

**ORDINARY MEETING**

29 APRIL 2026

**5.1****CEO MONTHLY REPORT**

EO | 93/1/2 | #7852971

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council notes:

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

**Outstanding Council Resolutions**

Since the previous reporting period 24 resolutions have been completed, leaving 11 open resolutions. See below table:

Date of Meeting	Type of Meeting	Report Title	Directorate
23/07/2025	Ordinary	Prejudicial Matter - Infrastructure Agreement Between Cairns Regional Council and PPNQ Developments Pty Ltd for the discretionary waiver of levied charges for Catalytic Development Under the development and investment incentive support policy for tourist attraction and tourist park at 4L AND 900L Captain Cook Highway, Kewarra Beach – Division 9 <i>Advice provided to Developer confirming that the Change Application needs to be finalised before IA can be signed.</i>	PGS
26/11/2025	Ordinary	Contract 3011 – Waste and Recycling Kerbside Collection Services <i>Negotiations with the selected contractor ongoing</i>	CIA
11/02/2026	Ordinary	Contract 3018 Tenure Arrangement for Tobruk Pool - Lease H & K, Part of Lot 317 SP244364 370 Sheridan St North Cairns <i>In progress: Lease in the process of being finalised prior to hand over on April 18. Officers are currently working with the outgoing and incoming lessee's with regard to transition of management.</i>	LC
25/02/2026	Ordinary	Reef Eye Ferris Wheel - New Tenure Arrangement <i>In progress: Preston Law engaged to prepare lease document; interim permit #7828899 issued in the meantime. Lessee to submit DA. New wheel expected to arrive in Australia towards the end of year. New lease will commence to coincide with arrival of new wheel.</i>	LC
25/3/2026	Ordinary	Council to Chief Executive Officer Delegations <i>In progress</i>	POP

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Type of Meeting</b>	<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Directorate</b>
25/3/2026	Ordinary	Proposed Infrastructure Agreement Between Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited T/A Ports North and Cairns Regional Council – Transport Infrastructure (Cook Street Bridge) – 2-48 Cook St, Portsmith – Division 5 <i>In accordance with the resolution of 27 March 2026, on 2 April 2026, Officers provided Ports North with the final version of the Infrastructure Agreement (IA) for execution. Officers are awaiting this document to be returned to Council before finalising this matter.</i>	PGS
25/3/2026	Ordinary	Contractual Matter – Contract 3006 – Residual Waste Disposal	CIA
15/4/2026	Ordinary	Cairns Celebrates 150 Years – Distribution of Promotional Stickers <i>Workshop scheduled for 6 May 2026 for further discussion.</i>	EO
15/4/2026	Ordinary	Security Cairns Housing Foundations Plan – Residential Activation Fund Round 2 Application <i>In progress</i>	EDA
15/4/2026	Ordinary	Community Partnerships Grant – Out of Round Applications <i>In progress</i>	LC
15/4/2026	Ordinary	Disposal of a Valuable Non-Current Asset being part of Lot 1 on RP721342, Marshall Street, Machans Beach – Division 8 <i>In progress</i>	PGS

## **CEO Monthly Update**

### **Monthly Activity Review – March 2026**

#### **Sewer Main Break Repair – Brinsmead Road**

At 6.15pm Saturday April 11, Council's after-hours response received notification of a sewer main break along Brinsmead Rd near Freshwater Creek. The sewer main was a section of 250mm AC sewer main installed in 1986. The recent rainfall and wet weather had caused some erosion of the creek bank exposing the main and weakening its protection.

The Wastewater Reticulation team responded to the call, quickly isolating the section of main to minimise the risk of impact to the creek and surrounding environment. In recognition of the potential risk to the public accessing the popular creek signage was erected immediately and public notification followed early the next morning.

The repair to the main occurred over the weekend concluding Sunday afternoon with further back stabilisation works continuing through to Tuesday April 14. The site was difficult to access with the proximity to the creek adding further complications.

Environmental officer attended the site from Sunday morning and took multiple environmental water samples over consecutive days. Results from this testing

confirmed the creek was back to safe conditions for the access restrictions to be removed by 5.30pm Wednesday April 15.



## **Fuel Security**

There is a four level plan in place, aligned to the National Fuel Security Plan, to manage the current fuel and associated fuel impacts from international geopolitical tensions:

- Level 1: Business as Usual
- Level 2: Monitor & Prepare (current state)
- Level 3: Targeted Action
- Level 4: Protect Critical Services

To date, the primary impact on Council has been escalation in costs, supply management and forward planning if the matter escalates.

Supply management includes sourcing some critical materials (e.g. PVC pipe for water sewerage repairs), responding to supplier price variation on a case by case basis and identifying critical materials. Limited supply and escalating price has the potential to impact on the timing and scale of some routine scheduled works (e.g. road re-sealing).

