

CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 JULY 2025 – 30 JUNE 2026

POP | 65/9/2 | # 7762399

RECOMMENDATION:**That Council:**

1. **Adopts the 2025-2026 Cairns Regional Council Annual Report in accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and publishes the report on Council's website.**
-

INTERESTED PARTIES:

Not applicable

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council is required to prepare and adopt an Annual Report for each financial year. The Annual Report provides an overview of Council's operations and performance for the 2025-2026 financial year, including Council's financial position, progress in delivering the objectives of the Corporate Plan and Operational Plan, and other matters prescribed by legislation.

BACKGROUND:

Under section 182 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council must adopt its Annual Report within one month of receiving the Auditor-General's audit report on the financial statements.

The draft Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2026 was considered and endorsed by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 8 September 2026. Council subsequently adopted the 2025-2026 Financial Statements at its Ordinary Meeting on 16 September 2026. The audited and signed Financial Statements form part of the Annual Report.

The Annual Report provides a comprehensive assessment of Council's performance and operations during the 2025-2026 financial year and is presented to Council for adoption prior to publication.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: (Recommended)

That Council adopts the Cairns Regional Council 2025-2026 Annual Report in accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and publishes the report on Council's website.

Option 2:

That Council does not adopt the Cairns Regional Council 2025-2026 Annual Report in its current form and requests that a revised report be presented to Council for consideration.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Consultation:

The Annual Report has been developed in close consultation with all relevant business areas across Council and has been reviewed and approved by the relevant Director, as part of Council's planning and reporting processes.

Statutory:

Under section 182 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council is required to adopt its annual report within one month after the day the Auditor-General gives the audit report regarding Council's financial statements for the financial year to the local government. Council must also publish its annual report on its website within 2 weeks of adopting the annual report.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Cairns Regional Council Annual Report 2025-2026 #7938342



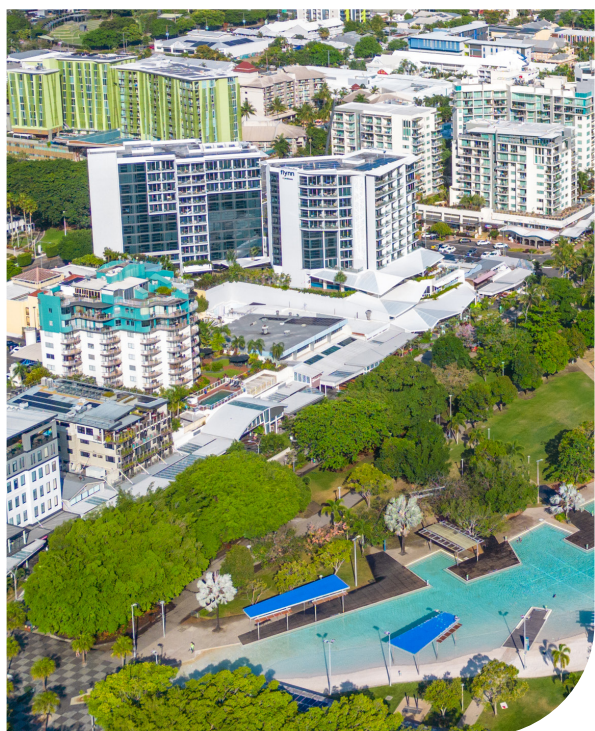
Melissa McIntosh
Acting Executive Manager, Organisational Performance



Holly Mc Bride
Director People & Organisational Performance

2025-2026

Annual Report





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Year in review





Message from the Mayor

Cairns is celebrating an extraordinary milestone. Our 150th year has given us an opportunity to reflect on the people, places and stories that have shaped our city,

and to celebrate the character and spirit that make Cairns such a remarkable place to call home. But anniversaries are also about looking forward.

For me, Cairns Celebrates 150 has sharpened an important question: what kind of Cairns do we want to create for the generations that follow us? Cairns is growing, and with that growth comes opportunity, but also responsibility. The decisions we make today about housing, infrastructure, public spaces, transport, our environment and our neighbourhoods will influence this city for decades to come.

This year, Council took significant steps towards preparing Cairns for that future. We adopted Towards 2050: Growth Strategy, continued delivery of the largest infrastructure project in Council's history to secure our future water supply, and secured significant government investment to unlock housing and essential infrastructure at Mount Peter. These are more than projects on a Council works program. They are investments in the Cairns our children and grandchildren will inherit.

We have also begun reimagining places that will help define our next chapter. The Cairns City Precincts Urban Regeneration Project, fully funded by the Australian Government, provides a roadmap for greater housing choice, investment and revitalisation in and around our CBD. Following extensive community consultation, it received a Commendation in the 2026 Queensland Minister's Award for Urban Design, with the jury recognising the work as setting a new benchmark for sustainable urban regeneration in tropical regional Australia. That recognition is something Cairns should be proud of, but recognition alone is not the goal. Delivery is.

Planning has also commenced for the future of our Major Events Precinct, supported by \$850,000 in Australian Government funding. These are city-shaping conversations, and they deserve ambition. Cairns may be described as a regional city because of where we are. Regional should never describe the scale of our ambition.

Increasingly, that ambition is being matched by results. Council's first Annual Advocacy Outcomes Report captured more than \$566 million in government commitments across just three major priorities: Mount Peter, Cairns Water Security Stage 1 and the Barlow Park upgrade. That level

of investment does not happen by accident. Effective advocacy requires persistence, relationships, evidence and a willingness to keep making the case for Cairns. When Team Cairns speaks with clarity and purpose, Cairns has a powerful voice.

Closer to home, we continued investing in the places people use every day, including Lake Placid, the Red Arrow, Smithfield Library and recreational facilities across our suburbs. For all the talk of major infrastructure and long-term strategies, a city is ultimately experienced at a human scale: in our parks, streets, sporting clubs, libraries, neighbourhoods and public spaces.

That is also why some of the most valuable information I receive as Mayor never arrives in a briefing paper. It comes from people. I believe a Mayor should be visible and accessible, talking with businesses, visiting sporting clubs and community organisations, walking our suburbs and listening directly to people. That connection is not separate from the role of Mayor. For me, it is fundamental to it.

Thank you to everyone who has stopped me for a conversation, attended a listening post, participated in a Council consultation or taken the time to share an idea, concern or aspiration. We will not always agree, nor should we. Healthy local government depends on different perspectives being heard, difficult questions being asked and decisions being tested through respectful and robust debate.

I also thank our volunteers, Council employees and my fellow Councillors for their contribution throughout the year. Each plays an important role in serving Cairns and helping shape its future.

As we celebrate 150 years, I am enormously proud of how far Cairns has come. But our history should give us confidence, not complacency. The next chapter of Cairns is ours to shape.

We have the opportunity to grow without losing our character, welcome investment while protecting what makes this place distinctive, give young people reasons to build their futures here, and combine the opportunity of a growing city with the extraordinary lifestyle and natural environment that set Cairns apart. The decisions we make today will become the Cairns people inherit tomorrow.

As Cairns celebrates 150 years, I believe our best chapters are still ahead of us.

Mayor Amy Eden
Cairns Regional Council



Message from the CEO

Cairns Regional Council's Annual Report for 2025-26, reflects another year of dedicated service delivery, responsible financial

management and progress on the projects that will support our region into the future.

Long-term financial sustainability and value for money remain central to how we operate, particularly as Cairns grows and demand for services and infrastructure increases.

Council's Corporate Strategy 2025-2030 sets out the strategic goals that guide our work and measure how effectively and efficiently we deliver for the community. Council has performed strongly against the plan, with 92% of operational actions either completed or progressing within expected timeframes.

Some of the highlights Council has achieved include:

- Significant progress on the Cairns Water Security – Stage 1 Project, with works 85% complete
- Developed and adopted several strategies, including a Social Resilience Strategy, Climate Change Strategy, and the Water Efficiency Strategy
- Establishment of the Mount Peter Priority Development Area and infrastructure funding through Economic Development Queensland, allowing for future growth of our region.

Alongside these major projects, Council continues to serve a growing population of 179,334 residents*. Each day, around 1,300 Council officers deliver the services and infrastructure our community relies on, from roads, water and waste to libraries, customer service, planning, events, galleries, parks and community facilities.

Much of this work happens behind the scenes, yet its impact is felt across our region every day, particularly when our community is tested.

Our response during the wet season's severe weather events again demonstrated the scale and complexity of Council's role before, during and after an emergency.

Teams worked across the organisation to protect critical infrastructure, maintain essential services, clear debris and hazards, assess community assets, and keep roads and public spaces safe and accessible.

As one of the region's largest employers, Council also has an important role in developing local skills and creating career pathways. During 2025-26, 17 trainees and apprentices completed programs with Council, while we welcomed 18 new trainees and apprentices into the organisation.

The achievements outlined throughout this Annual Report demonstrate the breadth of Council's responsibilities and the collective effort required to deliver them.

I thank our Councillors for their leadership and collaboration, our community partners and volunteers for their contribution, and our employees for the professionalism, expertise and commitment they bring to their roles every day.

As Cairns continues to grow, we will remain focused on delivering reliable services, managing our resources responsibly and ensuring our organisation and region are resilient, sustainable and ready for the future.

Ken Gouldthorp
Chief Executive Officer

*ABS, Cairns population 2025.

Corporate Plan

Assessment of progress towards corporate plan

On 25 June 2025, Council adopted the Corporate Plan 2025-2030. This document provides strategic direction for all activities to be undertaken by Council over the five financial years, up to 30 June 2030. Each financial year, Council adopts an annual operational plan outlining key services, projects and initiatives that link with the strategic goals outlined in the corporate plan.

The Operational Plan 2025-2026 had 36 key initiatives and actions to align and deliver the five strategic goals outlined in Council's Corporate Plan 2025-2030. Council delivered a strong performance against the Operational Plan 2025-2026, with approximately 92% of operational actions either completed or progressing in accordance with expected timeframes.

Council's assessment of its progress during 2025-2026 in implementing the Corporate Plan 2025-2030 and Operational Plan 2025-2026 is outlined in the following pages.



Our vision

Shaping a tropical future

Our values



Trust

Honouring the trust of our residents, each other and staff



Responsibility

Transparency and accountability to our community



Cairns-ness

Pride in who we are and where we live



Resilience

Adapting, enduring, growing stronger

Our focus



Robust economy

Supporting a diversified and growing economy



Natural assets

Promoting, protecting and enhancing our iconic natural environment now and for generations to come



Design for liveability

A place-based approach that celebrates our community



Community and culture

Fostering a vibrant, healthy and inclusive community



Focused council

Delivering for community through strong governance and informed decision making



Focus one

Robust economy

Supporting a diversified and resilient economy that backs business innovation, growth and jobs.

Key outcomes and progress

- **Update Council's Economic Development Strategy ensuring alignment with Council's new Corporate Plan.**
Endorsed by Council on 24 June 2026 and updated on Council website.
- **Complete update of the Cairns & Great Barrier Reef Events Strategy in consultation with Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) and Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ)**
The Cairns and Great Barrier Reef (C&GBR) Event Strategy 2026-2035 was unanimously endorsed by Council at the 10 December 2025 Ordinary Meeting. A public media release and associated communications on Council's digital and social media platforms occurred in Q4 2025-2026.
- **Continued advocacy for Council's Securing Cairns Housing Foundations Plan - Implementing a Priority Development Area (PDA) to accelerate housing supply in the Mount Peter Southern Growth Corridor**
The Mount Peter Southern Growth Corridor is the largest remaining greenfield development site in Cairns with capacity to support an estimated 18,500 homes. Under the Securing Cairns Housing Foundations Plan, Council had been advocating for a Priority Development Area (PDA) declaration over the site and joint State and Federal funding of \$300 million to support infrastructure delivery in stage 1 of development, which was expected to support approximately 3,800 new dwellings. The Queensland Government declared the Mount Peter PDA in July 2025 and in May 2026, the Australian and Queensland governments announced \$220 million in grants (\$110 million each) along with an \$80 million Federal concessional loan (with funding to be administered by Economic Development Queensland) for the housing-enabling infrastructure needed to unlock the first phase of development in the Mount Peter area. This funding announcement is warmly welcomed and Council will continue to advocate to, and work collaboratively with, the Australian and Queensland Governments on the long term funding partnership needed to unlock the corridor's ultimate potential.
- **Pacific Opportunities – in consultation with key stakeholders, identify strategic opportunities for enhancing the Cairns region's engagement with Pacific Island Countries including PNG**
Council appointed the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) to undertake a Pacific Opportunities Analysis. This work has been completed with an Executive Summary noted by Council at its Ordinary Meeting on 15 October 2025. Council Officers will work with key stakeholders to progress opportunities identified during this engagement.
- **Olympics and Paralympics (2032 Games) – strategically analyse priority opportunities for Cairns from the 2032 Games**
The 2032 Games Roadmap legacy plan has transitioned from initial community engagement and multi-criteria assessment into a comprehensive draft structure. This draft establishes four core strategic themes, each populated with distinct priority areas and targeted actions. The draft Roadmap is currently expected to progress to Council for endorsement in Q2 of 2026-2027.



Focus two

Natural assets

Promoting, protecting and enhancing our iconic natural environment now and for generations to come.

Key outcomes and progress

- Establish service standards to maintain our natural assets

The draft Natural Assets Management: Operational Strategy is nearing completion; however, progress has been impacted by resource constraints and recent legislative changes that have required further review and consideration. Completion is now anticipated by the end of 2026.

- Develop partnerships that protect spectacled flying-fox populations

Progress continues to be impacted by delays in receiving the executed Conservation Agreement from the Commonwealth. Despite this, works relating to the fencing and interpretive signage at the rear of the Potters Club remain on schedule. Educational programs are continuing as planned, and strong collaborative partnerships with key stakeholders are being maintained.

- Develop Water Efficiency Strategy

Strategy development is approximately 50% complete. Three workshops were held with the key stakeholder groups including the Water Efficiency Advisory Group and the Customer Reference Group. Further workshops are programmed through to October 2026.

- Progress through construction phase for Cairns Water Security Strategy Stage 1.

Works are approximately 85% complete, with progress towards commissioning planning well underway.

- Resource Recovery - Community Engagement Recycling Behaviour

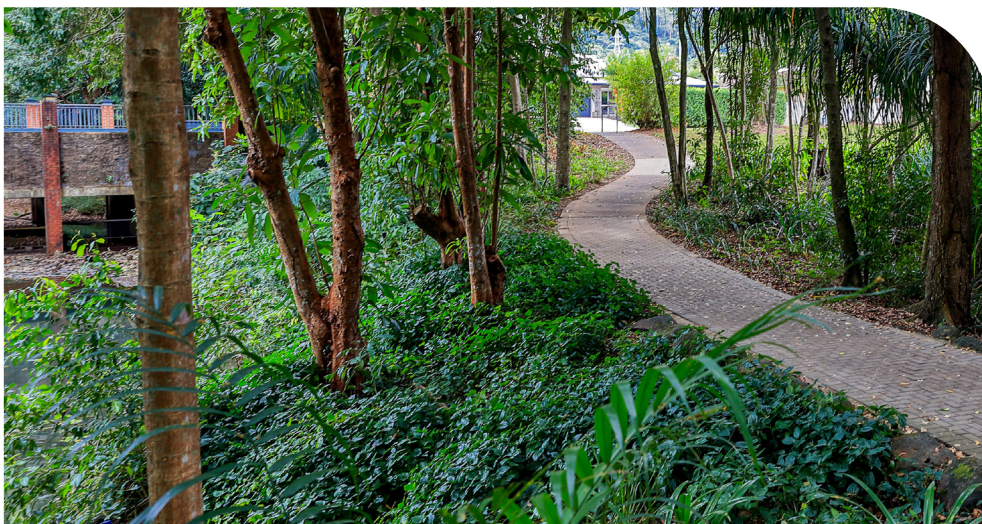
Community engagement survey and data analysis has been completed. 'Know before you throw' initiative launched.

- Review the Climate Change Strategy

Climate Change Strategy was endorsed by Council on 15 July 2026.

- Develop the Botanic Gardens Masterplan

Draft Masterplan completed and endorsed by Council on 29 October 2025.





Focus three

Design for liveability

Creating a safe, sustainable and connected place that supports a quality life.

Key outcomes and progress

- **Progress actions as listed within the Development & Planning Blueprint**
Short-term deliverables are complete or on track for completion by the end of the financial year. Work is now underway on the medium-term initiatives, with implementation progressing in accordance with the Development & Planning Blueprint.
- **Develop the Planning Scheme Scoping Study post the Towards 2050 Growth Strategy**
Planning Scheme 10-year review has commenced. Scoping study to be prepared following completion of the review report. Queensland Government Scheme Supply Fund planning scheme amendments are progressing and are required to be completed to State Interest Review stage by June 2027.
- **Develop Mitigation and Adaptation Planning post the Towards 2050 Growth Strategy**
Cairns Mitigation and Adaptation Options Paper completed. CBD and Central Cairns Master Mitigation and Adaptation Master Plan included in the Local Resilience Action Plan and approved as the project to be submitted to Round 4 of Disaster Ready Fund (DRF).
- **Develop Council's approach to place based planning and design**
Phase 2 – Community Engagement complete. Currently analysing feedback for presentation to Council around directions and next steps.
- **Develop the Integrated Resilience Plan**
Disaster Ready Fund approved to develop the Integrated Resilience Plan. Tender review completed and project awarded. Project inception in July 2026 with completion in July 2027.
- **Continue to develop the Cairns Gallery Precinct**
Transition of operations to Cairns Arts Gallery Precinct Ltd is now complete. Development of business plan and financial forecast underway to inform development of a future multi-year Resource and Performance Agreement.
- **Complete Community Disaster Plans for nominated communities**
Plans identified for completion in 2025-2026 have been completed, with remaining plans on track to be completed by September 2026.



Focus four

Community and culture

Fostering a vibrant and healthy community where everyone feels they belong.

Key outcomes and progress

- **Develop the Cairns Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035**
Draft independent report has been received by Council. Public consultation on the draft report has now concluded. Officers are currently analysing feedback to inform directions and next steps towards finalising Draft Strategy for Council's consideration in late 2026.
- **Undertake improvements to Council's playgrounds**
Program on track as per adopted Capital Works Program.
- **Improved pathway connectivity for neighbourhoods**
Works well underway, minor delays due to wet weather and scheduling.
- **Position Cairns as a destination for Women's Sport**
Action Plan was endorsed by Council on 27 May 2026.
- **Planning and implementation of Cairns Celebrates 150-year program throughout 2026**
Program delivery successfully launched and well underway with second edition C150 program of events released in May 2026 promoting events through to the end of 2026.
- **Develop the Social Resilience Strategy**
The Social Resilience Strategy was developed and endorsed via 24 June 2026 Council Ordinary Meeting.
- **Develop the Library Services Strategy**
Councillor workshop was undertaken in May 2026 to review findings with priority areas endorsed. Community consultation plan and draft survey due to Council for endorsement mid-2026, followed by public consultation with the draft strategy due to Council for consideration late 2026.
- **Develop the Live Music Framework**
Final version due back to Council in the second half of 2026, to be incorporated into the new Creative Life Cultural Strategy concurrently being developed.
- **Develop the Creative Life Strategy**
Draft strategy undergoing the final stage of targeted internal and external sector consultation with the Draft Strategy due to Council for consideration late 2026.



Focus five

Focused Council

Being a leader in local government.

Key outcomes and progress

- **Develop an Employee Value Proposition (EVP)**
Employee Value Proposition developed and is on track to continue socialisation and implementation in 2026-2027.
- **Optimise the MyCairns App**
Phase one upgrades completed and deployed including a new home screen, news feed and storm surge zone. Further optimisation in future years based on user behaviours.
- **Develop an internal and external public awareness campaign on 'no tolerance' to aggressive behaviour by members of the public**
Campaign being finalised with stakeholders and external providers for implementation in 2026-2027.
- **Comprehensive review and update of Council's Grant Inwards process to maximise effectiveness and grant investment from other levels of government**
New *Applying for External Contestable Grant Funding Policy* adopted by Council on 11 February 2026. Subsequent Administration Instruction (setting out detailed process flowchart and associated roles and responsibilities) endorsed and rollout of training and support materials under way.
- **Development of Asset Management Improvement Roadmap and implementation**
The Asset Management Improvement Team (Project Management Team) has been established, comprising representatives from Finance, Lifestyle & Community, Information Services and Technology, and Infrastructure and Assets. The group is currently prioritising and defining key activities and projects for delivery over the next 1 to 3 years. These will be presented to Executive Leadership Team as part of the ongoing quarterly update commitment for endorsement, including clear objectives, resource requirements, and delivery timeframes.
- **Establish a Council-wide Data Strategy and Governance Framework to enable informed decision-making and operational efficiency**
Data Strategy & Governance Framework approved by the Executive Leadership Team in November 2025.
- **Progress implementation of the Cyber Security Resilience Program (CSRP)**
Delivery Project 2 complete. Delivery Project 3 is underway and will continue to assess emerging threats and cyber risk trends, prioritising initiatives addressing critical security gaps.
- **Progress negotiations and certification of Council's Certified Agreement**
Agreement was certified in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission on 22 December 2025.

Significant business activities

Annual Performance Plans

Council's Annual Operational Plan 2025-2026 included Annual Performance Plans for Council's Significant Business Activities: Cairns Water and Cairns Resource Recovery. These Annual Performance Plans have been implemented throughout the year with operational and financial performance reported to Council quarterly as part of the Operational Plan reporting requirements. The Annual Operational Plan 2025-2026 fourth quarter Progress Report to Council's Ordinary Meeting on 29 July 2026 highlighted the 2025-2026 performance of both Significant Business Activities.

A detailed assessment of both of Council's Significant Business Activities' performance in relation to the 2025-2026 Annual Performance Plans is available from page 45 to 60 of this report.



Our Councillors





Mayor
Cr Amy Eden



Division 1
Cr Brett Moller



Division 2
Cr Matthew Tickner



Division 3
Cr Cathy Zeiger



Division 4
Cr Trevor Tim



Division 5
Cr Rob Pyne



Division 6
Cr Kristy Vallely



Division 7
Cr Anna Middleton



Division 8
Cr Rhonda Coghlan



Division 9
Cr Brett Olds -
Deputy Mayor

Councillor remuneration

The following table shows the total of Councillors' remuneration for the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

DIV	ELECTED MEMBER	TOTAL REMUNERATION PAYMENT \$	SUPER CONTRIBUTIONS \$	TOTAL \$
M	Cr. Amy Eden	202,445	24,293	226,738
1	Cr. Brett Moller	119,628	14,355	133,983
2	Cr. Matthew Tickner	119,628	14,355	133,983
3	Cr. Cathy Zeiger	119,628	14,355	133,983
4	Cr. Trevor Tim	119,628	14,355	133,983
5	Cr. Rob Pyne	119,628	14,355	133,983
6	Cr. Kristy Vallely	119,628	14,355	133,983
7	Cr. Anna Middleton	119,628	14,355	133,983
8	Cr. Rhonda Coghlan	119,628	14,355	133,983
DM/9	Cr. Brett Olds	138,029	16,563	154,592

Expense reimbursement and facilities

In accordance with the Expense Reimbursement and Support for Elected Representatives General Policy, Councillors are provided with:

Mayor

- Is provided with a dedicated office in the Cairns Regional Council Administrative Building.
- Is provided with an Executive Assistant to assist with administration duties.
- Is provided with a fully maintained Council vehicle.
- A corporate credit card for incurring expenses in accordance with this policy and subject to adhering to Council's Procurement Policy.

Deputy Mayor and other Councillors

- Deputy Mayor is provided with a dedicated office in the Cairns Regional Council Administrative Building.
- Other Councillors are provided access to workstations within the Administration Building as well as kitchen amenities and restrooms.
- The Deputy Mayor and Councillors are provided with a shared administrative support officer as determined by the CEO.
- Council meeting rooms for usage as required and when available.
- Use of a Councillor's private vehicle for Council business will be reimbursed by Council.
- Councillors shall receive an annual payment, paid fortnightly as an allowance for the use of private vehicles for Council business.
- Each Councillor will be provided with a smartphone and email address to assist the Councillor in undertaking their role.
- Laptop/tablet, computer as defined by Council.
- Access to printer, photocopier, paper shredder, and/or scanner as well as stationery and personalised letterhead including postage costs, for undertaking duties associated with their position (not campaign related).
- Any other administrative necessities, which Council resolves, are necessary to meet the business of Council.
- Necessary personal protective equipment for use on official business as and when required.
- Up to \$500 annually for Councillors and as per budget for the Mayor, for hospitality costs in hosting dignitaries etc. outside of formal Council events upon presentation of written statement of whom they entertained and receipt of costs, within three months of incurring the expense.
- An allowance of \$1,000 annually for the purpose of establishing mobile offices to enable community engagement.
- Costs including travel and accommodation associated with attending Council-approved conferences, external workshops/seminars or events as a representative of Council up to \$3,000 per annum for each Councillor and \$5,000 per annum for the Mayor.
- Costs including travel and accommodation associated with attending training courses, professional development, or workshops/seminars related to Councillor's role when invited by Mayor or CEO to attend up to \$4,000 per annum for each Councillor and \$6,500 per annum for the Mayor. International travel for Councillors must be pre-approved via Council resolution.
- Councillors will be covered under relevant Council insurance policies while on Council business. Council will pay the excess (deductible) on all insurance claims, made in accordance with Legal Assistance for Councillors and Employees Policy. Council will cover any costs incurred through injury, investigation, hearings or legal proceedings into the conduct of a Councillor where arising out of, or in connection with, the Councillor's performance of their Councillor functions. Where it has been found that the Councillor breached the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2009* or other legislation, then there will be no cover provided to the Councillor and the Councillor must reimburse Council all associated costs incurred by Council.

Expenses reimbursement and support for Elected Members

The table below shows the total costs for the 12-month period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 under the Expenses Reimbursement and Support for Elected Representatives General Policy.

Elected member	Motor vehicles \$	Mobile office \$	Council representation \$	Professional development \$	Conferences, travel & accommodation \$	Hospitality \$	Other support \$	Total \$
All*	-	-	-	-	-	15,705	5,230	20,935
Cr. Amy Eden	6,000**	1,000	3,569	3,350	14,080	1,223	6,632	35,855
Cr. Brett Moller	19,376	1,000	7,952	1,818	1,765	-	-	31,912
Cr. Matthew Tickner	7,105	1,000	-	1,745	1,222	-	-	11,072
Cr. Cathy Zeiger	7,105	1,000	-	3,339	1,377	-	37	12,858
Cr. Trevor Tim	7,105	1,000	-	1,764	1,222	-	-	11,090
Cr. Rob Pyne	7,105	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	8,105
Cr. Kristy Vallely	7,105	1,000	-	4,042	2,377	-	61	14,585
Cr. Anna Middleton	7,105	1,000	70	3,289	1,318	-	-	12,782
Cr. Rhonda Coghlan	10,334	1,000	6,526	2,495	1,440	66	-	21,861
Cr. Brett Olds	16,793	1,000	1,472	245	-	158	205	19,873
Total \$	95,131	10,000	19,589	22,088	24,800	17,152	12,166	200,926

*Represents subscriptions and catering for workshops shared amongst elected members

**Represents cost of fully maintained vehicle provided to the Mayor

Meeting attendance

Council's Ordinary Meetings are held Wednesdays and are chaired by the Mayor.

Councillor Workshops are generally held weekly on a Wednesday and are informal, non-decision-making sessions attended by Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer and relevant Council officers. They provide an opportunity for Councillors to receive information, discuss key Council projects, operations, strategies and emerging issues, and participate in training and development activities. These sessions support informed governance and facilitate the efficient provision of information to Councillors. No formal decisions are made, and matters requiring Council resolution are progressed through the formal Committee and Ordinary Meeting processes. Attendance is recorded against individual workshop agenda items rather than for the workshop as a whole.

