

ORDINARY MEETING

27 MAY 2026

5.1**CEO MONTHLY REPORT**

EO | 93/1/2 | #7874291

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes:

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

Outstanding Council Resolutions

Since the previous reporting period 28 resolutions have been completed, leaving 13 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
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	Contractual Matter – Contract 3006 – Residual Waste Disposal <i>In progress</i>	CIA
29/4/2026	Ordinary	Opportunities to Enhance Engagement with Pacific Island Nations & Tradelinked Cairns Incorporated Resource and Performance Agreement <i>In progress</i>	EDA
29/4/2026	Ordinary	Council to Chief Executive Officer Delegations <i>In progress</i>	POP
29/4/2026	Ordinary	Prejudicial Matter - Support for Major Event <i>In progress</i>	EDA

Date of Meeting	Type of Meeting	Report Title	Directorate
29/4/2026	Ordinary	Prejudicial Matter - Project Launch Approvals: 601268 Bayview 1 Reservoir Roof Replacement and 601271 Brinsmead Reservoir Roof Replacement <i>In progress</i>	CIA
13/5/2026	Ordinary	Liquor Licensing, Gaming Machine Licensing and Adult Entertainment Permits – General Policy <i>In progress</i>	PGS
13/5/2026	Ordinary	Peninsula Arts Educators Association 2026-30 Resource and Performance Agreement <i>In progress</i>	LC
13/5/2026	Ordinary	Cairns and District Junior Eisteddfod Association Inc. 2026-2030 Resource and Performance Agreement <i>In progress</i>	LC
13/5/2026	Ordinary	Submission to the Australian Government's Office for The Arts, to inform the Development of the next National Cultural Policy <i>In progress</i>	LC
13/5/2026	Ordinary	Amendment to Declaration of Service Areas (Water and Sewerage) <i>In progress</i>	CIA

CEO Monthly Update

Monthly Activity Review – April 2026

Securing Cairns Housing Foundations

Like many communities around Australia, Cairns is currently experiencing severe housing shortages with rental vacancy rates consistently less than 1% a clear indication of an extremely tight rental and housing market. Housing affordability is also an issue, with median rents and house prices rising by 65% and 84% respectively over the five-year period to 2025. Addressing immediate housing shortages and improving housing affordability is a multifaceted challenge that requires interventions from all levels of government, the development industry and other stakeholders.

Cairns Regional Council's Securing Cairns Housing Foundations Plan aims to help address this housing challenge. Unanimously endorsed by Council, the Plan seeks to accelerate new housing supply in the Mount Peter Southern Growth Corridor by bringing forward corridor land use and infrastructure planning through a Priority Development Area (PDA) process and securing tripartite government funding for the delivery of the critical infrastructure (water, sewer, transport etc) needed to support housing development.

On 18 May 2026, the Federal Government announced \$110 million in funding (which the Queensland Government will match) and an \$80 million concession loan for enabling infrastructure in the Mount Peter PDA. This funding announcement follows the declaration of the Mount Peter PDA by the Queensland Government in July last year. The announcement appears to aligns with Council's advocacy ask under the

Securing Cairns Housing Foundations Plan and follows a similar tripartite funding approach adopted previously for the Cairns Water Security Stage 1 Project. Further detail on the funding arrangements is expected to be available over the coming weeks and Council Officers will continue to work collaboratively with representatives of Economic Development Queensland (EDQ) and other stakeholders on these matters.

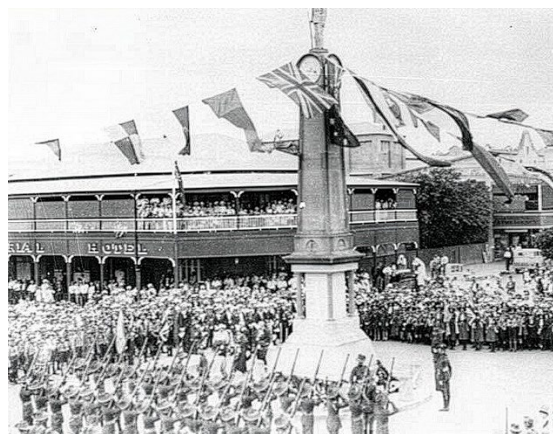
This positive outcome has been achieved through a unified and collaborative approach to advocacy including strong support from local State and Federal members of parliament and external agencies and stakeholders including Advance Cairns, the Cairns Chamber of Commerce, FNQROC, RDA Tropical North, Tourism Tropical North Queensland, UDIA and development industry representatives.

