure totalling $121.5M.

Department	YTD Actual $000	Year to Date Budget $000	Full Year Budget $000
Executive	-	500	1,000
Finance	2,582	4,241	6,265
Planning and Environment	485	1,320	925
Community, Sport & Cultural Services	13,782	23,494	29,817
Infrastructure Services	40,269	38,938	47,188
Cairns Resource Recovery	371	701	921
Cairns Water	24,356	29,299	35,438
TOTAL	**81,844**	**98,493**	**121,553**

4. RISK AND COMPLIANCE UPDATE

Update on Risk and Compliance Management

Council's Risk Management Framework was reported through the Audit Committee held on the 10th March.

A full review of all risks and their associated treatment plans has been undertaken. The Corporate Risk Register has been updated.

In April I reported on the status of the Penalty Infringement Notices issued for the works undertaken in April/May 2014 on the trees surrounding the library. No new information has emerged during the month.

5. CURRENT CONSULTATION PROJECTS

This section provides a summary for Council as to where we are undertaking community consultation on significant projects. This list does not include where we are undertaking community notification associated with programmed activities or actions such as road resurfacing or reseals; footpath construction and the like.

Project	Description	IAP2 Consultation Level	Consultation Closing Date
Mount Whitfield North Drainage Management Plan	Council is undertaking a Drainage Management Plan in response to flooding issues in Stratford and Freshwater. This catchment-wide drainage study will determine long-term solutions for Council to: • Better understand the water flow paths; • Review the suitability of current stormwater infrastructure; • Identify which drains require upgrading or improvement; and • Identify new structures that will help in reducing flooding. A future work program will then be developed that addresses the issues in a cost effective manner. Any short-term improvements that may reduce the probability and frequency of flooding will continue to be carried out. A consultation phase will be carried out as part of this study and when this occurs we encourage residents to present their issues, photographs or stories about past flooding experiences in this area	Consult	1/3/2015
Northern Beaches Youth Activity Precinct	Northern Beaches Youth Activity Precinct will create an active space for use by BMX riders, scooters, skaters and even parkour. Council has Convic on board to design a space for all the Northern Beaches and suitable for skaters, bikers, scooters and skates. The team from Convic were on site at Coastwatcher Park, Trinity Beach on Wednesday, 13 May from 4.30pm-6.30pm to get ideas from members of the public for this new precinct.	Consult	18/5/2015

Project	Description	IAP2 Consultation Level	Consultation Closing Date
Shield Street Tree Removal & Replacement Program	Cairns Regional Council proposes to remove 12 street trees from the footpath in Shields Street (from Grafton St to Sheridan St). These trees (Barringtonia spp) are no longer classified as a suitable street tree for this type of location as they are causing continual damage to infrastructure. Their aggressive root systems are constantly moving pavers causing trip hazards and damaging kerbing causing pooling of stormwater. Council has received numerous complaints about their root systems invading private property infrastructure as well. Considering these issues and the continual maintenance expense that is required to keep the footpath safe, it is believed that the trees have outgrown their location. As such, Council would prefer that the trees are removed. It is proposed to replace the trees with Dwarf Golden Penda (Xanthostemon chrysanthus) which would be better suited to this location. Replacement plantings would be well established trees of approx. 1 metre to 1.5 metres in height (a 400mm pot). At maturity the trees would grow to about 3 metres in height and they could be shaped or pruned in a topiary fashion once established.	Consult	25 May 2015

6. GRANT FUNDING

Grant Id	Grant Name	Grant Description	Grant Type	Body Type	Grant Status	Grant Value	Responsible Branch
131	OPAL 2015 Technology Trendsetters	This project seeks to investigate and implement the use of the emerging technology of proximity marketing sensors (iBeacons) at the City Library. IBeacons are small devices that transmit a low-energy Bluetooth signal. Smartphones installed with the App can automatically detect these beacon signals and alert the phone's owner that locational information on the collection, special events, and regular activities and services is available.	OPERATING	OTHER	APPLICATION	$10,500	Libraries & Community Development
1029	Rocket A-Maze	The Rocket A-maze grant is an Arts Link grant with funds to go towards the cost of the Rocket A-Maze Coordinator for the Cairns Children Festival held on 10 May. For the 2015 Cairns Children's Festival Tank 4 will become an alien environment. Visitors will travel through a cardboard maze of rockets to a recycled alien world, peer down microscopes at parasites and immerse themselves in ACO Virtual (Australian Chamber Orchestra) – an extraordinary new way to experience music. The maze world will be a sustainable project, constructed from recycled, found and repurposed materials.	OPERATING	OTHER	SUCCESSFUL	$1,500	CS&CS Management
1028	2015/16 Understory Film Festival	If successful the Understory Grant will be used for prize money and the orchestration of the short films on the one reel for the 2016 Project.	OPERATING	OTHER	ACTIVE	$5,210	CS&CS Management
1027	2014/15 Pilot Priority Cycle Route Improvement	If successful the Cycle Route Improvement: Mann Street	CAPITAL	STATE	APPLICATION	$920,000	Parks & Leisure

