

ORDINARY MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2019	3
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CAIRNS YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT OUTCOMES

Sophie Barrett | 50/1/2 | #6213594

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. Notes the outcomes of the Cairns Youth Climate Summit including the Youth Aspirational Statement and ideas for climate action for 2030;**
- 2. Provides the Cairns Youth Climate Summit Summary Outcomes Report to key local industry and business groups and relevant state and federal government bodies; and**
- 3. Utilises the outcomes of the Cairns Youth Climate Summit to help inform Council's future climate policy and actions for 2030.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Cairns Regional Council held a Cairns Youth Climate Summit (The Summit) to provide an opportunity for high school students to help shape climate actions for the region until 2030 as a part of its climate policy and action plan review.

The Summit involved a survey completed by 227 students and a one-day workshop where 35 Student Delegates received education and worked with experts from Council and key related agencies to develop their aspirations and ideas in key action areas.

Student Delegates then had the opportunity to present these at the Student and Industry Leader Panel event to local industry leaders.

Key action areas identified by the Student Delegates included transitioning to:

- 100% renewable energy by 2030;
- greening and shading cities;
- improving the design and efficiency of our buildings to achieve zero emissions buildings;
- supporting the electrification of vehicles and a public transport system powered by renewable energy;
- transitioning to a circular economy;
- working with key industries, including tourism to reduce emissions;
- assisting the reef and rainforest to adapt;
- using nature to capture carbon and enhance natural assets; and
- working with schools and the community on programs and initiatives to educate, reduce emissions, and improve resilience to climate change impacts.

BACKGROUND:

Cairns is fortunate to be located in a region renowned for two world heritage areas, the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics. Council has committed to demonstrating leadership by taking positive action on issues relating to climate change and the natural environment through its key plans and policies.

Community engagement, informing the Cairns Regional Council Corporate Plan 2017-2022, identified the environment, sustainability and liveability as the three most important considerations to meet the needs of the community now and into the future.

The Federal and State governments have a commitment to reducing emissions for Australia. The Federal government, as part of the Paris Agreement, has a target of 26-28 % reduction in emissions on 2005 levels by 2030. The Queensland Government's aim is for 50% emissions reduction by 2030 and zero net emissions by 2050.

Council has its own 50% emissions reduction target on 2007/8 levels by 2020/21. Council is in the initial stages of working on options for a new target and policy for 2030 in this area.

A Cairns Youth Climate Summit was proposed to determine youth aspirations, concerns and ideas to assist in guiding Council's climate policy and actions from 2020 to 2030.

The Cairns Youth Climate Summit included:

- An online survey for students between years 7 to 12 across the Cairns region;
- A one-day Workshop with nominated Student Delegates on 18 October 2019; and
- A Student and Industry Leaders Panel Event held at the Cairns Performing Arts Centre on 13 November 2019.

Council engaged Articulous Consulting to facilitate the workshop, survey and communications, alongside internal Council staff and key representatives from government, industry and the non-profit sector to provide subject-matter expertise to students.

COMMENT:

The Cairns Youth Climate Summit provided an opportunity for high school aged students to help shape climate actions for the region until 2030. It is likely that this was the first council-led youth climate summit in Australia. The outcomes of the Summit are below:

Survey

A survey was delivered to gain insight into the knowledge, ideas, feelings and current personal actions of Cairns students relating to climate change. It was provided to high school principals across the Cairns region to distribute to students, with fifteen schools and 227 students participating. The survey outcomes (Appendix A) were provided at The Summit Workshop to assist the Student Delegates in representing their fellow students' ideas and priorities.

Summit Workshop

35 Student Delegates attended the one-day Summit Workshop, nominated by 14 Cairns high schools, Mossman State School and the Gimuy Walabura Yidindji and Yirrgandji nations.

Students were provided with a digital information pack prior to attending to prepare them for informed discussion on local climate actions. On arrival, they were asked to share their hopes for the future of Cairns which were discussed in a sharing circle with the Mayor.

Students received presentations on climate change and climate action from the Queensland Department of Environment and Science, Wet Tropics Management Authority, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Central Queensland University, Local Government Association Queensland and Council.

Students then explored key action areas for focus sectors aligned with the 2019 United Nations Climate Action Summit, which were facilitated by internal and external subject matter experts. These focus sectors included, infrastructure; transport and cities; powering our future; industry transitions; reef and rainforest resilience; nature-based solutions; and you and your community.

