

**ORDINARY MEETING**

24 JUNE 2026

**6.1****CEO MONTHLY REPORT**

EO | 93/1/2 | #7890716

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council notes:

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

**Outstanding Council Resolutions**

Since the previous reporting period 19 resolutions have been completed, leaving 5 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
26/11/2025	Ordinary	Contract 3011 – Waste and Recycling Kerbside Collection Services <i>Negotiations with the selected contractor ongoing</i>	CIA
13/5/2026	Ordinary	Liquor Licensing, Gaming machine Licensing and Adult Entertainment Permits – General Policy. <i>In progress, scheduled to return to Ordinary Meeting 24 June 2026.</i>	PGS
27/5/26	Ordinary	Community Partnerships Grant Round 18 <i>In progress</i>	LC
27/5/26	Ordinary	Contractual Matter – Proposed Infrastructure Agreement between Fabcot Pty Ltd and Cairns Regional Council – Works Contribution (Transport Infrastructure) – Trinity Beach Shopping Centre – 171-173 & 175 Trinity Beach Road, Trinity Beach – Division 3 <i>The IA has been issued to the developer for execution and Officers are awaiting its return.</i>	PGS

## **CEO Monthly Update**

### **Monthly Activity Review – May 2026**

#### **Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements**

On the afternoon of Friday, June 5, Federal Emergency Management Minister announced sweeping changes to the disaster recovery funding arrangements including:

- moving to a standard 50/50 funding model between the Commonwealth and states and territories
- introducing standardised packages of assistance
- raising the threshold for small disasters before they trigger Federal support
- implementing a simpler threshold for accessing disaster funding
- introducing a Resilient Infrastructure Scheme (replacing the current betterment funding framework), with funding of up to 15 per cent contributed towards each project including 7.5 per cent contributed by the Federal Government, matched by the States.

Queensland currently receives an average Commonwealth contribution of approximately 64 per cent under DRFA, with the Commonwealth contribution reaching up to 75 per cent for some disaster categories.

This proposed change is likely to have a significant impact on Cairns Regional Council and funding to recover from future disaster events.

LGAQ has advised that the Federal Government has committed to consultation with councils. The process and timing for that consultation is yet to be announced. In the interim it is proposed that council write to the Federal Emergency Management Minister outlining our concern.

#### **Cairns Celebrates 150 Program Update**

On 10 December 2025, Council endorsed the Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Official Program.

The Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Official Program contains events and activities delivered by Council, businesses, and community groups from 1 January – 31 December 2026.

Given the length of the year-long celebrations, it is expected that amendments and additions to this program will occur. These changes will be presented to Council on a regular basis.

The updated Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Official Program was distributed on June 19 2026: [www.cairns.qld.gov.au/c150](http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/c150)

## Cairns Children's Festival

Cairns Children's Festival (CCF) once again transformed the city into a playground of creativity, curiosity and imagination, inviting children and families to create, connect and experience the arts and culture together. Spanning venues including Tanks Arts Centre, Cairns Performing Arts Centre, Cairns City Library and the Cairns Botanic Gardens from 16–17 May 2026, the festival delivered a diverse program of live performances, workshops, installations, exhibitions and participatory experiences designed to place children at the centre of the creative experience.



A defining feature of the 2026 festival was its commitment to engaging local talent. The overwhelming majority of the program was conceived, delivered and facilitated by local artists, creatives, cultural practitioners and community members, ensuring the CCF continued to invest directly into Cairns' arts and cultural ecology. More exciting was the record number of young people involved in delivering the festival itself. Across performances, workshops, markets, installations and behind-the-scenes roles, young people weren't simply attending the festival, they were actively shaping it.

The 2026 festival reinforced its role as a vital platform for creating unique experiences for families while nurturing future artists, audiences, entrepreneurs and leaders. In doing so, it delivered more than a weekend of entertainment, it delivered an investment in the future of the Cairns community and the next generation who will help shape it.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Monthly Activity Review – May 2026  
DM#[7890720](#)

Handwritten signature of Ken Gouldthorp.

Ken Gouldthorp  
Chief Executive Officer

# Monthly Activity Review

93/1/2 | #7890716 / #7890720

## May 2026

The data contained within this review relates to the following:

- Community and Civic Events
- L&C Special Event
- Animal Management
- 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

## Mayor's Christmas Charity Launch

**Date:** 08 May 2026

**Venue:** Eastern Events Lawn

**Attendance:** 50 Pax

**Time:** 10:00am – 12:00pm

**Purpose:** The purpose of the event was to officially launch fundraising efforts for the 2026 Mayor's Christmas Charity. Funds raised will contribute towards the charity's annual target of \$100,000, enabling the delivery of approximately 800 Christmas food hampers to members of the Cairns community experiencing hardship.

The event also marked the charity's 30th anniversary, with a cake-cutting ceremony celebrating three decades of supporting local individuals and families in need. Key fundraising initiatives for 2026 include the Cairns 150 Year Ball and the 30 Years of Giving Campaign.



# L&C Special Event

## Cairns Children's Festival

Cairns Children's Festival (CCF) once again transformed the city into a playground of creativity, curiosity and imagination across Tanks Arts Centre, Cairns Performing Arts Centre, Cairns City Library and the Cairns Botanic Gardens from 16–17 May 2026.

The festival delivered a diverse program of live performances, workshops, installations, exhibitions and participatory experiences designed to place children at the centre of the creative experience.

One of the standout successes of the program was the introduction of *A Night at the Library: The Untold Story*, a brand-new immersive roving theatre experience that transformed Cairns City Library after dark. The youth lead ensemble cast created a world that had audiences follow characters through hidden corners, unexpected spaces and unfolding storylines, creating a magical experience unlike anything previously presented as part of the festival.

