ORDINARY MEETING 25 NOVEMBER 2026	5.1

CEO MONTHLY REPORT

EXE | 93/1/2 | #7977913

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes:

1. **The status of Council Resolutions;**
2. **The CEO Monthly Update; and**
3. **The Monthly Activity Review – October 2026.**

Outstanding Council Resolutions

Since the previous reporting period 18 resolutions have been completed, leaving 8 open resolutions. See below table:

Date of Meeting	Type of Meeting	Report Title	Directorate
12/08/2026	Ordinary	Prejudicial Matter – Support for Major Event *In progress*	EDA
16/09/2026	Ordinary	Prejudicial Matter – Support for Major Event *In progress*	EDA
30/09/2026	Ordinary	Australian International Marine Export Group Limited, Trading as Superyacht Australia, Resource and Performance Agreement 1 November 2026 to 30 June 2029 *In progress*	EDA
30/09/2026	Ordinary	The Historical Society Cairns North Queensland Inc. 2027-30 Resource and Performance Agreement *In progress waiting on return of agreement from CHS.*	L&C
28/10/2026	Ordinary	In-Kind Use of Barlow Park by Northern Pride Rugby League Limited *In progress waiting on return of agreement, new NP GM started this week.*	L&C
28/10/2026	Ordinary	Petition Requesting Construction of Missing Footpath Along Part of Paradise Palms Drive – Division 9 *In progress - a draft letter to principal petitioner in process*	L&C
28/10/2026	Ordinary	Petition – Littles and Dexter Roads Gordonvale Speed Limit *In progress - a draft letter to principal petitioner in process*	CIA
28/10/2026	Ordinary	Prejudicial Matter – Support for Major Event [Reference: 2026-04] *In progress*	ED&A

CEO Monthly Update

Monthly Activity Review – October 2026

Disaster Management / Get Ready Day

Get Ready Emergency Services Day was held on Saturday 10 October 2026 at Esplanade Plaza, as part of Get Ready Queensland Week. The free, family-friendly event aimed to encourage Cairns residents to prepare for the upcoming severe weather season by providing practical disaster preparedness information and opportunities to engage with local emergency services.

Attendees were encouraged to take proactive steps by developing an emergency plan and assembling an emergency kit. The event also promoted key preparedness information channels, including the Cairns Disaster Dashboard and Get Ready Queensland website, to support ongoing community awareness and resilience.

LGAQ Conference

The 2026 Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Annual Conference was held in Cairns from 19 to 21 October. Cairns welcomed approximately 800 delegates, including Mayors, Councillors, CEOs, senior government representatives and key stakeholders from across Queensland. The event generated strong positive feedback and provided an opportunity to showcase Cairns while celebrating both the C150 Celebrations and LGAQ's 130th anniversary.

Towards 2050 Growth Strategy

The Towards 2050 Growth Strategy project has been honoured with two industry awards, winning the Planning Category in the 2026 Engagement Excellence Awards and a commendation at the 2026 Awards for Planning Excellence for the Planning Institute of Australia. The Towards 2050 Growth Strategy project places Council in a strong position to take the outcomes forward through its current planning scheme amendments and future statutory planning processes.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Monthly Activity Review – October 2026
DM#7977916

Ken Gouldthorp.

Ken Gouldthorp
Chief Executive Officer

Monthly Activity Review

93/1/2 | #7977913 / #7977916



October 2026

The data contained within this review relates to the following:

- Community and Civic Events
- Major Events
- L&C 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
October

Staff Awards

Date: 13 October 2026

Venue: Tanks Arts Centre

Attendance: 400 Pax

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



Order of Australia Morning Tea

Date: 23 October 2026

Venue: Cairns Regional Council Civic Reception Rooms

Attendance: 55 Pax

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

55 people



Major Events – October

Brisbane 2032 Emblems Launch

Date: Monday 5th October 2026
Venue: Vlasoff Cay & Cairns Esplanade

Event Background:

- Cairns was picked as one of only 6 co-host regions to have a piece of the emblem 'discovered'.
- Six individual pieces of the Brisbane 2032 emblem were found and revealed across Queensland during the phased rollout.
- The pieces were uncovered by Australian sporting greats, with Ian Thorpe and Scotter Patterson discovering a piece of the emblem off Vlasoff Cay.
- Once fully assembled in Brisbane, the final emblems were revealed to feature two native Australian birds: a pink cockatoo for the Olympic Games and a sulphur-crested cockatoo for the Paralympic Games.