Working in groups and building on each other's ideas, students participated in a world café style engagement exercise to generate ideas. These small group discussions supported the development of group aspirational statements for Cairns to respond to climate change by 2030.

These workshop outcomes are shown in Appendix B and include over 400 ideas, 36 hopes and six group aspirational statements.

Student and Industry Leaders Panel

Following the Summit Workshop, students worked in focus sector groups to refine their key action areas and developed a collective Youth Aspirational Statement for 2030 (Appendix C). This was presented at the Student and Industry Leaders Panel, held on 13 November 2019 at the Cairns Performing Arts Centre.

The aim of the Statement is to help inspire, motivate and unify the Cairns region towards climate change action. Key action areas and top voted ideas were then presented, with a panel of industry leaders responding to discuss current related initiatives in Cairns, the possibilities by 2030 and pathways for collaboration.

KEY ACTION AREAS IDENTIFIED BY YOUTH

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has stated that “limiting global warming to 1.5°C (by 2100) would require “rapid and far-reaching” transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities” and, that “global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide would also need to fall by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching ‘net zero’ around 2050.”

With the degree of climate risk uncertain and one in five Cairns residents under 25, youth are a key stakeholder in working towards a climate resilient future and unlocking the opportunities of a low carbon economy.

Key action areas identified by Student Delegates included:

Powering our future by: transitioning to 100% renewable energy by 2030, increasing use of solar power and alternatives sources of renewable energy, providing incentives for the community and business to transition to renewables, providing renewable energy to an electric public transport system.

Reducing emissions through **infrastructure, cities and transport** by: encouraging the design of sustainable buildings with green facades to cool and enhance our cities, achieve zero emissions buildings, using nature to protect and shade, supporting the electrification of vehicles and providing high vehicle occupancy lanes.

Encouraging **industry transitions** to low emissions by reducing and reusing waste through circular economy initiatives, working with the tourism industry to electrify its operations and modes of transports, reducing boat waste, and supporting key industries towards low carbon energy and emissions reduction.

Improving **reef and rainforest resilience** by assisting nature to adapt, community and youth projects to encourage revegetation in our community and schools, and keeping the community informed about research.

Using **nature based solutions** to capture carbon and enhance our natural assets, providing incentives for farmers, working with the tourism industry and government to fund projects through a tourism levy and improving the resilience of our natural ecosystems.

Working **individually and with the community** to provide education on climate change to encourage climate action in schools and the community, providing incentives and programs to encourage use of public transport, involving the community in being part of the solution through environmental projects and events.

The outcomes of The Summit will be considered in the development of Council's climate policy and actions for 2030.

OPTIONS: (Recommended)

That Council:

1. Notes the outcomes of the Cairns Youth Climate Summit including the Youth Aspirational Statement and ideas for climate action for 2030;
2. Provides the Cairns Youth Climate Summit Summary Outcomes Report to key local industry and business groups and relevant state and federal government bodies; and

3. Utilises the outcomes of the Cairns Youth Climate Summit to help inform Council's future climate policy and actions for 2030.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Risk Management:

A risk assessment was prepared as part of the project plan.

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

The project has been a post budget initiative and has been funded through existing departmental staff and budget allocations.

Many of the low carbon initiatives proposed in the Summit have the potential to improve Council, household and business financial sustainability.

Community and Cultural Heritage:

The 2016 the 'Our Cairns' community engagement identified the environment, sustainability and liveability as the top three most important considerations to meet the community's needs now and into the future. Making the most of renewable energy was considered the second most important complex question for Council to address.

Natural Environment:

A changing climate increases the frequency and consequence of acute natural hazards in the region, and introduces chronic impacts like ocean acidification, alterations of interspecies relationships and the exacerbation of existing threats to flora and fauna. This poses significant threats to the health and resilience of the greater bioregion, encompassing the Wet Tropics Rainforest and Great Barrier Reef.

The Summit provided a platform for students to connect with key agencies and industries responsible for environmental management and reducing carbon emissions - supporting the next generation's skills development to address these climate challenges locally.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

The Summit advances the purpose and vision of the Cairns Regional Council Corporate Plan 2017-2022. In particular, it advances objectives under the Natural Assets, Liveability and Serving the Community strategic goals.

