With 2015 drawing to a close, this Cairns Regional Community Annual Report provides a close of the achievements by Cairns Regional Council since the start of the year.

**ECONOMY & FINANCE**
- **Council finishes 2014-15 with a year with a $7.6m surplus.**
- **Council delivers modest 1.5 per cent increase in general rates for 2015-16 financial year.**
- **Council axes credit card surcharge on payments.**
- **No increase to Fees and Charges for 2015-16 financial year.**
- **Total number of 141 fees and charges removed from the schedule.**
- **Council adopts a balanced Budget for 2015-16 year.**
- **Council commits to expenditure of $228 million on materials and services.**
- **$670,000 committed to support major sporting events.**
- **$860,000 committed for economic and industry development.**
- **Financial modelling over next 10 years indicates capital expenditure of approximately $1.4 billion and annual rate increase of between 2% and 3.5%.**
- **Urban Spaces program launched which matches new local enterprises with vacant space in Cairns CBD to assist emerging entrepreneurs.**
- **Council commits $2 million in funding for the 2015-16 year to support tourism through Tourism Tropical North Queensland.**
- **$30,000 grant approved to boost economic growth of Great Northern Helicopters Marine services.**
- **$30,000 grant approved to Study Cairns to internationally market Cairns to potential students.**
- **$75,000 allocated to the Babinda Visitor Information Centre and $7,500 to Babinda Coolabah to support economic growth of Babinda.**
- **$10,000 funding to deliver the Tropical Queensland Export in October, bringing 70 international buyers to visit the region.**
- **$10,000 funding to promote Cairns's creative industries, indigenous arts and cultures, tourism opportunities and tropical expertise at the Johor Bahru (Malaysia) Arts Festival.**
- **Council provides sponsorship to the Start-up Business and Innovation Week ($3,000); and of the Tourism Innovation Conference ($10,000).**
- **Council approves approximately 160 Subdivision Plans, creating around 903 new allotments and 98 new Building Format Units.**
- **2,123 building applications approved.**
- **462 development applications assessed.**

**COMMUNITY**
- **Major campaign launched aimed at encouraging responsible pet ownership, reducing dog attacks and nuisance barking.**
- **Council supports visit by RSPCA Educational Mobile Unit to local schools to educate children about dog ownership and their responsibilities.**
- **A suite of 14 new Local Laws and five Subordinate Local Laws submitted to the State Government for preliminary checks before release for public consultation.**
- **Dealt with more than 5,250 animal-related complaints.**
- **Council introduces an “after hours” team aimed at tackling Local Laws compliance issues (noise, illegal camping, animal-related) after usual work hours.**
- **More than 700 tree classes conducted through Active Living program on the Esplanade, attracting over 5,000 attendees.**
- **Council joins the Oal Before You Dig program, providing access to the public about the location of underground pipelines and cables.**
- **New Council website provided, delivering usable and interactive functionality for residents.**
- **Six interpretive panels installed at Trinity Beach to highlight role of the area in World War II for amphibious training.**
- **Council and the Great Barrier Reef Legacy Hub undertake active Reef Monitoring and management.**
- **Prestigious recognition of earning a Trip Advisor “Trip Advisor Hall of Fame” designation.**
- **$700,000 in street lighting upgrades including Lily Street, Abbott St centred Esplanade Kenwi to Charles, Esplanade/Mckinlay St car park; and Sunbird Park.**
- **Major refurbishment of nine pedestrian bridges in Fuller Road, Raggan St, Kolan Cl, Edmonds Cl, Pioneer Cl, Sheridan St and Armit St.**
- **Replacement of Ellis Beach and Korich St pedestrian bridges.**
- **Timber bridge inspection and repair program.**
- **Geotechnical investigations of 12 road bridges which are consisting in the design of 4 bridge replacements.**
- **New toilets at Deeral boat ramp.**
- **$690,000 of footpath renewals undertaken at Humboldt Esplanade, Raggan St, Murray St, Florence St, Sheridan St, Trinity Beach Rd, Daphne St, Golden Grove Ave, Charlotte Cl, Windsor St, Anderson Rd, Fairview St, Smith St, Grove St, Covel Cl, McTurnan St, and Armit St.**
- **15 new DDA compliance bus stops delivered.**