The following table displays Councillor attendance at Council meetings and workshops for the period of 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

Elected member	Ordinary Meetings 19 held	Special Meetings 1 held	Workshop Attendance by Agenda Item 211 items
Cr. Amy Eden	18	1	140
Cr. Brett Moller	18	1	177
Cr. Matthew Tickner	19	1	203
Cr. Cathy Zeiger	19	1	180
Cr. Trevor Tim	17	1	169
Cr. Rob Pyne	19	1	130
Cr. Kristy Vallely	17	1	160
Cr. Anna Middleton	19	1	177
Cr. Rhonda Coghlan	18	1	176
Cr. Brett Olds	18	1	175

Council also operates an Audit Committee. Members of this committee are Cr Amy Eden and Cr Brett Moller with Cr Trevor Tim as an alternate.

Mount Peter PDA Project Steering Group meeting is held quarterly with elected representatives Cr Amy Eden, Cr Matthew Tickner and Cr Brett Moller. Meeting 4 was open to all Councillors to attend.

Cr Amy Eden, Cr Brett Olds, Cr Matthew Tickner, Cr Brett Moller and Cr Kristy Vallely are the committee members for the Water Security Steering Committee. Remaining Councillors are welcome to attend but are not required.

The following table displays Councillor attendance at committee meetings for the period of 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

Elected member	Audit Committee 4 held	Mount Peter PDA Project Steering Group 4 held	Water Security Steering Committee 12 held
Cr. Amy Eden	3	4	8
Cr. Brett Moller	4	3	7
Cr. Matthew Tickner		4	11
Cr. Cathy Zeiger			5
Cr. Trevor Tim	4		
Cr. Rob Pyne		1	
Cr. Kristy Vallely			5
Cr. Anna Middleton		1	2
Cr. Rhonda Coghlan			
Cr. Brett Olds			12

Conduct and performance of Councillors

The Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland (the code), made by the Minister of Local Government under the *Local Government Act 2009*, is to be read as a values-based statement of the standards expected of councillors in the exercise of public office.

The Code applies to Queensland local government elected and appointed councillors at all times when councillors are performing official duties including when they are representing their local government at meetings, conferences, training events, on business trips and attending work related events.

The Office of the Independent Assessor (OIA) is the independent statutory authority responsible for the initial assessment of all complaints about councillor conduct in Queensland. The OIA assesses complaints relating to conduct breaches and misconduct, investigates matters within its jurisdiction, refers appropriate matters for resolution or determination.

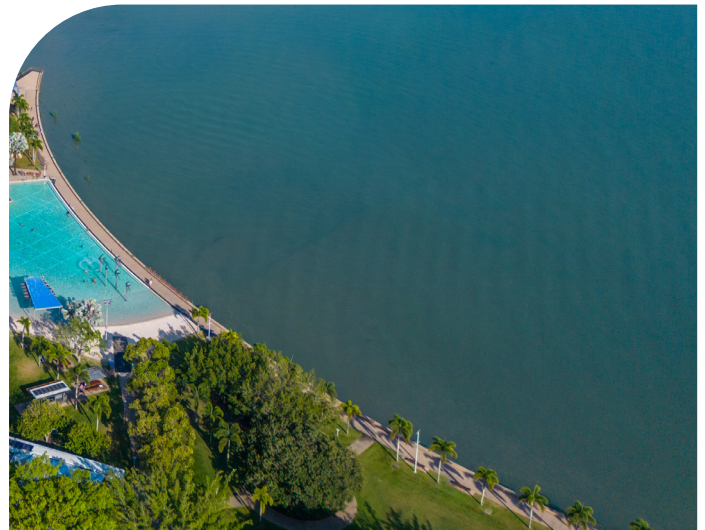
The councillor conduct complaints framework continues to operate under the *Local Government Act 2009* and has been refined through subsequent legislative reforms, including the *Local Government (Councillor Conduct) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023* and the *Local Government (Empowering Councils) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2026*.

Section 186 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* specifies the particulars of Councillors' conduct which must be contained in the annual report for a financial year. The following tables show the required particulars of Councillors' conduct for the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

SECTION 186 (1)(D) OF THE LGR, THE NUMBER OF EACH THE FOLLOWING DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR:

Complaints referred to the assessor under section 150P(2)(a) of the Act by local government entities for the local government	6
Matters, mentioned in section 150P(3) of the LGA, notified to the Crime and Corruption Commission	0
Notices given under section 150R(3) of the LGA	24

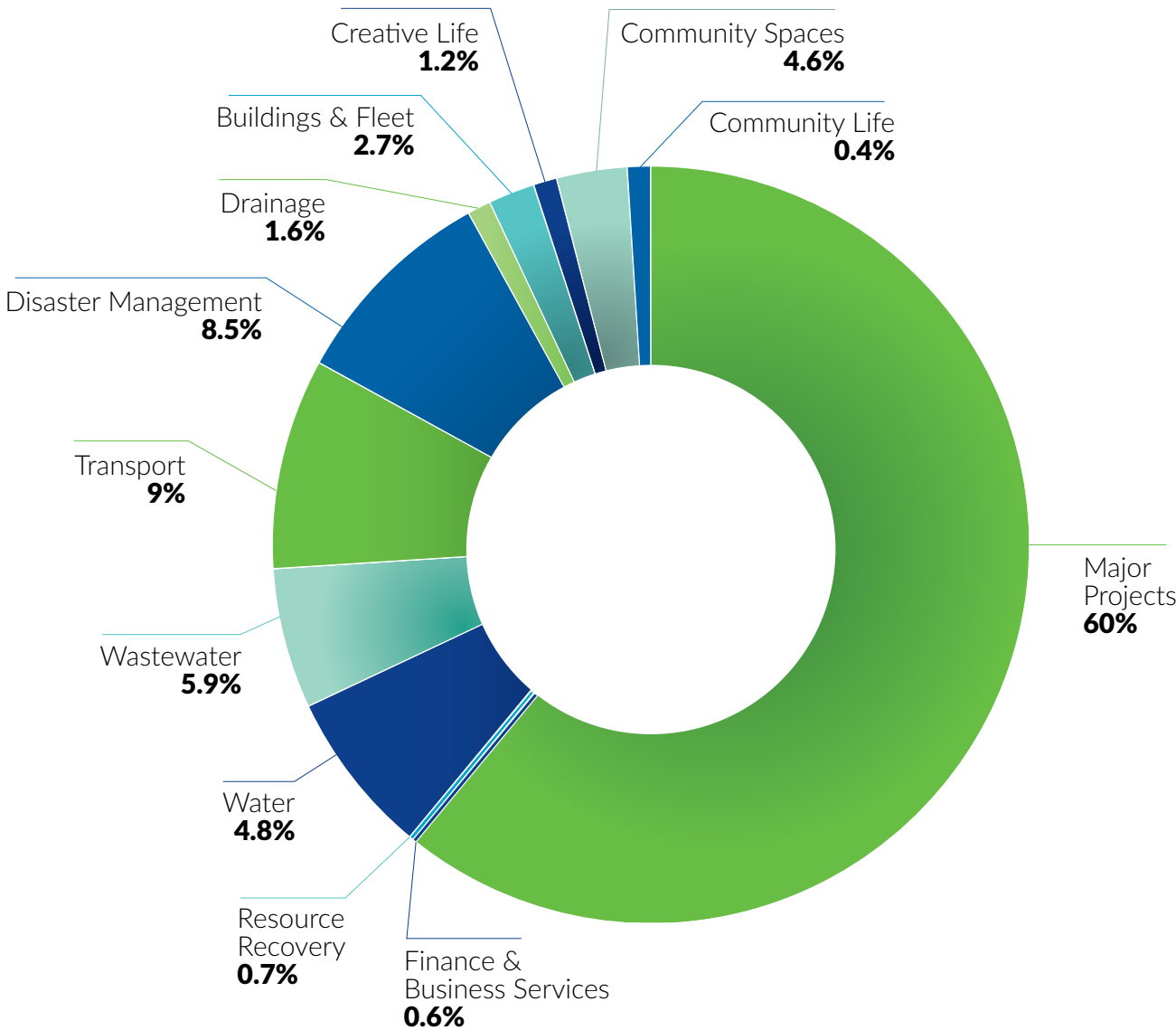
Our city & community



Capital Works
projects

Capital works highlights

During the 2025-2026 financial year, expenditure on capital works was \$291.5M. The following graph provides a breakdown of the capital works by portfolio during the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.



Council incurred expenditure on the following capital works projects during the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

PORTFOLIO	PROJECT	AMOUNT \$
Creative Life	CPAC - Studio Console	169,100
	Smithfield Library Renewal	1,580,037
	Tanks - Lighting and Lighting Rig Renewal	176,864
Community Spaces	Jeff Pezzutti Park	917,482
	Neighbourhood Pathway Program	1,266,815
	Red Arrow Renewal	1,090,914
	Netball Court Surface Renewal	573,190
	Forest View Cemetery	560,477
	Active Travel (New Footpaths)	2,532,368
	White Rock Community Centre	869,212
Community Life	CCTV - New and Renewal	660,665
	CBD Parking Upgrades – Pay by Plate	477,500
Major Projects	Cairns Water Security Strategy	166,001,724
Water	New Revenue Water Meter	1,919,530
	Water Meter Replacement	3,335,080
	Water Main Replacement	4,599,327
	Reservoir Refurbishment and Renewal	5,569,377
	SCADA Upgrade & Improvement	817,562
	Copperlode Dam Safety Upgrade	501,307
	Smart Water Meters	3,058,891
Wastewater	Sewer Relining Program	3,002,204
	NWWTP Dewatering System Upgrade	2,616,501
	SPS W1 New Pump Station	1,670,631
	Wastewater Infrastructure Renewal and Upgrade	7,990,058
Resource Recovery	Disaster Waste Hardstand Transfer Stations	707,257
	MRF Glass Plant Trommel	289,550
Transport	Road Infrastructure Renewal	3,123,613
	Road Infrastructure New	6,292,500
	Navigation Drive	5,012,371
	Kerb and Channel Renewal	2,700,380
	Pavement Rehabilitation	7,379,281
Disaster Management	Natural Disaster Remediation	24,750,412
Drainage	Culvert and Open Drain Renewal	1,368,291
	Clifton Beach Erosion Management	1,270,954
	Esplanade Foreshore Erosion Protection	564,316
Buildings & Fleet	Vehicle and Plant New and Renewal	5,191,460
	Martyn Street Depot - Parks & Open Spaces Shed Upgrade	415,454
	Regional Art Gallery Lift Upgrade	142,880
Finance & Business Services	CCTV Asset Replacement	384,784
	Windows 11 Upgrade	545,810

Expenditure on grants

The annual report for a financial year must contain a summary of the local government's expenditure for the financial year on grants to community organisations and expenditure from each Councillor's discretionary fund.

Council has a commitment to building strong, vibrant and robust communities. To assist in achieving this goal, Council's Grant Program provides financial and in-kind assistance to community-based groups, individuals and organisations that are providing programs, activities, events and projects that enrich the diversity of cultural, social, sport and economic development opportunities available to the residents of the Cairns region.

The desired outcome is to support more creative, innovative and self-reliant communities, where participation in community life is enabled and encouraged.

In the 2025-2026 financial year, Council provided the following community grants and discretionary funds:

COUNCILLOR DISCRETIONARY FUND

ARTS AND CULTURE

Arts and Cultural Venue Hire and Resources Assistance

Arts and Culture Partnerships

Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF)

COMMUNITY, SPORT AND RECREATION

Go Clubs Community Infrastructure

Go Clubs Essentials Assistance

Revegetation of Natural Areas

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Industry and Economic Development Fund

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Nature-based Learning

Sustainability and Climate Change

EVENTS

Community Partnerships

Major Event Sponsorship

OTHER SUPPORT

Resource and Performance Agreements

Donations and Sponsorships

Rates Based Financial Assistance

Councillor discretionary funds

A Councillor may allocate their Councillor discretionary funds under Section 109(2)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2009* in any of the following ways:

- For capital works of the local government that are for a community purpose; or
- For other community purposes.

Cairns Regional Council is required to list all allocations of Councillor discretionary funds and the purpose of the allocation.

	TOTAL BUDGET \$	EACH Councillor \$	MAYOR \$
Capital Works of Council that are for a community purpose	1,000,000	100,000	100,000

The prescribed amount for other community purposes in the 2025-2026 financial year was \$146,102.
All Councillors' discretionary funds were made for 'capital works of Council that are for a community purpose'.

CAIRNS MAYOR - MAYOR AMY EDEN			
DATE	PERSON OR ORGANISATION (if applicable)	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
		No funds spent	0.00
TOTAL FOR MAYORAL DISCRETIONARY FUND			0.00
DIVISION 1 - COUNCILLOR BRETT MOLLER			
DATE	PERSON OR ORGANISATION (if applicable)	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
18/09/2025		Alice Frazer Shelter Signage	2,500
18/09/2025	Babinda Community Kindergarten	Babinda Community Kindergarten Fencing Upgrades	20,245
26/09/2025		Gordonvale Town Signage	2,365
29/09/2025		Munro Street Babinda Street Furniture Upgrades	54,000
17/10/2025	Southern Suburbs Rugby League Club	Southern Suburbs Rugby League Club Scoreboard	15,255
13/03/2026	Babinda RSL	Roof Extension Anzac Park Shelter, Babinda	4,000
TOTAL FOR DIVISION 1			98,365
DIVISION 2 - COUNCILLOR MATTHEW TICKNER			
DATE	PERSON OR ORGANISATION (if applicable)	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
18/09/2025	Southside Comets Football Club	Southside Comets Football Club Home and Away Structures	28,000
25/08/2025		Fuller Park Playground Shade Sail	46,000
30/09/2025		Softball FNQ Field Lighting Renewal	26,000
TOTAL FOR DIVISION 2			100,000
DIVISION 3 - COUNCILLOR CATHY ZEIGER			
DATE	PERSON OR ORGANISATION (if applicable)	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
9/02/2026		Agate Street - Footpath Stage 2	53,800
27/02/2026	Saints Hockey Club	Saints Hockey Fencing	36,600
30/06/2026		Parton Close Park in White Rock - Park Upgrade	9,600
TOTAL FOR DIVISION 3			100,000

DIVISION 4 - COUNCILLOR TREVOR TIM			
DATE	PERSON OR ORGANISATION (if applicable)	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
24/03/2026	Kangaroos Rugby League Club	Kangaroos RLC - Upgrade Lights to LED for Field 1	100,000
TOTAL FOR DIVISION 4			100,000
DIVISION 5 - COUNCILLOR ROB PYNE			
DATE	PERSON OR ORGANISATION (if applicable)	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
1/07/2025		She Shed Cairns – On-Street Works and Accessibility Upgrade	65,000
15/10/2025	Edge Hill United Football Club	Edge Hill United Football Club Fencing	23,950
3/06/2026	Cairns Rotary Club	Showground Kitchen Upgrade	6,400
TOTAL FOR DIVISION 5			95,350
DIVISION 6 - COUNCILLOR KRISTY VALLELY			
DATE	PERSON OR ORGANISATION (if applicable)	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
30/09/2025		Redlynch Village Green Playground Extension	70,000
28/10/2025		Richmond Park - Lighting	30,000
TOTAL FOR DIVISION 6			100,000
DIVISION 7 - COUNCILLOR ANNA MIDDLETON			
DATE	PERSON OR ORGANISATION (if applicable)	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
4/07/2025		Pease Street Basketball Court Fencing	40,000
24/03/2026	Kangaroos Rugby League Club	Kangaroos RLC - Upgrade Lights to LED for Field 1	60,000
TOTAL FOR DIVISION 7			100,000
DIVISION 8 - COUNCILLOR RHONDA COGHLAN			
DATE	PERSON OR ORGANISATION (if applicable)	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
14/05/2026	Hekili Outrigger Canoe Club	Hekili Rowing Club – Club's equipment storage	100,000
TOTAL FOR DIVISION 8			100,000
DIVISION 9 - COUNCILLOR BRETT OLDS			
DATE	PERSON OR ORGANISATION (if applicable)	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
22/09/2025	Trinity Beach Baseball Club	Trinity Beach Baseball Club Fencing Upgrades	92,000
26/09/2025	Marlin Coast Bowls Club	Marlin Coast Bowls Club Stage 2 Audio Visual Upgrades	8,000
TOTAL FOR DIVISION 9			100,000
TOTAL FOR DIVISION DISCRETIONARY FUNDS			893,715

Community grants

ARTS AND CULTURE

Arts and Cultural Venue Hire and Resources Assistance

Under the Arts and Cultural Venue Hire and Resources Assistance Grant, Council provides venues, resources and capabilities to cultural projects and activities that make a positive creative contribution to the region.

APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
Cairns Choral Society Inc.	North Queensland Eisteddfod 2026	5,000
Cairns Pride Inc	Pride Exhibition 2025	5,000
Mr Stephen Roberts	Alive at Death's Door (film)	2,276
Ms Sonya Helms	Let's Dance Cairns	4,995
NorthSite Contemporary Arts	Sitting with the Sea - Dialog Lensa	5,000
Rebus Theatre	A New Face	1,135
Ruth Azzopari on behalf of Nautilus Scuba Club	2025 Nautilus Scuba Club Underwater Photography Exhibition	3,976
TOTAL ARTS AND CULTURE VENUE HIRE AND RESOURCES ASSISTANCE GRANTS		27,382

Arts and Cultural Partnerships

The Arts and Culture Partnerships Grant aims to make available Council resources and capabilities to support arts and cultural projects and activities that make a positive creative contribution to the region's arts and cultural profile.

APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
Cairns Choral Society Inc.	Resource and Performance Agreement	5,000
Circa Contemporary Circus Ltd	Resource and Performance Agreement	6,161
Peninsula Art Educator Association	Resource and Performance Agreement	5,000
TOTAL ARTS AND CULTURE PARTNERSHIPS GRANTS		16,161

Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF)

The RADF program supports the development of quality arts and arts practice in regional communities. The RADF funding is in partnership with the State Government.

APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
ARC Disability	RADF 2025/2026 - Flame Arts - Leg Up	1,500
Felicity Schrie	RADF 2025/2026 - Flame Arts - Leg Up	956
Grace Jones	RADF 2025/2026 - Flame Arts - Leg Up	1,000
Maja Chodorowski	RADF 2025/2026 - Flame Arts - Leg Up	1,500
Scotia Hennessy	RADF 2025/2026 - Flame Arts - Leg Up	1,500
Adrian Thomas	RADF 2025/2026 - Individual Prof Development	1,500
Ashleigh Lawrence	RADF 2025/2026 - Individual Prof Development	1,000
Cassandra Byers (aka Bilby Brave)	RADF 2025/2026 - Individual Prof Development	1,500
Christopher Kohn	RADF 2025/2026 - Individual Prof Development	1,500
Dani Kohn	RADF 2025/2026 - Individual Prof Development	1,500

Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) cont.

APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
Karen Jackson	RADF 2025/2026 - Individual Prof Development	730
Lachlan Mackee	RADF 2025/2026 - Individual Prof Development	1,500
Lia Pa'apa'a	RADF 2025/2026 - Individual Prof Development	1,000
Lorraine Hildebrand (aka Raine Dance)	RADF 2025/2026 - Individual Prof Development	423
Matilda Morgan	RADF 2025/2026 - Individual Prof Development	1,000
Maureen Cameron	RADF 2025/2026 - Individual Prof Development	1,500
Mikyung Coates	RADF 2025/2026 - Individual Prof Development	1,500
Nicola Bryars-Parker	RADF 2025/2026 - Individual Prof Development	1,500
Nigel Pegrum	RADF 2025/2026 - Individual Prof Development	1,500
Noel Peake	RADF 2025/2026 - Individual Prof Development	1,000
Zane Stradling	RADF 2025/2026 - Individual Prof Development	1,000
Anni Hagberg	RADF 2025/2026 - Major Round 1	11,570
Circa Contemporary Circus Company	RADF 2025/2026 - Major Round 1	12,000
Klara Jane Royster	RADF 2025/2026 - Major Round 1	7,400
Mx Melanie Stevens	RADF 2025/2026 - Major Round 1	12,000
Naygayiw Gigi Indigenous Corporation	RADF 2025/2026 - Major Round 1	12,000
Rachel Terry	RADF 2025/2026 - Major Round 1	12,000
Album Registry - Yarner	RADF 2025/2026 - Major Round 2	12,000
Bus Stop Films	RADF 2025/2026 - Major Round 2	12,000
Cristina Bevilacqua	RADF 2025/2026 - Major Round 2	12,000
Emma Rehn	RADF 2025/2026 - Major Round 2	5,500
India Collins	RADF 2025/2026 - Major Round 2	12,000
John Eaton	RADF 2025/2026 - Major Round 2	12,000
JUTE Theatre	RADF 2025/2026 - Major Round 2	12,000
Kathryn Laughton	RADF 2025/2026 - Major Round 2	11,978
Leon Tussie	RADF 2025/2026 - Major Round 2	6,800
Molly Pointing	RADF 2025/2026 - Major Round 2	11,700
Monica Stevens	RADF 2025/2026 - Major Round 2	8,847
Drum Infinity Mugendai Inc	RADF 2025/2026 - Small Arts Grant	500
Elizabeth Louise Christensen	RADF 2025/2026 - Small Arts Grant	500
Elleni Georgeena Adams	RADF 2025/2026 - Small Arts Grant	500
Gabrielle Cooney	RADF 2025/2026 - Small Arts Grant	500
Katherine Hall	RADF 2025/2026 - Small Arts Grant	500
Luisa Manea	RADF 2025/2026 - Small Arts Grant	500
Maria Lions	RADF 2025/2026 - Small Arts Grant	500
Nikki Fort	RADF 2025/2026 - Small Arts Grant	500
Shanna Toe	RADF 2025/2026 - Small Arts Grant	500
Tania Tocar	RADF 2025/2026 - Small Arts Grant	500
TOTAL REGIONAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANTS		214,904
TOTAL ARTS AND CULTURE GRANTS		258,447

COMMUNITY, SPORT AND RECREATION

Go Clubs Community Infrastructure

This grant assists local sport, recreation, arts, culture and community organisations with the development of improved facilities.

APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
Cairns & District Kart Racing Club	Water connection, handrail & security light unspent grant funds	(250)
Cairns and Districts Senior Citizens Association Inc	Safety first for seniors	14,897
Cairns Model Aero Club	Supply and Installation of Steel Shade Shelter	17,586
Cairns Netball Association Inc	Boundary Fence Replacement, Repair, and Repainting	25,000
Cairns Saints Australian Football Club Inc.	Chilled Water Station at Griffiths Park	15,910
Earlville Pony Club	Electrical Repair/Flood Lights	24,983
Ellis Beach Surf Life Saving Club Inc	CCTV & Security System	22,370
Freshwater Tennis Club Inc	Upgrades to ground floor entrances on northern side of clubhouse	25,000
Leichhardt Football Club Cairns Inc.	Waterproofing	17,274
Leichhardt Junior Soccer Club	Sheltering Our Future: Leichhardt Dugouts Upgrade	18,773
Marlin Coast Rangers Football Club	Bore Upgrade	12,207
Southern Suburbs Rugby League Club (Cairns) Inc	Alley Park Storage expansion	25,000
Stratford Bowls Club Incorporated	Concrete works	25,000
Surf Life Saving North Queensland Branch	Expansion of Storage Facility for Emergency Rescue Assets	25,000
TOTAL GO CLUBS COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS		268,750

Go Clubs Essentials Assistance

This grant is for services that can be delivered by Council that support improved asset management initiatives (maintenance) including turf management.

APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
Babinda Golf Club	Drain Cleaning	5,258
Barron Trinity Rugby club	Aeration and/ or Top Dressing	1,801
Cairns & District Darts Association	Tree trimming	2,500
Cairns Baseball League Incorporated	Aeration and/ or Top Dressing	821
Cairns Basketball Inc.	Carpark Works	1,411
Cairns City Kennel Club Inc.	Turf/ Field Remediation	326
Cairns Cricket Association and AFL Cairns Limited	Field Remediation at Griffith Park	5,556
Cairns Pirates Touch Football Association Inc.	Aeration and/ or Top Dressing	2,400
Cairns Showgrounds	Concrete Path	9,000

Go Clubs Essentials Assistance cont.

APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
Cairns Tennis Club Inc.	Tree trimming	3,500
Cairns Youth & Recreation Centre Inc.	Earthworks	3,746
Clifton Beach Tennis Club inc	Tree trimming	3,100
Earlville Pony Club	Tree Removal	4,520
Earlville Sports Club	Supply of trees	3,108
Edge Hill United Football Club	Aeration and/ or Top Dressing	3,059
Edge Hill United Football Club	Turf/ Field Remediation	1,595
Edmonton and District Pony and Horse Club Incorporated	Tree trimming	5,000
FNQ RL Ltd	Tree trimming	4,500
Freshwater & District Horse & Pony Club	Tree Removal	4,415
Freshwater Tennis Club Inc	Concrete Slab	1,436
Gordonvale Girl Guides	Tree Removal	3,458
Gordonvale Golf Club	Civil works - Drains	5,000
Holloways Beach Community Garden	Tree trimming	2,800
Ivanhoe Football & Recreation Club Inc	Aeration and/ or Top Dressing	2,394
Kangaroo Rugby League Club Inc	Carpark asphalt works	4,620
Kangaroos Junior Rugby League Club	Top Dressing	1,748
Leichhardt Football Club Cairns Inc.	Aeration and/ or Top Dressing	971
Leichhardt Junior Soccer Club	Aeration and/ or Top Dressing	3,478
Leichhardt Junior Soccer Club	Turf/ Field Remediation	1,320
Marlin Coast Meals on Wheels Inc.	Switchboard Upgrade	5,000
Marlin Coast Rangers Football Club	Aeration and/ or Top Dressing	3,816
Mulgrave Combined Cricket Association Inc.	Aeration and/ or Top Dressing	2,380
Northern Beaches Mudcrabs Rugby Union Club Inc	Weeding, tree works	5,000
Redlynch Equestrian Association	Turf/Field Remediation	1,860
Rovers Cricket Club Cairns Inc	Tree trimming	3,430
Southside Comets Football Club Inc.	Aeration and/ or Top Dressing	4,804
St John Ambulance Queensland	Painting	5,109
Stratford Dolphins Football Club	Tree trimming	4,400
Table Tennis Cairns	Pits Cleaning	2,640
Tobruk Swim Club Incorporated	Roof Slats Cleaning	4,780
University and Teachers Smithfield Rugby Union Club	Turf/Field Remediation	781
TOTAL GO CLUBS ESSENTIALS ASSISTANCE GRANTS		136,839

Revegetation of Natural Areas

This grant assists local sport, recreation, arts, culture and community organisations with the revegetation of natural areas.

APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
Caravonica 1077 Resident's Association	Botanica Nature Reserve - Phase 2	10,345
Marlin Coast Men's Shed	Moore's Gully - Stage 3	16,475
The Agile Project	Bluewater Parklands - Stage 1	17,180
Treeforce	Western Arterial Conservation Park - Stage 2	20,000
TOTAL REVEGETATION OF NATURAL AREAS GRANTS		64,000

TOTAL COMMUNITY, SPORT AND RECREATION GRANTS	469,589
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Industry and Economic Development Fund

Council's Industry and Economic Development Fund (IEDF) provides assistance to organisations in support of specific industry and economic development activities and to support the economic goals of the Cairns Regional Council Corporate Plan, specifically: Economy: A strong, diversified and resilient regional economy that supports the growth of new and existing industry, business activities and provides long-term employment opportunities and to support the delivery of Council's Economic Development Strategy.

APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
Australian International Marine Export Group Limited	2025 Cairns Maritime Jobs & Careers Expo	15,000
TOTAL INDUSTRY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANTS		15,000

TOTAL INDUSTRY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANTS	15,000
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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Nature-based Learning

This grant fosters an appreciation of our world-renowned natural environment in the younger generation through financial support for nature-based excursions undertaken by schools in the Cairns local government area.

APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
Bentley Park College	Reef Excursion	1,200
Cairns State High School	MRN IA2 Excursion	1,200
Edge Hill State School	Year 6 Reef Trip	1,200
Freshwater Christian College	Year 10 Reef Excursion	1,200
Hambledon State School	Cairns Aquarium Excursion	1,200
Isabella State School	Reef Excursion	1,200
Machans Beach State School	Cairns Aquarium Excursion	1,500
Our Lady Help of Christians School	Roaming Wild	500
Parramatta State School	Kuranda Butterfly Sanctuary excursion	1,208
Smithfield State High School	Sustainable Catchments	1,000
St Mary's Catholic College	Green Island Living Classroom	1,000
St Monica's College	Green Island Biodiversity field trip	1,000
St Rita's Catholic Primary School Babinda	Our Reef - Biodiversity and Sustainability in Action	1,000
Trinity Anglican School - Primary	Cattana Wetlands Excursion	1,000
Trinity Bay State School	Reef Trip	1,200
Whitfield State School	Reef Trip	1,200
Yorkeys Knob State School	Year 6 Reef Environment Excursion	1,200
TOTAL NATURE-BASED LEARNING GRANTS		19,008

Sustainability and Climate Change

These grants encourage the community to develop and implement projects that reduce the region's non-renewable resource consumption, reduce waste, conserve/restore biodiversity values and enhance community understanding of sustainability and resilience.

APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
Cairns and Far North Environment Centre	Nature-based Solution Pilot for Cooling Residential Streets in Gimuy	4,997
Divers for Climate Ltd	Climate Crew Program Cairns	4,940
Earlville Sports Club	Solar Panels and Battery	4,000
FNQ Nature Quest	Little Explorers Nature Playgroup	2,000
Mulgrave Landcare and Catchment Group Inc.	Nursery materials	2,000
TAS White Rock Early Learning Centre	Implementation of Chickens in the ELC Space	2,000
Whitfield Community Kindergarten	Whitfield Community Kindy Solar Power Project	5,000
TOTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE GRANTS		24,937
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS		43,945

EVENTS

Community Partnerships

APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
AFL Cape York House Foundation	Pacific Cup Carnival	15,000
Babinda District Community Association Inc	150 Years of Farming in the Cairns Region	10,000
Babinda District Community Association Inc	Christmas in Babinda 2025	3,500
Babinda Harvest Festival Inc.	Babinda Harvest Festival	25,003
Cairns & District Chinese Association Inc	2026 Cairns Chinese New Year Celebrations	17,620
Cairns & Region Multicultural Association	CARMA Festival and Youth Peace Finale	16,481
Cairns & Region Multicultural Association	CARMA Multicultural Festival	14,970
Cairns Agricultural Pastoral and Mining Association Limited	2025 Cairns Show	16,893
Cairns Area Fish Stocking Group	Restocking barramundi in Cairns Regional Council area	15,000
Cairns Athletics	Cairns Athletics Coral Coast Carnival	7,155
Cairns Basketball Inc.	2026 U14 Boys State Championships	10,000
Cairns BMX Club	2025 AusCycling BMX Racing State Series Rounds 7 and 8	13,000
Cairns Bongo Group Inc.	Cairns Durga Puja 2025	7,500
Cairns Chieftains GAA INC.	GFHAA Australasia Regional Games	11,009
Cairns Christian Ministers Network Inc	Cairns Churches Celebrate 150 Years	19,934
Cairns Christian Ministers Network Inc	Joy to the World Carols & Fireworks	20,000
Cairns COUCH Limited	Cairns LIVE and OUCH For COUCH	4,655
Cairns Hindu Samaj Inc	Cairns Diwali Mela (Fair)	5,000
Cairns Hindu Samaj Inc	Diwali Mela (Fair) 2025	9,522
Cairns Hindu Samaj Inc	Ganeshotsav	7,500
Cairns Mudcrabs Masters Swimming Club Inc.	Cairns Mudcrabs short course swim meet unspent grant funding	(95)
Cairns Photographic Society	Official Photographers for Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Program	25,000
Cairns RSL Sub Branch	Cairns Cenotaph - 100 years	5,000
Cairns Thai Community Association FNQ Inc.	Songkran Festival 2026 - Thai New Year Celebration	19,656
Cairns Volleyball Association	Queensland Beach Volleyball Tour (QBVT)	4,353
Cancer Council Queensland	Cancer Council Queensland	18,884
Centacare FNQ - Roman Catholic Trust Corporation/ Catholic Diocese	School Savvy Program Cairns Pop-up shop	3,080
Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good	Cairns NAIDOC Friday In the PARK	36,368
Far North Flames Netball Inc	Netball QLD Ruby North Series	25,000
Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation	BDO Arrow Experience - Wangetti Edition	5,000
Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation	QSuper Cardiac Challenge 2025	3,145
FNQ RL Ltd	Foley Shield 2026	15,000
FNQ Rugby Inc	FNQ Rugby Inc - Grand Final Day	3,125
FNQ Rugby Inc	North Queensland Rugby Union Championships	5,000
FNQ Thai Cultural Community inc	Celebrate the 8th Cairns Thai Cultural Loy Kra Thong Festival	8,600

Community Partnerships cont.

APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
FNQ Thai Cultural Community inc	The Thai Cultural Loy Kra Thong Festival	20,000
Freshwater Branch QCWA	Freshwater Christmas in the Park	7,000
Freshwater Branch QCWA	Freshwater Festival (Freshwater Festival Street Fiesta)	12,000
German Club Cairns	Día de Muertos	7,500
Gopio Cairns Inc	Cairns Indian Festival 2025	16,499
Gopio Cairns Inc	Harmony Cup 2026	10,000
Gordonvale District Chamber of Commerce Inc.	Gordonvale Community Carols	5,000
Gordonvale District Chamber of Commerce Inc.	Gordonvale Sugar Solstice Country Fair	10,000
Gordonvale Pony Club Equestrian Centre Inc	The Great Northern Bullride	2,907
HeartKids Limited	2025 Two Feet and A Heartbeat	118
Himalayan Organisation for Multicultural Communities Inc (HOMC Inc)	UNITY CUP 2026 - Multicultural Soccer Carnival	10,000
Japanese Society of Cairns	Cairns Japan Bon Dance Festival 2025	19,944
Lifeline Crisis Support Cairns	Out of the Shadows Walk	2,255
Machans Beach Community Association	Moon Over Machans	5,000
Marlin Coast Neighbourhood Centre	Community Fun Day	4,000
Mission Australia	Cairns Homelessness Week 2025	1,987
Mission Australia	South Side Celebration	5,000
North Queensland International Motor Raceway Association Incorporated	Thunder in the Canefields 2026	18,523
Northern Beaches Mudcrabs Rugby Union Club Inc	Mudcrabs 7s Tournament	4,000
Of One Mind Ltd	WOW - Women of the World Festival Cairns - Celebrating 150(000+) years of the women of Cairns	5,000
Our Future Mentor Indigenous Corporation	Cairns NAIDOC Edor Carnival	10,000
Papua New Guinea and Wantoks Association Cairns Inc	Papua New Guinea's 50th Independence Anniversary - Family and Cultural Day	19,902
Philippine Cultural Society of Cairns, Inc.	Cairns Filipino Barrio Fiesta	18,810
Redlynch Valley Community Group Inc	Christmas movie and food night	1,520
Redlynch Valley Community Group Inc	Redlynch Community Twilight Markets	6,200
Redlynch Valley Community Group Inc	Tunnel of Terror	2,517
Rosies Youth Mission Inc	Street parking outside 22-34 Aplin St	1,378
Rotary Cairns Northern Beaches Club	Rotary Beach Vibe	15,000
Softball Queensland Inc	2025 Queensland Under 18 Women's Softball Championships	10,000
Southern Suburbs Junior Rugby League Club Inc	Nate Myles Cup	10,000
Stratford Dolphins Football Club	The Prawn Star Barron River Foodfest	10,000
UMI Arts Limited	Big Talk One Fire Cultural Festival	25,000
UMI Arts Limited	UMI Arts 20th Anniversary Exhibition	11,500
Whitfield State School P&C	All Abilities Sports Day for students with disabilities	1,394
Yorkeys Knob Residents Association	Twilight Christmas Market	5,000
TOTAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS GRANTS		741,811

Major Event Sponsorship

These grants support the growth of a diverse portfolio of major events that contribute to the economic development of the region, raise the profile of Tropical North Queensland (TNQ) nationally and internationally, deliver social, cultural and environmental benefits, and inspire the residents of TNQ.

Some of Council's major events sponsorship agreements contain commercial in confidence information and accordingly, individual sponsorship amounts are not disclosed in the table below. The overall total of major events sponsorship grants is disclosed.

APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
Atlas Events	2025 7 Cairns Marathon	
Atlas Events	2026 7 Cairns Marathon	
AusCycling	2025 Crankworx	
AusCycling	2026 Cairns Rainforest Rumble	
Australian Festival of Chamber Music Inc	2026 Australian Festival of Chamber Music	
Cairns Italian Festival Inc	2025 Cairns Italian Festival	
Cairns Italian Festival Inc	2026 Cairns Italian Festival	
Cairns Tropical Writers Festival Inc	2025 Cairns Tropical Writers Festival	
Cricket Australia	2025 Men's International Cricket	
Duco Events	2026 Gold Clash	
FNQ Amateur Turf Club	2025 Cairns Super Carnival (Amateurs)	
FNQ Amateur Turf Club	2026 Cairns Super Carnival (Amateurs)	
Hawthorn FC	2026 AFLW Northern Nest Event	
Hockey Australia Limited	2025 Hockey Aust Trans Tasman Masters	
Raise The Seventh Pty Ltd	2025 BE Social	
Screen Queensland	2026 Screen QLD In the Frame	
Shine On Productions	2025 Shine on Gimuy	
USM Events	2025 Ironman	
USM Events	2026 Ironman	
TOTAL MAJOR EVENT SPONSORSHIP GRANTS		923,289
TOTAL EVENTS GRANTS		1,665,100

OTHER SUPPORT

Resource and Performance Agreements

Council will, as required, consider entering into tailored agreements with specific community organisations to support programs, events and activities that are considered by Council to be in the public interest and to be of substantial benefit to the Cairns region, broadly consistent with a set criterion.

APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
Australian Air Force Cadets	Anzac Day service - Stratford	4,596
Babinda District Community Association	Resource and Performance Agreement	45,000
Babinda Visitor Information Centre	Resource and Performance Agreement	12,000
Bats & Trees Society of Cairns Inc	Flying-fox Wildlife Carer Support	22,200
Cairns & District Family History Society Inc	Shadows from the Past	12,500
Cairns and District Junior Eisteddfod	Cairns and District Junior Eisteddfod 2025	47,946
Cairns Art Gallery Precinct Ltd	Resource and Performance Agreement	2,629,027
Cairns Indigenous Art Fair Limited	Cairns Indigenous Art Fair	215,103
Cairns River Improvement Trust	Resource and Performance Agreement	200,000
Friends of the Botanic Gardens	Resource and Performance Agreement	734
Holloways Beach Environmental Education Centre	Gifted Global Green Program Resources & Performance Agreement	10,000
Mulgrave Shire Historical Society	Mulgrave Settlers Museum	59,051
North Queensland Sports Foundation	North Queensland Sports Foundation Annual Membership contribution	50,082
Northern Pride Rugby League Football Club Inc	Barlow Park - Training & Games	108,995
Queensland Museum Network	Museum Development Office Program	24,727
Rotary Cairns Northern Beaches Inc	Anzac Day service - Trinity Beach	4,500
RSL Babinda Sub Branch	Anzac Day service - Babinda	2,118
RSL Edge Hill / Cairns West Sub Branch	Anzac Day service - Edge Hill	1,029
RSL Edmonton Sub Branch	Anzac Day service - Edmonton	2,029
RSL Gordonvale Sub Branch	Anzac Day service - Gordonvale	2,647
Russell Heads Progress Association Inc	Resource and Performance Agreement	25,000
Study Cairns	Resource and Performance Agreement	100,000
Super Yacht Group	Resource and Performance Agreement	40,000
The Historical Society Cairns North Queensland Inc	Cairns Museum Resource & Performance Agreement	443,392
Tourism Tropical North QLD (TTNQ)	Resource and Performance Agreement	3,525,000
Tradelinked Cairns Inc	Resource and Performance Agreement	20,000
Yorkeys Knob Boating Club Inc	Anzac Day service - Yorkeys Knob	1,647
TOTAL RESOURCE AND PERFORMANCE AGREEMENTS		7,609,324

Donations and Sponsorships

APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
Cairns Chamber of Commerce	2026 Business Excellence Awards	4,500
Cairns Chamber of Commerce	Sponsorship agreement	30,000
Dept of Trade, Employment & Training	Queensland Training Awards 2026 sponsorship	3,000
Institution of Engineers Australia	Transport Conference 2026 sponsorship	10,000
James Cook University	Environment and Geography Prize sponsorship	273
Queensland Environmental Law Association Inc	2026 Regional Roadshow sponsorship	1,364
Taipans Basketball Inc.	NBL Season 2025/26 Sponsorship	125,000
The Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre Inc	Workplace giving	3,640
Tourism Tropical North QLD (TTNQ)	2025 Developing Northern Australia Conference sponsorship	7,500
Tourism Tropical North QLD (TTNQ)	TNQ Tourism Industry Awards 2025	6,000
The Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals (Queensland)	2026 Operation Wanted sponsorship	4,999
TOTAL DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS		196,275

Rates Based Financial Assistance

APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
Cairns Show Association	1 recipient	43,383
Not-for-Profit Community Groups	142 recipients	1,069,967
Not-for-Profit Sporting & Recreation Groups	88 recipients	605,335
TOTAL RATES BASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE		1,718,684

TOTAL OTHER	9,524,284
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON DISCRETIONARY FUNDS AND GRANTS	11,976,365
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Corporate governance



Community financial report

This report shows a summary of the Council's Consolidated Financial Statements with the aim to provide understandable information to the members of our community. The use of graphs allows readers to easily evaluate Council's consolidated financial performance and financial position. In addition, this report includes key financial statistics and ratios that can also be useful indicators of Council's performance.

2025-2026 results at a glance

Council has performed well throughout the 2025-2026 financial year, finishing the year with a \$266.6 million net result.

Council continued to invest heavily in community infrastructure by delivering a capital works program in excess of \$291.5 million.

The Financial Statements in this report cover a 12-month period ending 30 June 2026. The Financial Statements contained in this report include:

- **Statement of Comprehensive Income** - displays Council's revenue and expenses with the resulting profit or loss amount, called the net result, attributable to Council. This also displays Council's other comprehensive income.
- **Statement of Financial Position** - displays the assets (what we own), liabilities (what we owe) and community equity (total assets minus total liabilities). Community equity can be a reflection of how healthy the position of Council is at any given point in time.
- **Statement of Cash Flows** - reports how revenue received, and expenses paid, impact on Council's cash balances (money in the bank).
- **Statement of Changes in Equity** - presents a summary of transfers to and from equity accounts including retained surplus, capital and other reserves.
- **Notes to the Financial Statements** - provides a detailed breakdown of all significant items in the Financial Statements and what these items represent.
- **Current and Long-Term Measures of Financial Sustainability** - presents nine sustainability indicators that have been set up by the Queensland Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers (DLGWV) to help monitor the current and long-term sustainability of all councils across Queensland.

Corporate financial statements

	MILLION \$
Operating revenue	451.6
Operating expenses	(414.8)
Capital income	244.7
Capital expenses	(14.9)
NET RESULT	266.6
Total assets	6,075.0
Total liabilities	(226.7)
NET COMMUNITY ASSETS	5,848.3
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS EXPENDITURE	291.5

Background

Assumptions and principles

Under the requirements of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council is required to prepare general purpose Financial Statements for the period. This report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and complies with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012*. These are the consolidated financial statements of Council and its controlled entity, Cairns Art Gallery Precinct Ltd.

Council controls and manages infrastructure assets that are largely unique to the public sector. These infrastructure assets include roads, bridges, footpaths, water reticulation and sewerage assets, which generally have very long useful lives and can only be used for providing local government services. The costs associated with the maintenance, depreciation and replacement of these assets form a material part of Council's annual expenditure.

Council continues to implement its Asset Management Plans to facilitate sound strategic asset management decisions.

Council's Debt Policy aims to finance Capital Works and new assets to the greatest extent possible from revenue, grants and subsidies. Operating activities or recurrent expenditure cannot be funded by borrowings.

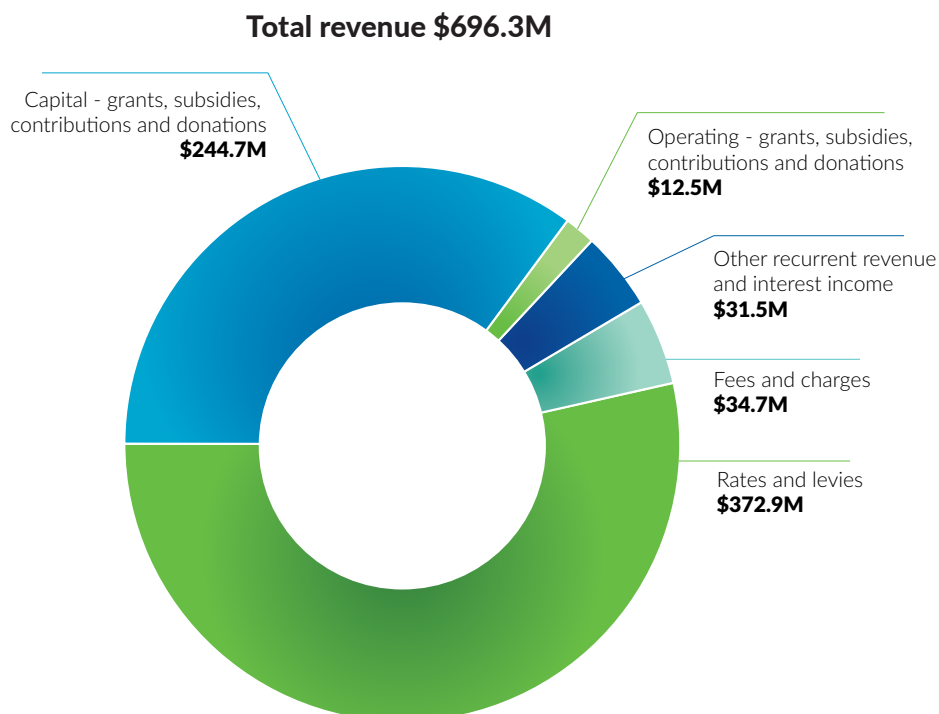
The business activities of Cairns Water and Cairns Resource Recovery return a dividend to Council in recognition that they have been established to further good governance. Dividends are then utilised to provide services and infrastructure to the community.

Statement of comprehensive income

Revenue

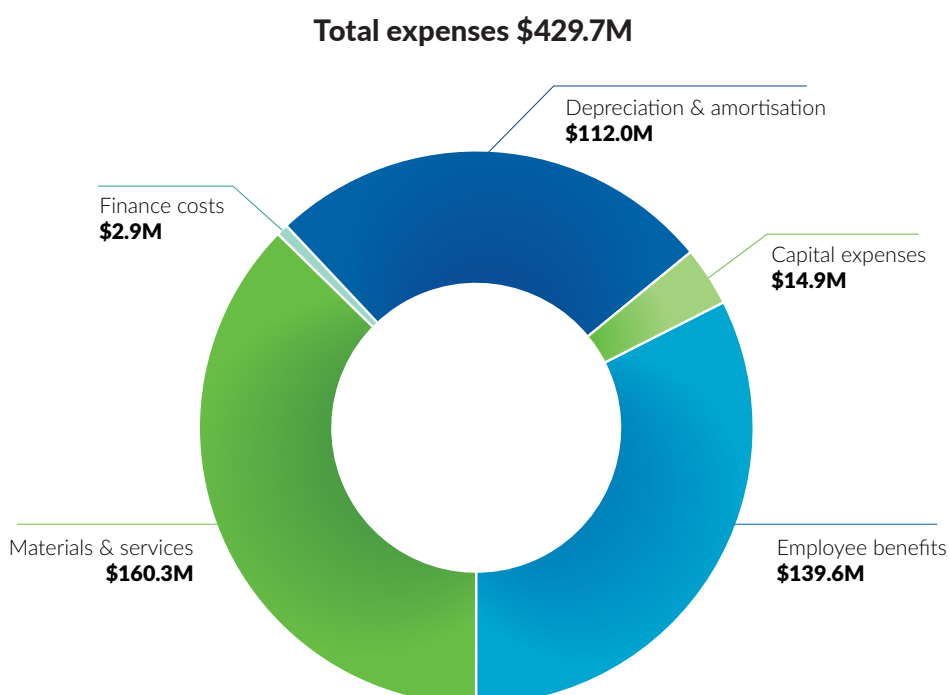
Revenues for the 2025-2026 financial year come from various sources, as shown in the following graph.

The majority of Council's revenue (53.5%) is sourced from net rates and utility charges. Another significant source of revenue is capital grants, subsidies and donations (35.1%), which are received solely for the purpose of funding current and future capital works in order for Council to continue to supply important infrastructure to the community.



Expenses

Employee Benefits and Materials and Services make up 69.8% of the total expenditure of Council. Council has a strong labour workforce to provide maintenance, water and resource recovery services, planning, community, sport and cultural services and capital infrastructure for the community.



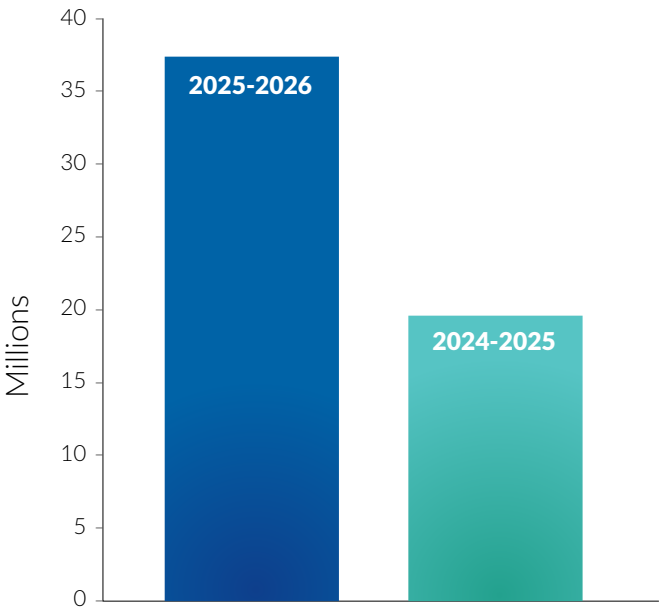
Operating position

Council's operating position reflects the organisation's ability to meet its day-to-day running costs from operating revenue.

The operating position is calculated by taking total operating revenue (\$451.6 million) and deducting total operating expenses (\$414.8 million). It does not include revenue or expenditure amounts for capital projects.

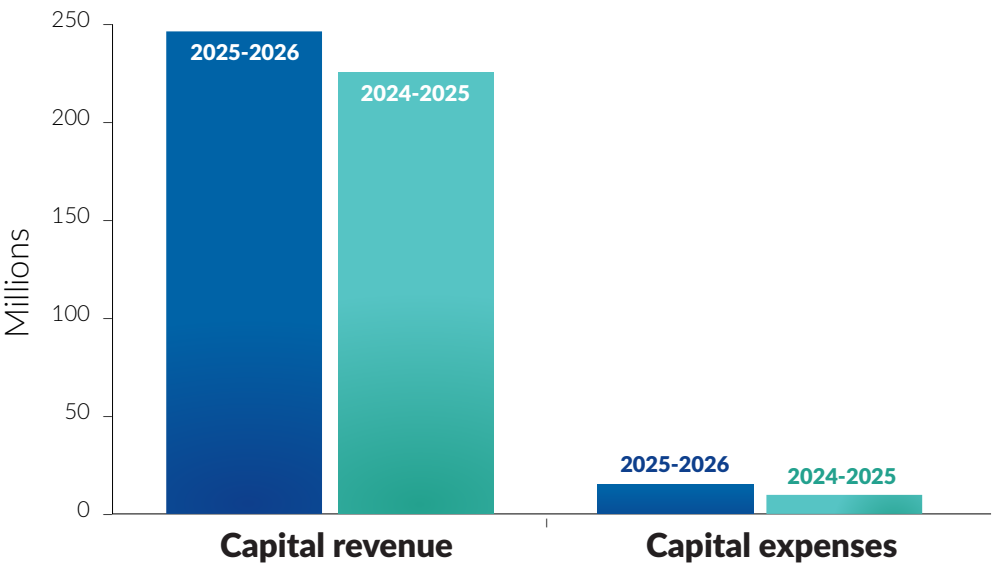
Council ended the 2025-2026 financial year with a \$36.8 million surplus, compared to the \$20.0 million surplus in the 2024-2025 financial period.

This graph shows the operating position for 2025-2026 compared to the operating position for 2024-2025.



Net result

Council's net result of \$266.6 million is calculated by taking the operating surplus of \$36.8 million above and adding capital revenue (\$244.7 million) and deducting capital expenses (\$14.9 million). The largest contributor to Council's net result for 2025-2026 is the receipt of capital grant funding associated with the CWSS1 project.



Capital revenue represents the following income streams:

- **Donated assets** – infrastructure assets contributed by developers that represents non-cash revenue. Assets donated can include roads, drains, sewerage mains, water mains and land.
- **Developer contributions** – cash contributions made by developers to fund future infrastructure assets have restrictions placed on their use and are constrained to capital reserves unspent in the year.
- **Government subsidies and grants** - this represents income received for the sole purpose of funding capital work projects.

Capital expenses predominantly represent the value of non-current assets replaced or disposed of throughout the year.

Further details on capital revenue and expenses are contained in notes 4 and 7 of the Financial Statements.

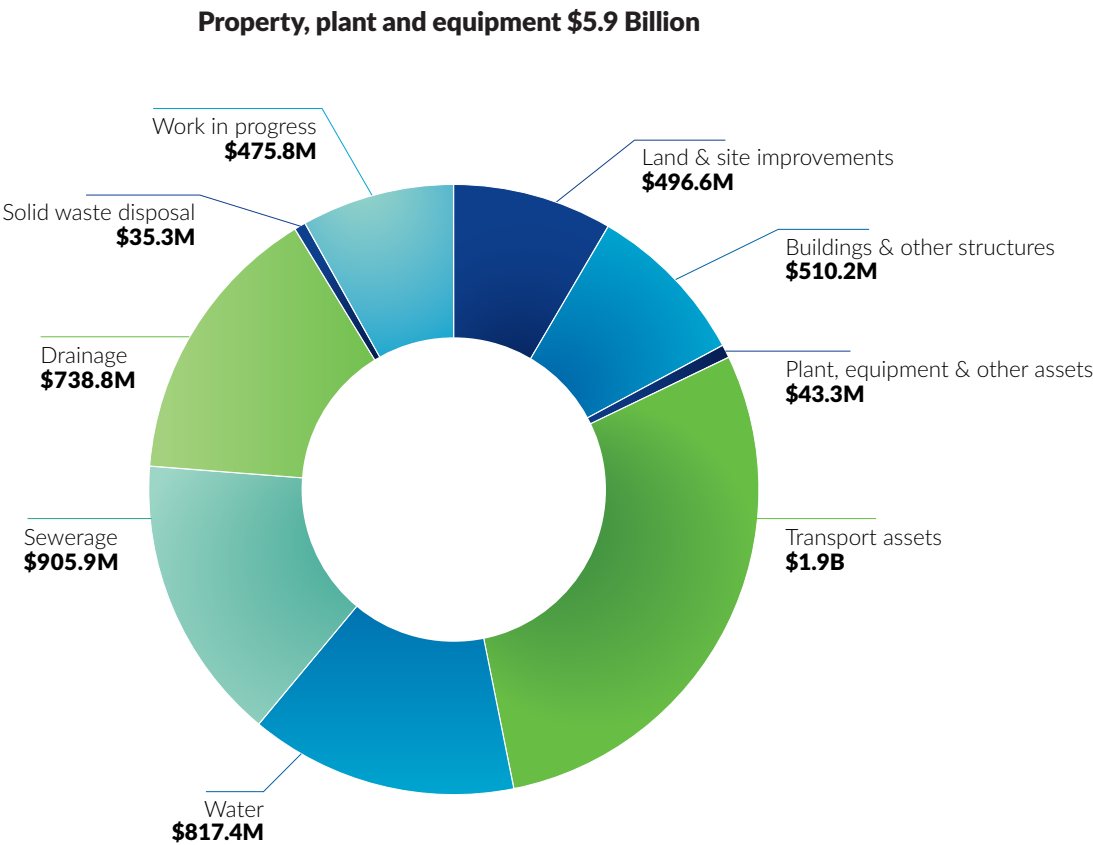
Statement of financial position

Assets

	2025-2026	2024-2025
	\$ million	\$ million
Current assets	170.7	139.9
Non-current assets	5,904.3	5,339.7
TOTAL ASSETS	6,075.0	5,479.6

Council assets as at 30 June 2026 totalled over \$6.08 billion. This includes \$170.7 million of current assets (liquid assets or amounts due to be received within 12 months) and \$5.9 billion of non-current assets. Property, plant and equipment makes up 97.1% of total assets.