The Cairns 2050 Shared Vision identifies that the preservation and effective management of the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics World Heritage areas must be recognised as a strategic priority of national and global importance if their significant social, community and economic benefits are to be secured for future generations.

Policy:

Council has an Energy and Emissions Management Policy, which is currently being reviewed. The outcomes of the Cairns Youth Climate Summit will help contribute to this review and to the development of climate policy and actions for 2030.

Council's approach to community engagement is set out under the Community Engagement Policy. The policy is based on the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2). The public participation goal for students a part of the Summit was collaboration.

CONSULTATION:

Initial consultation occurred with the Queensland Department of Education, Catholic Diocese of Cairns and local Principals. Results of the survey are shown in Appendix A.

Key internal and external stakeholders were involved as facilitators and presenters for the workshop, including:

- Council representatives from Water and Waste, Planning and Environment, Economic Development and Disaster Management;
- Queensland Department of Environment and Science;
- Local Government Association Queensland;
- Central Queensland University;
- Wet Tropics Management Authority;
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority;
- Terrain Natural Resource Management;
- Committee for Waste Reduction and;
- The Missing Link Resource Coordinators.

The Student and Industry Leaders Panel included representatives from:

- Tourism Tropical North Queensland;
- North Queensland Airports;
- Cairns Chamber of Commerce;
- Citizens Great Barrier Reef;
- Young Entrepreneurs Project and;
- Terrain Natural Resource Management.

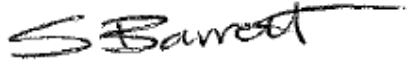
ATTACHMENTS:

Cairns Youth Climate Summit Outcomes Summary:

Appendix A: Outcomes of Cairns Youth Climate Summit Survey

Appendix B: Outcomes of Cairns Youth Climate Summit Workshop 18 October 2019

Appendix C: Outcomes of Student and Industry Leaders Panel 13 November 2019



Sophie Barrett
Strategy and Sustainability Advisor



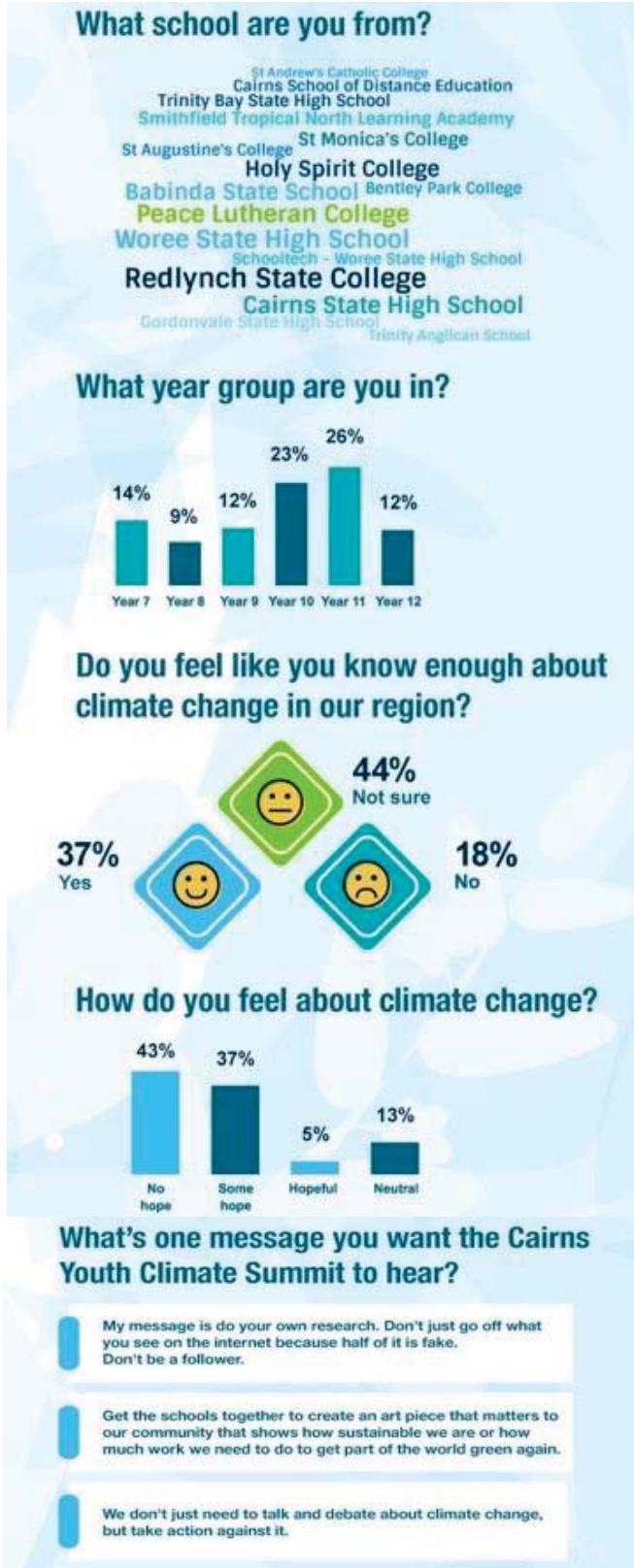
Kelly Reaston
General Manager Planning and Environment