Local Media launch:

- Mayor Amy Eden, Hon Tim Mander MP, Assistant Minister Bree James MP, Terry James MP, Marguerite Fitzgerald (Brisbane 2032), Ian Thorpe and Scooter Patterson gathered at the Cairns Esplanade Lagoon to reveal the piece of the emblem to the local community.
- The Today Show was in region to capture the content and showcase the first piece of the emblem to the World.
- Images and reels of our Beautiful Tropical destination were featured extensively on Brisbane 2032's social media channels, including this reel of the emblem discovery: https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1Dt9JjMJhN/









L&C Cultural & Community Events

August, September & October 2026

Creative Venues

Events may include Launches, Exhibitions, Workshops, Classes, Performances, NFP Meetings or Rehearsals, Private Functions, Art Residencies, and Community Events.

Month	Event information
October 2026	**46 Events / 24,127 Attendees**
Highlights: October events at CPAC and Munro Martin Parklands accounted for 45% of all attendance this month, with strong turnouts to end of year school performances as well as two sold-out shows. **Comments:** Number of events and attendance remain consistent with previous year.	
September 2026	**67 Events / 82,600 Attendees**
Highlights: Cairns Festival continued into September with Carnival on Collins attracting 20,000+ attendees. Other large offsite non-ticketed events including Moving Picture Nights, Esplanade Main Stage and Cairns Festival programs accounted for an additional 42,000+ attendees. **Comments:** Number of events delivered compared to September 2025 decreased by 47% while attendance over same period increased by 17%. This was attributed to a decline in the number of small workshops and events delivered, and a more targeted 2026 Cairns Festival program that maintained audience reach.	
August 2025	**76 Events / 95,542 Attendees**
Highlights: Cairns Festival 2026 kicked off this month and the second ever Tanks Twilight Markets attracted over 8000 attendees. **Comments:** A 14% decrease in attendance was recorded compared to August 2025. However, the number of events delivered during the same period decreased by 30% indicating that while fewer events were presented, they attracted higher overall attendance.	

L&C Cultural & Community Events

August, September & October 2026

Community Market Data

Palm Cove Markets *(Community Partnerships)*

October Market Day:
Total attendance – 4,600 pax | Stallholders – 130 stalls booked (4 cancellations)
Comments: Good weather. School holidays, an excellent attendance.

September Market Day:
No September market day due to Carnival on Collins

August Market Day:
Total attendance – 2,800 pax | Stallholders – 115 stalls booked (4 cancellations + 3 stallholders turned up, but decided to leave due to bad weather)
Comments: Not great weather which affected attendance and stallholder numbers.

Gordonvale Markets *(Community Partnerships)*

October Market Day:
Total attendance – 5,500 pax | Stallholders – 152 stalls booked (2 cancellations)
Comments: Great weather! Now having to turn away stallholders, may have to look at a change to site map to add in more stallholder sites.

September Market Day:
Total attendance – 6,000 pax | Stallholders – 150 stalls booked (2 cancellations)
Comments: Once again - good weather, very happy with attendance due to weather.

August Market Day:
Total attendance – 5,000-5,500 pax | Stallholders – 150 stalls booked (1 cancellation)
Comments: Were lucky with the weather, sky cleared for the day. Always a busy day, as aligned with the Great Pyramid Race.

Tanks Markets (*Creative Life*)

October Market Day:
Total attendance – 3,000 pax | Stallholders – 126 stalls booked
Comments: Clearing skies and warmer temperatures kept numbers quieter than usual.

September Markets:
Total attendance – 24,000 pax (over two markets) | Stallholders – 349 stalls booked
Comments: Cairns Festival's Carnival on Collins plus regular Tanks Markets attracted 20,000 and 4,000 attendees.

August Market Day:
Total attendance – 8,000 pax | Stallholders – 96 stalls booked
Comments: Second ever **Tanks Twilight Markets** from 5-9pm. Amazing event! Overall, very positive with great feedback received.

L&C Cultural & Community Events

August, September & October 2026

Community Partnerships

Month	Type	Number	Attendance
October 2026	Multicultural Community Sport Indigenous	3 events 6 events 1 event 1 event	6,400 pax 10,938 pax 5,000 pax 3,000 pax

Comments: October is tracking as anticipated. Busier than previous years, due to C150 celebrations. Also, availability in July-August was limited, so some events were pushed out to October this year.