Grant Id	Grant Name	Grant Description	Grant Type	Body Type	Grant Status	Grant Value	Responsible Branch
	Program						
1025	St Andrews Bicycle Education Track	Through the HAST program 2 teachers from the school were trained to deliver bicycle education. HAST has provided 15 children's bikes and helmets to the school for bicycle education program which commenced 2014. The completion of the bicycle Education track will enhance the school based program by providing a simulated road environment with road signs and line markings.	OPERATING	STATE	APPLICATION	$24,800	Parks & Leisure
1024	OLHOC - Community Road Safety Round 4	This project will build a path to link the bike storage cage at Our Lady Help of Christians school with the path along Chinaman's Creek. The path will be on Council drainage reserve and will enable all children travelling to the school by bike or scooter to access the storage cage on path without having to cross through the parent drop off car park at peak times. CRC HAST Officer works closely with the school to increase the number of children walking and cycling to school. Approximately 80 children would use this path daily to and from school.	CAPITAL	STATE	APPLICATION	$16,380	Parks & Leisure
1022	Walker Road Sport and Recreational Precinct Development	Funding to offset Council's contribution for the Walker Road Sport and Recreation Precinct Development	CAPITAL	FEDERAL	APPLICATION	$7,913,915	CS&CS Management
1017	Fitzroy Island Sea Protection Wall	Funding towards the cost of a 350m long sea wall on Fitzroy Island beach to provide protection to the unformed road and reduce the risk of erosion	CAPITAL	STATE	ACTIVE	$184,000.00	Infrastructure Planning
1016	Best Start Family Literacy	Best Start is a universal family literacy program aimed at supporting stronger	OPERATING	STATE	ACTIVE	$701,932	Libraries & Com Develop

Grant Id	Grant Name	Grant Description	Grant Type	Body Type	Grant Status	Grant Value	Responsible Branch
		language and literacy environments for young children from 0-5 years and their families. Best Start will directly support parents and primary caregivers to be confident as the child's first and most important teacher, and will provide parents with increased access to resources they need through public libraries The funding provided is for four years. 1 January 2015 – 31 December 2018					
1014	CAIRNS CITY BUS STATION	Maintenance / servicing / cleaning of the two bus stations on Lake Street	OPERATING	STATE	ACTIVE	$16,539.16	Infrastructure Planning
1013	Fifth National Public Galleries Summit Bursary	Funding will go towards costs to attend National Public Galleries Summit in Bendigo	OPERATING	OTHER	CLOSED	$1,000.00	CS&CS Management
1012	Cartwright Road, Eubenangee - Pavement Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation of the road pavement on Cartwright Road, Eubenangee	CAPITAL	FEDERAL	UNSUCCESSFUL	$328,000	Infrastructure Planning
1011	Russell Road, Gordonvale - Pavement Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation of the road pavement on Russell Road, Gordonvale	CAPITAL	FEDERAL	APPLICATION	$337,000	Infrastructure Planning
1010	Kenny Street, Portsmith - Pavement Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation of the road pavement on Kenny Street at Fearnley Street intersection, Portsmith	CAPITAL	FEDERAL	UNSUCCESSFUL	$46,000	Infrastructure Planning
1009	Cook Street, Portsmith - Pavement Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation of the road pavement on Cook Street, Portsmith	CAPITAL	FEDERAL	UNSUCCESSFUL	$441,000	Infrastructure Planning
1008	Aumuller Street Portsmith - Pavement Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation of the road pavement on Aumuller Street	CAPITAL	FEDERAL	UNSUCCESSFUL	$50,000	Infrastructure Planning
1007	Tingira Street Portsmith - Pavement Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation of the road pavement on Tingira Street, Portsmith	CAPITAL	FEDERAL	SUCCESSFUL	$282,000	Infrastructure Planning
1006	TIDS 2014/15	Funding towards the cost of an intersection upgrade at Aumuller Street / Gatton Street intersection, to improve safety	CAPITAL	STATE	ACTIVE	$316,500.00	Infrastructure Planning

Grant Id	Grant Name	Grant Description	Grant Type	Body Type	Grant Status	Grant Value	Responsible Branch
1004	Get Playing Plus - Martyn St Sporting Reserve (Stage 1)	Funding to deliver Stage 1 of the Martyn Street Sporting Reserve Redevelopment.	CAPITAL	STATE	SUCCESSFUL	$1,500,000	Parks & Leisure
1002	Roads to Recovery 2014-2019	Various road upgrade projects	CAPITAL	FEDERAL	ACTIVE	$7,658,592	Infrastructure Planning
1000	Redlynch Road Connection - Royalties for the Regions R4	Funding toward an access road connecting Redlynch Connection Road to Saint Andrews School	CAPITAL	STATE	SUCCESSFUL	$1,300,000	Infrastructure Planning
999	Spotlight 2015/16	Spotlight grant is used for a series of performances by young emerging musicians/song writers in venues which have a ready- made audience. Venues such as the Civic Theatre, Tanks, open air film nights, events and celebrations. This assists the performers to be audience-ready and exposes the audience to the performer with the aim of building the reputation and the work prospects of the performer. This project grew from having a Spotlight performer showcase their work in the foyer at interval at the Civic theatre when people came down for drinks. Spotlight also provides educational workshops and mentoring. This project has seen young people emerge into professional performers at substantial gigs.	OPERATING	STATE	SUCCESSFUL	$50,000	CS&CS Management