APPENDIX A: OUTCOMES OF CAIRNS YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT SURVEY

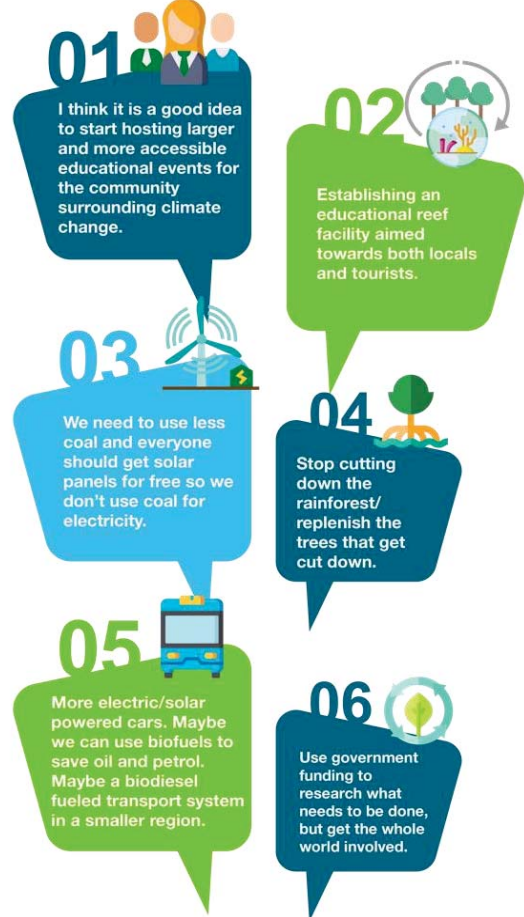
Dates: Open 18 September - 16 October

Distribution: Sent to Cairns' high school Principals to disseminate

Number responses: 227



Do you have a great idea for action?



What actions are you currently taking to help tackle climate change?



APPENDIX B: OUTCOMES SUMMARY CAIRNS YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT WORKSHOP 18 OCTOBER 2019

An infographic summarizing the outcomes of the Cairns Youth Climate Summit. It features a grid of icons and text boxes. The icons include a person with a code symbol, a bar chart, two people, a speech bubble, a person with a lightbulb, a person at a computer, a group of people, a bar chart, a person with a lightbulb, a speech bubble, and a person at a podium. The text boxes provide specific details about each activity and its results.

Pre-summit learnings via a digital kit	Pre-summit learnings via a digital kit to 14 schools	227 responses to the Cairns Youth Climate Change survey
Cairns Youth Climate Change survey - 18 September - 16 October 2019	35 students	
Cairns Youth Climate Summit 18 October 2019	5 expert presentations	36 hopes for the future
Develop one aspirational statement, and presentations on ideas and actions	400 ideas to tackle climate change	6 aspirational statements
		6 group presentations



PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Babinda State School, Cairns School of Distance Education, Cairns State School, Holy Spirit College, Mossman State School, Peace Lutheran College, Redlynch State College, St Andrew’s Catholic College, St Mary’s Catholic College, St Monica’s College, Trinity Anglican School, Trinity Bay State School, Tropical North Learning Academy, Woree State School.

WORKSHOP SUMMARY FILM


https://youtu.be/fZ2hN8_BT0A

Aspirational statements

Our hope is that by 2030, the ideas generated by the youth of Cairns become a reality, and set a high standard for the rest of the country to follow. Ultimately, with the use of advanced, modern technology, we will build a better and brighter future.
Let the future generations live in a beautiful world.

