

ORDINARY MEETING**26 NOVEMBER 2025****5.1****CEO MONTHLY REPORT**

EO | 93/1/2 | #7770253

RECOMMENDATION:**That Council notes:**

- 1. The status of Council Resolutions.**
- 2. The CEO Monthly Update.**
- 3. The Monthly Activity Review – October 2025.**

Outstanding Council Resolutions

Since the previous reporting period 25 resolutions have been completed, leaving 8 open resolutions. See below table:

Date of Meeting	Type of Meeting	Report Title	Directorate
23/07/2025	Ordinary	Prejudicial Matter - Infrastructure Agreement Between Cairns Regional Council and PPNQ Developments Pty Ltd for the discretionary waiver of levied charges for Catalytic Development Under the development and investment incentive support policy for tourist attraction and tourist park at 4L AND 900L Captain Cook Highway, Kewarra Beach – Division 9 <i>Advice provided to Developer confirming that the Change Application needs to be finalised before IA can be signed.</i>	PGS
27/08/2025	Ordinary	Contractual Matter – Tender Consideration Plan for the Reservoir Emergent Works Program <i>In progress</i>	CIA
17/09/2025	Ordinary	Prejudicial Matter – Support for Major Event Agreement with proponent	EDA
15/10/2025	Ordinary	Support For AFL Cape York Ltd Proposal, Lot 6 On SP305169, 86-94 Tills Street, Westcourt <i>In progress</i>	LC
29/10/25	Ordinary	Community Partnerships Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Grant <i>In progress: undertaking pre-event meetings with grant recipients – aim to have agreements and payments for 25/26 financial year resolved by end of year.</i>	LC
29/10/25	Ordinary	Community Partnerships Grant Round 16 <i>In progress: undertaking process for agreements and payments.</i>	LC
29/10/25	Ordinary	Support For FNQ Legacy Club Inc Proposal, Part of Lot 2 On SP277156, 60-80 Leisure Park Road, Smithfield <i>In progress</i>	LC

Date of Meeting	Type of Meeting	Report Title	Directorate
12/11/25	Ordinary	Review of Water General Policies <i>In progress</i>	CIA

CEO Monthly Update

Music and Festival Events in October

Through the Our Cairns 2024 survey, residents identified a strong desire for more live music, festivals and entertainment options. October saw a series of music and festival events in Cairns supported through Council's Major Events and Creative Life teams. These included:

- Dream Aloud – 18 October (circa 1,500 to 2,000 attendees)
- Be Social Fest – 25 October (cira 7,000 attendees)
- Shine on Gimuy – 16-19 October (circa 23,000 attendees)
- Cairns Music Industry Gathering (CIMG) – 7-9 November (circa 100 participants)
- City Sounds – 8 October (circa 3000 attendees)

Local Disaster Management – Readiness Exercise

Council's disaster preparedness activities continued, with the facilitation of a functional exercise, simulating a Severe Tropical Cyclone crossing the Cairns coast. Held on 23 October 2025, the full day exercise tested key elements of disaster operations, including Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) decision-making in the days leading up to landfall, the full activation of the Coordination Centre Incident Management Team (IMT), and the capability of Shelter Managers - particularly the proposed use of Royal Flying Doctor Service medical kits in storm tide shelters during lockdown.

This activity marked the culmination of a four-month training program involving more than 70 Council staff, and brought together over 120 participants from Council, LDMG core and advisor groups, State agencies (QPS, QFES, QAS, SES, BoM), NBN, Ergon, the Cairns Harbour Master, and community groups. Having all agencies together, showcased genuine teamwork, clear communication and the sharing of lived experience for continued learning and improvement from a community centred perspective.

Insights from the exercise are now being evaluated and will inform the upcoming review of the Local Disaster Management Plan and the update of Council's Recovery Plans. These exercises continue to strengthen coordination, information-sharing, and trust across all disaster management stakeholders, enhancing our collective readiness and resilience for the Cairns community.

Monthly Activity Review – October 2025

The Monthly Activity Review summarises a number of Council's operational activities and associated metrics from the previous month, as well as providing relevant updates on major initiatives and projects. See Attachment 1.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Monthly Activity Review – October 2025 DM# [7770257](#)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Gouldthorp." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Gouldthorp
Chief Executive Officer

Attachment 1: Monthly Activity Review – October 2025 DM# [7770257](#)

Monthly Activity Review

93/1/2 | #7770257 / #7770253

OCTOBER 2025

The data contained within this review relates to the following:

- Community, Civic and Major Events
- My Cairns Downloads
- Cultural & Community Events
- Vandalism costs
- Cairns Infrastructure and Assets Customer Requests
- Planning Growth and Sustainability Updates
- Major Projects and Initiatives
- Economic Development and Advocacy Highlights
- Economic Snapshot

Ken Gouldthorp
Chief Executive Officer

Community and Civic events

Staff Awards

Date: 21 October 2025

Venue: Cairns Performing Arts Centre

Attendance: 400

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Purpose: The annual Staff Awards celebrate excellence across Council, recognising exceptional achievement, innovation, and dedication among employees. The event acknowledges both individuals and teams across eight award categories.