Anzac Day Dawn Service

The Anzac Day Dawn Service was held on 25 April 2026 at the Cairns Esplanade Cenotaph, attracting an estimated attendance of 2,500–3,000 people between 5:30am and 9:30am. Commemorating 100 years of the Cairns Esplanade Cenotaph, the service was delivered in partnership with the Cairns RSL Sub-Branch. Following the Dawn Service, the annual Anzac Day Parade marched from Fogarty Park to the Cairns Esplanade Cenotaph. To further acknowledge 150 years of military service in Cairns, a special High Tea was held on the Cairns Esplanade following the march.

Anzac Day Regional Events

Anzac Day Regional Events were held on 25 April 2026 across various locations including Stratford, Trinity Beach, Yorkey's Knob, Edge Hill, Edmonton, Gordonvale and Babinda, with attendance varying between 500 and 2,500 people at each event. Services were conducted at varying times between 4:30am and 11:30am. Cairns Regional Council provides grant funding to seven regional RSL Sub-Branches to support the delivery of Anzac Day services across the Cairns Local Government Area. Council funding ranges from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per event, depending on the size of the service and anticipated attendance, totalling approximately \$53,000 in annual funding support.



Smithfield Library Opening

The Smithfield Library Grand Re-Opening took place on Friday 17 April with more than 400 community members coming along to celebrate the occasion and share in the beautifully refreshed space.

There has been strong community interest and immediate engagement with the new space to date. On the first day of opening, the branch recorded 580 people through the doors; 1,157 loans; and 25 new member sign-ups; demonstrating both demand for the upgraded facility and the value of the enhanced customer experience.



ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Monthly Activity Review – April 2026
DM#[7874309](#)

Ken Gouldthorp.

Ken Gouldthorp
Chief Executive Officer

Monthly Activity Review

93/1/2 | #7874291 / #7874309

April 2026

The data contained within this review relates to the following:

- Community and Civic Events
- Major Events
- L&C Special Event
- City Safe
- 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

Anzac Day

Date: 25 April 2026

Venue: Cairns Esplanade Cenotaph

Attendance: 2,500 – 3,000

Time: 5:30pm – 9:30am

Purpose: Commemorating 100 years of the Cairns Esplanade Cenotaph, the Anzac Day Dawn Service was delivered in partnership with the Cairns RSL Sub-Branch. Following the Dawn Service, the annual Anzac Day Parade marched from Fogarty Park to the Cairns Esplanade Cenotaph. To further commemorate 150 years of military service in Cairns, a special High Tea was held on the Cairns Esplanade following the march.

Anzac Day Regional Events

Date: 25 April 2026

Venue: Various locations: Stratford, Trinity Beach, Yorkey's Knob, Edge Hill, Edmonton, Gordonvale and Babina.

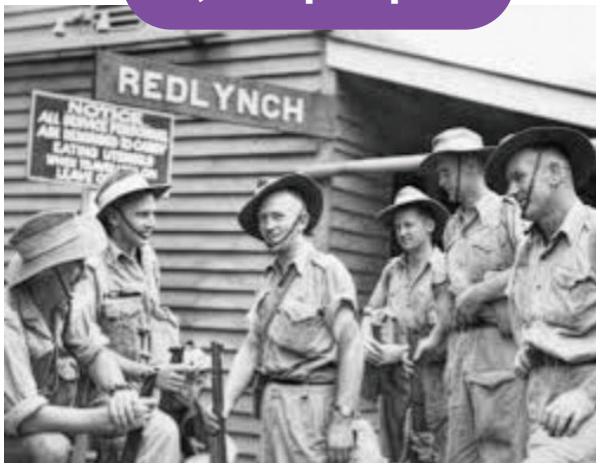
Attendance: Varies across each event from 500 – 2,500.

Time: Varies across each event, between 4:30am – 11:30am.