Significant planning continues to be undertaken to ensure Council is prepared should the situation escalate to Level 3.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Monthly Activity Review – March 2026

DM#[7852974](#)

Ken Gouldthorp  
Chief Executive Officer

# Monthly Activity Review

93/1/2 | #7852971 / #7852974

## March 2026

The data contained within this review relates to the following:

- Community and Civic Events
- Volunteering
- Vandalism costs
- Cairns Infrastructure and Assets Customer Requests
- Planning Growth and Sustainability Updates
- Major Projects and Initiatives
- Economic Development and Advocacy Highlights
- Economic Snapshot

**Ken Gouldthorp**  
Chief Executive Officer

# Community and Civic events

## International Women's Day Awards 2026

**Date:** 7 March 2026

**Venue:** Cairns Central Shopping Centre  
– Centre Stage

**Attendance:** 275

**Time:** 6:30pm – 9:30pm

**Purpose:** Held as part of International Women's Day, the awards honour women and girls whose resilience, contribution and leadership have helped shape Cairns' past, present and future.

Presented in partnership with Cairns Central, the event transformed Centre Stage into a glamorous event featuring a fashion catwalk, gourmet dining and all-female line-up of local entertainment.

## Citizenship Ceremony

**Date:** 19 March 2026

**Venue:** Cairns Performing Arts Centre

**Attendance:** 552

**Time:** 10:00am – 12:00pm

**Purpose:** Cairns Regional Council citizenship ceremonies formally welcome new Australian citizens into the local community. The ceremonies celebrate the commitment individuals have made to Australia and recognise the cultural diversity that strengthens Cairns, while marking an important milestone as new citizens are welcomed as active members of the community. Delivered on behalf of the Department of Home Affairs.



275 people



552 people



# Employment Pathways

## CRC is currently supporting

- **31** apprentices undertaking training to earn their trade in: electrical, horticulture, plumbing, mechanical, fitting & turning
- **6** trainees building their skills in business, live production/technical services, water operations and ICT.

## 2026 Intake update

Group #2 of the Intake commenced on the 3th of April rounding out the new apprentice and trainee cohort. Of the seven new starts, six are First Start Funded trainees under the state governments Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. They are undertaking roles in:

- ✓ 6 x business traineeships - Certificate 3 in Business
- ✓ 1 x ICT traineeship – Certificate 3 in Information and Communication Technology

The trainees commenced with the new two-day onboarding program that included meeting external industry stakeholders, a Learning Needs Analysis, Program overview, morning tea with supervisors, wellbeing & safety, council business overview and organisational structure.



(L-R): Marc, Ryder, Harry, Molly, Summer, Izzy

# Volunteering

January, February & March 2026

## Creative Venues Volunteers

Creative Life Volunteers participate as Home Library Services & Libraries' School Holiday Program Assistants and Tank 4 Gallery Attendants. CPAC does not utilise Volunteers.

Month	Tank 4 Gallery*	Libraries*	Special Events*	**Annual volunteer replacement cost
Mar 2026	51	26	0	\$3,683
Feb 2026	33	29	0	\$2,822
Jan 2026	39	19	0	\$2,774

\* Number of Active volunteer hours

## Green Space Our Place Volunteers

GSOP Volunteers actively participate in Little Taccas, Stratford Nursery, Sugarworld and Cairns Botanic Gardens, Cattana, Arrow tracks, Parks & Reserves and Tanks Heritage Tours.

Month	Number of Active Volunteers (cumulative total)	Volunteer Hours	**Annual volunteer replacement cost
Mar 2026	425	1,552	\$74,247
Feb 2026	422	1,101	\$52,671
Jan 2026	417	1,021	\$48,844

## Animal Care & Education Centre Volunteers

ACE Volunteers actively participate in Canine Companions, Cat Cuddlers and Education.

Month	Number of Active Volunteers (cumulative total)	Volunteer Hours	**Annual volunteer replacement cost
Mar 2026	32	47	\$2,248
Feb 2026	31	45	\$2,152
Jan 2026	12	16	\$765

\*\*Calculation of the Values \$ per year all ages via the [Volunteer Calculators – Volunteering Queensland](#) (Aust Accounting Standard (AASB1058) Income of Not-For-Profit Entities. Methodology – the replacement cost of a volunteer is calculated using the average hourly part-time wage of a person of their age in QLD, plus 15% employer on-costs (inc of super, payroll tax and admin expenses).