The following graph shows a breakdown of property, plant and equipment by asset category.



Liabilities

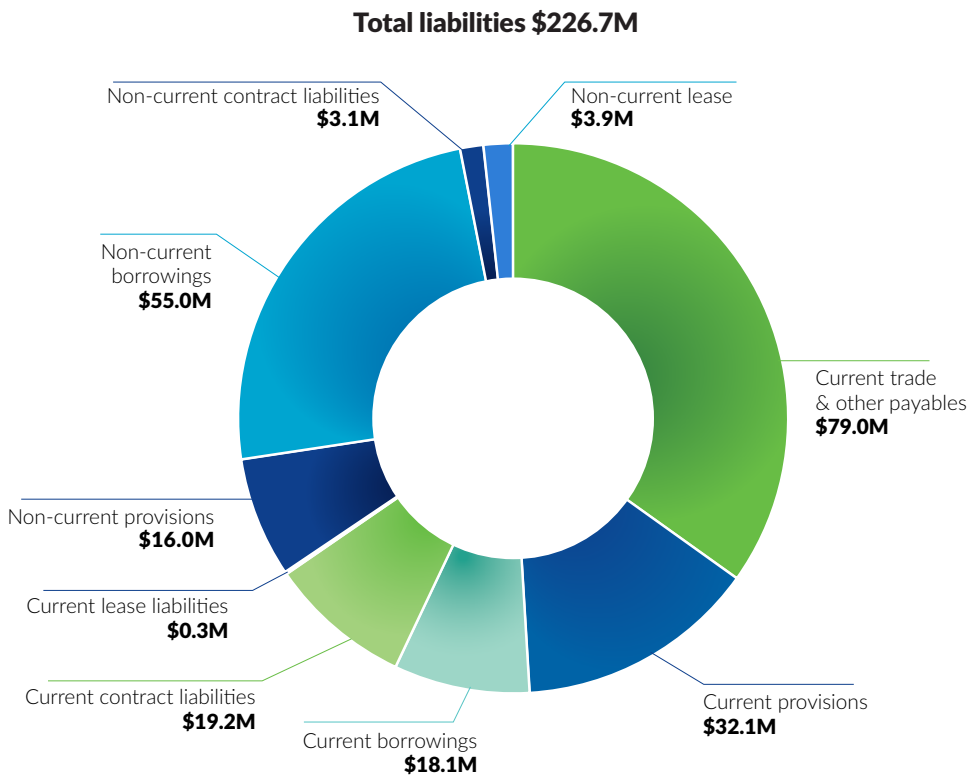
	2025-2026	2024-2025
	\$ million	\$ million
Current liabilities	148.7	168.5
Non-current liabilities	78.0	92.9
TOTAL LIABILITIES	226.7	261.4

Total liabilities as at 30 June 2026 were \$226.7 million. This includes \$148.7 million of current liabilities (due to be paid out within 12 months) and \$78.0 million of non-current liabilities.

Liabilities mostly consist of loans, amounts owing to suppliers and amounts owing to employees for leave entitlements.

Interest-bearing liabilities represent the largest component within Council’s liabilities and consists of loans from Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC). Council loan borrowings are discussed further in the Borrowings section below.

The following graph shows a breakdown of liabilities by category.



Borrowings

Council maintains a Working Capital Facility (\$120 million) with QTC. As at 30 June 2026 there were no drawdowns against the facility.

The following table outlines the current (due within 12 months) and non-current (due after 12 months) allocation of outstanding loan borrowings.

	2025-2026	2024-2025
	\$ million	\$ million
Current Borrowings	18.1	28.4
Non-Current Borrowings	55.0	73.1
TOTAL BORROWINGS	73.1	101.5

Principal and interest repayments are made on these borrowings on a monthly basis in accordance with the terms and conditions set by QTC. The repayment terms are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that the expected loan term aligns with market movements.

The following table shows the split of Council's debt service payments between principal and interest.

	2025-2026	2024-2025
	\$ million	\$ million
Principal	28.3	27.7
Interest	1.9	2.5
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS	30.2	30.2

As at 30 June 2026 Council's debt per rateable property was \$946 (2025: \$1,322).

Sustainability ratios

The following ratios are designed to provide an indication of the performance of Council against key financial sustainability criteria that should be met to ensure the prudent management of financial risks in accordance with Chapter 5, Part 3, Division 1 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*. The benchmarks used for the required ratios are per the DLGWV guidelines.

SUSTAINABILITY RATIOS					
Type	Ratio	Rationale	Benchmark	2025-2026	Within limits
Operating performance	Operating surplus ratio	Holistic overview of Council operating performance	> 0%	8.3%	✓
	Operating cash ratio	Cash operating performance (less depreciation and other non-cash items)	> 0%	33.5%	✓
Liquidity	Unrestricted cash expense cover ratio	Unconstrained liquidity available to Council	> 2 months	6.4	✓
Debt servicing capacity	Leverage ratio	Ability to repay existing debt	0 - 4 times	0.5	✓
Asset management	Asset sustainability ratio	Capital renewals program performance	> 60%	79.3%	✓
	Asset consumption ratio	Extent to which assets are being consumed	> 60%	68.7%	✓
	Asset renewal funding ratio	Asset replacement program performance	N/A*	100.0%	N/A
Financial capacity	Council controlled revenue	Capacity to generate revenue internally	N/A*	90.3%	N/A
	Population growth	Population growth/decline pressures on Council	N/A*	1.5%	N/A

Notes: * This ratio is for contextual purposes only and does not have a specified benchmark.

Conclusion

Council has finished the 2025-2026 financial year with a \$266.6 million net result and has continued strong investment in community infrastructure through the delivery of a capital works program in excess of \$291.5 million.

The above results leave Council well placed for the future with long term modelling indicating Council's ability to maintain outstanding levels of service whilst continuing to invest in infrastructure throughout the community.

Further details and breakdowns of all of the above items can be found in the Financial Statements and the detailed notes to the Financial Statements.

Complaints management

Administrative action complaints and competitive neutrality complaints

Cairns Regional Council is committed to ensuring the principles of procedural fairness and natural justice are applied to all administrative complaints and competitive neutrality complaints. Council reviews, assesses and actions all complaints from members of the public, including anonymous complaints.

Council's complaints management process comprises four main levels of complaints:

- **Level 1** - Frontline Complaints Handling (early resolution)
- **Level 2** - Internal Assessment and Investigation (Administrative Action Complaint, Employee Conduct Complaint, Privacy, Human Rights)
- **Level 3** - Internal Review and Investigation of a Serious Nature (i.e. Public Interest Disclosure)
- **Level 4** - External Review - Crime and Corruption Commission, Queensland Ombudsman or Office of the Information Commissioner

In accordance with section 268 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council must adopt a process for resolving administrative action complaints. Council's Complaints Management Policy outlines the process by which Council records, manages, and resolves administrative action complaints.

An administrative action complaint is a complaint that:

- (a) is about an administrative action of a local government, including the following, for example,
 - (i) a decision, or a failure to make a decision, including a failure to provide a written statement of reasons for a decision;
 - (ii) an act, or a failure to do an act;
 - (iii) the formulation of a proposal or intention;
 - (iv) the making of a recommendation; and
- (b) is made by an affected person.

In accordance with section 187 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council is required to report on the performance of the organisation in dealing with administrative action complaints and competitive neutrality complaints in its Annual Report.

Section 187(2) the number of the following during the financial year	Administrative Action Complaints	Competitive Neutrality complaints
(a)(i) Complaints made to the local government	127	Nil
(a)(ii) Complaints resolved by local government under the complaints management process	120	Nil
(a)(iii) Complaints not resolved by the local government under the complaints management process	7	Nil
(b) The number of complaints not resolved by the local government under the complaints management process that were made in the previous financial year	0	Nil

Assessment of Council's performance

Cairns Regional Council has a centralised complaints management process to ensure the tracking of individual complaints and to use those complaints to inform opportunities for improvement which aligns with Council's corporate objectives. Council's complaints management process continues to align with the Australian Standards and the Queensland Ombudsman whilst adhering to compliance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Public Sector Ethics

In accordance with section 23 of the *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994*, a public sector entity's annual report must include an implementation statement detailing the action taken during the reporting period to comply with the following sections of the *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994*:

Council provides the following implementation statements regarding the action taken during the Financial Year to comply with the following:

Preparation of Codes of Conduct

Cairns Regional Council's Code of Conduct for employees, contractors and volunteers was prepared in line with the *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994*.

Education and Training

Council's Corporate Induction Program ensures all employees appointed to positions at Council are aware of and understand their rights and obligations under the Code of Conduct.

Procedures and Practices

All of Council's procedures and practices reflect Council's commitment to the ethical principles and obligations of the *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994*.

Cairns Water and Cairns Resource Recovery

Overview

Cairns Water and Cairns Resource Recovery are significant business activities of Cairns Regional Council with a charter for:

- Supply of safe, reliable drinking water to consumers.
- Collection and treatment of domestic wastewater, commercial and industrial trade waste.
- Collection, recycling and disposal of municipal solid waste.
- Planning for and delivering water, wastewater and resource recovery infrastructure.
- Maintenance of the community’s water, wastewater and resource recovery infrastructure.
- Environmental management of water, wastewater and resource recovery infrastructure facilities.

Operationally, these business units are managed as a single entity within the Cairns Infrastructure and Assets directorate. For reporting purposes under the National Competition Policy, Cairns Regional Council is classed as providing two significant business activities: these being water and wastewater (collectively) and resource recovery (waste) services. Both Cairns Water and Cairns Resource Recovery are considered significant business activities under the *Local Government Regulation 2012*. Accordingly, these business units have been commercialised under this legislation and report to Council as such.

The Cairns Water and Cairns Resource Recovery business activities provide a high level of customer service to the Cairns community by building relationships and capability, having the right people and the right culture, and using efficient processes to deliver effective results.

For a breakdown of financial operations and dividend returns to Council, please see the Annual Statement of Operations below and the corresponding Financial Statements.

Cairns Water
Water supply

Cairns Water operates 9 water supply schemes: Bartle Frere, Bramston Beach, Mirriwinni, Babinda, Bellenden Ker, Fishery Falls, Mountain View, Orchid Valley and Copperlode/Behana. The main water sources that supply the area from Gordonvale to Palm Cove are the Copperlode Falls Dam and Behana Creek. The small southern communities draw water from a number of intakes on local streams.

Principal assets include:

Major water sources	Copperlode Falls Dam (Lake Morris) Behana Creek
Major treatment plants	Freshwater Creek Tunnel Hill
Minor intakes	Eight minor intakes consistent with the Drinking Water Quality Management Plan
Kilometres of mains	2348.6 km*

*Data sourced from AS2 indicator - SWIM annual report

Major Capital Works projects undertaken within the water supply system, and corresponding expenditure for the financial year, are listed below.

- \$4.3 million, 2025/26 Water Main Replacement Program
- \$3.1 million, Smart Water Meters
- \$2.8 million, 2025/26 Water Meter Replacement Program
- \$2.7 million, Brinsmead Reservoir Roof Replacement
- \$1.9 million, 2025/26 New Revenue Water Meter Replacement Program
- \$1.8 million, Bayview Reservoir Roof Replacement

Wastewater

Cairns Water manages six wastewater schemes. The Cairns region has distinct catchment areas serviced by six wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs): Marlin Coast, Northern, Southern, Edmonton, Gordonvale and Babinda. The WWTPs are a combination of activated sludge and biological treatment processes, with the two larger plants (Northern and Southern) also having membrane filtration processes. The smaller plants treat effluent to a secondary standard, while the larger plants treat to a tertiary standard. Council has been issued with an Environmental Authority from the Queensland Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (the regulator) for the management of these WWTPs.

Principal assets include:

Major treatment plants	6*
Sewage pumping stations	195**
Kilometres of mains	1370.9 km*

*Data sourced from AS4 and AS5 indicators - SWIM annual report

**Data sourced from SSA Maps

Major Capital Work projects undertaken within the wastewater system, and corresponding expenditure for the financial year, are listed below.

- \$2.6 million, Northern Wastewater Treatment Plant Dewatering System Upgrade
- \$2.4 million, 2025/26 Sewer Relining Program
- \$2.4 million, Sewer Pump Station WW Upgrade
- \$1.6 million, New Sewer Pump Station W1
- \$1.1 million, Sewer Pump Station CV1 Upgrade
- \$1.0 million, Sewer Pump Station HB1 Upgrade

Resource Recovery

Cairns Resource Recovery manages a range of solid waste and resource recovery operations, activities and services across the region. These include kerbside waste and recycling collection contracts, a regional waste management contract for the disposal of waste, a Material Recovery Facility (MRF), a Glass Processing Facility, five transfer stations, the Buy Back Shop for the resale of recovered materials, and the environmental monitoring of Council's closed landfills. The business focus is on maximising resource recovery and reducing waste to landfill primarily driven through the Waste Reduction and Recycling Strategy 2018-2027.

Principal assets include:

PRINCIPAL ASSET	ASSET LOCATION/S
Materials Recovery Facility	Portsmith
Regional Container Processing Facility	Portsmith
Waste Transfer Stations	Babinda Gordonvale Portsmith Smithfield Bramston Beach
Buy Back Shop	Portsmith
Closed landfills	Portsmith White Rock Babinda Gordonvale Yorkeys Knob Machans Beach
Waste disposal	Contractual arrangements with a commercial entity Veolia to accept and dispose of all Council waste.

Capital Works projects undertaken within Cairns Resource Recovery and corresponding expenditure for the financial year was \$2,171,541.

Annual statement of operations

The 2025-2026 Annual Performance Plan (the Plan) for Cairns Water and Cairns Resource Recovery is the agreement with Cairns Regional Council to deliver water, wastewater and resource recovery operations. The Plan describes Cairns Water and Cairns Resource Recovery's scope of activities, responsibilities, service to customers, environmental protection, asset management and its financial policies.

In all undertakings, Cairns Water and Cairns Resource Recovery strives to achieve service provisions to the Cairns community in a manner that maximises both Cairns Regional Council and community ideals. This is achieved through economic, social and environmental objectives being assessed in all stages of Water and Resource Recovery operations from long-term strategic planning through to operational delivery.

Section 115 of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* requires water service providers to prepare and publish Customer Service Standards. The Customer Service Standards are intended to protect customers where there is no contract between them and the water service provider. This is to ensure customers are adequately informed about the service they are receiving, the level of service (reported through the Queensland Government Key Performance Indicators) they can expect to experience, and how they interact with the provider.

Section 142 of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* requires waste operators to strategically plan waste reduction and recycling with reportable Waste and Recycling performance indicators.

The Customer Service Standards for the Water and Resource Recovery business activities, approved by Council in June 2025, summarise these indicators.

Amendments to annual Performance Plans

There were no substantive amendments made to the 2025-2026 Annual Performance Plans.

Key deliverables

The Plan meets the requirements for the two Significant Business Activities of Council being:

- Cairns Water
- Cairns Resource Recovery

The Cairns Infrastructure and Assets Directorate is responsible for the provision of water and wastewater services to consumers throughout the Cairns region and the provision of municipal solid waste services to the community, including:

- Impounding, harvesting and treatment of raw water.
- Reticulated treated water services.
- Reticulated wastewater collection services including wastewater treatment and by-product disposal.
- Treated effluent and biosolids for re-use purposes.
- Planning, design, documentation and construction of water, wastewater and resource recovery infrastructure.
- Collection, treatment and disposal and/or recycling of municipal solid wastes.
- Aggregation, processing, recovery and disposal of domestic, commercial and not-for-profit charitable self-hauled waste and recycling.
- Environmental monitoring and management of closed landfills.
- Trade waste services.
- Review of plumbing applications, plumbing approvals.
- Community education programs
- Water demand management services, including meter testing
- Hydraulic information to allow design of water network infrastructure
- As-constructed plans for water and wastewater
- Installation of new water supply and wastewater services
- Miscellaneous maintenance services for water and wastewater
- Buy Back Shop
- Business recycling
- Regional Container Refund Scheme processing

Community Service Obligations carried out by Cairns Water and Cairns Resource Recovery are as follows:

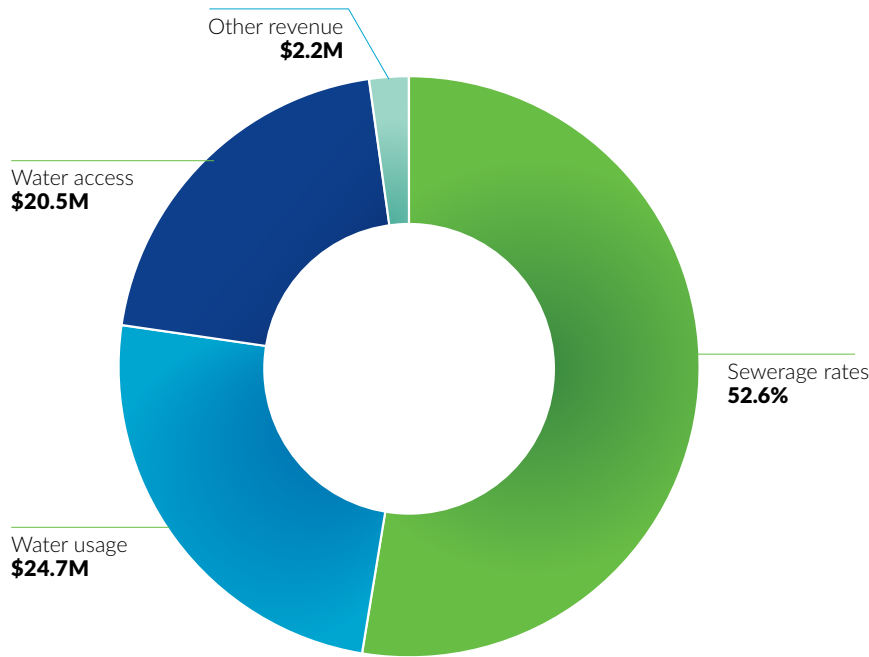
A Community Service Obligation arises when a government specifically requires a public enterprise to carry out activities relating to outputs or inputs which it would not elect to do on a commercial basis and which the government does not require other businesses in the public or private sectors to generally undertake or which it would only do commercially at higher prices.

ACTIVITIES	COMMUNITY SERVICE OBLIGATION	2025-2026
TYPE 1 ACTIVITIES		\$
Water	Water rates based financial assistance	64,000
	Total	64,000
Wastewater	Sewerage rates based financial assistance	1,071,000
	Total	1,071,000
Resource Recovery (Waste)	Free disposal green waste	781,000
	Free disposal general waste	194,000
	Collection and disposal relating to community clean up events	3,000
	Free hazardous waste disposal to prevent incorrect disposals	174,000
	Recycling services fee free of charge to schools	41,000
	In-kind waste and recycling collections	7,000
	Donations of buy back shop items to charity	2,000
	Total	1,202,000

Financial indicators - Water and Wastewater

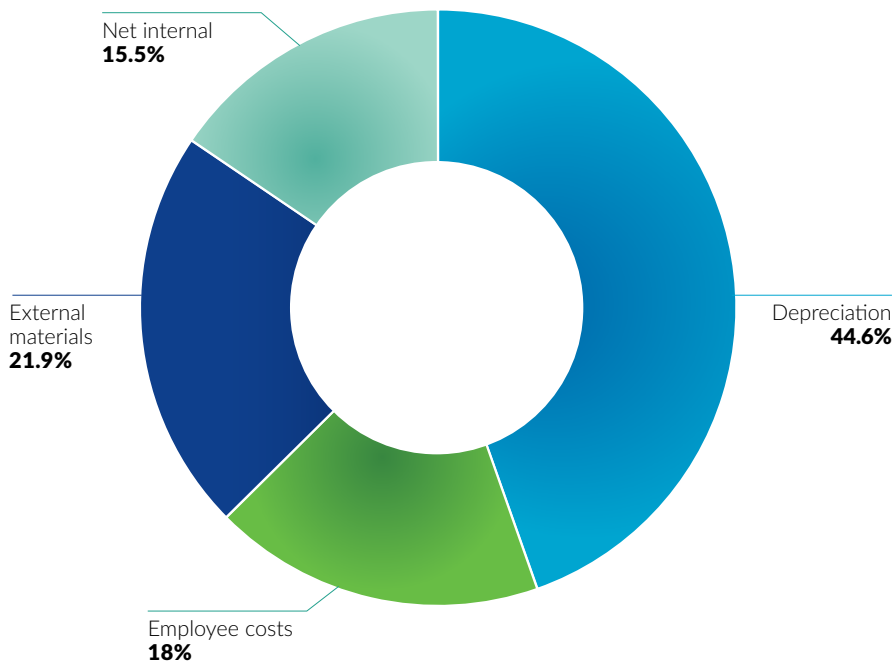
Cairns Water & Wastewater Revenue 2025-2026

The source breakdown of water and wastewater actual revenue is detailed in the graph below.



Cairns Water & Wastewater Expenditure 2025-2026

The source breakdown of water and wastewater actual expenses is detailed in the graph below.



A detailed breakdown of all revenue and expenses associated with Cairns Water and Cairns Resource Recovery activities can be found in the Financial Statements.

Service indicators - Water and wastewater services

Cairns Water reported on the following Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to Council on a quarterly basis during 2025-2026. Graphs showing the performance for each indicator by month are displayed below. The graphs are adjusted to align with the Cairns Resource Recovery business unit's reporting period.

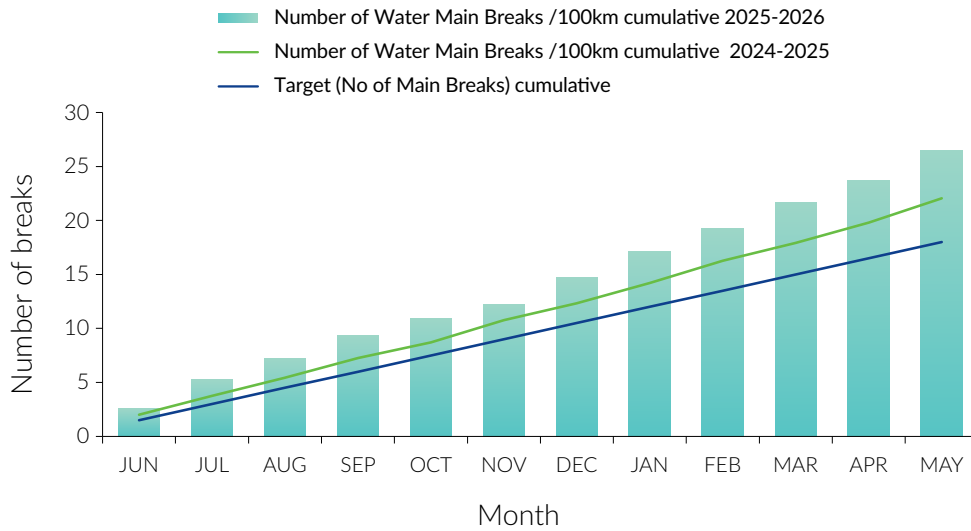
QG KPI*	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	TARGET THRESHOLD
QG 4.5	Total water main breaks (S)**	Breaks per 100km / year	≤ 18
QG 4.6	Total sewerage main breaks and chokes (S)	Breaks and chokes per 100km / year	≤ 16
QG 4.7	Incidence of unplanned interruptions - water (S)	Water interruptions per 1000 properties / year	≤ 120
QG 4.8a	Average response time for water bursts	Hours	≤ 2
	Average response time for water leaks	Hours	≤ 24
QG 4.9a	Average response time for sewerage main breaks	Hours	≤ 2
	Average response time for sewerage main chokes	Hours	≤ 24
QG 4.10	Water Quality Complaints (S)	Per 1000 properties / year	≤ 3
QG 4.11	Total water and sewerage complaints (S)	Per 1000 properties / year	≤ 10

*QG KPI: Queensland Government Key Performance Indicator

** (S): Scheme-wide as opposed to service provider-wide

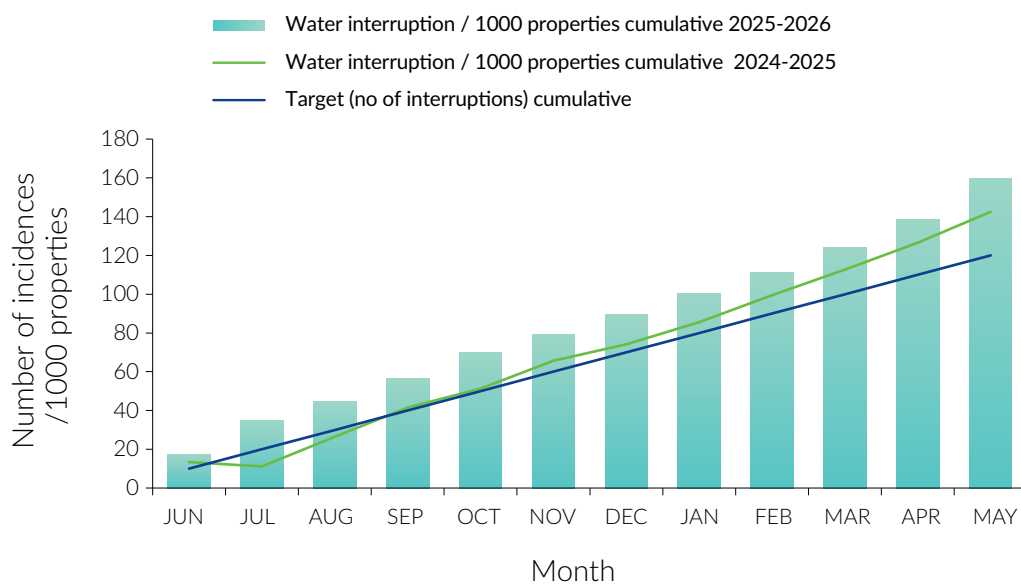
Water supply

Number of water main breaks / 100 km of main



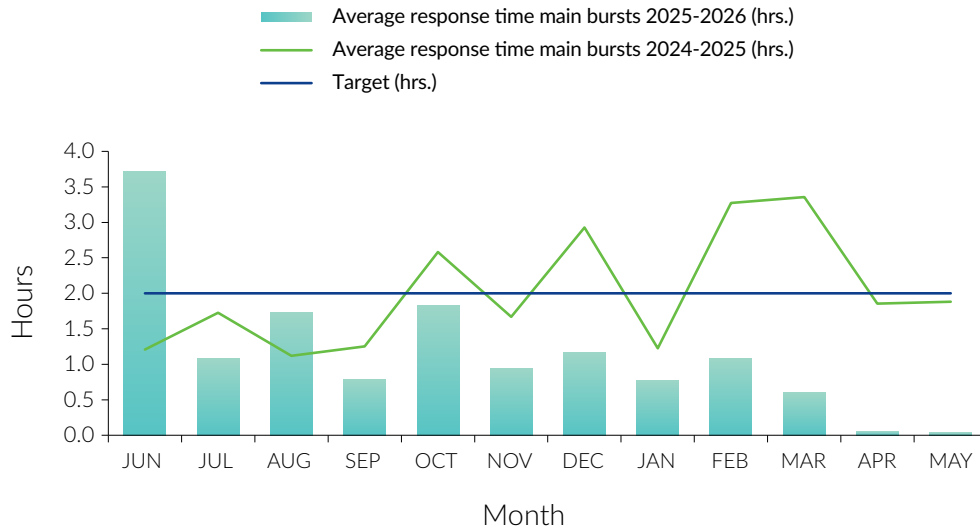
The number of water main breaks for the 2025-2026 FY have exceeded the KPI target (QG4.5), with 617 total breaks recorded for the year. The highest contributing factor for failure was due to old age and corrosion. Council has endorsed the water main renewal program to continue into 2026-2027 to support ageing asset replacements.