The response was overwhelming, with all six selling out performances and demonstrating a strong appetite for innovative family experiences that encourage audiences to see familiar places in entirely new ways.

Another exciting addition was the inaugural *Mini Makers Markets*, which provided a platform for young entrepreneurs to test their ideas, showcase their products and experience the realities of running a small business. More than just a market, the initiative included mentor-led workshops and learning opportunities delivered by some of Cairns' own young makers who already participate in the regular Tanks Markets. The result was a program that nurtured confidence, adaptability, resilience and business acumen in equal measure, while giving young people a genuine opportunity to transform their ideas into enterprise.



# Animal Management

March, April & May 2026

Month	March	April	May	3 month Total
<b>Dog Attacks</b>	55	66	59	<b>180</b>
<b>Animals Impounded</b>	187	161	49	<b>397</b>
<b>After Hours Calls</b>	40	38	49	<b>127</b>
Issue	Comments			
<b>Dog Attacks</b>	Quarterly dog attack numbers encouragingly have declined against prior year (-27%) despite some rather serious individual incidents through the period. Upcoming Winter is expected to bring an increase as more people are active with their pets during the season.			
<b>Animals Impounded</b>	Slight decrease in impoundments during the quarter vs same period last year with a big drop off in May heavily contributing. This is expected and annual, in particular with less cats getting lost / found.			
<b>After Hours Calls</b>	Significant reduction in After Hours call outs (-42%) in the quarter versus same quarter last year. This is due to the restructure of the Animal Management team which initiated an early and late shift pattern allowing a broader period of standard business hours during weekdays.			

# Council Assets – Vandalism Costs

2025/26 VANDALISM & GRAFFITI COSTS	MAY	MAY YTD
Business Area	(\$'000)	(\$'000)
Facilities Maintenance	22	110
Community Spaces	42	397
Works	21	167
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>674</b>

# Planning, Growth & Sustainability

## Strengthening Partnerships Through Eco-Catchment Tour

To mark World Environment Day and World Oceans Day, Council hosted an Eco-Catchment Tour to East Trinity, showcasing collaborative initiatives under the Reef Guardian Council Program, including Clean Creeks, Conservation Partnerships, water quality improvement, and habitat rehabilitation.

The tour brought together 40 participants, including Traditional Owner Rangers, industry,

researchers, community groups, and government representatives, highlighting the importance of protecting the Wet Tropics Rainforest and Great Barrier Reef.

Five Traditional Owner Ranger groups are actively involved in the Clean Creeks Program: Yirrganydji Gurabana, Gimuy Walubara Yidinji, Madjanji–Madyabana, Mandingalbay Yidinji, and Dulabed Malanbarra Yidinji–JawaJawa

Participants took part in hands-on activities focused on mangrove and wetland management, including habitat rehabilitation with MangroveWatch, species identification, and discussions on acid sulphate soils, alongside a cultural immersion led by Mandingalbay Yidinji Rangers.

The event highlighted strong partnerships delivering reef stewardship outcomes, including significant debris removal and improved catchment health. It also reinforced the importance of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Council's leadership in fostering cross-sector collaboration to protect the region's natural assets.



# Cairns Infrastructure and Assets Customer Requests – May 2026



**92**

Footpaths and  
cycleways



**31%**



**258**

Roads and road  
furniture



**8%**



**73**

Graffiti removal



**24%**

*Percentages indicate movement on last month.*

# Major Projects & Initiatives

## May 2026



### Resource Recovery 2040 Roadmap

- Kerbside Collection Contract awarded November 2025 – Mobilisation meetings have commenced.
- Residual Contract was awarded – Mobilisation meetings have commenced.
- Marketing & Comms workshopped with-Council new campaign “Know before you throw”.

### Cairns Water Security Stage 1

- Water retaining structure internal coatings underway.
- Concrete pours for Jones Rd pit are progressing well following major pipe cut-ins to existing trunk mains.
- Works to install the pipes uphill to the 8ML reservoir are progressing well. This includes pouring concrete bulkheads to support the pipelines.



### Smart Water Meter Project

- 40,000 + smart water meters installed, out of 55,000 scope
- SWM project rollout team installed 179 meters last month
- Potential leaks are being identified by the new smart water meters and customers contacted accordingly

# Economic Development & Advocacy Highlights – May

## Economic Development

- **Meet the Buyer 2026** – Council partnered with the Queensland Government Department of Customer Services, Open Data, Small and Family Business to deliver the Meet the Buyer event, as part of the Cairns Small Business Expo, on 19 May 2026. The event facilitated over 230 individual speed meetings between 11 large buyers and over 44 small business suppliers, with outcomes supporting Council's commitments under the Queensland Small Business Friendly Council initiative.

## Major Events & Film

- **2032 Games Roadmap for Cairns** – Torch Advisory Group have submitted the Strategic Direction and Roadmap 1-page summary. The project team of Council Officers along with the external project reference group have further developed key themes and actions.
- **Brisbane 2032 Olympics (City Readiness)** – Officers attended two host/co-host city workshops chaired by the Olympics and Paralympic Games Office (OPGO): *Host Cities Safety & Security* and *Responsibilities Matrix*.
- **Black Snow Season 3** - Filming operations are nearing completion across the Cairns region, with final location-based activities and studio operations concluding in June. Council has continued to support production through permit administration, operational coordination, parking and traffic management, stakeholder engagement and cross-departmental facilitation, contributing to the successful delivery of one of the region's largest screen productions to date.
- **Cairns Crocodiles (Film Stream)** – National media and marketing conference launched a Film Stream in 2026; facilitating industry discussions around the growth of Far North Queensland's screen sector.



# Economic snapshot

## Aviation (weekly passenger movements CNS Airport)