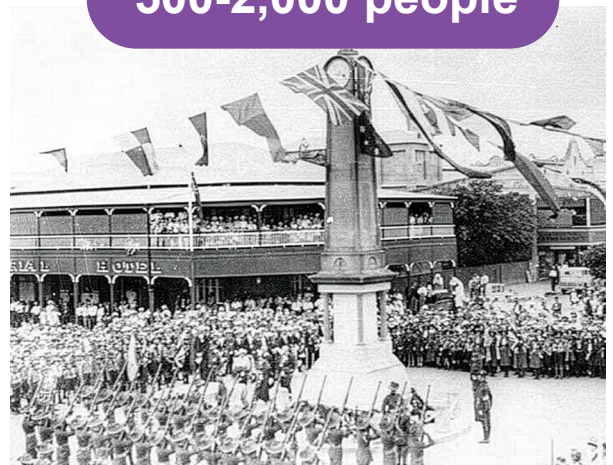
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2,500 people



500-2,000 people



Community and Civic events

Citizenship Ceremony

Date: 10 April 2026

Venue: Cairns Performing Arts Centre

Attendance: 525

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.



Supporting the Community

My Cairns App

An updated version of the My Cairns App was released 5 December 2025. Latest features include property-specific information including storm surge zones and a Council news feed.

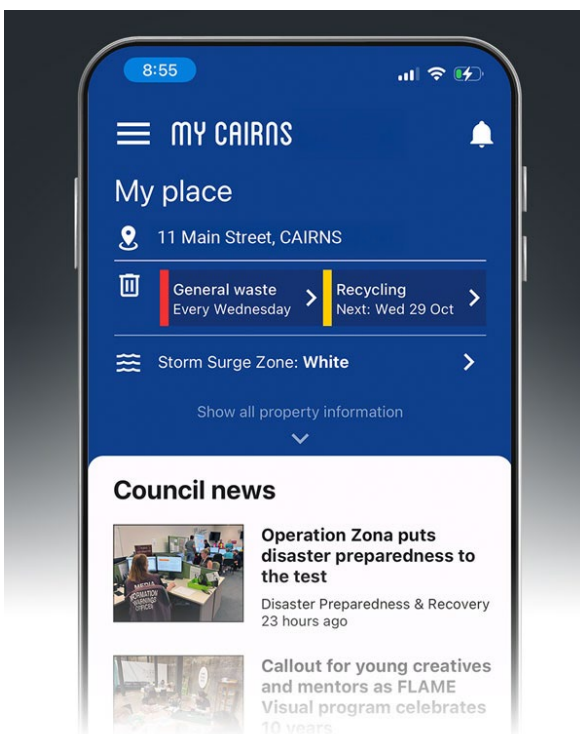
April visits were significantly lower than usual, likely a combination of Easter, school holidays and no push notifications to users.

Active users April	7,989
Recycling information	891
Storm surge	517
Water restrictions	221

Top news articles	
Sewage leak in Freshwater Ck	294
Council seizes dogs	289
Easter services	288

Top things to do	
Walking tracks	40
Markets	38
Free fitness	34

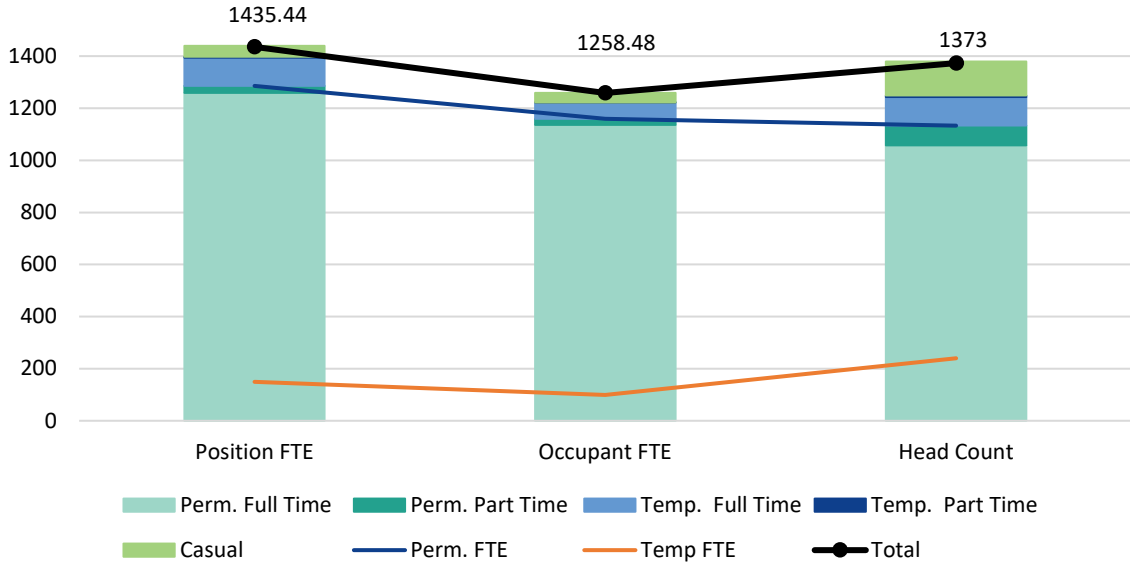
Top menu items	
Jobs at Council	950
Arrivals/ departures	550
Council website	526