400 people



Community and Civic events

Order of Australia Morning Tea

Date: 24 October 2025

Venue: Cairns Regional Council Civic Reception Rooms

Attendance: 55

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Purpose: An annual civic reception that officially acknowledges the region's most recent Order of Australia recipients and celebrates those who have previously received this distinguished honour.

Monthly Citizenship Ceremony

Date: 31 October 2025

Venue: Cairns Regional Council Civic Reception Rooms

Attendance: 64 conferees and 100 guests

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Purpose: A formal ceremony that signifies the final step for local residents in officially becoming Australian citizens. This event is hosted by Cairns Regional Council on behalf of the Department of Home Affairs.



55 people



164 people



Supporting the Community



MyCairns App Downloads

Total Downloads:

October 2025, 75,943

September 2025, 75,316

August 2025, 74,711

July 2025, 74,022

June 2025, 73,322

May 2025, 72,719

April 2025, 72,031

March 2025, 71,319

February 2025, 70,607

January 2025, 69,795

December 2024, 68,775

November 2024, 67,971

October 2024, 67,269

Notifications types that are enabled

Topic	Number Of Devices
Council Notifications	54,688
Event Subscription	27,642
My Bin Day	30,920
Vacancies at Council	38,396
Water Restriction Changes	51,843

Major Events- October

Queensland Music Trails (Tropics Trail)

Date: October 2025

The Queensland Music Trails' Tropics Trail was successfully delivered in October, featuring a series of music and cultural events across Tropical North Queensland, including four within the Cairns Local Government Area. The Trail celebrates the region's people, places and culture through contemporary music, performance and large-scale art installations. Council supports both Shine On Gimuy and Dream Aloud through Major Event sponsorships program..

Dream Aloud

Date: 18 October 2025

Total attendance - 1500 – 2000*

- First Nations concert in its second year
- featuring Budjerah, Kaiit, South Summit and other local acts at Munro Martin Parklands

QLD Music Trails Reel –

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1485576599419607>

Shine on Gimuy

Date: 16-19 October 2025

Number of individuals – 23,119**

- Shine On Gimuy is a First Nations arts and cultural festival in its third year.
- The program included the Calling to Country Ceremony and the Artstory Light Walk on the Esplanade, free for the community to attend.

Cairns Regional Council Reel-

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/2752348348303503>

*Estimated attendance – pending final acquittal reports

** Estimated attendance – based on 2024 data



**Attendance over
25,000***



Major Events - October

Be Social Fest

Date: 25 October 2025

Be Social Fest made its debut in Cairns, marking the first year of a three-year partnership (2025–2027) with Cairns Regional Council.

The event transformed the Cairns Showgrounds into a vibrant festival precinct, attracting thousands of attendees.

Attendance: Approx. *7,000 attendees

Event highlights:

- Multi-stage, all ages live music festival at Cairns Showgrounds
 - Extremely well-received lineup featuring national headline artists such as Bliss n Eso, Matt Corby and Sneaky Sound System supported by local emerging artists.
 - Community Engagement- Local employment and supplier opportunities, with strong collaboration across production, hospitality, and event logistics.
- Strong destination marketing - Event-driven digital campaigns highlighting Cairns' unique lifestyle and festival appeal to interstate visitors.

Purpose: Through the Our Cairns 2024 survey, residents identified a strong desire for more live music, festivals and entertainment options. The delivery of Be Social Fest directly responds to this community feedback, enhancing Cairns' cultural vibrancy, diversifying the events calendar, and reinforcing Council's commitment to improving liveability and supporting the creative economy.

Cairns Regional Council supports the event through the Major Events Sponsorship program.