# Council Assets – Vandalism Costs

<b>2025/26 VANDALISM &amp; GRAFFITI COSTS</b>	<b>MARCH</b>	<b>MARCH YTD</b>
<b>Business Area</b>	<b>(\$'000)</b>	<b>(\$'000)</b>
Facilities Maintenance	5	83
Community Spaces	23	328
Works	32	133
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>544</b>

# Cairns Infrastructure and Assets

## Customer Requests – March 2026



**194**

Footpaths and  
cycleways



**55%**



**312**

Roads and road  
furniture



**33%**



**53**

Graffiti removal



**13%**

*Percentages indicate movement on last month.*

# Planning, Growth & Sustainability

## Recommencement of Illegal Camping Patrols

Council's Illegal Camping Patrols recommenced this week, with early results demonstrating the effectiveness of a visible compliance presence. On the first day of patrols (Tuesday), officers identified 21 campers at the Stratford boat ramp. Following engagement and enforcement actions, the site was rechecked on Thursday, with no campers observed.

This highlights the value of a consistent on-ground presence in encouraging compliance and resolving issues in a timely manner. Patrols will continue to be undertaken across known locations to help manage illegal camping and support appropriate use of public spaces.



## Council Approves Key Residential Development Enhancing Housing Supply

Council resolved at its Ordinary Meeting on 25 March 2026 to approve a development proposal for the site located at the corner of Reed Road and Navigation Drive, Trinity Park.

The approval enables the subdivision of the site into two lots. One lot will accommodate a medium density residential development comprising 70 units across 3-unit types, supported by integrated open space and recreational areas, with primary access via Derwent Street. The second lot is intended for future commercial development fronting Reed Road and is currently under assessment by Council Officers.

This development contributes to increased housing diversity and supply within a well-connected location suited to higher density living, given its frontage to two major transport corridors and strong access to public transport. The proposal demonstrates a high standard of built form and urban design, aligning with Council's objectives for sustainable and well-planned growth.



# Planning, Growth & Sustainability

## Clean Energy, Empowered Communities – Business Forums and Survey Outcomes

As part of the Local Government Association's Queensland Council Energy Partnerships (QCEP) *Clean Energy, Empowered Communities* program, Cairns Regional Council delivered two targeted business forums and associated surveys between September 2025 and March 2026 to support local and regional businesses in the energy transition.

The first forum, *The Energy Advantage*, was held on 11 September 2025 as a hybrid event and focused on practical energy cost reduction and electrification opportunities for businesses. Presentations included cleaner and cheaper energy solutions, real-world business case studies, and insights from regional councils and industry partners. A post-event business survey highlighted strong interest in reducing energy costs and improving resilience, while identifying barriers such as upfront costs and limited confidence in navigating procurement and tender processes.

Building on this feedback, the second forum, *Tenders, Energy Savings and Jobs for Sustainable Success*, was delivered on 27 February 2026 in partnership with the Cairns Chamber of Commerce. This sold-out event featured a hands-on tender readiness workshop, advice on business electrification, insights into future workforce needs in renewable energy and critical minerals with presentation from TAFE Queensland, an EV bus tour and presentation provided by Tropic Wings and an exclusive site visit to CleanCo Queensland's Barron Gorge Hydroelectric Station. A second business survey demonstrated increased confidence in tender readiness, improved understanding of renewable energy supply chain opportunities, and strong interest in skills and training pathways. Collectively, the forums and surveys strengthened business capability and will inform Council's future engagement approach. This State Government Funded program assisted Council to support local participation in Queensland's energy transition.



Local business representatives at workshop on Tender Readiness for renewable and major projects.



CleanCo Barron Gorge Hydroelectric Station tour.

# Major Projects & Initiatives

## March 2026



### Resource Recovery 2040 Roadmap

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

### Cairns Water Security Stage 1

- 5ML Clear Water Storage has been prepared for commencement of internal coating.
- Concrete pours for Jones Rd pit have now commenced following major pipe cut-ins to existing trunk mains.
- Works to install the pipes uphill to the 8ML reservoir have now commenced. This will start with pouring concrete bulkheads to support the pipelines.
- A Try Skills Day was held in collaboration with Construction Skills Qld on site for two local secondary schools.



### Smart Water Meter Project

- 40,000 + smart water meters installed, out of 55,000 scope
- SWM project rollout team installed 54 meters last month
- Potential leaks are being identified by the new smart water meters and customers contacted accordingly

# Economic Development & Advocacy

## Highlights – March

### Economic Development

- Councillors and key staff toured James Cook University's new Yeinie Building (formerly known as the Cairns Tropical Enterprise Centre) on 17 March 2026 to better understand the facility and its capability.
- Economic Development attended the Fiji-Australia Business Forum on 27 March.