Workforce profile

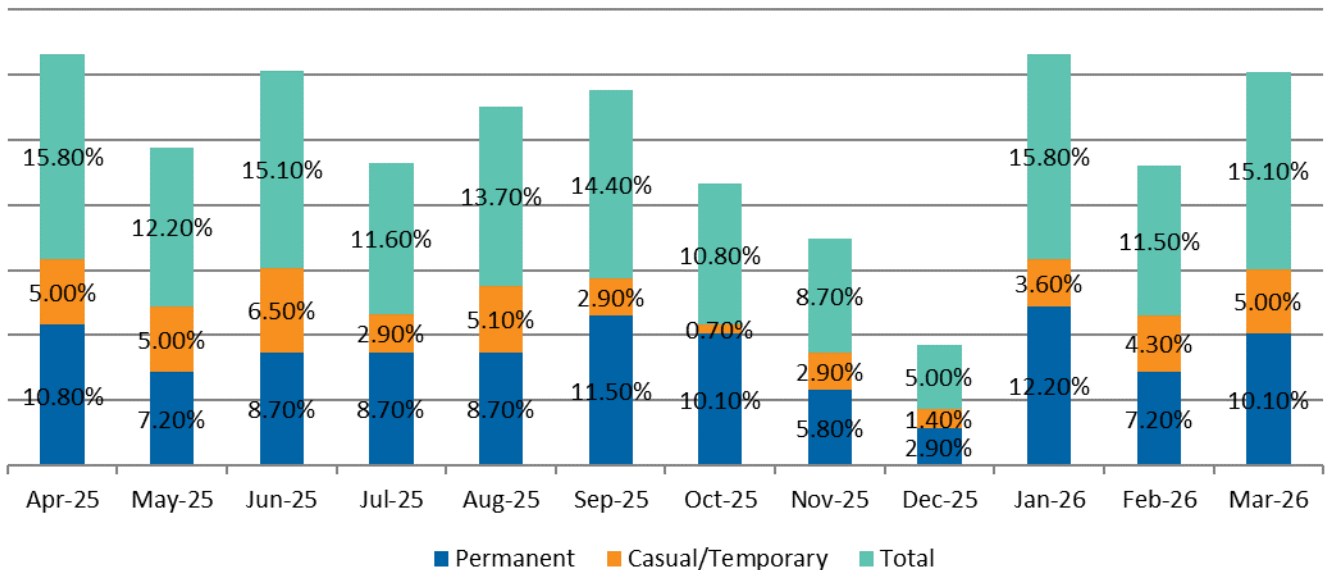
Positional Data

FTE Utilisation & Head Count



Data sourced from OneCouncil as of 7/04/26. Please note the data presented reflects the point in time that it was referenced.

Employee Turnover



COMMENTARY:

According to ALGA, the national turnover rate in local government is around 15%, and closer to 20% in rural areas (current as at September, 2022).

Major Events - April



Attendance
TBA

Cairns Rainforest Rumble

Dates: Thursday 16 – Sunday 19 April 2026

Venue: Smithfield Mountain Bike Park

Cairns Regional Council was proud to support the inaugural Cairns Rainforest Rumble, a new mountain bike event designed to bring international-level racing back to the Smithfield Mountain Bike Park.