Incidence of unplanned interruption water / 1000 properties



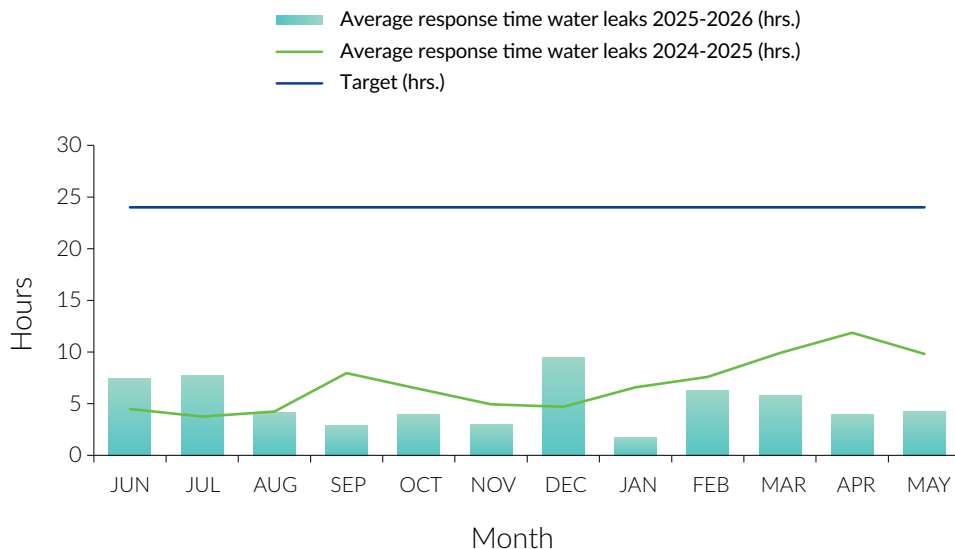
The number of properties which have had an unplanned interruption to their water supply has exceeded the KPI target (QG4.7). This is predominantly caused by ageing infrastructure.

Average response times water bursts



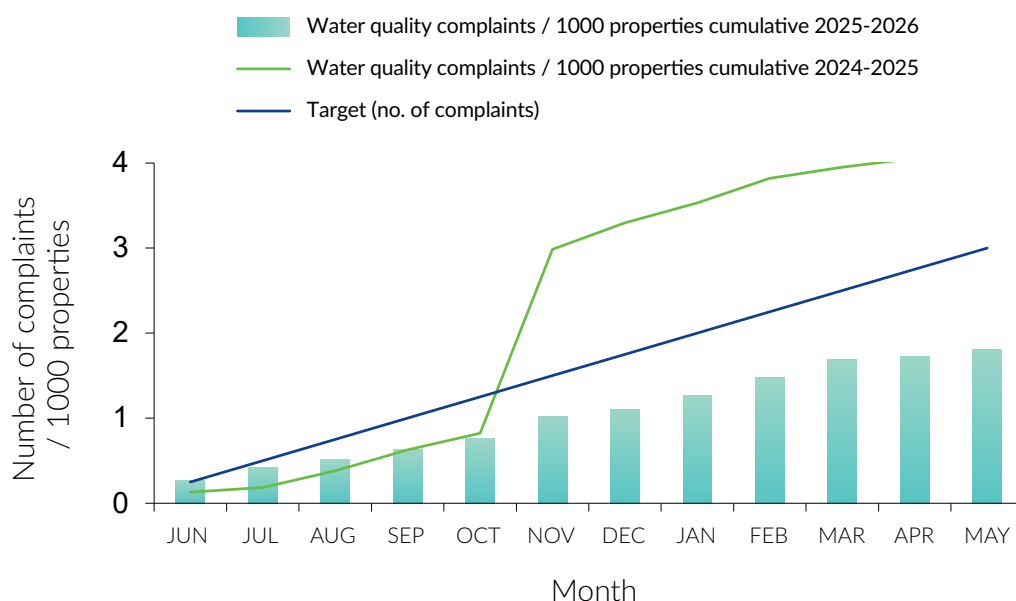
The average response time for water main bursts exceeded the KPI target (QG4.8a) in June 2025 partly due to the method of the request being raised (through web) and in some instances, incorrect categorisation of requests received.

Average response times water leaks



Water bursts and water leaks are tracked separately to give a more accurate representation of operational performance. Typically, non-urgent incidents such as minor water leaks, will have a longer response time due to the nature of the incident. This metric has been consistent, with the target average response time for water leaks (QG4.8a) met for all months.

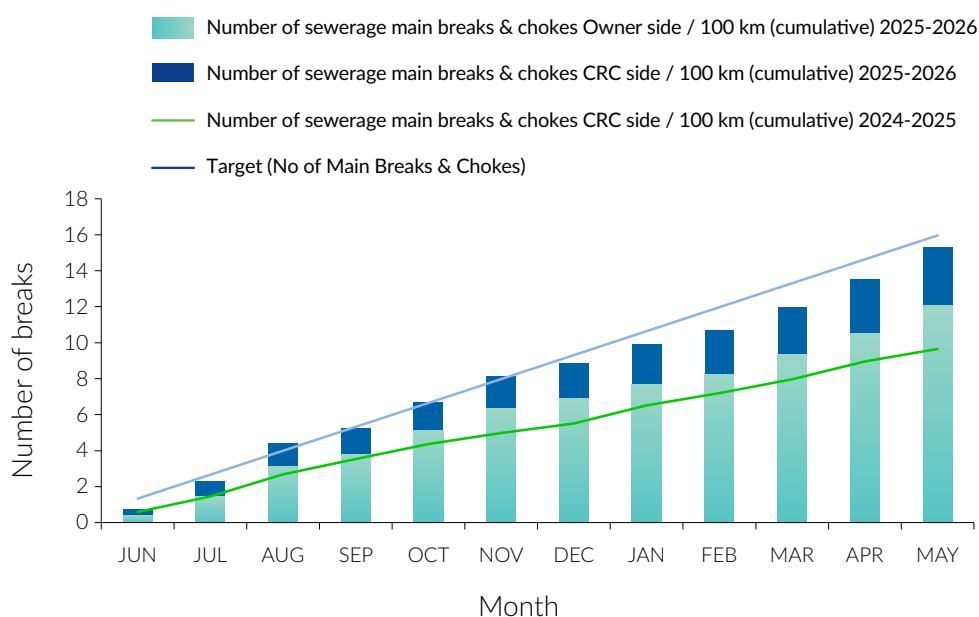
Drinking water quality complaints / 1000 properties



The cumulative number of drinking water quality complaints have been maintained below the yearly KPI target (QG4.10).

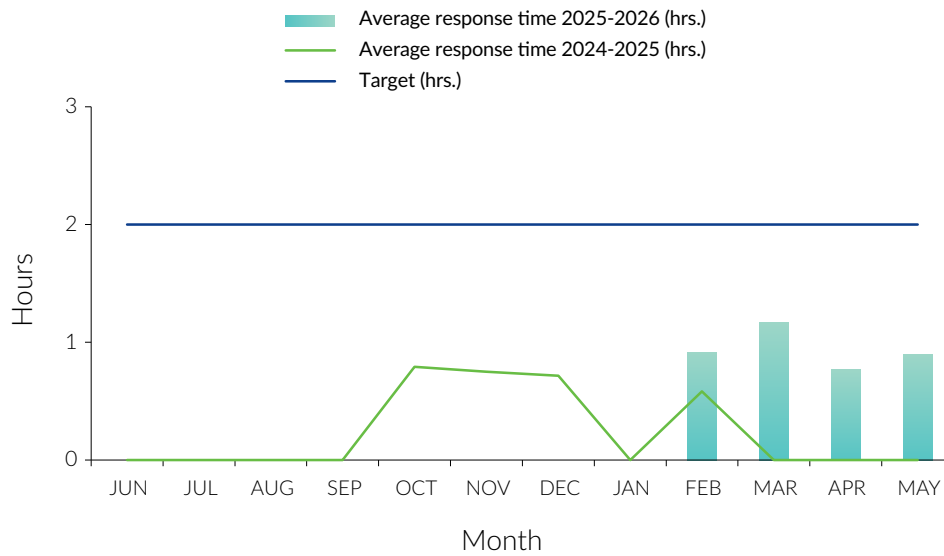
Sewerage system

Number of sewerage main breaks & chokes / 100 km of main



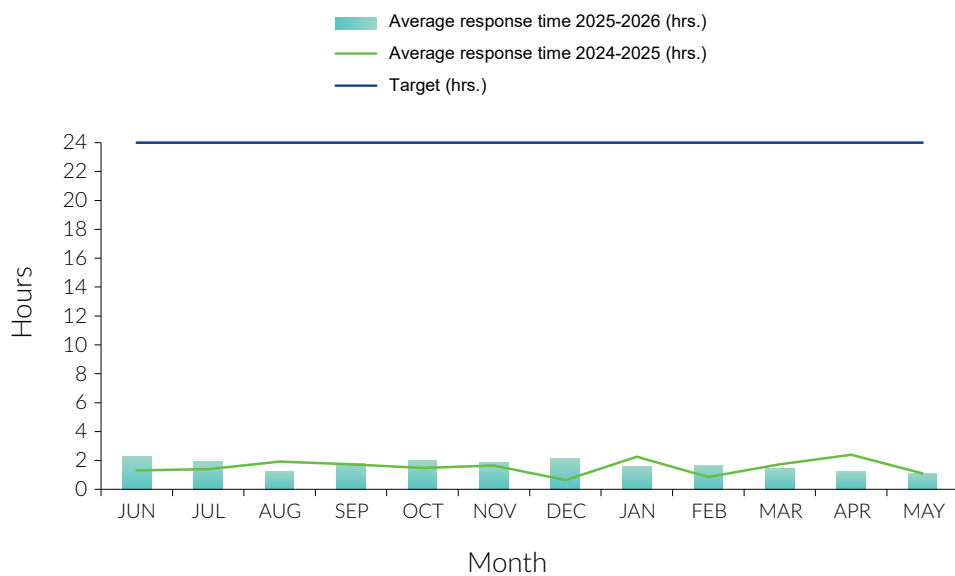
The cumulative number of sewer main breaks and chokes on Council infrastructure were maintained below yearly KPI target (QG4.6). This is due to Wastewater Services team carrying out preventative maintenance through CCTV inspections and pressure cleaning of sewer lines.

Average response time sewer main breaks



The average response time for sewer main breaks did not exceed the target.
The KPI target (QG4.9a) continues to be effective.

Average response time sewer main chokes



The average response time for sewer main chokes did not exceed the target.
The KPI target (QG4.9a) continues to be effective.

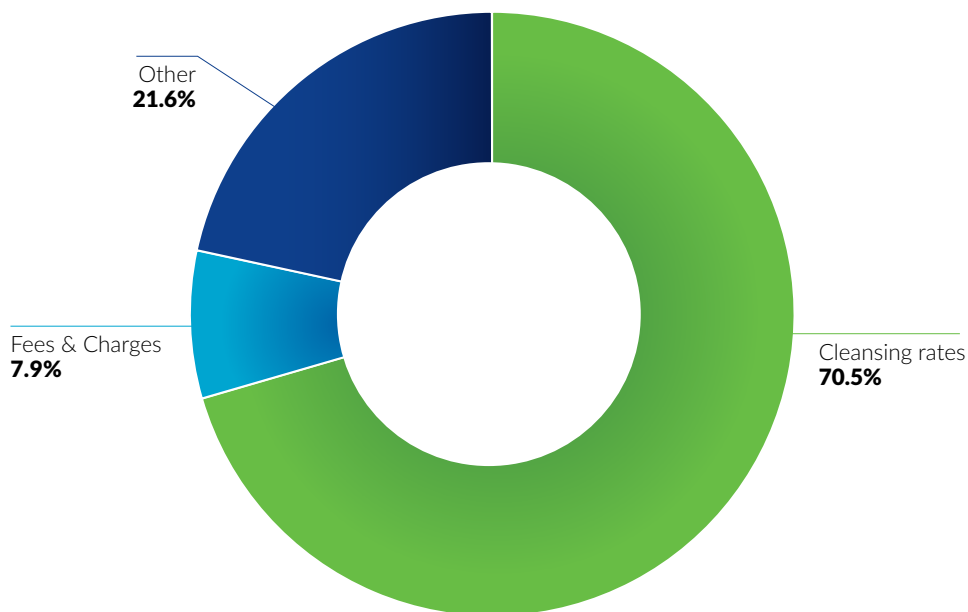
Customer complaints

No customer complaints were received during the year. Any complaints shall be resolved adhering to Council's Complaints Management Policy.

Financial indicators - Resource Recovery

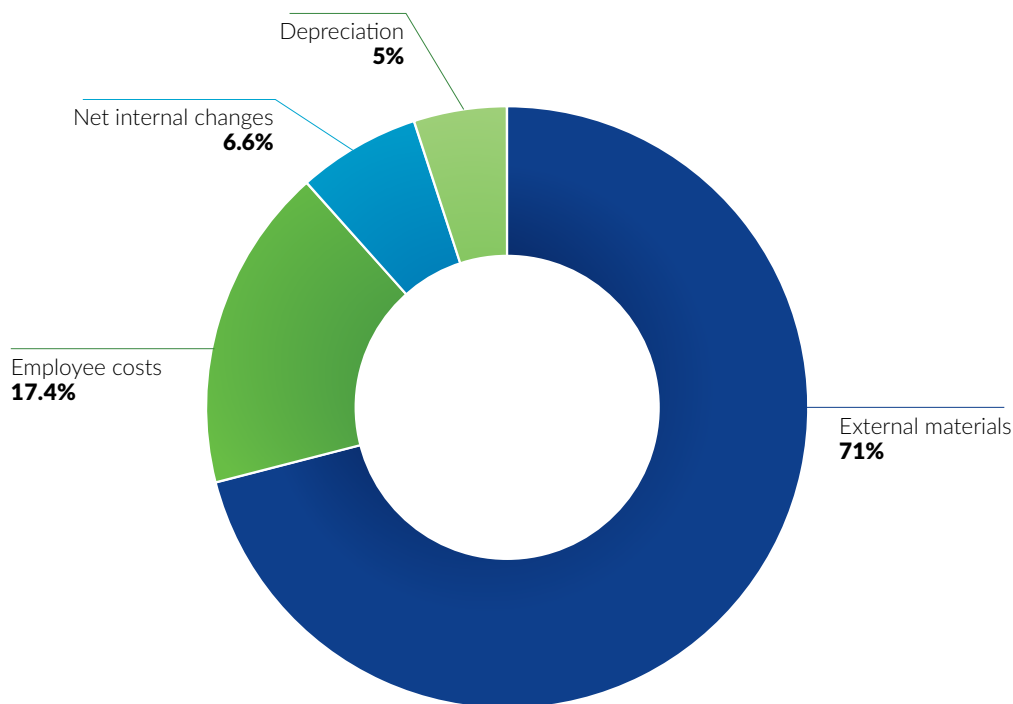
Resource Recovery Revenue 2025-2026

The source breakdown of Cairns Resource Recovery's actual revenue is detailed in the graph below.



Resource Recovery Expenditure 2025-2026

The source breakdown of Cairns Resource Recovery's actual expenses is detailed in the graph below.



A detailed breakdown of all revenue and expenses associated with Cairns Water and Cairns Resource Recovery activities can be found in the Financial Statements.

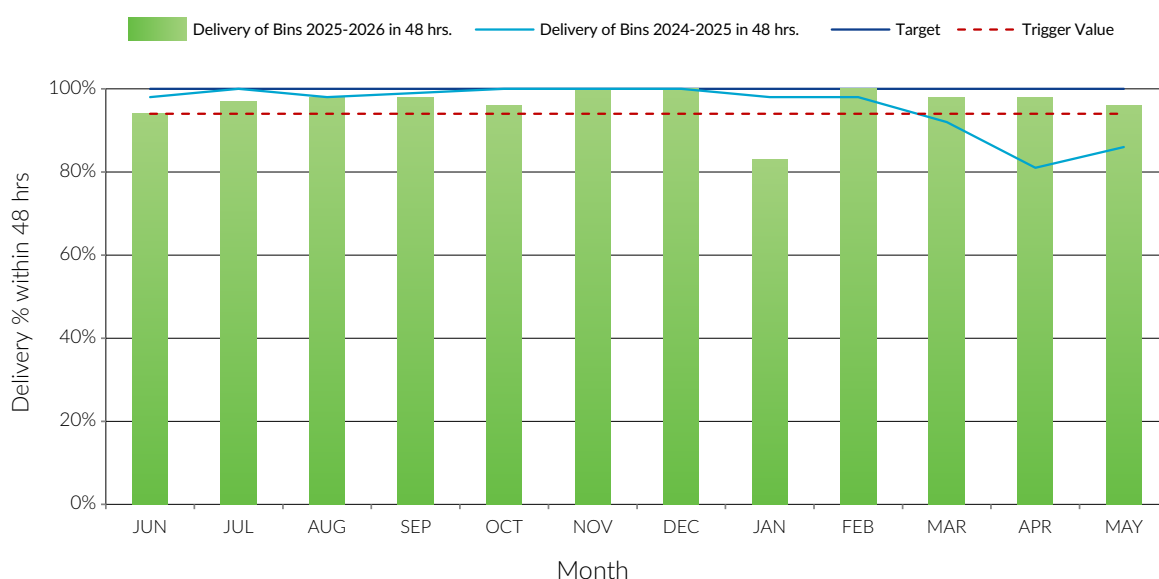
Service indicators - Resource Recovery

Cairns Resource Recovery reported on the following KPIs to Council on a quarterly basis during 2025-2026.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	TARGET
New bin delivery	Response time for new bin delivery	100% within 48 hours
Missed services - kerbside waste	Number of missed services per month	≤ 1 per 5,000 services
Response time to missed services -kerbside waste	Response time for collection of missed kerbside waste services	95% within 24 hours
Missed services - kerbside recycling	Number of missed services per month	≤ 1 per 5,000 services
Response time to missed services -kerbside recycling	Response time for collection of missed kerbside recycling services	95% within 24 hours
Response time to repair/replacement requests - kerbside waste and recycling	Response time to repair/replace requests for kerbside waste and recycling	95% within 48 hours

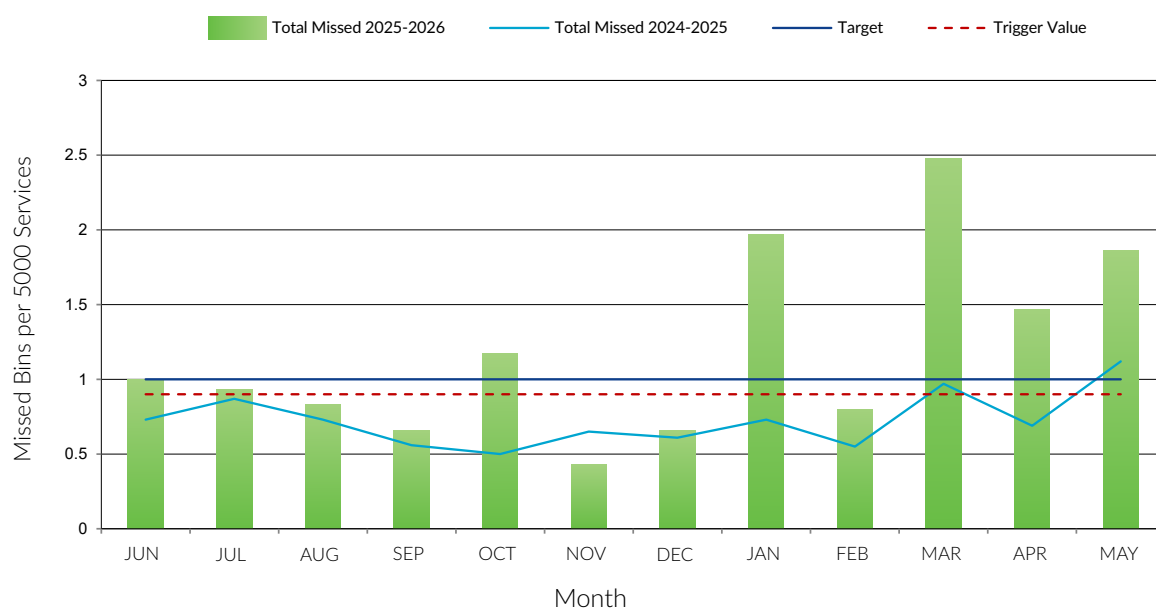
Graphs showing the performance for each indicator by month during 2025-2026 are displayed below.

Time Taken to Deliver New Waste & Recycling Bins



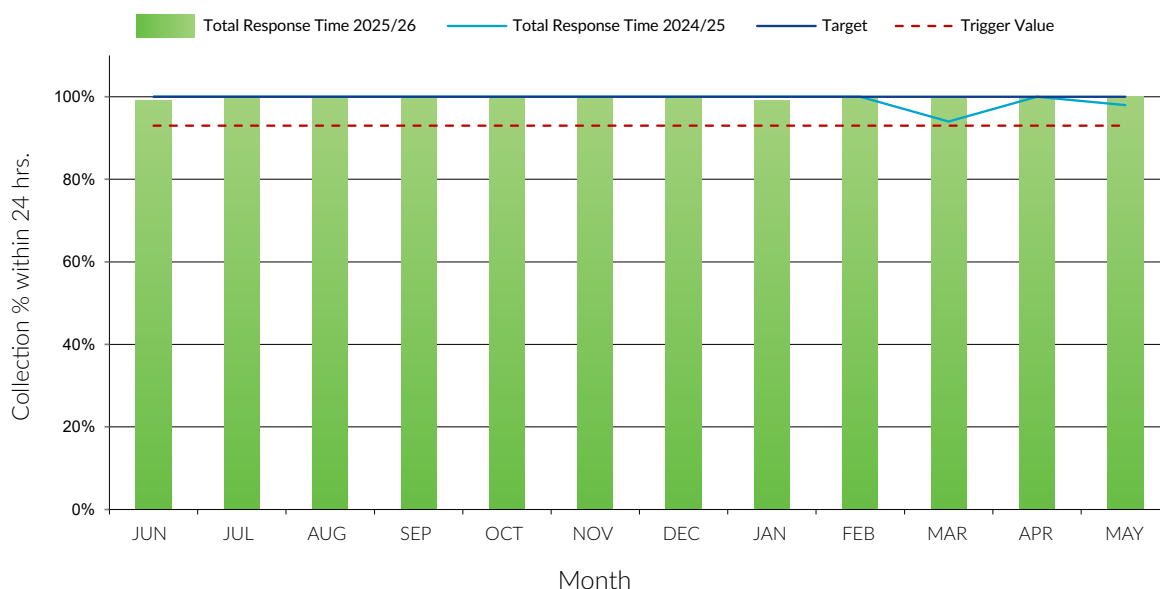
A total of 1,575 requests for new bins were received during the 2025-2026 financial year. While new bins were generally delivered within 48 hours, there were periods where service levels were impacted. Delays beyond the 48-hour timeframe occurred during months with bin supply shortages, as well as during periods of increased demand driven by a high volume of repair and replacement requests.

Missed Waste & Recycling Services / 5000 services



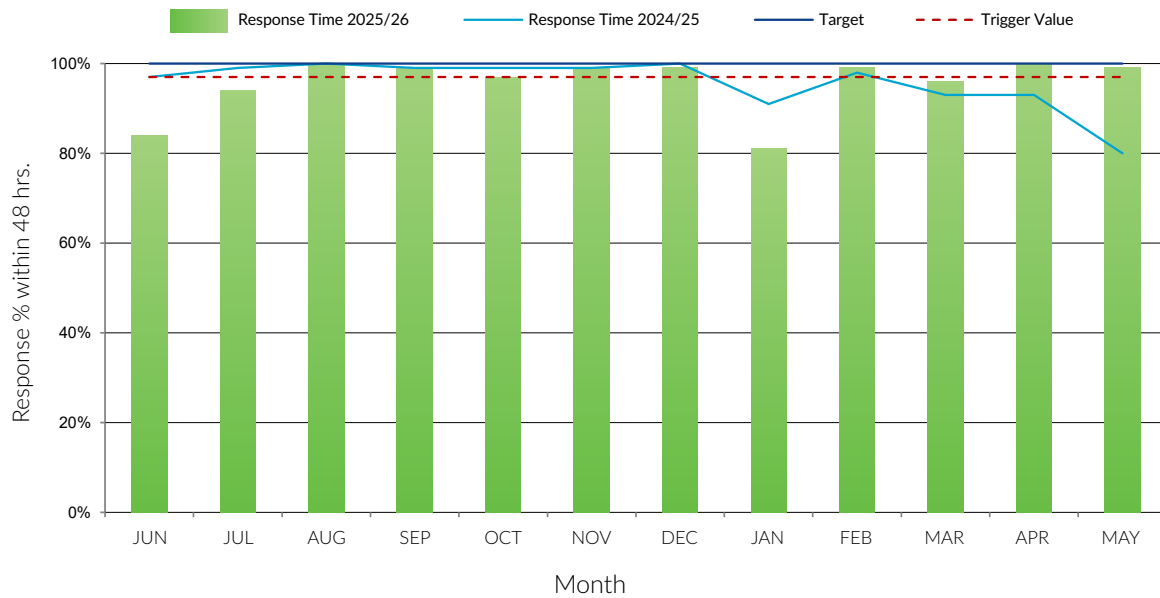
More than 4.8 million kerbside waste and recycling bin collections were completed during the 2025-2026 financial year, with 1,154 instances (0.02%) recorded as missed services. The increase in missed collections per 5,000 services, particularly in Q3 and Q4, is primarily attributed to new staff operating on unfamiliar collection routes, resulting in missed sections. In response, additional quality control measures are being implemented to verify service completion and improve accuracy at the conclusion of each collection run.

Response Time to Missed Services



Of the 1,154 missed waste and recycling bin collections recorded, 1,151 (99.7%) were rectified within 24 hours. 3 requests were not completed within the target timeframe however these instances were isolated.

Response time to repair / replacement requests

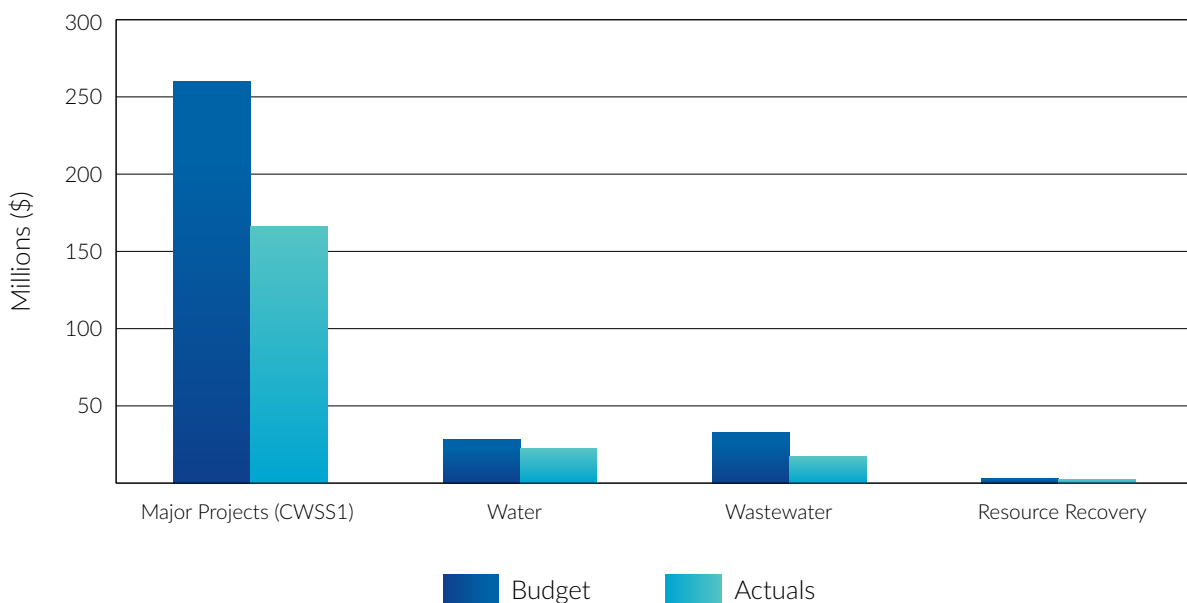


A total of 8,790 waste and recycling bin repair or replacement requests were received in 2025-2026. Of these, 418 requests were completed outside of the 48-hour target threshold. This was primarily due to a shortage of bins during June and July as well as a higher demand for repair and replacement requests throughout the other months.