**ROADS, BRIDGES, FOOTPATHS, BUS STOPS, LIGHTING**
- **$7.3 million upgrade to Aurora Millen to widen it to four lanes between Mungar Road and Galston Gateway, improving traffic flow and safety.**
- **$4.5m Suburban Expansion Program, resulting in kerb and gutter installation (new and renewal) in 39 streets and road shoulder sealing in 42 streets.**
- **$15.8m reconstruction of Machans Beach Seawall.**
- **$4.6m road improvement works delivered, including asphalt, resal, minor and major pavement rehabilitation.**
- **Fixed around 2,500 pot holes and minor road defects.**
- **Improvement works undertaken at “Duck Pond” and Swept Gully Reserve at Forest Gardens.**
- **Council offers free bus tours and walking tours undertaken for MLRoc, Spencer, Graham, Abbott and Abbott streets.**
- **Road safety improvements undertaken at Yorke Knob Access Rd, Draper St, Hart Bld, Babaloua McKerrett St, Cartwright Rd, O’Brien Rd, and Mill St.**
- **Sloney Creek Road pathway construction undertaken.**
- **$2,200/200 pathways constructed at Palm Cove.**
- **Combined right hand turn lane / u-turn lane created at Sheridan and Shields Sts and Spencer and Sheridan Sts.**
- **Right hand turn lane created at Foster Road and Forest Gardens beaches.**
- **Level 2 bridge inspections of over 100 road bridges and around 150 pedestrian bridges.**
- **$30,000 in grants distributed to 7 not-for-profit organisations for community events.**
- **$4,800 worth of Arts & Culture In-kind grants allocated.**
- **Changing Lanes Public Art Project in Esplanade Lane launched in 2015, with installation artworks by 6 artists.**
- **Free outdoor movie nights held at Bismarka, Gordonvale and White Rock with more than 1,000 in attendance.**
- **The 2015 Annual Festival of the Arts continued to promote local short film production, with more than 350 attending the awards and screening night at Tanks Arts Centre.**
- **Urban Spaces, an initiative focused on activating vacant CBD spaces with pop-up creative businesses, matched 7 enterprises to vacant spaces.**
- **Two Creative buzz tours promoted Cairns creative industries, promoting 180 arts enterprises through a range of galleries and exhibitions.**
- **Spotlight emerging musicians program presented 10 industry workshops and 44 performance opportunities for 950 participants.**
- **Completed a quantitative assessment of the outcomes and achievements of the 2008-14 Cultural Program Plan.**
- **Development of Conservation Management Plan for Cairns Regional Gallery.**

**DRAINAGE**
- **$9.7m flood mitigation works completed including construction of the 100 mega-lite Moody Creek detention basin at Hamby Drive and lowers stream of the basin.**
- **$340,000 of drainage works in Shaft Street, Edmonton undertaken.**
- **Barron Gorge culvert, McCoomb/Moody St culvert, and Boulders Road culvert completed.**
- **Drainage improvements to Bertiha Road, Bluewater Marina, Russell St, and Munich/Peterson Sts.**
- **$860,000 on stormwater drainraising program.**

**SCIENCE & LEISURE**
- **$22.7 million Tabulam Memorial Pool redevelopment well underway – includes 50m pool built to FINA specifications, an artificial wave rider, a toddler water play area and Interim Aquatic Centre for stage 2 of the pool.**
- **3,3m Green Arrow Walking track completed and opened.**
- **$255,000 in renewal works undertaken for Red and Blue Parks.**
- **Local sports clubs benefited from grants totalling $120,000 through Council’s Go Clubs program.**
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Recruitment Centre completed.
- $100,000 of improvements to Cairns Motorcycle Club Track underway.
- $160,000 upgrades for soccer fields at Jeff Pizzuti Park underway.
- Americks facility constructed at Trinity Beach Tennis Club.
- Hosted two Club Development workshops on Governance and Strategic Planning; and Sponsorship and Financial Management.

WASTE
- Refurbished Re-discovery Education Centre opened at the Materials Recovery Facility, allowing increased capacity to accommodate groups of up to 30 for schools, tertiary, technical and community groups.
- Council approves master planning exercise to upgrade the transfer station network to cater for predicted increase in waste and to maximise resource recovery.
- More than 3,500 representatives of educational institutions, community and special interest groups take part in waste, wastewater, waste and recycling tours and present talks.
- Free green waste program held in April and November yields approximately 3,000 tonnes of green waste from 15,000 vehicles.
- Approximately 1,000 tonnes of mulch given away during free mulch program in May and December.
- Undertook the inaugural Waste Rediscovered Sculpture Exhibition with 10 local artists transforming discarded objects into sculptural works of art.
- Buy Back Shop community open day held to showcase improvements including site layout, new shade sails covering outdoor displays, point-of-sale area, introduction of individual pricing of goods.
- Contract awarded to manage the Portsmith landfill flare gas field operations, enabling carbon accreditation and reduction in emissions.
- CRC awarded the LGM Queensland Risk Management Excellence Award for management of operational and contract risks associated with the management of gas at Portsmith landfill.
- Council endorses purchase of 4 hectares of land adjoining Portsmith Transfer Station as the first stage of the Transfer Station Master Plan.
- Installation of improved glass crushing equipment at the Material Recovery Facility producing higher quality final product.
- Commencement of e-waste (televisions and computers) collections at Portsmith and Smithfield Transfer Stations.
- Commenced sugarcane fertiliser bag collection trial at Portsmith and Gordonvale Transfer Stations.
- 11,400 tonnes of kerbside recycling collected.
- 6,400 tonnes of recoverable material sent for recycling from the Material Recovery Facility.