Our hope is that by 2030, Cairns will be a place where everyone feels EMPOWERED, fueled with PASSION, moving forward with OBLIGATION and where everyone can say that we did our BEST. I believe that we CLIMATE CHANGE starts with our own mindsets. Then there must be COMMUNITY.

Our hope is that by 2030, Cairns is regenerating the reef on a massive scale, building more infrastructure in a sustainable manner, running on a majority of renewable energy, as well as recycling and re-using old matter.
The major starting point for all of this is by educating people on climate change and getting people to accept it is a real thing and a big issue.



Our hope is that by 2030, Cairns is fully aware of climate change. We hope to see a city fully powered by renewables and reusables.
Cairns needs to lead by example in Australia. Through environmental projects and fundraisers, Cairns can become a city of the present, driven by the future, with knowledge of the past.

Our hope is that by 2030, Cairns is leading the way in transitioning to a sustainable and climate-conscious future and reality, through incentivised renewable energies. We hope to be surrounded by a beautiful, thriving reef and rainforest.

Our hope is that by 2030 Cairns runs on 100% renewable energy and is using the circular economy to reduce its plastic pollution so nature can restore. This will ensure emerging teenagers have a clean, sustainable and safe future.

STUDENTS' TOP VOTED KEY ACTIONS AREAS BY SECTOR

Powering our future

- 100% renewable energy
- Increased use of solar energy and alternative sources of renewable energy
- Provide incentives to increase community accessibility to renewable energy

Top Ideas

- Battery storage, solar panels compulsory on houses
- Publicly owned renewable energy
- Public transport running on 100% renewable energy

Nature - based solutions

- Preservation of natural areas
- Healthy soils and livestock
- Financial incentives for farmers
- Habitat for animals

Top Ideas

- Exposure in the media
- Use of technological advances to support sustainable farming

Reef and rainforest resilience

- Improve reef resilience
- Improve biodiversity
- Community and youth projects

Top Ideas

- Provide re-vegetation programs for students
- Keep the community informed about research and what they can do
- Save endangered species, establish a seed bank
- Employ more Indigenous people to look after the Reef
- Support 'super corals'

You and your community

- More community environmental projects and events
- Initiatives to reduce transport emissions
- Increased media and education

Top Ideas

- Regular advertising that is innovative and conveys the urgency and risks of climate change
- Regular summits
- Programs that visit schools and hands-on excursions
- Buses running more often, with additional seating and incentives like early bird fares

Infrastructure, cities and transport

- Improving public transport
- Greening our buildings
- Increased use of electric vehicles running on renewable energy
- Using nature to protect and shade the city

Top Ideas

- Use of alternative fuels
- High occupancy priority vehicle lanes
- Energy efficient schools



Industry transitions

- Low carbon energy
- Reducing and reusing waste
- Stopping boat waste
- Electric transport

Top Ideas

- Electric boats and tour buses
- Reuse of construction waste
- Plastics recycling



STUDENT AND INDUSTRY LEADERS PANEL



YOUTH ASPIRATIONAL STATEMENT

“Our hope is that by 2030 Cairns will be a place where everyone feels empowered, fueled with passion and moving forward with obligation. In the midst of this global crisis, we will be the light in the dark, leading by example as we transition to a more sustainable and climate-conscious future.

Climate action must begin with our own mindsets. How can we progress if what we do and say contradict? Without community, any individual effort will be futile.

We hope to see Council transition to 100% renewable energy by 2030 and implement an effective education system that ensures that climate-awareness is not disproportionate in our society.

We are all responsible, but we can all be part of the solution.

Let’s work together to build Cairns into a city of the present, driven by the future, using knowledge of the past.

Let future generations live in a beautiful world.”



STUDENT DELEGATES' FOCUS SECTOR PRESENTATIONS

Infrastructure, transport and cities

“Transport is responsible for almost 20% of emissions. This has to change. The students of Cairns have collected and voted on the ideas they want to see implemented. Chief, among them being a vastly improved, fully electrified public transportation system and policy changes leading to a wider adoption of electric vehicles.

We want to see an electric transport system. Electric buses are being introduced everywhere in the world. Electric buses produce no emissions, virtually no sound, and require significantly less money for operation and maintenance. We can implement e-bikes and scooters. They offer a cost effective solution suitable for Cairns' flat terrain, and we can provide incentives for electric vehicles. Cairns economy is centred around tourism almost entirely. We should present Cairns as green, sustainable and capable of embracing the future. We rely on the natural beauty of the Reef, but at the same time, we are not trying our absolute best to preserve it. How hypocritical of us we have to act now and replace old outdated systems with more modern and efficient vehicles.”