Capital Works

2025-2026 Capital Works for Major Projects (CWSS1), Water, Wastewater and Resource Recovery totalled \$174.1 million. This expenditure was 64% of the total capital expenditure budget of \$324.0 million.

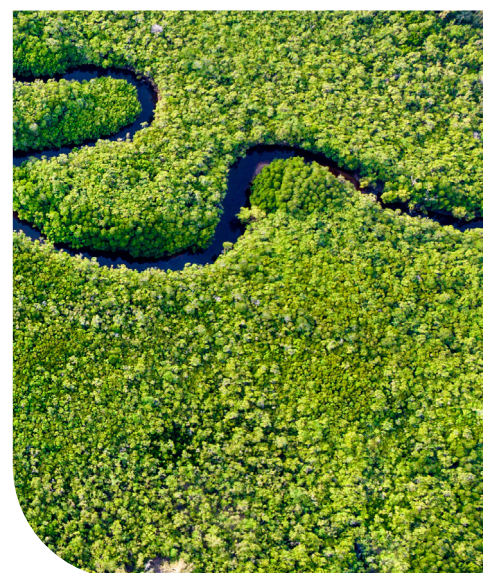
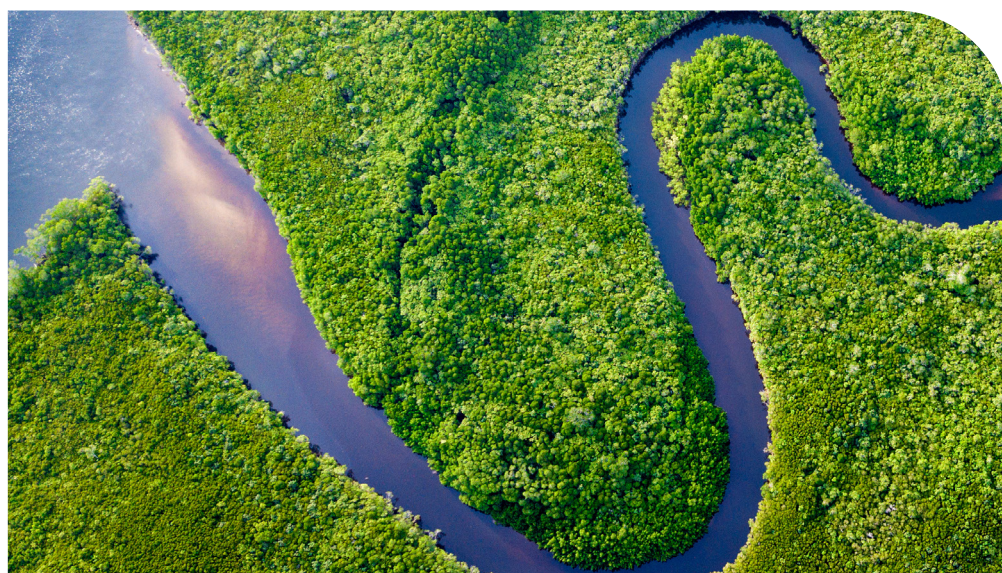
Capital Expenditure by Program 2025 - 2026



Cairns Water - operating statement

For the year ending 30 June 2026

	2025-2026 ACTUAL \$'000	2025-2026 BUDGET \$'000
OPERATING REVENUE		
Net rates and utility charges	178,937	178,795
Fees and charges	2,829	2,970
Interest	1,489	1,349
Miscellaneous revenue	1,118	780
Total operating revenue	184,374	183,894
OPERATING EXPENDITURE		
Employee benefits	19,108	17,747
Materials and services	39,690	39,331
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	47,271	46,749
Finance costs	11	-
Total expenses	106,079	103,826
OPERATING CAPABILITIES BEFORE CAPITAL ITEMS AND INCOME TAX	78,295	80,068
CAPITAL ITEMS		
Gain / (loss) on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(6,249)	(4,980)
Contributed assets	13,256	9,390
Subsidies and grants	174,891	221,587
Total capital items	181,898	225,998
INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN OPERATING CAPABILITY BEFORE TAX	260,193	306,066



Cairns Resource Recovery - operating statement

For the year ending 30 June 2026

	2025-2026 ACTUAL \$'000	2025-2026 BUDGET \$'000
OPERATING REVENUE		
Net rates and utility charges	36,503	36,540
Fees and charges	4,073	3,981
Interest	358	365
Miscellaneous revenue	10,216	8,553
Grant income	638	-
Total operating revenue	51,786	49,439
OPERATING EXPENDITURE		
Employee benefits	7,619	6,960
Materials and services	34,028	32,306
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	2,204	2,185
Finance costs	0	2
Total expenses	43,851	41,453
OPERATING CAPABILITIES BEFORE CAPITAL ITEMS AND INCOME TAX	7,935	7,986
CAPITAL ITEMS		
Gain / (loss) on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(68)	(563)
Total Capital Items	(67)	(563)
INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN OPERATING CAPABILITY BEFORE TAX	7,867	7,423

Summary of rates and concessions

Special rates and charges

Pursuant to sections 92 and 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council has resolved to raise and levy the following special charges.

Holloways Beach Rock Wall Stage 2A: An amount to be levied on each parcel identified on the map marked Holloways Beach Rock Wall - Stage 2A.

Bluewater Canal:

- An amount of \$2,589.24 to be levied on each lot identified on the map marked Bluewater Canal.
- A total amount of \$279,637.92 for Bluewater Marina.
- A total amount of \$98,929.46 for Yorkeys Knob Marina.

Rebates and concessions

Council Pensioner Concession

From 1 July 2022, Council's Pensioner Concession transitioned to a fixed-rate rebate for all new approved applications. From 1 July 2026, the concession was set at \$350.00 per annum.

For pre-existing recipients (e.g., approved prior to 1 July 2022) of Council's Pensioner Concession, the following applied:

- a. A rebate of 40 per cent of the General Rate up to a maximum of \$1,350 per annum was granted to all pensioners whose applications met the eligibility criteria set down in Council's Pensioner Policy. These concessions were not applied retrospectively.
- b. The upper limit of total concession did not exceed 5% of Council's total net general rates; therefore, the 40% concession was not required to be reduced on a pro rata basis in line with policy.

Council's Pensioner Concession Policy was extended to retirement facilities, where a legal entity separate to the residents is the owner and the pensioners are responsible for paying the rates, to the extent that residents of the retirement facility are eligible pensioners.

For pre-existing recipients in a retirement facility (e.g., approved prior to 1 July 2022) of Council's Pensioner Concession, a concession was applied based on the proportion of dwellings occupied by eligible pensioners relative to the total number of dwellings within the village.

For all new approved applications from 1 July 2026, a fixed-rate concession of up to \$175 per annum of the general rate was set.

Rates Based Financial Assistance

Council maintains a Rates Based Financial Assistance (RBFA) Policy which allows Council to consider applications for concession of general rates, water access charges and sewerage charges from not-for-profit recreation, sporting and community groups.

To qualify for assistance, the constitution of these organisations must clearly state prohibitions on any member of the organisation making a private profit or gain, either from ongoing operations of the organisation or as a result of distribution of assets if the organisation is wound up.

Financial Hardship Policy

Council recognises the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, declared natural disasters and weather events on the Cairns community and, in particular, the adverse financial impact on ratepayers through loss of income or wages, and downturn in business. The Financial Hardship Policy was developed to provide assistance through extended payment plans and waiver of interest for outstanding rates and water usage debts.

Independent Rates Relief Tribunal

This policy was adopted to provide a safety net for those ratepayers suffering genuine financial hardship. The Independent Rate Relief Tribunal consists of a minimum of two voluntary members and two current Councillors. Voluntary appointees may come from several backgrounds.

The main role of the Tribunal is to recommend, in certain circumstances, the most appropriate form of assistance to those ratepayers experiencing serious hardship and, as a result, are unable to pay their rates and charges. The policy is only to apply to the principal place of residence of the ratepayer, and no commercial benefit can be derived from the property. Not for profit recreation, sporting and community groups that are already receiving Rates Based Financial Assistance or would be eligible if they did not have rates outstanding, may also apply.

Health

Financial assistance was available to offset water usage costs and the provision of additional recycling services for users of Home Dialysis Equipment.

Concealed Leak Policy for residential and not-for-profit

Financial assistance was available to offset larger than normal water accounts due to the existence of a concealed leak for residential and not-for-profit organisations. Applications were approved in line with Council's Concealed Water Leak Policy.

Additional information

Registers

The following registers are held by Cairns Regional Council:

- Administrative Instructions and General Policies Register
- Asbestos Register
- Asset Register
- Auction Register
- Bank Guarantee Register
- Benefits (including Gifts) Register
- Biosecurity Order Register
- Busking Register
- Cairns Infrastructure and Assets Directorate Business Risk Register
- Cease and Desist Contact Register
- Centralised Register of Collections on Behalf of Charities
- Conflict of Interest / Material Personal Interest Declaration Register
- Corporate Risk Register
- Cost Recovery Fees Register
- Council Local Laws Register
- Council Meeting Minutes Register
- Councillor Conduct Register
- Designated Register - Dog Off Leash Areas
- Designated Register – Prohibition of Animals in Public Places
- Drinking Water Quality Critical Customer Register
- Drinking Water Quality Management Plan Risk Management Improvement Program
- Drinking Water Quality Risk Register
- Election Gifts and Benefits Register
- Embargo Register
- Environmental Management System (EMS) Risk Register
- Environmental Risk Register
- Environmentally Relevant Activity Register
- Financial Asset Register
- Financial Delegations Register
- Fleet Disposal Register
- Go Clubs Register
- Improvement Works Register
- Infrastructure Agreement & Trunk Conditions Internal Register
- Instruments of Appointment Register
- Interests Chief Executive Officer Register
- Interests Councillors Register
- Interests Senior Contract Employees Register
- Internal Audit Recommendations Register

Registers continued.

- Land Record
- Landholder Assistance Register
- Legal Register
- Legislative Delegations Register
- Local Heritage Register
- Lost Property Register – Cairns Performing Arts Centre
- Lost Property Register – Creative Life
- PMO Project Construction – Contract administration register.
- Project Risk Register & Management Plan PMO Construction
- Rates and Charges
- Register of Artworks
- Register of Prequalified Purchasers for Recyclable Materials
- Register of Requests for Plaques, Memorials and Benches
- Resident Evacuation and Recovery Register
- Road Register
- Roads and Maps
- Sole and Specialised Supplier Register
- Supplier Database for Contracts and Arrangements
- Tender Register
- Trust Deposit Register
- Water and Environment Incident Register
- Water and Resource Recovery Legal Register

Internal audit

The annual report for a financial year must contain a report on the internal audit for the financial year. Council's internal audit function provides independent, objective assurance activities in accordance with an approved strategic, risk-based internal audit plan. The role, scope, and purpose of the internal audit function are understood and supported by the organisation. The internal audit function works collaboratively with management to implement recommended improvements to systems, processes, work practices, compliance, and business effectiveness.

Internal audit activities are performed by an appropriately qualified internal auditor on a wholly outsourced basis. Council's appointed internal audit service provider was engaged to establish and deliver an overarching three-year strategic Internal Audit Plan and a one-year annual Internal Audit Plan that reflects the priority issues across strategic, financial, and operational areas, based on high-level risk identification and assessment.

The Internal Audit Plan is reviewed annually by management and the Audit Committee to ensure it remains relevant to the organisation's needs. The key underpinning document that guides the priorities within the Internal Audit Plan is the Corporate Risk Register. The following areas were audited during the 2025-26 financial year:

- WHS Governance and Onboarding
- Workforce Planning and Succession Planning
- Contract Management (Significant Contracts)

Council has a robust system of tracking progress on open audit items, with updates reported to the Audit Committee each quarter.

Fraud and Corruption Control

Council maintains a Fraud and Corruption Control Plan aligned with *Australian Standard AS 8001:2021 – Fraud and Corruption Control*. The Plan sets out Council's approach to prevention, detection, and response, and is supported by the Employee Code of Conduct, Council's fraud and corruption policy instruments, and public interest disclosure arrangements. Suspected corrupt conduct is assessed and, where the threshold is met, reported to the Crime and Corruption Commission in accordance with Council's obligations under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*. The Audit Committee receives regular reporting on fraud and corruption risk and the operation of the control environment.

Particular resolutions

Section 185 (a) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* requires the Annual Report to contain a copy of the resolutions made during the Financial Year under section 250(1) Requirement to adopt expenses reimbursement policy. There were no resolutions made during the 2025-2026 financial year under section 250(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*. Councils current Expense Reimbursement and Support for Elected Members Policy is due for revision on 25 June 2029.

Section 185 (b) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* requires the Annual Report to contain a list of any resolutions made during the Financial Year under Section 206 (2) Valuation of non-current physical assets. (Thresholds are reported in Note 10 of the annual financial statements).

SECTION 185(a) AND (b) LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATION 2012	RESOLUTION ADOPTED
Under s206(2) – Valuation of non-current physical assets (Thresholds are reported in Note 10 of the annual financial statements)	Nil

Summary of investigation notices

Section 190(1)(i)(j) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* The annual report for a financial year must contain a summary of investigation notices given in the financial year under section 49 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, for the competitive neutrality complaints and responses made by the Local Government to the Queensland Competition Authority recommendations on any competitive neutrality complaints under section 52(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

During the 2025-2026 financial year, Council was not in receipt of any Queensland Competition Authority notices of investigation or recommendations on any competitive neutrality complaints.

Senior management remuneration

The following table shows the range of total remuneration packages for the 12-month period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 provided to Council's senior contract employees.

The total remuneration packages payable (excluding superannuation) in 2025-2026 to senior management was \$2,335,378.

PACKAGE RANGE	NUMBER OF SENIOR CONTRACT EMPLOYEES WITHIN PACKAGE RANGE
\$200,000 to \$299,999	2
\$300,000 to \$399,999	4
\$400,000 to \$499,999	1

Councillor advisor remuneration

Council has no Councillor advisors appointed.

Invitations to change tenders

There was one instance during the 2025/26 financial year where tenderers who had submitted a tender to Council were invited to change their tenders. This related to the following contract:

Contract no.	CONTRACT NAME	NOTIFICATION DETAILS	DATE ISSUED	DETAILS OF TENDER SPECIFICATION CHANGE
3006	Resource Recovery – Residual Waste Services	Selective Tender (following original market sounding and then an EOI process)	1/09/2025	Changes to specifications and scope

Services, facility or activity provided by another local government

There are no details to report under this section for the 2025-2026 financial year.

Overseas travel

The annual report for a financial year must contain information about any overseas travel made by a Councillor or a local government employee in an official capacity during the financial year under section 188 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

NAME	DESTINATION	DATES	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Sam Doyle-Wiaczek	Papua New Guinea	21-24 Oct 2025	Supporting the 2025 Tradelinked Delegation to Port Moresby and Lae	4,394
Mayor Amy Eden	Papua New Guinea	11-19 Sep 2025	Sister Cities Visit 50 Years PNG Independence	3,509
Charles Clarke	Papua New Guinea	11-19 Sep 2025	Sister Cities Visit 50 Years PNG Independence	2,667
TOTAL OVERSEAS TRAVEL FOR COUNCILLORS & EMPLOYEES				10,570

Beneficial enterprises

Cairns Regional Council does not have any beneficial enterprises.

Financial contributions under the planning act

Council did not receive any financial contributions during the 2025-2026 financial year relating to instruments under sections 65AA(3), 65AA(7) or 106ZF(2) of the *Planning Act 2016*.

Significant business activities

Cairns Regional Council conducted the following significant business activities during the 2025-2026 financial year:

- Cairns Water
- Cairns Resource Recovery

Council’s water, wastewater and solid waste activities were considered significant business activities for the period and applied the competitive neutrality principle. There were no new significant business activities.

Code of competitive conduct

Each financial year, Council is required to decide by resolution whether the code of competitive conduct is to apply to each of its business activities which is prescribed under a regulation (a prescribed business activity). Council may also voluntarily elect to apply the code of competitive conduct to business activities that are not prescribed business activities.

In the Special Budget Meeting on 17 June 2026, Council resolved not to apply the code of competitive conduct to the following prescribed business activities:

- Ticketlink
- Car Parking
- Cemeteries
- Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre
- Munro Martin Parklands
- Tanks Arts Centre
- Cairns Performing Arts Centre
- Barlow Park
- Swimming Pools
- Sugarworld Water Park
- Libraries
- Laboratory Services



Financial report



CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL

Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

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Management Certificate

Independent Auditor's Report (General Purpose Financial Statements)

Current Year Financial Sustainability Statement - Audited

Independent Auditor's Report (Current Year Financial Sustainability Statement)

Current Year and Long Term Financial Sustainability Report - Unaudited

Cairns Regional Council

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2026

		2026	2025
	Note	\$'000	\$'000
Income			
Recurrent revenue			
Rates, levies and charges	3(a)	372,869	341,721
Fees and charges	3(b)	34,707	32,224
Other recurrent revenue	3(c)	23,965	21,116
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	4(a)	12,496	11,342
Total recurrent revenue		<u>444,037</u>	<u>406,403</u>
Interest received		7,527	5,763
Total operating revenue		<u>451,564</u>	<u>412,166</u>
Capital income			
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	4(b)	244,745	226,842
Total income	2(b)	<u>696,309</u>	<u>639,008</u>
Expenses			
Recurrent expenses			
Employee benefits	5	(139,581)	(129,730)
Materials and services	6	(160,293)	(151,996)
Finance costs		(2,923)	(3,613)
Depreciation and amortisation			
Property, plant and equipment	10(b)	(111,677)	(106,495)
Intangible assets		(368)	(383)
Total recurrent expenses		<u>(414,842)</u>	<u>(392,217)</u>
Capital expenses			
Capital expenses	7	(14,912)	(10,195)
		<u>(14,912)</u>	<u>(10,195)</u>
Total expenses	2(b)	<u>(429,754)</u>	<u>(402,412)</u>
Net result		<u>266,555</u>	<u>236,596</u>
Other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to net result			
Increase in asset revaluation surplus		363,573	192,516
Total other comprehensive income for the year		<u>363,573</u>	<u>192,516</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>630,128</u>	<u>429,112</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and accounting policies.

Cairns Regional Council

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2026

		2026	2025
	Note	\$'000	\$'000
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	8	56,824	69,975
Trade and other receivables	9(a)	109,177	63,907
Inventories		4,715	6,002
Total current assets		170,716	139,884
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	10(b)	5,897,469	5,332,320
Intangible assets		2,937	3,182
Right of use assets		3,906	4,154
Total non-current assets		5,904,312	5,339,656
Total assets		6,075,028	5,479,540
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	11	78,968	88,162
Provisions	12	32,077	27,511
Borrowings	13	18,098	28,417
Contract liabilities	14	19,184	24,023
Lease liabilities		346	383
Total current liabilities		148,673	168,496
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	12	15,979	15,010
Borrowings	13	55,041	73,074
Contract liabilities	14	3,096	753
Lease liabilities		3,928	4,024
Total non-current liabilities		78,044	92,861
Total liabilities		226,717	261,357
Net community assets		5,848,311	5,218,183
Community equity			
Asset revaluation surplus		2,555,598	2,192,025
Retained surplus		3,292,713	3,026,158
Total community equity		5,848,311	5,218,183

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and accounting policies.

Cairns Regional Council

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2026

		2026	2025
	Note	\$'000	\$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
General rates and utility charges		370,942	342,413
Rental and levies, fees and charges		32,666	30,968
Operating grants, subsidies and contributions		12,496	10,255
Interest received		7,527	5,763
Other revenue		25,421	22,616
Payments			
Payments to employees		(136,743)	(126,814)
Payments to suppliers		(155,132)	(155,867)
Interest expense		(1,855)	(2,503)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	19	<u>155,322</u>	<u>126,831</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations for capital acquisitions:			
Capital contributions		10,506	11,323
Government subsidies and grants		147,178	175,354
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(298,565)	(232,052)
Payments for intangible assets		(438)	(115)
Proceeds from the sale of non-current assets		1,198	1,345
Net cash outflow from investing activities		<u>(140,121)</u>	<u>(44,145)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Proceeds from working capital facility	20	-	40,325
Repayment of working capital facility	20	-	(40,325)
Repayment of borrowings	20	(28,352)	(27,735)
Net cash outflow from financing activities		<u>(28,352)</u>	<u>(27,735)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents held		<u>(13,151)</u>	<u>54,951</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the financial year		69,975	15,024
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the financial year	8	<u><u>56,824</u></u>	<u><u>69,975</u></u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and accounting policies.

Cairns Regional Council

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity For the year ended 30 June 2026

	Asset revaluation surplus \$'000	Retained surplus \$'000	Total \$'000
Balance as at 1 July 2025	2,192,025	3,026,158	5,218,183
Net result	-	266,555	266,555
Other comprehensive income for the year			
Increase in asset revaluation surplus	363,573	-	363,573
Total comprehensive income for the year	363,573	266,555	630,128
Balance as at 30 June 2026	2,555,598	3,292,713	5,848,311
Balance as at 1 July 2024	1,999,509	2,789,562	4,789,071
Net result	-	236,596	236,596
Other comprehensive income for the year			
Increase in asset revaluation surplus	192,516	-	192,516
Total comprehensive income for the year	192,516	236,596	429,112
Balance as at 30 June 2025	2,192,025	3,026,158	5,218,183

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and accounting policies.

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

1 Information about these financial statements

1.1 Basis of preparation

Cairns Regional Council is constituted under the Queensland *Local Government Act 2009* and is domiciled in Australia.

These general purpose financial statements are for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 and have been prepared in compliance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009* and the Local Government Regulation 2012.

These financial statements comply with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). Council is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes and these financial statements comply with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as applicable to not-for-profit entities.

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for financial assets and liabilities and certain classes of property and plant and equipment which are measured at fair value.

1.2 Basis of consolidation

Council and its controlled entity together form the consolidated entity. The financial statements of controlled entities are included in the consolidated financial statements where material by size or nature, from the date when control commences until the date when control ceases.

Transactions between Council and the entity controlled by Council have been eliminated when preparing consolidated accounts. In addition, the accounting policies of the controlled entity have been adjusted on consolidation where necessary, to ensure the financial report of the consolidated entity is prepared using accounting policies that are consistent with those of Council. Information on the controlled entity that has been consolidated is included in Note 21.

1.3 New and revised Accounting Standards adopted during the year

Council has not adopted any new or revised Accounting Standards during the year ended 30 June 2026.

1.4 Standards issued by the AASB not yet effective

The AASB has issued Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations which are not mandatorily effective at 30 June 2026. Council has assessed all the standards and interpretations currently issued which are not yet effective, and have determined that there is no expected material impact on the reported financial position or performance.

1.5 Estimates and judgements

In the application of Council's accounting policies, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and ongoing assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and in future periods as relevant.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a potential significant effect are outlined in the following financial statement notes:

- Revenue recognition - Note 3 and Note 4
- Valuation and depreciation of property, plant and equipment - Note 10
- Annual leave - Note 12
- Developer contribution credits - Note 12
- Long service leave - Note 12
- Contingent liabilities - Note 17
- Financial instruments and financial risk management - Note 23

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

1.6 Rounding and comparatives

The financial statements are in Australian dollars and have been rounded to the nearest \$1,000 or, where that amount is \$500 or less, to zero, unless otherwise stated.

Comparative information is generally restated for reclassifications, errors and changes in accounting policies unless permitted otherwise by transition rules in a new Accounting Standard.

1.7 Taxation

Council is exempt from income tax, however, Council is subject to Fringe Benefits Tax and Goods and Services Tax (GST). The net amount of GST recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO) or payable to the ATO is shown as an asset or liability respectively.

The significant business activities of Council (as noted in Note 24) pay an income tax equivalent to Council in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009*.

Where a significant business activity is subject to the National Tax Equivalents Regime, the income tax expense is calculated on the operating surplus adjusted for permanent differences between taxable and accounting income. These transactions are eliminated upon consolidation.

Council pays payroll tax to the Queensland Government on certain activities.

1.8 Volunteer services

Council's operations are carried out with the assistance of volunteers, where individuals donate their time and skills to help Council achieve its objectives within the community. Council has not recognised volunteer services in these financial statements as Council would not purchase these services had they not been donated, and the value cannot be reliably measured.

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

2 Analysis of Results by Function

(a) Components of Council functions

The activities relating to Council's components reported on in Note 2(b) are as follows :

Finance and Business Services

The Finance and Business Services directorate works across all areas of Council to ensure effective procurement, financial sustainability and technological capability of operations. The core functions provide essential internal services that support the organisation to deliver services to the community and include Financial Accounting, Information Services, Management Accounting, Procurement & Payables and Revenue & Business Support.

People and Organisational Performance

People and Organisational Performance ensures the workforce is engaged to deliver Council's vision of 'Shaping the Future'. It achieves this by recognising and building a contemporary workplace that prioritises the wellness, health and safety of staff. Core functions include Organisational Performance, Wellbeing, Health & Safety and Strategic Communications & Engagement.

Planning, Growth and Sustainability

The Planning, Growth and Sustainability directorate is responsible for overseeing the planning and development process from end to end – long term strategic growth and environmental design, planning, assessment and regulation. The goal of the directorate is to protect and enhance the natural and built environment by planning, monitoring, applying and enforcing compliance with Local, State and Federal regulations and laws. The core functions include Growth & Sustainability, Development & Planning and Property Compliance.

Economic Development and Advocacy

The Economic Development and Advocacy directorate works to deliver a prosperous environment for business and industry, enabling growth and wealth creation for our residents by creating a strong, diversified and growing economy. This is achieved through creating diverse and secure employment opportunities, a foundation for new and existing businesses to grow and succeed, advocacy for priority issues and the attraction and retention of investment.

Lifestyle and Community

The Lifestyle and Community Directorate celebrates and strengthens our quality of life and community spirit by creating opportunities for residents and visitors to be active, informed and involved in the life of our region. This directorate manages a number of the region's public facilities; including the Botanical Gardens, Sugarworld, Munro Martin Parklands, Tanks Art Centre, museums & art galleries and the region's libraries, as well as servicing parks & gardens with barbeque & picnic facilities, sports grounds and playgrounds. The three core functions of the directorate include managing Creative Life, Community Life and Community Spaces.

Cairns Infrastructure and Assets

The Cairns Infrastructure and Assets directorate is responsible for Council's built environment portfolio, managing all stages of the community infrastructure program from planning and design through to construction, maintenance, and upgrades. The portfolio covers transport, stormwater, water and wastewater, resource recovery, buildings, facilities, plant fleet and marine assets, which are managed by two sub-directorates:

- **Engineering Services** - the core functions include Asset Services, Infrastructure Planning, Capital Delivery, Major Projects and Buildings, Fleet & Facilities.
- **Service Delivery** - the core functions include Utility Services, Works Construction & Maintenance, Resource Recovery, Water Laboratory and Plumbing & Trade Waste.