Highlights:

- Cairns Pride Festival – 12 events over 16 days.
- Barron River Foodfest – Traditionally hold their event in Aug or Sept, however a very busy time, moved to Oct.
- Cairns Filipino Barrio Fiesta – Traditionally held in Aug, however preferred date not available, moved to Oct.
- Cairns Durga Puja 2026 – 400 pax in attendance (previous years, no more than 300 attended).
- Rotary Beach Vibe – Date change from Sept to Oct.
- Cairns Diwali Mela – A record 5,000 in attendance (usually 3,000 pax).
- St Rita's School Centenary, Babinda – C150 special event. Well attended.
- Ski to Wakeboard World Stage Weekend – C150 special event. Very successful.
- Big Talk One Fire – Signature annual event for the region, well attended, even though it was a busy weekend. This event is usually held in Sept, however pushed back wanting to be away from school holidays this year.

September 2026	Multicultural Community Sport	3 events 7 events 2 events	4,300 pax 10,359 pax 1,000 pax

Comments: September traditional a busy month, however attendance can sometimes vary, with school holidays. This year, most events were very well attended.

Highlights:

- South Side Celebration – Biggest year yet with attendance, included additional children's activities to increase numbers and it worked.
- FNQ Dogs Day Out – This event is usually held in August, however found it to be too busy with larger events so pushed out to Sept this year.
- Babinda Harvest Festival – Wet weather, however still well attended.
- Stratford Sounds – First time supported by CP. Very bad weather which would have affected attendance. Still a successful event, looking to change date for 2027 (bring it earlier in the year if possible).

L&C Cultural & Community Events

August, September & October 2026

Continued Community Partnerships

Continued Highlights September events:

- FNQ Hospital Foundations Cardiac Challenge – Record competitors this year.
- Three Moons 150 Years Cairns Chinese Celebrations – Special C150 event, well attended (even though weather was not great).
- PNG's Family & Cultural Day (51st Independence) – Well attended.

August 2026	Multicultural Community Sport	1 event 6 events 3 events	15,000 pax 13,130 pax 6,000 pax

Comments: August, as expected. Esplanade venues are booked by quite a few major events throughout the month of August, so availability can be hard for community groups, this year in particular with C150 celebrations. Still a busy August for community events.

Highlights:

- Thunder in the Canefields – Growing each year, becoming more popular with locals and interstate visitors.
- St Andrews 25th Anniversary Celebrations – Special C150 event. Very well attended.
- FNQ Relay For Life – First time in quite some time, Relay went back to being an overnight event. Well attended and hoping to grow event (even though, may need to find a new venue for 2027 due to Barlow works).
- The Great Pyramid Race – All but 1 race was completely sold out. Looking to find ways to increase competitor numbers. Record attendance also.
- 50th Anniversary Celebration of Bayview Heights Community Kindy – Special C150 event, well attended.
- Cairns Japan Bon Dance Festival – Largest attendance yet, up to 15,000 pax.
- Cairns Chieftains Carpenter Cup – This multicultural sporting event is growing each year. Very successful event.

L&C Cultural & Community Events

August, September & October 2026

Active Living Classes *(Community Life)*

Month	Classes	Attendance	Weather Cancellations
October 2026	76	2,294	8 classes
September 2026	76	2,296	5 classes
August 2026	74	1,850	4 classes

Community Spaces bookings

Total figures for **August to October** period

Location	Stats
City Venues & Parks	There were 1815* total bookings for the period including 712 park/foreshore bookings; 465 sporting field bookings and 549 Commercial Activities (fitness classes and workshops). *This excludes Esplanade and Barlow Park.
Esplanade Lagoon	115,101 people enjoyed the Lagoon
Barlow Park	31,300 people attended Barlow Park for various events in this period. This includes Casual Users; St Augustines; Corporate Room use; Rugby League games/training; Cairns Athletics Club Meets; Athletics Carnivals; Pride/CDRL and other general events.
Community Halls	There were 1,275 bookings across the community halls with 2,1369 users attributed during this period.
Go Clubs	There were 0 Workshops held within this period.