Grant Id	Grant Name	Grant Description	Grant Type	Body Type	Grant Status	Grant Value	Responsible Branch
998	2014/15 GraffitiSTOP Clean Up Program	GraffitiSTOP Removal Kit & Education Prevention Program. The grant funding will be utilised to provide a Graffiti Education Prevention Program that can be delivered within the Qld Education System and external facilitators, along with Graffiti Removal Kits enabling a proactive approach to graffiti vandalism and empowering the community to take action.	Operating	State	ACTIVE	$67,500	Libraries & Community Development

7. MEETINGS

The Advance Cairns Board Meeting was held during May. Topics Discussed included:

Launch of the Northern Australia Alliance: Launched by the Prime Minister (8 May). This alliance positions Cairns as a 'driver' in relation to the Northern Austral White Paper (NAWP).

The Alliance MOU states that two events will be held per year and consideration is being given to the second event to take the form of an annual conference. It is suggested that this conference take the lead on transitioning "The future of Tropical Economies Conference" hosted by CRC and JCU in 2014 and the "In the Zone Conference" enabling a combined conference to be established focussed around Northern Australia, held annually rotated between Darwin and Cairns and working with existing partners re transition.

Hann Highway: Reported that AC/CCoC held meeting with Hon Curtis Pitt MP to ensure that the funds allocated for this project as outlined by the Prime Minister are distributed to Etheridge & Flinders Shires to manage. This will be addressed by FNQROC.

Primary Health Care Network (PHCN): Chair provided an update on the PHCN tender process and win for the region; Head Office will be based in Cairns controlling $32M annual of primary health care funding.

Advance Cairns Economic Audits: The Board was provided an update on the economic audits (being Agriculture, Constructions and Resources) advising that industry endorsement had been received from 2 partners, with 1 outstanding prior to launch, the Audits are to be finalised soon.

Cairns Shipping Development Project: General discussions regarding maintaining this project on the 8+8 Infrastructure Priority list. Advance Cairns will continue to advocate for this project.

Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Program Tender: Discussions occurred on the benefits to region if a local bid was made to build and maintain 40 vessels, plus recruitment (200 direct + 100 indirect jobs) within the region.

The Board agreed to incorporate this project into the 8+8 Shipping Development project, with a high priority due to tight timeframes and setup a meeting with proponents to discuss a stakeholder engagement plan.

Ethanol Mandate: The board agreed to provide to extend an invitation to the Ethanol Group to provide a briefing to the next meeting.

Qld Tropical Cyclone Consultative Committee

Recently this Committee met in Cairns to review the 2014/15 cyclone season. Representatives from Commonwealth and State Governments as well as Councils from as far south as Livingtone Regional Council and James Cook University attended.

The Queensland Tropical Cyclone Consultative Committee (QTCCC) was established in 1995.

The purpose of the QTCCC is to:

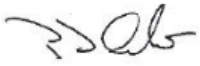
- provide advice to the State Disaster Mitigation Committee (SDMC) on measures to mitigate the effects of tropical cyclones on Queensland communities;
- provide a forum for the exchange and analysis of data and information on disaster impacts, mitigation strategy research, policy development, disaster risk assessment (hazards and vulnerabilities of communities), mitigation measures, and community preparedness in relation to tropical cyclones; and
- support the scoping and implementation of State and national disaster risk reduction and community and built environment resilience building strategies.

The QTCCC's functions are to:

- contribute to the National, State and Local strategic policy framework relating to the impact of tropical cyclones;
- support and contribute to the priorities, objectives and strategies of the SDMC;
- advise on roles, responsibilities and priorities of entities involved in the management of tropical cyclone impacts;
- support the Queensland incorporation of the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (NSDR), and implementation of the Queensland Coastal Plan and State Planning Policy for Coastal Protection and Queensland Disaster Management Guidelines; and
- support and establish technical working groups to undertake projects and provide specialist advice regarding key cyclone and storm tide initiatives on behalf of the SDMC.

Presentations were provided by the Bureau of Meterology on the cyclones that occurred in 2014/15 and the lessons learnt . Councils to the south of Cairns where the cyclones crossed provided updates as to what they and their communities experienced as a result of those events. State government departments presented on the “Get Ready Qld” campaign as well as updates and arrangements for the design of cyclone shelters.

The meeting provided valuable information for Council officers with regard to the operations of our Disaster Management Unit and for Council to be commencing its planning for future activities.



Peter Tabulo
Chief Executive Officer