Cairns Regional Council Reel -

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1140670008189992>



7,000*

attendance



* Estimated attendance – pending final acquittal reports

Cultural & Community Events

August, September & October 2025

Community Partnerships:

October : 7 events / attendance 14,567

- CARMA Multicultural Festival – 3 Oct | Multicultural event | 10,100 pax
- Cairns Durga Puja – 4 Oct | Multicultural event | 400 pax
- 2025 Cairns Two Feet and a Heartbeat – 12 Oct | Community event | 100 pax
- Diwali Mela (Fair) 2025 – 18 Oct | Multicultural event | 2230 pax
- Cairns LIVE and OUCH for COUCH – 18 Oct | Community event | 192 pax
- Dia de Muertos – 31 Oct | Multicultural event | 545 pax
- Tunnel of Terror – 31 Oct | Community event | 1000 pax

September: 14 events / attendance 20,170

- All Abilities Sports Day – 3 Sept | Sport event | 520 pax
- South Side Celebration – 5 Sept | Community event | 2400
- Babinda Harvest Festival – 6 Sept | Community event | 5,500 pax
- Great Barrier Reef Chess Open – 6 Sept | Community event | 95 pax
- Ganeshotsav – 6 Sept | Multicultural event | 400 pax
- FNQ Dogs Day Out – 6 Sept | Community event | 2,000 pax
- Out of the Shadows Walk – 10 Sept | Community event | 100 pax
- Pacific Cup Carnival – 10 Sept | Sport event | 425 pax
- Big Talk One Fire – 12 Sept | Indigenous event | 2,800 pax
- Moon Over Machans – 13 Sept | Community event | 280 pax
- PNG's 50th Independence Anniversary – 14 Sept | 2,500 pax
- QSuper Cardiac Challenge – 20-22 Sept | Sport event | 250 pax
- 2025 Qld Under 18 Women's Softball Championships – 20 Sept | Sport event | 400 pax
- The Prawn Star Barron River Food Fest – 27 Sept | Community event | 2,500 pax

August: 13 events / attendance 42,730

- Thunder in the Canefields 1-9 Aug | Community event | 5,000 pax
- Netball QLD Ruby North Series 1-3 Aug | Sport event | 1,846 pax
- The Great Pyramid Race 2 Aug | Sport Event | 3,500 pax
- Cairns Filipino Barrio Fiesta 2 Aug | Multicultural event | 5,000 pax
- FNQ Relay for Life 2 Aug | Community event | 800 pax
- Cairns Homelessness Week 7 Aug | Community event | 380 pax
- 2025 AusCycling BMX Racing State Series 16-17 Aug | Sport event | 2,000 pax
- Cairns Mudcrabs Short Course Swim Meet 16 Aug | Sport event | 125 pax
- Cairns Japan Bon Dance Festival 16 Aug | Multicultural event | 13,000 pax
- Cairns Indian Festival 23 Aug | Multicultural event | 8,000 pax
- Freshwater Festival 23 Aug | Community event | 1,000 pax
- Grand Final Day 23 Aug | Sport event | 700 pax
- Qld Beach Volleyball Tour 29-31 Aug | Sport event | 200 pax

Cultural & Community Events

August, September & October 2025

Active Living Program:

October :	61 classes / attendance 1,831	8 classes cancelled due to weather
September:	79 classes / attendance 1,847	11 classes cancelled due to weather
August:	74 classes / attendance 1,689	4 classes cancelled due to weather

Community Spaces (totals = August, September & October period)

- **Esplanade Lagoon:** 351,445 people enjoyed the Lagoon
- **Barlow Park:** 18,814 people attended events in this period
- **City Venues & Parks:** There were 1,796* bookings for the period, includes all parks, foreshores, sporting fields and city venues except Esplanade and Barlow. This figure includes 677 park/foreshore bookings, 485 sporting field bookings and 634 Commercial Activities (Fitness classes, workshops).
- **Go Clubs:** There were no Go Club workshops held in this period.
- **Community Halls:** There were 1,054 bookings across the community halls with 21,459 users attributed in this period.
- *This includes all parks, foreshores, sporting fields and city venues other than Barlow Park and the Esplanade.*

Cairns Music Industry Gathering & City Sounds

- **The 2025 Cairns Music Industry Gathering**, held from 7–9 November at the Tanks, is one of the region's premier forums for music networking, collaboration, and celebration. Presented by Council and supported by the Live Music Office (LMO), this year's event brought together more than a hundred musicians, industry professionals, and creative stakeholders, to strengthen the Cairns music ecosystem and its connection to the broader Australian music sector.
- **City Sounds** followed the success of Stratford Sounds and celebrated Cairns' vibrant live music scene, with more than 3,000 attendees enjoying performances by 21 local acts across four CBD venues on Saturday 8 November. Local businesses partnered with Council to deliver the event and activate Bank Lane, alongside the LMO, OneMusic Australia and APRA AMCOS. Part part of the national Live + Local program, and supported by Creative Australia, the initiative creates new performance opportunities, activates local venues, and grows audiences for live music in Cairns.