Council Assets – Vandalism Costs

2026/27 VANDALISM & GRAFFITI COSTS	OCTOBER	OCTOBER YTD
Business Area	**($'000)**	**($'000)**
Facilities Maintenance	22	65
Community Spaces	29	122
Works	19	78
TOTAL	**70**	**265**

Planning, Growth & Sustainability

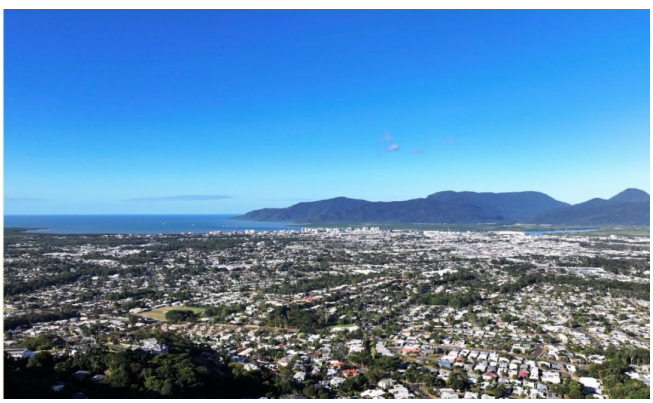
Towards 2050 Growth Strategy honoured with two awards

The Towards 2050 Growth Strategy project has been honoured with two industry awards over the last month.



The engagement program that supported the development of the growth strategy won the Planning Category in the **2026 Engagement Excellence Awards – Engagement Institute**. These prestigious awards recognise projects and organisations demonstrating excellence in community and stakeholder engagement across Australia and New Zealand. The Towards 2050 engagement program was one of the largest undertaken by Council and captured the views and input from right across the community. The award recognised the depth, extent and commitment to engagement. [Towards 2050 Shaping Cairns Growth Strategy Engagement Program — Engagement Institute]





The project has also received a commendation in the Strategic Planning Project category at the recent **2026 QLD Awards for Planning Excellence – Planning Institute of Australia**. The award recognises the approach and technical outcomes of the growth strategy and the engagement journey that supported the project.



The Towards 2050 Growth Strategy project places Council in a strong position to take the outcomes forward through its current planning scheme amendments and future statutory planning processes.

October suspected abandoned vehicle blitz keeps Local Laws Team busy

The Local Laws Compliance Team had an exceptionally busy October responding to reports of suspected abandoned vehicles, an issue that regularly attracts community attention and discussion on social media.

During the month, the team received more than 440 customer requests, with 151 relating to suspected abandoned vehicles. This equates to more than six abandoned vehicle reports every working day.

While vehicle impoundment is available as an enforcement option, it is considered a last resort. In most cases, the team works diligently to achieve voluntary compliance by investigating reports, affixing notices to vehicles, door knocking nearby properties, and making every effort to locate the owner or responsible person.

As a result of these investigations, the team impounded 23 vehicles during October - averaging more than one vehicle impounded per working day - with each impoundment requiring a comprehensive process to ensure all legislative and procedural requirements are met.

The figures highlight the significant workload undertaken by the Local Laws Team to keep public spaces safe, accessible and well maintained for the community





Cairns Infrastructure and Assets Customer Requests – October 2026



Percentages indicate movement on last month.

Major Projects & Initiatives
October 2026



Resource Recovery 2040 Roadmap

- Kerbside collection contractor mobilising.
- Community new trucks and National Recycling week launch
- O&M contract of residual waste progressing well

Cairns Water Security Stage 1

- 8ML Reservoir is now at cleaning stage prior to testing.
- Pipelines up the hill are complete with final concrete pouring of supporting bulkheads and backfilling almost complete.
- All 30km of pipeline construction are now complete.





Smart Water Meter Project

- 45,500+ smart water meters installed, out of 55,000 scope
- SWM project rollout team installed 1,500+ 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

- Council partnered with the Queensland Government and Cairns Chamber of Commerce for the 2026 Indigenous Business Connect event to celebrate Indigenous Business Month. This event attracted over 130 participants and provided opportunities for First Peoples businesses to engage directly with larger organisations and exhibitors. There were also opportunities to participate in practical sessions on capability statements, pitching, financial fundamentals, digital tools and AI.