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

2 Analysis of results by function

(b) Income, expenses and assets have been attributed to the following functions:

Year ended 30 June 2026

Functions	Gross program income				Elimination of inter-function transactions	Total income	Gross program expenses		Elimination of inter-function transactions	Total expenses	Net result from recurring operations	Net Result	Assets
	Recurring		Capital				Recurring	Capital					
	Grants	Other	Grants	Other									
	2026 \$'000	2026 \$'000	2026 \$'000	2026 \$'000									
	2026 \$'000	2026 \$'000	2026 \$'000	2026 \$'000									
Finance & Business Services	6,977	272,492	(11,799)	2,244	(106,942)	162,972	(49,030)	(617)	8,151	(41,496)	131,648	121,476	550,474
People & Organisational Performance	1,439	18	96	-	-	1,553	(21,090)	-	210	(20,880)	(19,423)	(19,327)	11,563
Planning, Growth & Sustainability	1,040	5,353	-	-	-	6,393	(13,721)	-	117	(13,604)	(7,211)	(7,211)	589
Economic Development & Advocacy	-	-	-	-	-	-	(7,091)	-	-	(7,091)	(7,091)	(7,091)	2
Lifestyle & Community	1,713	23,808	7,287	254	-	33,062	(101,604)	(3,348)	2,378	(102,574)	(73,705)	(69,512)	539,204
Cairns Infrastructure & Assets - Engineering Services	327	93	12,918	32,780	-	46,118	(53,211)	(4,680)	123	(57,768)	(52,668)	(11,650)	2,969,772
Cairns Infrastructure & Assets - Service Delivery	1,000	256,008	187,709	13,256	(12,822)	445,151	(288,466)	(6,267)	108,785	(185,948)	64,505	259,203	1,993,037
Controlled entity net of eliminations	-	1,060	-	-	-	1,060	(393)	-	-	(393)	667	667	10,387
Total Council Continuing Operations	12,496	558,832	196,211	48,534	(119,764)	696,309	(534,606)	(14,912)	119,764	(429,754)	36,722	266,555	6,075,028

Year ended 30 June 2025

Functions	Gross program income				Elimination of inter-function transactions	Total income	Gross program expenses		Elimination of inter-function transactions	Total expenses	Net result from recurring operations	Net Result	Assets
	Recurring		Capital				Recurring	Capital					
	Grants	Other	Grants	Other									
	2025 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2025 \$'000			2025 \$'000	2025 \$'000					
Finance & Business Services	7,646	243,362	(10,051)	9,763	(94,502)	156,218	(46,537)	(2,697)	3,206	(46,028)	113,175	110,190	538,470
People & Organisational Performance	961	27	55	-	-	1,043	(20,794)	-	189	(20,605)	(19,617)	(19,562)	11,035
Planning, Growth & Sustainability	894	5,287	41	-	-	6,222	(12,828)	-	127	(12,701)	(6,520)	(6,479)	804
Economic Development & Advocacy	-	-	-	-	-	-	(7,081)	-	-	(7,081)	(7,081)	(7,081)	2
Lifestyle & Community	3,242	21,828	10,105	78	-	35,253	(97,258)	(2,483)	2,250	(97,491)	(69,938)	(62,238)	501,475
Cairns Infrastructure & Assets - Engineering Services	-	165	10,615	35,653	-	46,433	(49,808)	(1,939)	109	(51,638)	(49,534)	(5,205)	2,639,178
Cairns Infrastructure & Assets - Service Delivery	(1,401)	236,018	162,978	7,605	(12,214)	392,986	(264,031)	(3,076)	100,835	(166,272)	59,207	226,714	1,779,018
Controlled entity net of eliminations	-	853	-	-	-	853	(596)	-	-	(596)	257	257	9,558
Total Council Continuing Operations	11,342	507,540	173,743	53,099	(106,716)	639,008	(498,933)	(10,195)	106,716	(402,412)	19,949	236,596	5,479,540

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

3 Revenue

(a) Rates, levies and charges

Rates, levies and utility charges are recognised as revenue at the beginning of the rating period to which they relate. Prepaid rates are recognised within trade and other payables on the Statement of Financial Position until the beginning of the rating period to which they relate. All rates and utility charges are recognised at a point in time in accordance with AASB 1058 *Income of Not for Profit Entities*.

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
General rates	160,653	146,102
Special rates	1,547	996
Water access	37,783	33,721
Water consumption	45,567	40,027
Sewerage access	97,062	92,175
Cleansing charges	36,504	34,605
Rates and utility charge revenue	379,116	347,626
Less: rebates	(6,247)	(5,905)
Net rates and utility charges	372,869	341,721

(b) Fees and charges

Revenue arising from fees and charges is recognised at the point in time when the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the goods or services being provided. There is no material obligation for Council in relation to refunds or returns. Revenue from infringements is recognised on issue of the infringement notice.

Building and property fees	6,677	5,816
Regulatory and parking fees	8,832	9,003
Infringement	5,841	5,495
Water and resource recovery fees	4,307	4,283
Other fees and charges	9,050	7,627
	34,707	32,224

(c) Other recurrent revenue

Revenue from contract and recoverable works generally comprises a recoupment of material costs together with an hourly charge for use of equipment and employees. This revenue and the associated costs are recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract activity based on costs incurred at the reporting date. Where consideration is received for the service in advance, it is held as a liability in revenue received in advance on the Statement of Financial Position and is recognised as revenue in the period when the service is performed. The contract work carried out is not subject to retentions.

Reimbursements revenue is recognised when the payment is probable and the amount of the payment can be determined, which is after the contract requirement has been delivered. Cost recovery income is recognised when received. Sundry and other recurrent revenue relates to sales of goods and delivery of services. Revenue is recognised at the point in time that either the customer obtains control of the goods (which is generally at delivery) or when the service is rendered.

All other recurrent revenue is recognised in accordance with AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*.

Contract and recoverable works	5,718	4,010
Reimbursements and cost recoveries	2,615	2,915
Sales	5,932	5,883
Sundry and other recurrent revenue	9,700	8,308
	23,965	21,116

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

4 Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations

(a) Recurrent grants, subsidies and contributions

Recurrent grants, subsidies and contributions do not have an enforceable performance obligation associated with them and therefore are recognised as revenue when received in accordance with AASB 1058.

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
General purpose grants	12,469	11,111
Donations	27	231
	<u>12,496</u>	<u>11,342</u>

(b) Capital grants, subsidies and contributions

Capital Grants

All capital grant funding received under an enforceable contract to enable Council to acquire or construct a specified item of property, plant and equipment, which will be under Council's control on completion, is recognised as revenue as and when the obligation to construct or purchase is completed in accordance with AASB 1058. For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred, since this is deemed to be the most appropriate measure of the completeness of the construction project as there is no profit margin.

Where Council recognises capital grant revenue under AASB 1058 in advance of invoicing the grantor, a contract asset is recognised in trade and other receivables which represents the excess of costs incurred in relation to the construction of the asset over the amount that Council has invoiced the grantor. Where Council receives grant revenue upfront of construction of the asset, this revenue is held as a contract liability and is recognised as revenue over time as the asset is constructed.

Donations and Contributions

Contributions received from developers do not have an enforceable performance obligation associated with them and therefore the infrastructure charges are recognised as revenue when received in accordance with AASB 1058.

Where assets are donated or purchased for significantly below fair value, the revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by Council.

Non-cash contributions with a value in excess of the recognition thresholds are recognised as revenue and as non-current assets. Non-cash contributions below the thresholds are recorded as revenue and expenses.

Timing of revenue recognition for grants, subsidies and contributions:

	2026		2025	
	Revenue recognised at a point in time \$'000	Revenue recognised over time \$'000	Revenue recognised at a point in time \$'000	Revenue recognised over time \$'000
Grants and subsidies	4,039	192,172	711	173,032
Contributions	12,380	-	13,612	-
Assets contributed by developers	36,154	-	39,487	-
	<u>52,573</u>	<u>192,172</u>	<u>53,810</u>	<u>173,032</u>

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

4 Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations (continued)

(b) Capital grants, subsidies and contributions

Capital – grants, subsidies, contributions and donations are analysed as follows:

	Note	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
(i) Monetary revenue designated for capital funding purposes:			
Government subsidies and grants		196,211	173,743
Contributions		12,380	13,612
		<u>208,591</u>	<u>187,355</u>
(ii) Non-monetary revenue received:			
Developer assets contributed by developers at fair value		36,154	39,487
		<u>36,154</u>	<u>39,487</u>
Total capital grants, subsidies, contributions and donations		<u><u>244,745</u></u>	<u><u>226,842</u></u>

5 Employee benefits

Staff wages and salaries		110,107	101,344
Councillors' remuneration		1,403	1,351
Annual, sick and long service leave entitlements		22,000	20,594
Superannuation	18	14,638	13,476
		<u>148,148</u>	<u>136,765</u>
Other employee related expenses		2,876	3,292
		<u>151,024</u>	<u>140,057</u>
Less: Capitalised employee expenses		(11,443)	(10,327)
		<u><u>139,581</u></u>	<u><u>129,730</u></u>

Councillor remuneration represents salary and other allowances paid in respect of carrying out their duties.

	2026 No. employees	2025 No. employees
Total employees at the reporting date:		
Elected members	10	10
Employees	1,261	1,253
Total full time equivalent employees	<u>1,271</u>	<u>1,263</u>

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

6 Materials and services

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Agency and temporary employment services	7,418	8,041
Audit of the Annual Financial Statements by the Auditor-General*	233	222
Communication and IT	9,743	9,813
Consumable materials	3,712	3,642
Consultants	4,885	6,278
Donations paid and grants to community groups	7,177	7,328
Electricity	9,586	10,429
Entertainers services	1,979	2,008
External services and hire	16,247	14,795
Garbage collection services	24,029	23,402
Insurance	4,089	4,136
Minor equipment purchases	2,070	2,752
Other materials	10,858	9,462
Other services	11,656	10,013
Plant and equipment hire	6,338	6,550
Rental and lease expenses	1,334	1,253
Repairs and maintenance	32,834	26,437
Waste processing and disposal	6,105	5,435
	<u>160,293</u>	<u>151,996</u>

* Total audit fees quoted by the Queensland Audit Office relating to the 2025/26 financial statements are \$233,000 (2025: \$222,000).

7 Capital expenses

Capital expenses comprise the loss on disposal and write off of capital assets. The gain or loss on disposal is recognised on the date the asset was taken out of service.

Loss on disposal of capital assets	5,726	6,128
Loss on write-off of non-current assets	9,186	4,067
	<u>14,912</u>	<u>10,195</u>

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

8 Cash and cash equivalents

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Cash at bank	14,425	4,410
Cash on hand	19	21
Deposits and investments held with QTC	42,380	65,544
Balance per Statement of Cash Flows	56,824	69,975

Council is exposed to credit risk through its investments in the QTC Cash Fund and QTC Working Capital Facility. The QTC Cash Fund is an asset management portfolio investing in a wide range of high credit rated counterparties. Deposits with the QTC Cash Fund are capital guaranteed. Working Capital Facility deposits have a duration of one day and all investments are required to have a minimum credit rating of "A-", the likelihood of the counterparty not having capacity to meet its financial commitments is low.

QTC working capital facility

Used	-	-
Unused	120,000	120,000
Facility limit	120,000	120,000

Unrestricted Cash

Cash and cash equivalents	56,824	69,975
Less: Externally imposed restrictions on cash	(16,613)	(20,706)
Unrestricted cash	40,211	49,269

Council's cash and cash equivalents are subject to a number of external restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionary or future use. At the reporting date this balance comprised of:

Unspent government grants	10,577	19,134
Unspent developer contributions	760	760
Waste Levy refund received in advance	5,276	812
	16,613	20,706

Trust funds held for outside parties

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* and Local Government Regulation 2012, a separate trust bank account and separate accounting records are maintained for funds held on behalf of outside parties. Funds held in the trust account include those funds from the sale of land for arrears in rates, deposits for the contracted sale of land, security deposits lodged to guarantee performance and unclaimed monies (e.g. wages). Council performs only a custodian role in respect of these monies and because the monies cannot be used for Council purposes, they are not considered revenue nor brought to account in the financial statements since Council has no control over the assets.

Monies collected or held on behalf of other entities yet to be paid out

	39	67
Security deposits	5,576	5,423
	5,615	5,490

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

9 Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are recognised at the amounts due at the time of sale or service delivery i.e. the agreed purchase price or contract price. Settlement of these amounts is required within 30 days from invoice date.

Contract assets represent the excess of costs incurred in relation to the construction of an asset over the amounts that Council has invoiced the grantor.

Debts are regularly assessed for collectability and allowance is made, where appropriate, for impairment. All known bad debts were written-off at 30 June. If an amount is recovered in a subsequent period it is recognised as revenue. Because Council is empowered under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2009* to sell an owner's property to recover outstanding rate debts, Council does not impair any rate receivables unless the arrears are deemed to be greater than the proceeds Council would receive from the sale of the property.

Interest is charged on outstanding rates at a rate of 12.12% per annum (2025: 12.35%), unless waived under Council's Financial Hardship policy. No interest is charged on other debtors. There is no concentration of credit risk for rates and utility charges, fees and other debtors received.

	Note	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
(a) Receivables (financial instruments)			
Rateable revenue and utility charges		23,908	22,476
Water charges		3,101	2,912
Fees and charges		5,232	4,967
Grants receivable		481	8,024
Other debtors		6,362	4,785
Less: loss allowance	9(b)	(2,076)	(2,230)
		37,008	40,934
Receivables (non-financial instruments)			
Other accrued revenue		6,486	7,622
Contract assets		58,690	8,186
GST receivable		3,203	3,048
Prepayments		3,790	4,117
		72,169	22,973
Total current receivables		109,177	63,907
(b) Loss allowance			
Opening balance at 1 July		2,230	1,707
Receivables written off in period		(227)	(166)
Impairments recognised		73	689
Closing balance at 30 June	9(a)	2,076	2,230

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

10 Property, plant and equipment

(a) i) Recognition

Each class of property, plant and equipment is stated at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment loss. Items of plant and equipment have an asset capitalisation threshold of \$5,000. All other assets have an asset capitalisation threshold of \$10,000 except for land, network assets and complex assets which all have a capitalisation threshold of \$1.

Network assets are an aggregate of interrelated assets that perform a specific service which, individually are likely to be below the capitalisation threshold levels, but collectively are above the capitalisation threshold for their class. Networked assets include computer network assets, leasehold and land improvements.

Land under roads and reserve land which fall under the *Land Act 1994* or the *Land Title Act 1994* is controlled by the Queensland Government pursuant to the relevant legislation. This land is not recognised in these financial statements.

ii) Measurement

Property, plant and equipment assets are initially recorded at cost. Subsequently, each class of property, plant and equipment is stated at fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment loss.

iii) Depreciation

Land, work in progress, road formation & embankments and formation work associated with the construction of dams, retention basins, unlined open drains, reservoirs and pump stations are not depreciated.

Depreciation, where applicable, is calculated on a straight-line basis. Management believe that the straight-line basis appropriately reflects the pattern of consumption of all Council assets.

Management reviews its estimate of the useful lives of depreciable assets at each reporting date, based on the expected utility of the assets. Uncertainties in these estimates relate to technical or physical obsolescence that may change the utility of infrastructure assets.

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

10 Property, plant and equipment (continued) (b) Movements in property, plant and equipment 2026

Asset class	Land and site improvements	Buildings, other structures and other assets	Plant, equipment and other assets	Transport assets	Water	Sewerage	Drainage	Solid waste disposal	Work in progress	Total
Fair Value Levels 2 & 3 \$'000	Fair Value Levels 2 & 3 \$'000	Fair Value Levels 2 & 3 \$'000	Cost \$'000	Fair Value Level 3 \$'000	Fair Value Level 3 \$'000	Fair Value Level 3 \$'000	Fair Value Level 3 \$'000	Fair Value Level 3 \$'000	Cost \$'000	\$'000
Asset values										
Opening gross value as at 1 July 2025	474,301	656,704	122,387	2,252,911	1,508,989	1,416,216	919,595	49,310	295,468	7,695,882
Additions at cost	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	292,899	292,899
Contributed assets at valuation	1,795	44	448	12,527	4,155	9,006	8,179	-	-	36,154
Internal transfers from work in progress	3,280	3,825	14,955	33,182	18,092	16,301	12,558	1,650	(103,843)	-
Disposals	-	-	(4,305)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(4,305)
Write-offs	(91)	(338)	(4,979)	(4,408)	(6,522)	(556)	(1,103)	(68)	(8,751)	(26,816)
Revaluation adjustment to the asset revaluation surplus	50,724	51,950	-	123,985	147,179	61,043	25,269	1,348	-	461,498
Internal transfers between asset classes	-	-	172	-	-	-	-	-	-	172
Closing gross value as at 30 June 2026	530,009	712,185	128,678	2,418,197	1,671,893	1,502,010	964,498	52,240	475,773	8,455,484
Accumulated depreciation and impairment										
Opening balance as at 1 July 2025	29,594	174,237	83,853	505,342	800,565	545,710	209,978	14,283	-	2,363,562
Depreciation provided in period	2,200	12,224	9,563	28,322	21,435	25,793	9,936	2,204	-	111,677
Depreciation on disposals	-	-	(3,292)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(3,292)
Depreciation on write-offs	(8)	(48)	(4,665)	(2,407)	(4,361)	(102)	(266)	-	-	(11,857)
Revaluation adjustment to the asset revaluation surplus	1,590	15,477	-	12,823	36,845	24,678	6,057	455	-	97,925
Internal transfers to other asset classes	-	51	(52)	-	-	(24)	25	-	-	-
Closing accumulated depreciation	33,376	201,941	85,407	544,080	854,484	596,055	225,730	16,942	-	2,558,015
Net value at 30 June 2026	496,633	510,244	43,271	1,874,117	817,409	905,955	738,768	35,298	475,773	5,897,469
Residual value										
Range of estimated useful life in years	10-100	15-150	3-50	15-100	10-150	9-100	10-150	20-100	-	-
Additions comprise:										
Renewals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80,956	80,956
New assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200,266	200,266
Non-infrastructure additions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,677	11,677
Total additions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	292,899	292,899

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

10 Property, plant and equipment (continued) (b) Movements in property, plant and equipment 2025

Asset class	Land and site improvements		Buildings, other structures and other assets		Plant, equipment and other assets		Transport assets		Water		Sewerage		Drainage		Solid waste disposal		Work in progress		Total
	Fair Value Levels 2 & 3 \$'000	Fair Value Levels 2 & 3 \$'000	Fair Value Levels 2 & 3 \$'000	Fair Value Levels 2 & 3 \$'000	Cost \$'000	Fair Value Level 3 \$'000	Fair Value Level 3 \$'000	Fair Value Level 3 \$'000	Fair Value Level 3 \$'000	Fair Value Level 3 \$'000	Fair Value Level 3 \$'000	Fair Value Level 3 \$'000	Fair Value Level 3 \$'000	Fair Value Level 3 \$'000	Fair Value Level 3 \$'000	Fair Value Level 3 \$'000	Cost \$'000	Cost \$'000	\$'000
Asset values																			
Opening gross value as at 1 July 2024	455,085	596,987	154,703	2,105,587	1,437,840	1,331,833	872,119	45,935	141,519	7,142,609									
Additions at cost	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	274,857									
Contributed assets at valuation	4,592	-	702	6,832	2,475	4,141	3,946	-	-	22,688									
Internal transfers from work in progress	2,026	26,130	9,716	27,404	26,717	12,960	11,179	867	(116,999)	-									
Disposals	-	-	(4,486)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									
Write-offs	(2,520)	(2,305)	(1,245)	(191)	(1,324)	(621)	(313)	(243)	(3,909)	(4,486)									
Revaluation adjustment to the asset revaluation surplus	15,075	35,892	-	76,683	43,281	67,903	32,664	1,751	-	273,249									
Internal transfers between asset classes	43	-	(37,003)	36,596	-	-	-	-	-	(364)									
Closing gross value as at 30 June 2025	474,301	656,704	122,387	2,252,911	1,508,989	1,416,216	919,595	49,310	295,488	7,695,882									
Accumulated depreciation and impairment																			
Opening balance as at 1 July 2024	25,989	153,960	98,871	442,228	771,285	485,413	193,087	11,773	-	2,182,606									
Depreciation provided in period	2,014	11,058	9,439	26,893	21,063	24,649	9,346	2,033	-	106,495									
Depreciation on disposals	-	-	(3,159)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(3,159)									
Depreciation on write-offs	-	(1,040)	(1,235)	(311)	(112)	(111)	(20)	(39)	-	(2,868)									
Revaluation adjustment to the asset revaluation surplus	1,586	10,259	-	16,719	8,329	35,759	7,565	516	-	80,733									
Internal transfers to other asset classes	5	-	(20,063)	19,813	-	-	-	-	-	(245)									
Closing accumulated depreciation	29,594	174,237	83,853	505,342	800,565	545,710	209,978	14,283	-	2,363,562									
Net value at 30 June 2025	444,707	482,467	38,534	1,747,569	708,424	870,506	709,617	35,027	295,488	5,332,320									
Residual value																			
Range of estimated useful life in years	10-100	15-150	3-50	15-100	10-150	9-100	10-150	20-100											
Additions comprise:																			
Renewals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80,834									
New assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	178,818									
Non-infrastructure additions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,205									
Total additions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	274,857									

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

10 Property, plant and equipment (continued)

(c) Valuation

(i) Valuation processes

Council compares the carrying amount of its property, plant and equipment on an annual basis to current fair value and makes adjustment where these are materially different. At least every 5 years, Council performs a full comprehensive revaluation performed by a combination of independent, professionally qualified valuers and experienced Council Officers.

In the intervening years, Council undertakes:

- A management valuation using internal engineers and asset managers to assess the condition and cost assumptions associated with all infrastructure assets and an appropriate cost index for the region.
- A "desktop" valuation for the land and site improvements and buildings, other structures and other assets classes which involves management providing updated information to the valuer regarding changes in assumptions such as useful life, residual value and condition rating. The valuer then determines suitable indices which are applied to each of these asset classes.

On revaluation, accumulated depreciation is restated proportionately with the change in the carrying amount of the asset and any change in the estimate of remaining useful life.

Fair values are classified into three levels as follows:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Level 1 | Fair value based on quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. |
| Level 2 | Fair value based on inputs that are directly or indirectly observable, such as prices for similar assets, for the asset or liability. |
| Level 3 | Fair value based on unobservable inputs for the asset and liability. |

Council's policy is to recognise transfers in and out of the fair value hierarchy at the end of the reporting period. There were no transfers between levels of the hierarchy during the year.

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

10 Property, plant and equipment (continued)

(c) Valuation

(ii) Valuation techniques used to derive fair values

Asset Class and Fair Value Level	Valuation Approach	Last Comprehensive Valuation Date	Valuer	Index Applied	Index Amount	Key Assumptions and Estimates
Land and Site Improvements (level 2)	Market Value	30 June 2023	APV Valuers and Asset Management	Index determined by APV Valuers and Asset Management	12.21%	- Current zoning of land - Sale prices per square metre (database of recent sales) of comparable properties, adjusted for differences in key attributes such as property size)
Land and Site Improvements (level 3)	Current Replacement Cost	30 June 2023	APV Valuers and Asset Management	Index determined by APV Valuers and Asset Management	12.21%	- Current replacement cost for a modern equivalent asset with a similar service potential - Standardised unit rates for construction as at the date of last revaluation (based on industry standard cost guides, valuer database and project costs from recently completed projects)
Buildings (level 2)	Market Value	30 June 2023	APV Valuers and Asset Management	Index determined by APV Valuers and Asset Management	7.80%	- Sale prices per square metre (database of recent sales of comparable properties, adjusted for differences in key attributes such as condition)
Buildings and Other Structures (level 3)	Current Replacement Cost	30 June 2023	APV Valuers and Asset Management	Index determined by APV Valuers and Asset Management	9.08%	- Current replacement cost for a modern equivalent asset with a similar service potential - Standardised unit rates for construction as at the date of last revaluation (based on industry standard cost guides, valuer database and project costs from recently completed buildings)
Buildings and Other Structures - Other assets (level 3)	Current Replacement Cost	30 June 2024	Ross Searle	Index determined by Ross Searle	0.00%	- Sales price per artwork based on prices paid for comparable works, market conditions and exchange rates (where applicable)
Transport Assets - Roads (including kerb and channel, medians and roundabouts) (level 3)	Current Replacement Cost	30 June 2024	Council and Stantec Australia Pty Ltd	Index determined by Council	2.76%	- Current replacement cost for a modern equivalent asset, on a greenfield site, with a similar service potential (including components that may not need to be replaced such as earthworks) - Standardised unit rates for construction as at the date of last revaluation (based on industry standard cost guides, valuer database, current contract data and costs from recently completed projects) indexed for subsequent changes in construction costs. Applicable rates are determined by asset usage, material and length - Componentisation of costs for complex assets. It is assumed that design and construction is to the same standard across each component - Road hierarchy and soil factors taking into account current condition. These are assumed to be consistent across each component - Remaining life of assets including existing conditions. These limitations are not incorporated into standardised unit rates. The conditions of assets not inspected are extrapolated based upon the condition data collected on inspected assets
Transport Assets - Bridges and Footpaths (level 3)	Current Replacement Cost	30 June 2026	Council and AVR Consulting Pty Ltd	Comprehensively Revalued	Not applicable	

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

10 Property, plant and equipment (continued)

(c) Valuation

(ii) Valuation techniques used to derive fair values

Asset Class and Fair Value Level	Valuation Approach	Last Comprehensive Valuation Date	Valuer	Index Applied	Index Amount	Key Assumptions and Estimates
Water Assets - Above Ground (level 3)	Current Replacement Cost	30 June 2026	Stantec Australia Pty Ltd	Comprehensively Revalued	Not applicable	- Current replacement cost for a modern equivalent asset, on a greenfield site, with a similar service potential (including components that may not need to be replaced such as earthworks) - Standardised unit rates for construction as at the date of last revaluation (based on industry standard cost guides, valuer database, current contract data and costs from recently completed projects) indexed for subsequent changes in construction costs. Applicable rates are determined by asset usage, material, depth, length and size
Water Assets - Mains (level 3)	Current Replacement Cost	30 June 2025	Council and Stantec Australia Pty Ltd	Index determined by Council	4.30%	- Componentisation of costs for complex assets. It is assumed that design and construction is to the same standard across each component
Sewerage Assets - Above Ground (level 3)	Current Replacement Cost	30 June 2024	Stantec Australia Pty Ltd	Index determined by Council	4.30%	- Development, soil and depth factors taking into account current condition. These are assumed to be consistent across each component
Sewerage Assets - Mains (level 3)	Current Replacement Cost	30 June 2025	Council and Stantec Australia Pty Ltd	Index determined by Council	4.30%	- Remaining lives and physical obsolescence, particularly for underground infrastructure not easily inspected. These limitations are not incorporated into standardised unit rates. The conditions of assets not inspected are extrapolated based upon the condition data collected on inspected assets
Drainage (level 3)	Current Replacement Cost	30 June 2022	Council and Stantec Australia Pty Ltd	Index determined by Council	2.76%	
Solid Waste Disposal (level 3)	Current Replacement Cost	30 June 2023	Stantec Australia Pty Ltd	Index determined by Council	2.76%	- Current replacement cost for a modern equivalent asset with a similar service potential - Standardised unit rates for construction as at the date of last revaluation (based on industry standard cost guides, valuer database, current contract data and costs from recently completed projects) indexed for subsequent changes in construction costs - Componentisation of costs for complex assets. It is assumed that design and construction is to the same standard across each component

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

11 Trade and other payables

Creditors are recognised when goods or services are received, at the amount owed. Amounts owing are unsecured and are generally settled on 30 day terms.

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Payables (financial instruments)		
Creditors	15,295	19,696
Accrued expenses	34,139	42,666
Other payables	6,531	3,837
23(a)	55,965	66,199
Payables (non-financial instruments)		
Prepaid rates	20,824	19,732
Sick leave	1,681	1,718
Other entitlements	498	513
	23,003	21,963
Total current trade and other payables	78,968	88,162

12 Provisions

Long service leave

The provision for long service leave represents the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. The liability is calculated using current pay rates and projected future increases in those rates and includes related employee on-costs. The estimates are adjusted for the probability of the employee remaining in Council's employment or other associated employment which would result in Council being required to meet the liability. Adjustments are then made to allow for the proportion of the benefit earned to date, and the result is discounted to present value. The provision is discounted using the Commonwealth Bond yield rates.

Developer contribution credits

A provision is made for the cost of trunk infrastructure assets constructed by developers on behalf of Council. The provision is raised when construction works are sufficiently progressed that the value and timing of payment can be reliably measured. Corresponding assets are also recognised within work in progress at this time. Where the value of the trunk infrastructure assets cannot be reliably measured, a contingent liability and corresponding contingent asset are disclosed.

The provision is classified as current where payment is expected to be settled within 12 months and is classified as non-current where payment is not expected to be settled within 12 months. Where payment for the trunk infrastructure assets is not expected to be settled within 12 months, the value of the payment is discounted to present value.