Council Assets – Vandalism Costs

2025/26 VANDALISM & GRAFFITI COSTS	OCTOBER	OCTOBER YTD
Business Area	(\$'000)	(\$'000)
Facilities Maintenance	13	40
Community Spaces	66	165
Works	19	52
TOTAL	98	256

Cairns Infrastructure and Assets

Customer Requests – October 2025



83

Footpaths and
cycleways



17%



225

Roads and road
furniture



2%



89

Graffiti removal



44%

Percentages indicate movement on last month.

Planning, Growth & Sustainability

Amy Patterson – 2025 Global Recognition Award

Executive Manager of Licensing & Compliance, Amy Patterson, has received a 2025 Global Recognition Award for excellence in leadership and mentoring. Amy's innovative Licensing & Compliance Framework reduced formal enforcement actions by 66% and is now being adopted by other Queensland councils. Her inclusive, people-focused approach has driven the highest employee engagement improvement across Council. A civil engineer and accomplished leader, Amy combines technical expertise with ethical, collaborative practice.



Her structured mentoring has advanced emerging leaders and strengthened capability sector-wide, demonstrating how purposeful leadership delivers lasting organisational and community impact.

Shaping Queensland's Future: Development and Planning Team Sets the Benchmark at UDIA Awards

Cairns Regional Council's Development and Planning Branch has been recognised at the 2025 UDIA Queensland Awards for Excellence in Adelaide.

Executive Manager – Development and Planning, Claire Simmons received the Women in Leadership Award for Excellence, while the Development and Planning team won Regional Project of the Year for their Wolter (now Therefor Group) Benchmarking Project.



These achievements highlight the branch's leadership and innovation in shaping sustainable, thriving communities across Cairns.

Planning, Growth & Sustainability

Cairns City Precincts received Award of Commendation at the Queensland PIA Awards

The Cairns City Precincts Urban Regeneration Project has earned a Commendation in Strategic Planning at the 39th PIA Queensland Awards for Planning Excellence.

Led by Cairns Regional Council with SMEC and Pilot Places, the seven-month framework, funded by the Australian Government's Housing Support Program, details a path for infill housing, public realm regeneration, and climate-ready infrastructure across central Cairns.



Jury Citation: Judges applauded the place-based strategy and practical tools that balance greenfield growth with deliverable infill. The framework focuses on connectivity, housing diversity, and climate resilience, with action centred in three key precincts. Highlights include “cool green” walkable links, climate-appropriate housing, and shaded, people-friendly public spaces.

Have your Say - Draft Far North Queensland Regional Plan

The State Government have released the draft FNQ Regional Plan which is the governments proposed strategic plan for FNQ and is supported by the draft FNQ Infrastructure Plan which identifies regionally significant infrastructure.

Council encourages stakeholders and members of the public to review the draft plan and provide comment by 5 January 2026. Details on the engagement program are available at <https://www.planning.qld.gov.au/planning-framework/plan-making/regional-planning/far-north-queensland-regional-plan>.

Major Projects & Initiatives

October 2025



Resource Recovery 2040 Roadmap

- Kerbside Collection tender closed – report to Council at end of November Ordinary meeting.
- Residual Waste Tender has closed and evaluation has commenced.
- Design commenced for Portsmouth Disaster Waste Aggregation project.

Cairns Water Security Stage 1

- Water Treatment Plant ongoing, with new works including site pipework, buildings and lagoons.
- 5ML and 8ML reservoirs roof construction underway. Hydrostatic testing of water retaining structures is complete.
- Pipeline works have passed 50% with more than 16km of the 30km total complete.
- Underbore pipeline installation ongoing, including under Bruce Hwy, Qld Rail and Mulgrave River
- Mulgrave intake bore development and flow testing is ongoing..



Smart Water Meter Project

- 38,000 + smart water meters installed, out of 55,000 scope
- SWM project rollout team installed 1,700 meters last month
- Potential leaks are being identified by the new smart water meters and customers contacted accordingly

Economic Development & Advocacy

Highlights – October

Economic Development

- Economic Development successfully delivered the 2025 Indigenous Business Month Small Business Connect event on 21 October in partnership with DTET, DCDSB, DWATSIPM, DSDIP, and Cairns Chamber of Commerce. This event supported over 80 attendees, with 24 exhibitors in a celebration of Indigenous Business.
- Economic Development representatives joined the Study Cairns-led International Education Roundtable on 2 October 2025 with Assistant Minister Hon Julian Hill MP, Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs, and Assistant Minister for International Education.
- Economic Development representatives contributed to the Department of Defence's Defence Industry Development Strategy consultation on 8 October 2025.
- Economic Development concluded an engagement with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute and produced an Opportunities Analysis for Pacific Engagement.
- An Economic Development representative also had the opportunity to join the Tradelinked Cairns-PNG-Pacific delegation to Port Moresby and Lae from 21-24 October to reaffirm ties and progress initiatives for closer collaboration with our Lae sister city.
- Economic Development sponsored the Innovation Award for Excellence category at the Cairns Chamber of Commerce's Business Excellence Awards on 17 October 2025, and the Chairman's Award for Excellence at TTNQ's TNQ Tourism Excellence Awards on 24 October.