The event featured the finale of the UCI Oceania Continental Series in both downhill and cross-country Olympic (XCO) disciplines, providing the final opportunity for riders across the Asia-Pacific to earn valuable UCI points ahead of the European racing season.

In addition to elite competition, the event delivered meaningful participation pathways for junior and emerging riders. Free spectator entry enabled residents to experience world-class sport up close, while the local mountain bike community and volunteers were actively engaged in the delivery of this major event on home soil.

Delivered by AusCycling, with support from Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ), Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ) and Cairns Regional Council (CRC), the Cairns Rainforest Rumble generated positive economic and community outcomes, while further strengthening Cairns' reputation as a premier destination for major sporting events.

Highlights Reel: [CLICK HERE](#)

**Estimated attendance –
pending final acquittal reports*



L&C Special Event

Smithfield Library: A Fresh New Chapter

The Smithfield Library Grand Re-Opening took place on Friday 17 April with more than 400 community members coming along to celebrate the occasion and share in the beautifully refreshed space.

The Smithfield Library team partnered with the Business Engagement Team and the Cairns Children's Festival team to deliver a dynamic and engaging program of events for the opening day, getting the branch ready, managing the constant flow of visitors, and ensuring everything ran smoothly. Their preparation and professionalism were evident in every part of the day.

Every one of the Cairns Library branches were involved in the reopening process, ensuring that the 25,000 books which had been redistributed around the LGA were safely returned, correctly categorised and re-shelved for the community to enjoy.

Early indicators showing strong community interest and immediate uptake. On the first day of opening, the branch recorded 580 door count, 1,157 loans, and 25 new member sign-ups, demonstrating both demand for the upgraded facility and the value of the enhanced customer experience.



The day was made extra special with the attendance of Mayor Eden and Councillor Rhonda Coghlan pictured here with Elder Representatives, Garth and Estelle Murgha,



City Safe

February, March & April 2026

Public Space Safety Patrols

Issue	February	March	April	Total 2026
Sites Visited	2,908	3,109	2,441	8,458
Patrol Report Hotspots	174	145	120	439
Anti-Social Reports	141	177	116	434
Camp Investigations	71	22	59	152
Damage & Graffiti	34	37	41	112
Rubbish Removal	67	65	50	182
Abandoned Camps Cleared	11	12	0	23
CRMs Received	41	34	29	104

City Safe

February, March & April 2026

Public Space Safety Patrols

April	<p>April saw a decrease in reported anti-social behaviour, largely influenced by the extended Easter holiday period and reduced community activity in public spaces.</p> <p>While overall patrol activity was lower during this time, Public Space Safety Officers continued to focus on key locations across the community. There was an increase in targeted work addressing camping-related issues, reflecting a proactive approach to known areas of concern.</p> <p>Overall, activity during April reflects typical seasonal patterns, with quieter public space usage over holiday periods.</p>
March	<p>March saw an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour, likely linked to improved weather conditions and greater use of public spaces as the wet season eased.</p> <p>At the same time, fewer camp investigations were required, suggesting that earlier proactive work and seasonal conditions may have reduced the number and visibility of camps.</p> <p>Public Space Safety Officers maintained a strong presence across the region, focusing on community safety, visibility, and responding to emerging issues.</p>
February	<p>February activity reflected a combination of post-holiday demand and wet season conditions.</p> <p>There was an increase in work to investigate and manage camps, likely following the Christmas period when some areas experience higher use. In contrast, general reporting from the community was lower, which may have been influenced by reduced public activity during wetter conditions.</p> <p>Public Space Safety Officers continued to focus on managing known issues and maintaining a visible presence across key public areas.</p>

Council Assets – Vandalism Costs

2025/26 VANDALISM & GRAFFITI COSTS	APRIL	APRIL YTD
Business Area	(\$'000)	(\$'000)
Facilities Maintenance	5	88
Community Spaces	27	355
Works	13	146
TOTAL	45	589

Cairns Growth Strategy – Key Directions from the FNQ Regional Plan 2026

The newly released Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2026 sets the long-term strategic direction for growth across the region to 2046 and positions Cairns as the primary growth and economic centre for Far North Queensland. The Plan has a strong focus on accelerating housing delivery, enabling economic development, and improving coordination between land use planning and infrastructure investment.