Current

Annual leave	14,571	13,916
Developer contribution credits	15,307	11,496
Long service leave	2,199	2,099
	32,077	27,511

Non-current

Long service leave	15,979	15,010
	15,979	15,010

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

12 Provisions (continued)

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Details of movements in non-employee benefit provisions:		
Developer contribution credits		
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	11,496	11,280
Developer contribution credits arising	6,946	4,118
Developer contribution credits paid	(1,094)	(1,797)
Developer contribution credits offset against contributions payable to Council	(2,041)	(2,105)
Balance at end of financial year	15,307	11,496

13 Borrowings

Where borrowing costs can be attributed to a specific capital project, the costs are capitalised as part of the qualifying asset during construction. Otherwise, borrowing costs are expensed as finance costs when they are incurred. Expected final repayment dates vary from 15 June 2028 to 15 April 2032.

Council adopts an annual debt policy that sets out Council's planned borrowings for the next nine years. Council's current policy is to only borrow for capital projects and for a term no longer than the expected life of the asset. Council also aims to comply with the Queensland Treasury Corporation's (QTC) borrowing guidelines and ensure that sustainability indicators remain within acceptable levels at all times.

A reconciliation of liabilities arising from finance activities can be found at note 20.

Working capital facility

A working capital facility (WCF) of \$120,000,000 has been established with QTC. As at 30 June 2026 there were no working capital drawdowns.

Details of borrowings at the reporting date are:

Current

Loans - QTC	17,817	28,136
Loans - other	281	281
	<u>18,098</u>	<u>28,417</u>

Non-Current

Loans - QTC	55,041	72,793
Loans - other	-	281
	<u>55,041</u>	<u>73,074</u>

The QTC loan market value at the reporting date was \$68,904,681. This represents the value of the debt if Council repaid it at this date. As it is the intention of Council to hold the debt for its term, no provision is required to be made in these accounts. Refer to Note 23 for further information on market value.

Loans - other: This is an interest free loan over 9 years obtained from Economic Development Queensland as part of the Priority Development Infrastructure Co-Investment Program. The funds were used to construct trunk sewerage infrastructure at Mount Peter and are unsecured. The funds were received in September 2018 with repayment to be made in 8 equal instalments over the loan period. There is one instalment remaining to be paid. The loan has been measured at amortised cost and not fair value. The benefit of the interest free terms has not been brought into account in these financial statements due to materiality.

No assets have been pledged as security by Council for any liabilities, however all loans are guaranteed by the Queensland Government. There have been no defaults or breaches of the loan agreements during the 2026 or 2025 financial years.

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

14 Contract liabilities

Revenue received in advance represents consideration received in advance of the service being performed or in the case of capital grants and subsidies, in advance of the asset being constructed. It is recognised as revenue in the period when the service is performed or the asset is constructed.

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Current		
Capital grants	16,777	22,850
Other revenue and receipts received in advance	227	329
State Waste Levy	2,180	844
	<u>19,184</u>	<u>24,023</u>
Non-current		
State Waste Levy	3,096	753
	<u>3,096</u>	<u>753</u>

Revenue recognised that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the year:

Funds to construct Council controlled assets	16,938	15,997
Non-capital performance obligations	2,471	1,430
	<u>19,409</u>	<u>17,427</u>

Satisfaction of contract liabilities

The contract liabilities in relation to capital grants relate to funding received prior to the work being performed since revenue is recognised as Council constructs the assets. Council expects to recognise the contract liability as income in the next two years.

15 Commitments for expenditure

Capital commitments

Commitment for the construction of capital assets contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities are as follows:

Capital assets	91,194	236,969
	<u>91,194</u>	<u>236,969</u>
Not later than 1 year	91,194	205,478
Later than 1 year but not later than 5 years	-	31,490
	<u>91,194</u>	<u>236,969</u>

16 Events after the reporting date

There has not been any event that occurred after the end of the reporting period that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect, the current or future financial results of Council.

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

17 Contingent liabilities

(a) Contingent liabilities

Details and estimates of maximum amounts of contingent liabilities are as follows:

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Various claims are pending against Council. In the opinion of Council's solicitor the potential loss on all claims as at 30 June 2026 should not exceed:	99	85

Additional claims may exist, however, these have not been quantified to date.

Cairns Regional Council is a member of the Local Government Mutual liability self-insurance pool, LGM Queensland. In the event of the pool being wound up or it is unable to meet its debts as they fall due, the trust deed and rules provide that any accumulated deficit will be met by the individual pool members in the same proportion as their contribution is to the total pool contributions in respect to any year that a deficit arises. As at 30 June 2025, the financial statements of Local Government Mutual Queensland reported an accumulated surplus and it is not anticipated any liability will arise. As at 30 June 2025 the financial statements of Local Government Mutual Queensland reported a members' equity balance of \$73,436,848. (2024: \$72,144,102).

(b) Loan and bank guarantees

Loans and bank guarantees to community organisations	664	764
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Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

18 Superannuation

Cairns Regional Council contributes to the LGIASuper Regional Defined Benefits Fund (the scheme), at the rate of 12% for each permanent employee who is a defined benefit member. This rate is set in accordance with the LGIASuper trust deed and may be varied on the advice of an actuary. The Regional Defined Benefits Fund is a complying superannuation scheme for the purpose of the Commonwealth Superannuation Industry (Supervision) legislation and is also governed by the *Local Government Act 2009*. The scheme is managed by the Brighter Super trustee.

The scheme is a pooled defined benefit plan and it is not in accordance with the deed to allocate obligations, plan assets and costs at council level.

Any amount by which the scheme is over or under funded may affect future contribution rate obligations, but has not been recognised as an asset or liability of Council.

Council may be liable to the scheme for a portion of another local governments' obligations should that local government be unable to meet them. However the risk of this occurring is extremely low and in accordance with the LGIASuper trust deed changes to Council's obligations will only be made on the advice of an actuary.

The last completed actuarial assessment of the scheme as required under *Superannuation Prudential Standard 160* was undertaken as at 1 July 2024. The actuary indicated that "At the valuation date of 1 July 2024, the net assets of the scheme exceeded the vested benefits and the scheme was in a satisfactory financial position as at the valuation date". The measure of vested benefits represents the value of benefit entitlements should all participating employees voluntarily exit the scheme. Council is not aware of anything that has happened since that time that indicates the assets of the scheme are not sufficient to meet the vested benefits, as at the reporting date.

No changes have been made to prescribed employer contributions which remain at 12% of employee salary or wages and there are no known requirements to change the rate of contributions.

The next triennial actuarial review is not due until 1 July 2027.

The most significant risks that may result in LGIASuper increasing the contribution rate, on the advice of the actuary, are:

- Investment risk: The risk that the scheme's investment returns will be lower than assumed and additional contributions are needed to fund the shortfall.
- Salary growth risk: The risk that wages or salaries will rise more rapidly than assumed, increasing vested benefits to be funded.

	Note	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Superannuation contributions made to the Regional Defined Benefits Fund		239	240
Other superannuation contributions for employees		14,243	13,078
Other superannuation contributions for the benefit of elected members		156	158
Total superannuation contributions paid by Council:	5	14,638	13,476

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

19 Reconciliation of net result attributable to Council to net cash inflow from operating activities

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Net result attributable to Council	266,555	236,596
Non-cash operating items:		
Depreciation and amortisation	112,045	106,878
	112,045	106,878
Investing and development activities (non-cash):		
Capital grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	(244,860)	(226,842)
Capital expenses	14,999	10,195
	(229,861)	(216,647)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(2,477)	155
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	1,287	(1,033)
Increase/(decrease) in payables	2,472	(59)
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	1,724	2,044
Increase/(decrease) in revenue received in advance	3,577	(1,103)
	6,583	4
Net cash inflow from operating activities	155,322	126,831

20 Reconciliation of liabilities arising from finance activities

Short and Long Term Borrowings		
As at 1 July	101,491	129,226
Cash repayments of borrowings	(28,352)	(27,735)
Cash proceeds from working capital facility	-	40,325
Cash repayments of working capital facility	-	(40,325)
As at 30 June	73,139	101,491

21 Transactions with Related Parties

(a) Controlled Entities

The controlled entity of Council is Cairns Art Gallery Precinct Ltd (the Gallery). Council has consolidated a 100% interest in the Gallery into these financial statements by virtue of its controlling interest. Under the constitution of the Gallery, control is able to be exercised by Council by determining the composition of the Board.

During the year, Council provided funding to the Gallery with a total value of \$2,250,000 (2025: \$1,307,000) under a one year funding agreement effective 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. These transactions are eliminated on consolidation. The premises occupied by the Gallery are provided to them by Council for a nominal annual amount. In addition, electricity costs of \$319,743 (2025: \$260,900) were paid by Council on behalf of the Gallery.

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

21 Transactions with Related Parties (continued)

(b) Transactions with key management personnel (KMP)

KMP include the Mayor, Councillors, Council's Chief Executive Officer and executive management. It also includes the KMP of Council's controlled entity. The compensation paid to KMP comprises:

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Short-term employee benefits	4,006	3,601
Post-term benefits	391	386
Long-term benefits	55	28
Termination benefits	-	109
Total	4,452	4,124

Additional remuneration disclosures are provided in the annual report.

(c) Transactions with other related parties

Other related parties include the close family members of KMP and any entities controlled or jointly controlled by KMP or their close family members. Close family members include a spouse, child and dependent of a KMP or their spouse. Details of transactions between Council and other related parties are disclosed below:

Employee expenses for close family members of KMP	196	299
Professional services	23	4
	219	303

Close family members of KMP were employed through an arm's length process in accordance with Council's recruitment policies. They are paid in accordance with the relevant award for the job they perform. The above figure includes all remuneration received by close family members of KMP.

During the year, three entities controlled by close family members of KMP provided professional services to Council. All transactions occurred through an arm's length process under normal terms and conditions. There were no other material transactions with other related parties during the year. All transactions with other related parties occurred at arm's length and under Council's normal terms and conditions.

(d) Outstanding balances

There were no material balances outstanding at the end of the reporting period in relation to transactions with related parties. No expense has been recognised in the current year or prior year for bad or doubtful debts in respect of amounts owed by related parties.

(e) Loans and guarantees to/from related parties

Council does not make loans to or receive loans from related parties. No guarantees have been provided.

(f) Commitments to/from other related parties

Council has no outstanding commitments to/from other related parties.

(g) Transactions with related parties that have not been disclosed

Most of the entities and people that are related parties of Council live and operate within the Cairns Region. Therefore, on a regular basis ordinary citizen transactions occur between Council and its related parties. Some examples include:

- Payment of rates, fees and charges
- Dog registration
- Use of Council facilities such as swimming pools and car parking

Council has not included these types of transactions in its disclosure, where they are made on the same terms and conditions available to the general public.

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

22 Parent entity

The following information relates to the parent entity, Cairns Regional Council. The information presented has been prepared using accounting policies that are consistent with those presented in Note 1.

	Parent	
	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000
Current assets	168,472	138,238
Non-current assets	5,896,183	5,331,751
Total assets	6,064,655	5,469,989
Current liabilities	148,218	168,238
Non-current liabilities	77,810	92,588
Total liabilities	226,028	260,826
Asset revaluation surplus	2,552,265	2,188,691
Retained surplus	3,286,362	3,020,472
Total equity	5,838,627	5,209,163
Net result	265,886	236,340
Other comprehensive income	363,573	192,516
Total comprehensive income for the year	629,459	428,856

23 Financial instruments and financial risk management

(a) Financial assets and financial liabilities

Council has exposure to the following risks arising from financial instruments: credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk.

Risk management framework

Council is responsible for the establishment and oversight of a risk management framework, together with developing and monitoring risk management policies. Council's management approves policies for overall risk management, as well as specifically for managing credit, liquidity and market risk.

Council's risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced, to set appropriate limits and controls and to monitor these risks and adherence against limits. Council aims to manage volatility to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of Council.

Council's audit committee oversees how management monitors compliance with Council's risk management policies and procedures, and reviews the adequacy of the risk managements framework in relation to the risks faced by Council. Council's audit committee is assisted in its oversight role by internal audit. Internal audit undertakes both regular and ad hoc reviews of risk management controls and procedures, the results of which are reported to the audit committee.

Council does not enter into derivatives.

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss if a counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations. These obligations arise principally from Council's investments and receivables. Exposure to credit risk is managed through regular analysis of credit counterparty ability to meet payment obligations.

Investments in financial instruments are required to be made with Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) or similar state/commonwealth bodies or financial institutions in Australia, in line with the requirements of the *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982*.

No collateral is held as security relating to the financial assets held by Council. The carrying amounts of financial assets at the end of the reporting period represent the maximum exposure to credit risk for Council.

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

23 Financial instruments and financial risk management (continued)

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that Council will encounter difficulty in meeting the obligations associated with its financial liabilities that are settled by delivering cash or another financial asset.

Council's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure, as far as possible, that it will have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they are due, under both normal and stressed conditions, without incurring unacceptable losses or risking damage to Council's reputation.

Council is exposed to liquidity risk through its normal course of business and through its borrowings with QTC.

Council manages its exposure to liquidity risk by maintaining sufficient cash deposits and undrawn facilities, both short and long term, to cater for unexpected volatility in cash flows. These facilities are disclosed in note 13. The following lines of credit were available at the end of the reporting period.

The following table sets out the liquidity risk in relation to financial liabilities held by Council. It represents the remaining contractual cash flows (principal and interest) of financial liabilities at the end of the reporting period, excluding the impact of netting agreements:

Total contractual cash flows	0 to 1 year	1 to 5 years	Over 5 years	Total	Carrying amount
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2026					
Trade and other payables	55,965	-	-	55,965	55,965
Loans - QTC	19,124	54,352	3,004	76,480	72,858
Loans - EDQ	281	-	-	281	281
	75,370	54,352	3,004	132,726	129,104
2025					
Trade and other payables	66,199	-	-	66,199	66,199
Loans - QTC	29,927	66,892	9,588	106,407	100,929
Loans - EDQ	281	281	-	562	562
	96,407	67,173	9,588	173,168	167,690

The outflows in the table are not expected to occur significantly earlier and are not expected to be for significantly different amounts than indicated in the table.

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market indices, such as interest rates, will affect Council's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments.

Council is exposed to interest rate risk through investments and borrowings with QTC. Council has access to a mix of variable and fixed rate funding options through QTC so that interest rate risk exposure can be minimised.

Council's loan from Economic Development Queensland is interest free and not subject to interest rate risk.

Council does not account for any fixed-rate financial assets or financial liabilities at Fair Value through Profit or Loss, therefore a change in interest rates at the reporting date would not affect profit or loss.

(b) Fair value

The fair value of trade and other receivables and payables is assumed to approximate the value of the original transaction, less any allowance for impairment.

The fair value of borrowings with QTC is based on the market value of the debt outstanding. The market value of a debt obligation is the discounted value of future cash flows based on prevailing market rates and represents the amount required to be repaid if this was to occur at balance date. The market value of debt is provided by QTC and is discussed in Note 13.

QTC applies a book rate approach in the management of debt and interest rate risk, to limit the impact of market value movements to clients' cost of funding. The book value represents the carrying value based on amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Cairns Regional Council

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

24 National Competition Policy

Significant Business Activities of Council are:

- Cairns Utility Services which manages the water and wastewater activities.
- Cairns Resource Recovery which manages the solid waste activities.

Applying the Code of Competitive Conduct (CCC)

Applying the CCC requires the application of full cost pricing, identifying the cost of Community Service Obligations (CSO) and eliminating the advantages and disadvantages of public ownership within that activity.

The CSO represents an activity's costs, which would not be incurred if the activity's primary objective was to make a profit. The Council provides funding from general revenue to the business activity to cover the cost of providing non-commercial community services or costs deemed to be CSO's by the Council.

Below are the Activity Statements for the Significant Business Activities of which the Code of Competitive Conduct applies for the 2025/26 financial year, as required by Section 35 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

2025/26 Activity Statements

Significant Business Activities	Cairns Water \$'000	Cairns Resource Recovery \$'000
Revenue		
Services provided to Council	11,116	6,674
Services provided to external clients	197,629	51,786
Capital grant income	174,891	-
Community Service Obligations (net of charges)	1,135	1,201
Revenue Total	384,771	59,661
Less: Expenditure		
Employee costs	19,297	7,878
Materials and services	51,763	41,645
Depreciation	47,271	2,204
Other expenditure	6,249	68
Income tax	74,110	2,360
Expenditure Total	198,690	54,155
Surplus/(Deficit) Before Dividend	186,081	5,506

2025/26 Community Service Obligations

Activities	CSO Description	Net Cost \$'000
Water Services	Water Rates Based Financial Assistance	64
	Total	64
Wastewater Services	Sewerage Rates Based Financial Assistance	1,071
	Total	1,071
Resource Recovery Services	Free green waste initiative conducted four times a year	781
	Charity exemptions for waste disposal	194
	Free hazardous waste disposal to prevent incorrect disposals	174
	Recycling services free of charge to schools	41
	In Kind Waste & Recycling Collections	7
	Collection and disposal relating to community clean up events	3
	Donations of buy back shop to charity	2
	Total	1,202

Management Certificate **For the year ended 30 June 2026**

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared pursuant to Sections 176 and 177 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (the Regulation) and other prescribed requirements.

In accordance with Section 212(5) of the Regulation we certify that:

- (i) the prescribed requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Local Government Regulation 2012 for the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
- (ii) the general purpose financial statements as set out on pages 1 to 30 present a true and fair view, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, of Council's and its consolidated entity's transactions for the financial year and financial position at the end of the year.



Amy Eden
Mayor

16 September 2026



Ken Gouldthorp
Chief Executive Officer

16 September 2026

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Councillors of Cairns Regional Council

Report on the audit of the financial report

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Cairns Regional Council (the council) and its controlled entities (the group).

The financial report comprises the consolidated statement of financial position as at 30 June 2026, the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements including material accounting policy information and the certificate given by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer.

In accordance with s. 40 of the *Auditor-General Act 2009*, for the year ended 30 June 2026:

- a) I received all the information and explanations I required.
- b) I consider that, the prescribed requirements in relation to the establishment and keeping of accounts were complied with in all material respects.
- c) In my opinion, the financial report:
 - i. gives a true and fair view of the council's and group's financial position as at 30 June 2026, and of their financial performance for the year then ended
 - ii. complies with the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Local Government Regulation 2012 and Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report* section of my report.

I am independent of the council and group in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code and the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Other information

The council is responsible for the other information.

The other information comprises the information included in the council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2026 but does not include the financial report and my auditor's report thereon.

At the date of this auditor's report, the available other information in the council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2026 was the current year financial sustainability statement and current year financial sustainability statement – contextual ratios and long-term financial sustainability statement.

My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. However, as required by the Local Government Regulation 2012, I have formed a separate opinion on the current year financial sustainability statement.

In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report and my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the council for the financial report

The council is responsible for:

- the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* and the Local Government Regulation 2012, and other prescribed requirements and Australian Accounting Standards, and such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- the establishment and keeping of accounts in accordance with prescribed requirements
- assessing the council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is intended to abolish the council or to otherwise cease operations of the council.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. My auditor's report must state whether I have received all the information and explanations required, and whether I consider the prescribed requirements in relation to the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at:

www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar3.pdf

A further description of my responsibilities under the *Auditor-General Act 2009* and *Auditor-General Auditing Standards* is located at the Queensland Audit Office website at:

www.qao.qld.gov.au/audit-program/audit-standards

These descriptions form part of my auditor's report.



Sri Narasimhan
as delegate of the Auditor-General

18 September 2026

Queensland Audit Office
Brisbane

Cairns Regional Council

Current Year Financial Sustainability Statement – Audited
For the year ended 30 June 2026

Measures of Financial Sustainability

Type	Measure	Target (Tier 2)	Actual Current Year	5-Year Average	Actual Current Year	5-Year Average	Council Narrative
Audited ratios							
Liquidity	Unrestricted Cash Expense Cover Ratio	Greater than 2 months	6.3	5.4	6.4	5.5	Council has sufficient unrestricted liquidity to meet ongoing and emergent financial demands. Council maintains a Working Capital Facility (WCF) of \$120M in order to support its cash flow requirements and as a contingency for emergent events. As at the reporting date, no draw downs had been made. The unused balance of the WCF is a large contributor to this result.
	Operating Surplus Ratio	Greater than 0%	8.1%	2.6%	8.3%	2.7%	The operating surplus ratio is an indicator of the extent to which operating revenues generated cover operational expenses. Council ended the financial year with an operating surplus which can be utilised for capital funding or other purposes.
Operating Performance	Operating Cash Ratio	Greater than 0%	33.4%	30.2%	33.5%	30.3%	A positive cash ratio is generated in order to fund Council capital expenditure requirements.
	Asset Sustainability Ratio	Greater than 60%	79.3%	72.2%	79.3%	72.2%	Over the long term this ratio indicates Council is sufficiently renewing its assets as they reach the end of their useful lives. During the current financial year, the increased deliverability of the capital works program contributed to the favourable movement in this ratio.
Asset Management	Asset Consumption Ratio	Greater than 60%	68.7%	68.3%	68.7%	68.3%	Meeting the target indicates that Council's assets are broadly being consumed in line with their estimated useful lives.
	Leverage Ratio	0 to 4 times	0.5	1.2	0.5	1.1	A ratio below 4 times is an indicator that Council has the ability to repay its existing debt. The reduction in the current year result compared to the long term average reflects the deferral of planned long term borrowings following receipt of additional grant funding for the Cairns Water Security Stage 1 project.

The current year financial sustainability statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Regulation 2012 and the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024. The amounts used to calculate the six reported measures are prepared on an accrual basis and are drawn from Council's audited general purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2026.

Certificate of Accuracy
For the year ended 30 June 2026

This current-year financial sustainability statement has been prepared pursuant to Section 178 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (the regulation).

In accordance with Section 212(5) of the Regulation we certify that this current-year financial sustainability statement has been accurately calculated.



Amy Eden
Mayor

16 September 2026



Ken Gouldthorp
Chief Executive Officer

16 September 2026

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Councillors of Cairns Regional Council

Report on the Current-Year Financial Sustainability Statement

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying current year financial sustainability statement of Cairns Regional Council (the council).

The financial sustainability statement for the year ended 30 June 2026, comprises the statement, explanatory notes, and the certificate of accuracy given by the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer.

In accordance with s. 212 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, in my opinion, in all material respects, the current year financial sustainability statement is accurately calculated in accordance with the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the current year financial sustainability statement* section of my report.

I am independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the statement in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code and the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of matter – basis of accounting

I draw attention to Note 1, which describes the basis of accounting. The current year financial sustainability statement has been prepared in accordance with the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024 for the purpose of fulfilling the council's reporting responsibilities under the Local Government Regulation 2012. As a result, the statement may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Information

The council is responsible for the other information.

The other information comprises the information included in the council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2026 but does not include the financial sustainability statement and my auditor's report thereon.

At the date of this auditor's report, the available other information in the council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2026 was the general-purpose financial statements, current-year financial sustainability statement – contextual ratios, and the long-term financial sustainability statement.

My opinion on the current year financial sustainability statement does not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. However, as required by the Local Government Regulation 2012, I have formed a separate opinion on the general purpose financial report.

In connection with my audit of the financial sustainability statement, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial sustainability statement and my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the council for the current year financial sustainability statement

The council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the current year financial sustainability statement in accordance with the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024 and the Local Government Regulation 2012. The council's responsibility also includes such internal control as the council determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the statement that is accurately calculated and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the current year financial sustainability statement

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the current year financial sustainability statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this statement.

My responsibility does not extend to forming an opinion on the appropriateness or relevance of the reported ratios, nor on the council's future sustainability.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control.
- evaluate the appropriateness of material accounting policy information used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the council.

I communicate with the council regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Sri Narasimhan
as delegate of the Auditor-General

18 September 2026

Queensland Audit Office
Brisbane

Cairns Regional Council

Appendix A

For the year ended 30 June 2026

**THE FOLLOWING REPORT DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.
IT HAS BEEN PROVIDED AS ADDITIONAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION TO ASSIST THE READER
IN THEIR ANALYSIS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.**

Cairns Regional Council

Current Year Financial Sustainability Statement – Unaudited
For the year ended 30 June 2026

Measures of Financial Sustainability

Type	Measure	Actual Current Year	5-Year Average	Actual Current Year	5-Year Average	Council Narrative
Contextual ratios (unaudited)						
Financial Capacity	Council-Controlled Revenue	90.5%	90.3%	90.3%	90.1%	This result is driven by Council's high proportion of rates revenue (82.5%) and fees and charges revenue (7.7%) as a proportion of its total revenue.
	Population Growth	1.5%	1.3%	1.5%	1.3%	Inputs for this ratio are provided by the State. The higher current year result compared to the 5 year average is reflective of economic growth post the COVID-19 pandemic.
Asset Management	Asset Renewal Funding Ratio	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Council is appropriately funding its required capital program as outlined by the Asset Management plans.

The current year financial sustainability statement - Contextual Ratios is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Regulation 2012 and the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024. The amounts used to calculate the three reported measures are prepared on an accrual basis and are drawn from Council's audited general purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2026.

Certificate of Accuracy
For the year ended 30 June 2026

This current-year financial sustainability statement has been prepared pursuant to Section 178 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (the regulation).

In accordance with Section 212(5) of the Regulation we certify that this current-year financial sustainability statement has been accurately calculated.



Amy Eden
Mayor

16 September 2026



Ken Gouldthorp
Chief Executive Officer

16 September 2026

Cairns Regional Council

Long-Term Financial Sustainability (Unaudited)
Prepared as at 30 June 2026

Measures of Financial Sustainability

Type	Measure	Target (Tier 2)	Council	Consolidated	Projected for the years ended (Council)									
			Actuals 30 June 2026	30 June 2027	30 June 2028	30 June 2029	30 June 2030	30 June 2031	30 June 2032	30 June 2033	30 June 2034	30 June 2035		
Financial Capacity	Council-Controlled Revenue	N/A	90.5%	90.3%	92.7%	93.2%	93.4%	93.4%	93.5%	93.5%	93.4%	93.4%	93.5%	
	Population Growth ¹	N/A	1.5%	1.5%	1.3%									
Operating Performance	Operating Surplus Ratio	Greater than 0%	8.1%	8.3%	4.4%	1.3%	2.4%	2.9%	2.9%	2.7%	3.0%	3.1%	3.6%	
	Operating Cash Ratio	Greater than 0%	33.4%	33.5%	29.9%	27.8%	29.2%	29.9%	29.9%	29.6%	29.7%	29.6%	29.8%	
Liquidity	Unrestricted Cash Expense Cover Ratio	Greater than 2 months	6.3	6.4	N/A for long-term sustainability statement									
Asset Management	Asset Sustainability Ratio	Greater than 60%	79.3%	79.3%	97.5%	88.6%	92.6%	94.2%	92.5%	73.5%	75.8%	81.6%	82.3%	
	Asset Consumption Ratio	Greater than 60%	68.7%	68.7%	69.4%	69.9%	70.2%	70.3%	70.3%	70.3%	70.2%	70.2%	70.1%	
Debt Servicing Capacity	Asset Renewal Funding Ratio	N/A	100.0%	100.0%	N/A for long-term sustainability statement									
	Leverage Ratio	0 to 4 times	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	

Notes

1 Council has used the Compound Annual Growth Rate method for calculating this ratio. This method calculates the average annual growth rate over a 10 year period based on the Queensland Government Statistician's Office population projections for the Cairns local government area for period 2026 to 2036.

Cairns Regional Council's Financial Management Strategy

Council aims to operate within a set of conservative guide-posts to ensure we are financially sustainable in the short, medium and long term. As part of our financial strategy, we have the above nine sustainability indicators that have been set by the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers to help monitor the long-term sustainability of all councils across Queensland. Throughout the financial year, these indicators are calculated and reported on monthly at Council meetings, as part of a full suite of financial reports. Should there be any deviation outside these parameters, the executive management and Council will be fully informed and may take corrective action as required. The above ratios have been calculated using Council's most recently adopted budget review.

Certificate of Accuracy
For the long-term financial sustainability statement prepared as at 30 June 2026

This long-term financial sustainability statement has been prepared pursuant to Section 178 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (the regulation).
In accordance with Section 212(5) of the Regulation we certify that this long-term financial sustainability statement has been accurately calculated.



Amy Eden
Mayor
16 September 2026



Ken Gouldthorpe
Chief Executive Officer
16 September 2026

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