“Climate change is impacting our cities now through the urban heat island effect. The high temperature decreases comfort and increases electricity usage. Cairns economy suffers from this as no one wants to visit a scorching city. Our ideas to address this are increasing vegetation in cities including planting on buildings and using climate sensitive and dynamic architecture. The increased greenery not only contributes to reducing greenhouse gases but displays fascinating scenery in our cities. Moreover, use of heat reflective pathways and roads will cool down the environment. Therefore, tourism will increase as Cairns will be seen as a city of beauty and nature.”

“The Cairns CBD is the busiest part of town filled with countless hotels, restaurants, and shopping centres. However, our buildings are not environmentally friendly and are responsible for considerable amount of emissions. If we transition buildings towards net zero energy, it will improve our air quality substantially. This could start in our schools where this can be the place to set a standard for future generations to follow. Let's take advantage of natural lighting, invest in better cooling options and encourage students to recycle. We are running out of time. Let's all work together to make this change a possibility.”

Powering our future

“The top voted ideas from the workshop were increased use of solar energy, provide incentives and support for initiatives and the use of alternate renewable energy. Currently about 85% of Australia's electricity is produced from fossil fuels. The remaining 15% come from renewable sources and includes 2 million rooftop solar systems on people's homes and businesses. Now that renewable energy is cheaper than fossil fuels, it can be available to all.

Regions such as the Northern Territory have adopted a policy that every new house constructed must have either a solar panels or solar hot water, while some councils are supporting community solar schemes. This can be effectively established within Cairns

and this provides both financial and environmental benefits to the community. Cairns Regional Council now has the ability to support similar initiatives.”

“The Queensland government has a target to reach 50% renewable energy production by 2030 and is aiming to achieve zero net emissions by 2050 local government and business could contribute to this. All set their own targets to purchase renewable energy solutions. The youth desired target is 100% renewable energy for Cairns by 2030. This is not a pipe dream. Numerous local governments in Australia that are already transitioning to achieve this. Cairns promotes itself as a clean and green region and this can be shown in how we power ourselves and our future.”

“The CSIRO Environment Energy and Resources Centre says the coupling of renewable energy with large scale battery storage is a fundamental requirement for an affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy future for Australia. Not only would this provide long-term climate benefits, but it could also supply rural communities with electricity, along with providing local jobs. A modern electricity grid powered by diverse renewable energy and storage can provide secure, reliable, and clean and affordable power and it could become a sustainable way to power our future.”

“An increased use of energy renewables in an efficient and cost effective manner will allow it to become affordable to general households and incentives such as a guaranteed low cost electricity bill or money back after a set period would ensure a positive results. Economic support for families who are struggling can be easily arranged or a support scheme with low interest rates, or rates subsidies and another way is to introduce shared electricity for a neighbourhood or even a street. When you share power amongst a street, it's known as a micro grid which could ensure an even distribution of power, not too much or too little. Cairns has started to take action to encourage the use of renewable energy. The first commercial electric bus arrived in Cairns in April and if we could use this technology towards all public buses in Cairns, it would show a public transport could also run on 100% renewable energy.”

“Our region has an abundance of renewable energy. Now's the time to harness it. With these targets in mind, we can reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and reduce our contribution to climate change. Together, we can have certainty as a region of where we are going and track our progress in comparison to other regions. Students want 100% renewable energy. There are experts showing us how it can be done and local leaders can help us enable this to happen right here in Cairns.”

Industry transitions

“Businesses and industries in Cairns are responsible for 44% (of electricity) emissions. Our idea is to reduce this, including a focus on energy and efficient transport such as electric buses and reef boats (running on renewable energy). Using construction waste and sustainable farming techniques and finally, implementing smart water saving solutions”.

“Cairns tourism industries have a major impact in our economy alongside the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics Rainforest. To maintain the quality of our natural wonders, we've identified the following opportunities: no single use plastics on our reef fleets and having facilities on land to accommodate proper disposal of human waste, decreasing the waste in our coastal waters.”