For Cairns, the Plan reinforces the City's role as the region's major centre for tourism, aviation, marine industries, defence, health, education and emerging industries. It identifies Cairns as critical to supporting regional employment, investment and population growth, with significant emphasis on delivering additional housing supply to meet future demand.

A major theme of the Plan is increasing housing diversity and affordability through a combination of infill development, higher density housing in well-located areas, and continued expansion in growth areas such as the southern corridor and Mount Peter. There is also a stronger focus on ensuring infrastructure delivery is aligned with growth, particularly transport, water, community infrastructure and enabling services.

The Plan continues to recognise the importance of environmental protection and resilience, particularly given Cairns' unique location between the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics World Heritage Areas. Natural hazards, climate adaptation and flood resilience remain key considerations for future planning and development.

Strategically, the Plan signals increasing State expectations for Cairns to facilitate housing and economic growth more efficiently, while continuing to balance environmental values, infrastructure capacity, resilience and long-term liveability outcomes.



Planning, Growth & Sustainability

Funding Boost for Cairns Environmental Restoration and Clean-Up Efforts

Environmental clean-up and habitat restoration works will continue across Cairns, with Council securing \$256,000 in funding through the Clean Up and Local Conservation Grants program.

The program, which is jointly funded by the Australian and State governments' Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, supports environmental restoration activities in regions impacted by the North and Far North Tropical Low in early 2025.

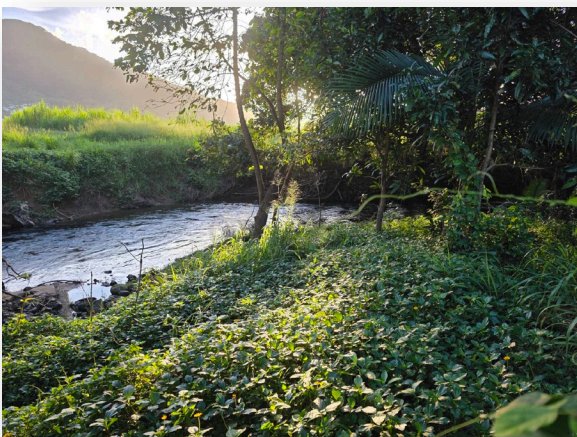
The grant funding will allow Council to continue its Clean Creeks and Conservation Partnerships initiatives with local Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger groups. Grassroots projects to protect local waterways and catchments will be rolled out over the next 12 months at priority sites across three regions:

- North: Deadman's Gully and its tributaries, leading to Arlington Esplanade at Clifton Beach, Sweet Creek in Palm Cove, and Avondale Creek in Smithfield.
- Central: Moody Creek catchment in Manoora, Goomboora Park and Freshwater Creek in Brinsmead, Ryan Weare Park in Freshwater
- South: Mulgrave River catchment, including Greenpatch Camping area, Little Mulgrave, Arnolds Bridge at Ross and Locke (Peets Bridge), gullies and creeks in Gordonvale, and Babinda Rotary Park and Babinda Creek.

The works will focus on clean-up activities to remove debris, rubbish and weeds, stabilising creek banks and restoring vegetation to improve biodiversity, reduce erosion and support community amenities.

The funding will also support the annual Clean Up Cairns weekends held annually in September, where volunteers, schools, businesses and community groups join forces to clean up local beaches, creeks and parks to prevent litter from washing out to the Great Barrier Reef.