ROAD & WATER & WASTEWATER
- Road safety improvements undertaken at Yorkeys Knob City Centre footpath and streetscaping upgrades.
- $15.8m reconstruction of Machans Beach Seawall stops, lighting and tanks.
- Arts Centre’s program Tanks.
- Tanks Arts Centre had 6th completed.
- Refurbishment of School of Arts Australia, Brazil, France and the USA.
- Spotlight emerging musicians program provided 4 industry industries by taking 160 arts to vacant spaces.
- Event continued to promote local performances.
- Esplanade, attended by 20,000 Pacific Island Communities Festival.
- Celebrations, UMI Arts Big Talk One.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES
- The new Watkins Munro Martin Conservatory officially opened at City Botanic Gardens.
- Installation and trial of new Tactile Ground Surface Indicators for people with disabilities at the intersection of Abbott and Aplin Streets.
- Relocation of inaccessible pedestrian crossing buttons (20 sets) along Spence Street.
- Installation of new accessible pedestrian crossing points at the intersection of McKee Street and the Esplanade.
- New accessible footpaths throughout the CBD.
- Five new accessible car parks in Lake Street.
- New accessible footpath links in Lyons Street, Westcourt.
- New accessible pedestrian crossing ramps at Balfie St and Mulgrave Rd, Parnatta Park.
- New concrete footpath links on Esplanade between McKenzie and Charles Streets.
- Improvements to Babinda Boulders including carpark, pathway and signage.
- Improvements to open space area at Lake Placid as part of Stage 1 of the masterplan.
- Toilet facility improvements completed at Anzac Park Babinda; and Coolum Beach.
- New fitness trails installed at Ravaiz Park, Woodyard Park, Park, Engineers Park, and Bill Wakeham Park.
- Lighting upgrade to Palm Cove jetty.
- $130,000 landscaping upgrade undertaken at Williams Esplanade, Palm Cove.
- New public toilet block, fitness equipment and playground upgrade at Brinsmead’s Lornard Drive Reserve.
- New BBQ shelter completed at Kewarra Beach.
- Venner Road, Mt Sheridan playground renewal ($39,000).
- Arthur Forno Park, Bayview Heights playground renewal ($45,000).
- Vessey Park, Edge Hill playground renewal ($33,000).
- Pumen Park, Munudna playground renewal ($22,000).
- Idalia Close Park, Mt Sheridan playground renewal ($25,000).
- Tretalgar Road Reserve, Mt Sheridan playground renewal ($37,000).
- Johnson Park, Gordonvale playground renewal ($33,000).
- Deansly’s Guild, Clifton Beach playground renewal ($36,000).
- Edmonds Close Drainage Reserve playground renewal ($31,000).
- Hoad Street Park, Earlville playground renewal ($35,000).
- Esplanade Healing Garden Playground established ($108,000).
- Sunbird Park, Worse playground and new sail ($80,000).
- Redlynch Village Green partial new playground ($30,000).
- Pacific Park Bramble Beach partial new playground ($22,000).
- Down Park, Edmonton playground and sail renewal ($80,000).
- Playground equipment upgrade at Bagipidiani Park, Mt Sheridan; Donovan Close Park, Edmonton.
- $136,000 of upgrades to Muddy’s Playground.
- BBQ replacement at Esplanade North, Glenoma Park Brinsmead; Goomboura Park, Brinsmead; and Kawarra Beach.
- $158,000 of improvements to Bramston Beach Campground underway.
- Carpark upgraded at Half Moon Bay day use area.
- Council endorses Improvement Plan developed for Shang Street Park, Mooobool.
- Upgrade completed at Babinda RV Rotary Park.
- Dog Off Leash Area established at Touch Park, Abergowrie.
- Cleaned and maintained 100 public toilet facilities daily.