“Our ideas aim to help industries to transition to circular economy. Ideas that were generated include establishing plastic free canteens with biodegradable packaging, reinforcing green cards to encourage members of the public to purchase low carbon products and shifting Cairns to a low carbon economy. And finally, introducing additional vehicle charging stations to reduce reliance on petrol.”

Reef and rainforest resilience

“One of our top idea clusters was mitigating impacts on the Reef. We want to eliminate single-use plastics, employ more Indigenous Rangers and promote super corals. Even though we only use single-use plastics once they last forever. The plastic bag ban and Molly Steer's Straw No More campaign can demonstrate just how much support there is and that plastic is a pressing issue. Cairns can use these initiatives as stepping stones to make plastic a thing of the past. We also want to employ more Indigenous Rangers to protect the Reef, since they offer such unique knowledge and skills. We should also utilize the adaptive abilities of some corals to create more resilient super corals that can better tolerate heat stress. However, super corals on their own, no matter how super, will not save us. We need to change our plastic habits and help our environment cope if we want to avoid the climate catastrophe.”

“The Daintree Rainforest is the heart and soul of the Australian Wet Tropics. It's home to some amazing fauna and flora, but this might all change because climate change is threatening it. It is predicted that 80 species will lose over half their present habitat with only a one degree temperature increase, but we won't let this happen. To all the principals and teachers out here tonight, with your help, we can improve the health of the region and let me tell you, it won't be that hard. Here's a few ideas for you: by providing revegetation projects for your students. This can aid the natural habitats around your school. You can even go beyond this and partner with groups like the Wet Tropics and take students on tree planting field trips to the Daintree. This would increase the diversity of the region. School communities need to come together and influence change.”

“Our top voted clusters included: sustainable marketing of our oceans and rainforests, increasing climate awareness in our community and realizing the power of the individual. In today's society, we are continually bombarded with bullets of pessimism, which only perpetuate the cycles of fear and insecurity. Although we are all responsible, we can all be part of the solution. We believe that an informed community is a proactive community. We want everyone in our community, not just schools, to have climate action at the forefront of their thinking. We want to see everyone well-informed and obligated with the differences they can make in our world. Let's work together as a Cairns community to transition towards a sustainable future. Because we will fight for our oceans. We will fight for our world, and we will act now.”

Nature - based solutions

“The climate is changing. Pollution is increasing and most are turning to technology to solve the world's problems. This in theory is no issue, however many answers lie within the already existing ecosystem in which we live. Nature - based solutions are crucial for positive climate action. Nature's ability to store carbon within trees, soils, oceans and wetlands while reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is immense. So why are

we not focusing on these solutions? This is the most biodiverse state in Australia. So let us set an example and dive into nature based solutions.”

“To preserve the land in which we live, while lowering our carbon emissions, solutions such as mangrove protection and restoration, planting trees and creating habitat corridors are just some of our options. When preserving and restoring mangroves, we protect our ecosystems while creating an environment where carbon emissions are lowered, planting trees, lowers carbon emissions, and if implemented correctly, wildlife corridors can be created to preserve fauna”

“Agriculture is more than relevant within our region and working with farmers to implement natural solutions is crucial in our steps forward to meet our 2030 goals. Working with farmers can improve soil health, improved soil health means greater crop yields as well as higher carbon storage potential and lower carbon emissions. So how do we make these solutions a possibility?”

“Financial incentives act as a lever to implement these solutions and the Australian carbon farming initiative is a great start on a national level. However, local financial incentives could include a tourism levy where funds go into supporting nature-based solutions and supporting sustainable farming practices.”

You and your community

“In order to get the community involved and inspire others to take climate action education programs need to be implemented that visit schools. These programs can teach students how to reduce their carbon footprints, reduce waste and improve environmental awareness. Implementing regular community tree planting days, beach cleanups and monthly rubbish pickup days. Also for the wider community financial support and an incentive for everyone to transition to renewable energy and switch to energy efficient appliances. These programs and ideas will help create a strong sense of community and build a clearer and brighter future for Cairns.”

“Another method of climate friendliness is reduction of transport emissions. We can reduce transport emissions by encouraging car-pooling in the community and having high occupancy vehicle lanes, where if you have more than two passengers, the car gets a fast priority lane. Another method of reducing carbon emissions is to have more buses running and to encourage people to take buses. We could introduce incentives like early bird fares and add more seats to meet demand. The last point is to have more ride to work days with more people riding bikes, so it would be a fewer cars on the road, reducing the carbon emissions.”