Find out more: [Funding boost for environmental efforts | Cairns Regional Council](#)



Planning, Growth & Sustainability

Free, Family-Friendly Fun at Cairns Ecofiesta 2026

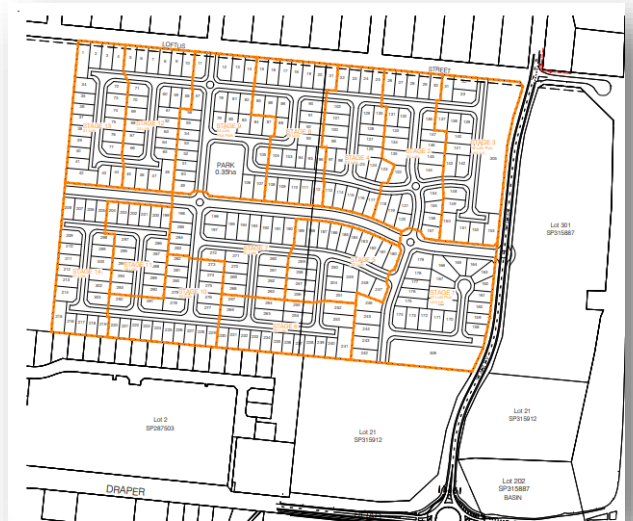
Cairns Ecofiesta is the region's flagship annual sustainable living event, showcasing practical actions individuals and communities can take to reduce environmental impact while celebrating the natural environment.

In the context of ongoing cost-of-living pressures, Ecofiesta's free, family-friendly event ensures broad accessibility and strong community participation. The event will be held at Munro Martin Parklands from 10:00am on Sunday 21 June, featuring live music, children's activities, community workshops, market stalls, and local food vendors.

The community is encouraged to attend and to follow official channels, including Facebook, for program updates in the lead-up to the event.

New Residential Development Proposals

Council has received a Planning application for a 300-lot residential development North of Draper Road Gordonvale. The development is located between the Bruce Highway and the existing approved Cutters Rise development. The development will be some 300m north of the Gordonvale Woolworths Shopping Complex.



Council Planners recently approved a new 78-unit accommodation building on Council-owned land on Gatton Street next to the Senior Citizens Hall. The land is held under a long-term freehold lease by Access Community Housing for a community housing purpose. The building is being constructed and managed by Access Community Housing.

Industry Leadership in Tree Protection Shows Results

After a long period of waiting, development has commenced at the Trinity Beach Woolworths site at the corner of Trinity Beach Road and Navigation Drive. Hand in hand with this development will be the upgrade of the intersection of Trinity Beach Road and Navigation Drive.

Further to the commencement we are pleased to report a significant milestone regarding the ongoing efforts of the Development Engineering Vegetation Assessment team to promote sustainable construction practices within our region.

Following years of dedicated education and collaboration with developers and on-site contractors, we are seeing a clear shift in industry standards regarding the protection of our natural assets. A recent example of this was observed at the Woolworths development site in Trinity Beach, managed by Koppin Construction.

Prior to the scheduled pre-start meeting, the contractor proactively erected exclusion zones to safeguard protected trees. This initiative ensures that both the visible canopy and the critical structural root zones remain unaffected by localized excavation and heavy machinery.

This proactive approach is a direct result of Council's consistent messaging on the importance of tree preservation. It serves as a good illustration of Council and industry working together to help maintain healthy, undisturbed trees of significance, not just as a regulatory requirement, but as a vital contribution to the character and well-being of the Cairns Community.

It is rewarding to see these educational efforts translate into tangible, "boots-on-the-ground" results that will benefit our environment for years to come.



Cairns Infrastructure and Assets Customer Requests – April 2026



132

Footpaths and
cycleways



32%



239

Roads and road
furniture



23%



59

Graffiti removal



11%

Percentages indicate movement on last month.

Major Projects & Initiatives

April 2026



Resource Recovery 2040 Roadmap

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

Cairns Water Security Stage 1

- 8ML Clear Water Storage has been prepared for commencement of internal coating.
- Concrete pours for Jones Rd pit have now progressed 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.



Smart Water Meter Project

- 40,000 + smart water meters installed, out of 55,000 scope
- SWM project rollout team installed 152 meters last month
- Potential leaks are being identified by the new smart water meters and customers contacted accordingly

Economic Development & Advocacy

Highlights – April

Economic Development

- Economic Development Officers toured the expanding Great Barrier Reef International Marine College on 8 April 2026 to gain a greater understanding of its enhanced capabilities.
- Economic Development officers attended NORSTA Maritime's Maritime Industry Briefing 2026 on 9 April 2026.
- Council noted the priority opportunities to enhance engagement with Pacific Island nations and approved an extension of Council's Resource and Performance Agreement with Tradelinked on 29 April 2026.