Advocacy

- Council endorsed an updated suite of Advocacy Priorities targeting key infrastructure to support housing, resilience, policy changes to support economic growth and community safety, as well as community infrastructure. To support a clear and strategic approach, priorities were classified as either Tier 1 or Tier 2, with Tier 1 priorities representing issues with the greatest community impact requiring coordinated engagement with government and key stakeholders, while Tier 2 priorities remain important regional initiatives that are actively progressed as opportunities arise and resources permit.
- As part of the updated suite of Advocacy Priorities, Council is advocating for 13 practical actions the Queensland Government can take to help address community safety and anti-social behaviour in Cairns. These are summarised on the next page.
- The 2026 LGAQ Conference was held in Cairns, 19-21 October. Council submitted two LGAQ Motions to be considered, the first was for the State Government to establish an investment program to support catalytic infrastructure priorities, including those identified within statutory regional plans, the second looked to strengthen local government input into liquor licensing decisions. Both motions were endorsed at the conference.

Major Events & Film

- **Games Roadmap for Cairns** – Resource & Budget Analysis presented to ELT and Councillors.
- **Powderfinder announcement** – Powderfinger announced as the only regional stop of the National reunion tour. Both Cairns dates at Cazalys Stadium sold out within 5 days.
- **Film production** - a national documentary production commenced filming in the region in October, showcasing iconic locations including Babinda Boulders and the Cairns Botanic Gardens, generating valuable destination exposure for Cairns.
- **Film engagement** - Council attended the *State of Screen* event hosted by Screen Qld, discussing opportunities to grow the economic impact of screen production and strengthen local business participation in the industry.

Practical solutions for a safer Cairns

Cairns Regional Council welcomes the Queensland Government's focus on community safety and the work already underway to address crime and anti-social behaviour.

We're advocating for 13 practical actions the Queensland Government can take to build on this work and make a real difference on the ground in Cairns.



Reduce the Impact on Cairns

1. **RETURN TO COMMUNITY OF ORIGIN**
   Fully resource support for people leaving custody to return safely to their home communities.
2. **REVIEW THE LOCAL FARE SCHEME**
   Review the scheme to support essential travel while reducing unintended impacts on Cairns.
3. **INVEST IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES**
   Strengthen services, case management and support services in remote communities.
4. **STRENGTHEN RETURN TO COUNTRY**
   Simplify and strengthen access to help people return to their home communities.
5. **PLAN ANY FUTURE FNQ YOUTH FACILITY CAREFULLY**
   If a youth detention or remand facility proceeds, locate it adjacent to the Lotus Glen correctional precinct.
6. **GIVE COUNCILS A STRONGER VOICE IN LIQUOR LICENSING**
   Ensure local knowledge and community impacts are properly considered in liquor licensing decisions.

Proactively manage the Cairns CBD

7. **VISIBLE CBD POLICING**
   Maintain a consistent and highly visible police presence in the Cairns CBD.
8. **ACTIVATE A DESIGNATED BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY PRECINCT**
   State-established precinct in the CBD giving police additional powers such as weapons detection, move-on directions and banning notices.
9. **ENFORCE AGAINST ILLEGAL SHOPFRONTS**
   Maintain robust and continuous enforcement against illegal tobacconists and other unlawful operators.
10. **STRENGTHEN THE CAIRNS CITY POLICE BEAT**
    Relocate the Police Beat to a more central CBD location and elevate it to formal police station status.

Strengthen social supports

11. **SUPPORT COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AFFECTED BY CRIME**
    Establish a State grant scheme to help not-for-profit clubs and community groups meet the cost of crime and vandalism.
12. **INVEST IN EARLY INTERVENTION**
    Expand sustained, evidence-based prevention and family support for vulnerable children, young people and families.
13. **EXPAND CRISIS ACCOMMODATION**
    Increase crisis accommodation for people experiencing domestic and family violence, rough sleeping and young people leaving care.

LOCALLY DEVELOPED SOLUTIONS TO LOCAL PROBLEMS

Council is asking the Queensland Government to support and progress these practical priorities as part of its broader response to crime and community safety.

Scan QR code to read the full Community Safety Advocacy Priorities

cairns.qld.gov.au

Cairns REGIONAL COUNCIL

Economic snapshot

Most recent unemployment rates

Most recent unemployment rates

		Pre COVID
	Jun-26	Dec-19
Cairns LGA	4.4%	4.3%
	Sep-26	Pre COVID Dec-19
Cairns SA4 Region	4.7%	4.8%

2-year unemployment rate trend (%)