### Major Events & Film

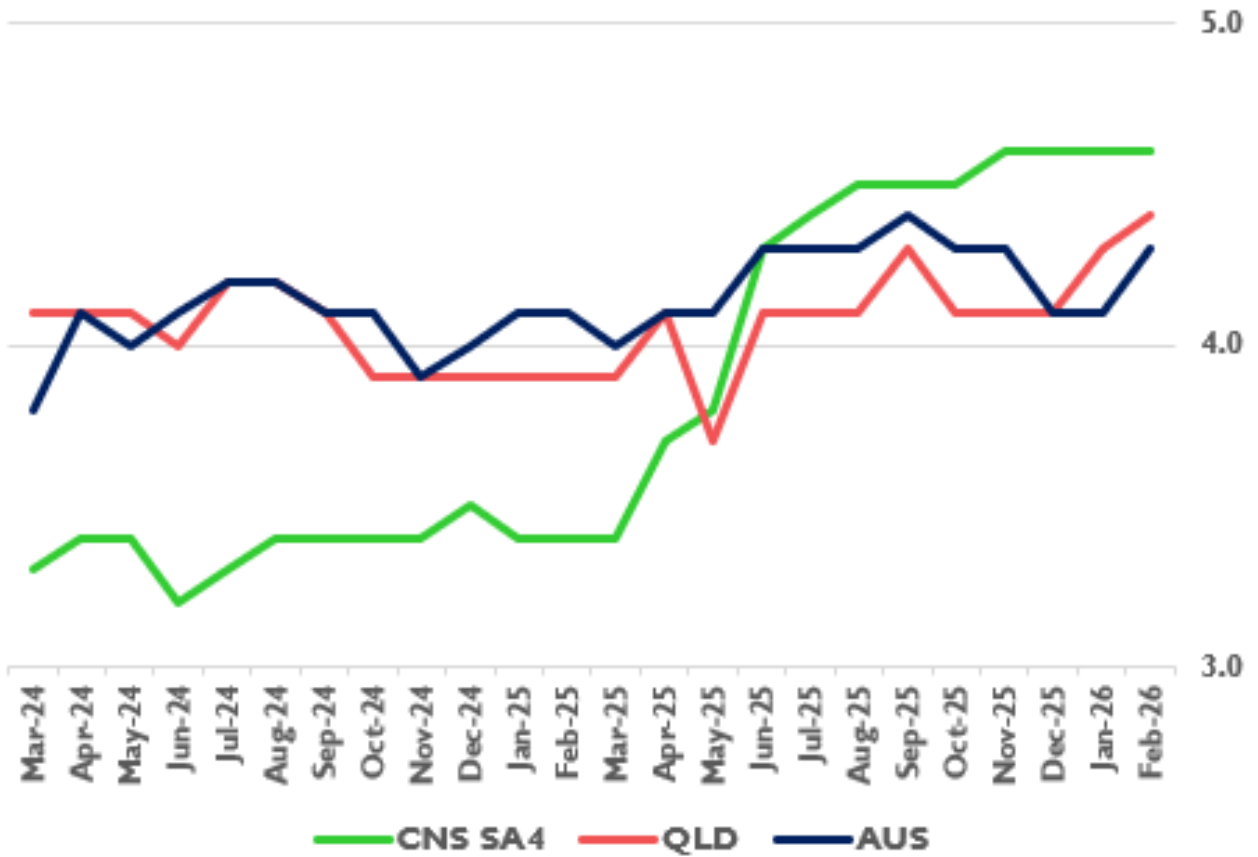
- **2032 Games Roadmap for Cairns** – broad stakeholder consultation and 'have your say' survey closed on 11 March 2026.
- **In the Frame Screen Practitioners Forum** - Council supported Screen Queensland's in the Frame Screen practitioners forum held at Screen Queensland's studio's on 17 March 2026. The event saw national commissioners, key network decision makers and local creatives come together to learn the latest industry insights and trends shaping Australia's screen landscape. Approx 120 people attended the Forum, which was its second year being hosted here in Cairns.
- **Black Snow** - Screen Queensland has revealed that Season 3 of the ever-popular Stan Original Series Black Snow will commence filming in Cairns this April. This production by Goalpost Pictures will be the largest series filmed in Cairns to date at the Screen Queensland Studios and on location across the region. A production which is estimated to contribute \$11.2M to the local economy while employing around 135 cast and crew. Starring Travis Fimmel, the production will deliver strong economic and employment benefits to Cairns while showcasing the the region's stunning locations to the world.

### Advocacy

- The Advocacy team has led the coordination of Council's Round 2 Residential Activation Fund application, ensuring it is finalised and ready for submission ahead of the 24 April closing date.

# Economic snapshot

## 2-year unemployment rate trend (%)



### Most recent unemployment rates

	Dec-25	Pre COVID Dec-19
<b>Cairns LGA</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	4.3%
	Feb-26	Pre COVID Dec-19
<b>Cairns SA4 Region</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	4.8%