Major Events & Film

- **2032 Games Roadmap for Cairns** – the project team have been working through a multi-criteria assessment to develop a short list of themes and priorities for the Games Roadmap. Torch Advisory Group were in region from 28-29 April to lead Councillor and project reference group workshops.
- **Black Snow** – Season 3 filming continues across Cairns and the broader region, with production taking place across Holloways Beach, Palm Cove, Yorkeys Knob, Whitfield, the Cairns CBD, and the Screen Queensland Studios. Council continues to support production operations including coordination of road closures, parking management, traffic and safety requirements, venue and public space access, and cross-department operational support.
- **You, Always** - filmed in the Cairns region in 2024, is now streaming on Netflix, continuing to showcase the region as a screen production destination.
- **Taste of the Tropics Season 2** - created by local filmmakers and supported through Screen Queensland, Screenworks and SBS initiatives, is now streaming on SBS Food On Demand, highlighting the region's food, stories, locations and talent.

Advocacy

- Members of the Advocacy and Government Relations team accompanied the Mayor to Brisbane for a series of meetings with Ministers as well as Ministerial advisors and government stakeholders to discuss Council's advocacy priorities.
- The team also coordinated the submission of Council's Residential Activation Fund Round 2 application. Successful grant recipients are expected from July 2026.
- Subsequent to month end, on 18 May 2026 the Federal Government announced \$110 million in funding, which the Queensland Government will match, and a \$80 million concession loan for enabling infrastructure in the Mount Peter Priority Development Area, south of Cairns. This tripartite funding announcement directly aligns with Council's advocacy ask under its unanimously endorsed Securing Cairns Housing Foundations Plan.

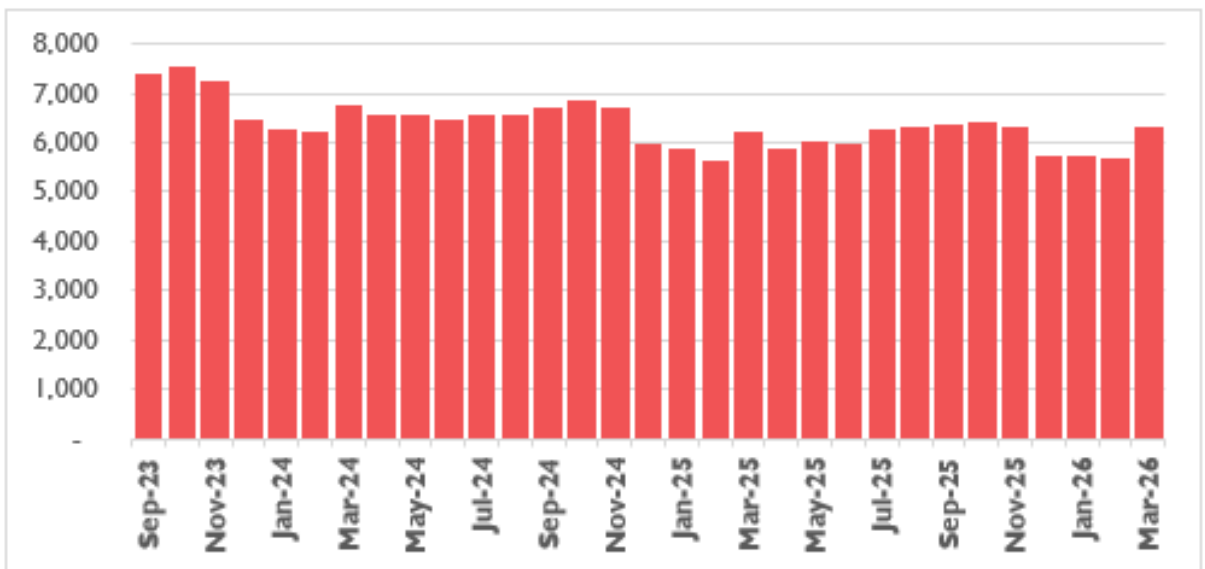
Economic snapshot

Job Seeker Recipients (CNS)



Most recent JobSeeker recipient #s **Mar-26**
8,195

Monthly Job Advertisements (FNQ)



Most recent FNQ Job Ad #s **Mar-26**
6,298