Major Events & Film

- Provided an update to Councillors on the Major Events Sponsorship Economic Outcomes for 2024/2025. During this period, Council supported 14 events at an investment of \$1.51M, which generated \$38.6M economic impact

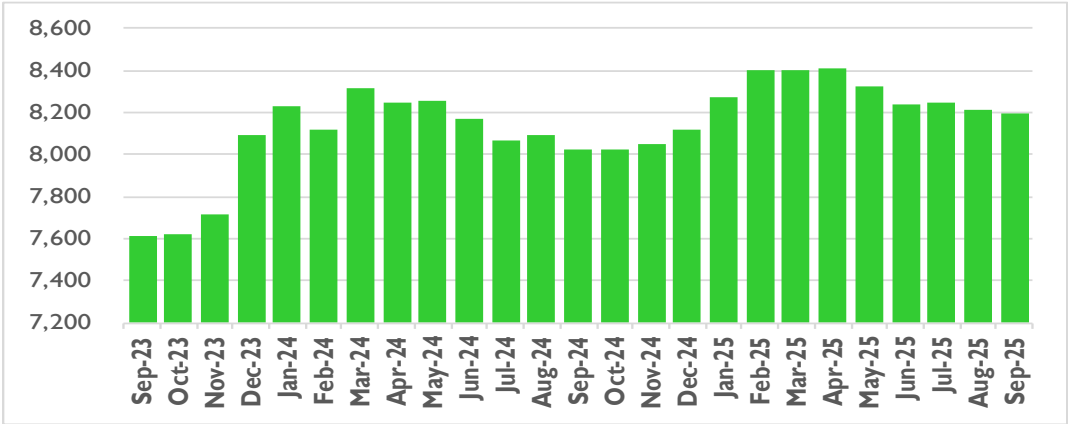
Advocacy

- All five Council motions endorsed at the 2025 LGAQ conference on the Gold Coast. Motion "Federal Funding to Unlock Housing Supply", unanimously endorsed. Cairns will host the 2026 LGAQ conference.

Economic snapshot



JOBSEEKER RECIPIENTS (CNS)

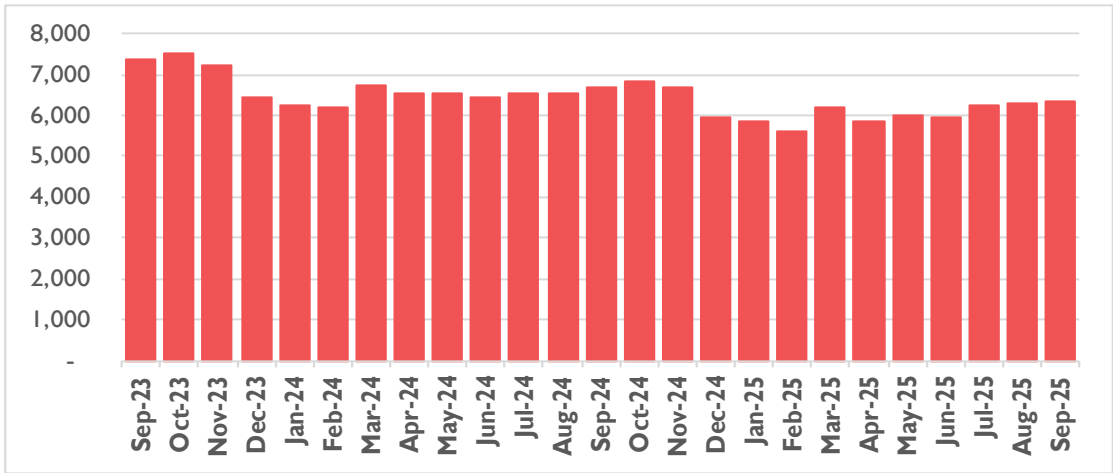


Most recent JobSeeker recipient #s

Sep-25
8,195



MONTHLY JOB ADVERTISEMENTS (FNQ)



Most recent FNQ Job Ad #s

Sep-25
6,352