ORDINARY MEETING 28 OCTOBER 2026	5.1

CEO MONTHLY REPORT

EXE | 93/1/2 | #7961460

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes:

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

Outstanding Council Resolutions

Since the previous reporting period 19 resolutions have been completed, leaving 12 open resolutions. See below table:

Date of Meeting	Type of Meeting	Report Title	Directorate
12/08/2026	Ordinary	Development Application for a material change of use (dwelling house & short-term accommodation) – 25A Cairns Street, Cairns North – Division 5 *In progress*	PGS
12/08/2026	Ordinary	Prejudicial Matter – Support for Major Event *In progress*	EDA
12/08/2026	Ordinary	Prejudicial Matter – Support for Major Event *In progress*	EDA
16/09/2026	Ordinary	Contractual – Proposed Infrastructure Agreement between MDK Developments Pty Ltd and Cairns Regional Council – Works Contribution (Trunk Water Main) Maher Road, Gordonvale – Division 1 *In progress*	PG&S
16/09/2026	Ordinary	Prejudicial Matter – Support for Major Event *In progress*	EDA
30/09/2026	Ordinary	Australian International Marine Export Group Limited, Trading as Superyacht Australia, Resource and Performance Agreement 1 November 2026 to 30 June 2029 *In progress*	EDA
30/09/2026	Ordinary	Community Partnerships Grant Round 19 *In progress*	L&C
30/09/2026	Ordinary	The Historical Society Cairns North Queensland Inc. 2027-30 Resource and Performance Agreement *In progress*	L&C
30/09/2026	Ordinary	Contract 3084 – Annual Regional Sewer Relining Program *In progress*	CIA

30/09/2026	Ordinary	Early Works – Shaws Road Drain – Redlynch Community Sporting Precinct #600616 *In progress*	CIA
14/10/2026	Ordinary	Contract 75689 – Edmonton Waste Water Treatment Plant Refurbishment of Clarifier #1 (AS4902 Design & Construct) *In progress*	CIA
14/10/2026	Ordinary	Combined Application for a Preliminary Approval for a Material Change of Use for Low-Medium Density Residential Zone (Variation Request) and a Development Permit for Reconfiguring a Lot (1 Lot into 16 Lots and Common Property) – 12L Coral Coast Drive, Palm Cove – Division 9 *In progress*	PG&S

CEO Monthly Update

Monthly Activity Review – September 2026

Cairns 150 Ball

The Cairns 150 Year ball was Council's flagship celebration for the city's anniversary, held on 19 September 2026. The event was made possible through a partnership with Underwoods Party Hire who were also celebrating 100 years of service to the community.

Around 500 guests attended the sell-out event, enjoying spectacular views over the esplanade from a grand hoecker that was purpose-built on the Eastern Events Lawn. Fundraising activities at the ball generated more than $40,000 for the Mayor's Christmas Charity, which will go towards Christmas hampers for those that need it most. Xplosive Arts provided a free community fireworks display with the support of local businesses, drawing thousands of spectators and making a whole-of-community experience.

PDA proposed Development Scheme

Council has lodged its submission to Economic Development Queensland's (EDQ) proposed Development Scheme for the Mount Peter Priority Development Area (PDA). The PDA presents an opportunity to fast-track the planning and infrastructure required to deliver more homes sooner.

The submission reinforces what's important to the Cairns region, and seeks clarity on planning outcomes, infrastructure delivery and funding arrangements. Council supports well-planned growth that balances housing delivery with homes designed for the tropics, preserving our natural environment and meeting community needs.

Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, Jarrod Bleijie, has said publicly that Council's submission would be assessed along

with other feedback after the closing date of 28 October 2026. The Development Scheme is due to be finalised in early 2027.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Monthly Activity Review – September 2026
DM#7961462



Ken Gouldthorp
Chief Executive Officer

Monthly Activity Review

93/1/2 | #7961460 / #7961462



September 2026

The data contained within this review relates to the following:

- Community and Civic Events
- Major Events
- Animal Management
- 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
September

Cairns 150 Year Ball

Date: 19 September 2026

Venue: Cairns Esplanade Eastern Events Lawn

Attendance: 500 Pax

Time: 6:00pm – 11:00pm

Purpose: The Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Ball, held at the Cairns Esplanade, was a spectacular celebration of our city's rich history, vibrant community and milestone 150th anniversary. The evening brought together community leaders, local businesses and special guests for a night of entertainment, dining and spectacular fireworks over the Cairns waterfront. Proudly supporting the Mayor's Christmas Charity, the event also raised vital funds to assist local families in need during the festive season, making it a truly memorable celebration with a meaningful community impact.

500 people



August Citizenship Ceremony

Date: 24 September 2026

Venue: Cairns Performing Arts Centre

Attendance: 420 Pax

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.

420 people



Major Events – September

2026 Game Day Attendance ≈2,118*

**Estimate figure– pending final acquittal reports*

Hawthorn Hawks AFLW Northern Nest

Date: Friday 18 September 2026
Venue: Cazalys Stadium Cairns

Event Background:

- In 2023, the Northern Nest was created as a home away from home for Hawthorn AFLW at Cazalys Stadium.
- A collaboration between Hawthorn, Cairns Regional Council, Queensland Government and AFL Cairns, the purpose was to drive women and girls' participation in football.



Key Outcomes:

- The initiative has been a profound success, with AFL Cairns reporting a 30% increase in female participation since the partnership began.
- Securing an AFLW Premiership match has not only inspired the next generation of female athletes, but provided a platform for Hawthorn to deliver a series of high-impact community engagement initiatives that have achieved strong social outcomes.



2026 AFLW Match:

- On Friday 18 September 2026, Hawthorn Hawks AFLW recorded a historic victory over the North Melbourne Kangaroos at Cazalys Stadium, ending the Kangaroos' 1,020-day unbeaten run.
- The result brought North Melbourne's record-breaking streak of 32 consecutive victories to an end, having remained undefeated since the 2023 AFLW Grand Final.

Community Engagement:

- The event incorporated strong community involvement with junior mascots selected from local clubs, Auskick participants taking to the field at half-time, a local club sprint held at three-quarter time, and the AFL Cairns Senior Women's Final provided the curtain closer.
- A sensory space at the match provided a calm and supportive environment for patrons who needed a break from the intensity of the game environment, and there was a dedicated Tyetdji Yulk Cultural Space.
- The day prior, Hawthorn hosted a free kids clinic featuring football activities and Hawks giveaways, followed by an open training session and opportunities for locals to meet the players, take photos and collect signatures.
- Hawthorn players also participated in destination marketing filming with Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ) and engaged in a cross-code training session with the Cairns Taipans.



Animal Management

July, August & September 2026

Month	July	August	September	3-month Total
Dog Attacks	*57*	*60*	*59*	***176***
Animals Impounded	*180*	*168*	*122*	***470***
After Hours Calls	*48*	*38*	*28*	***114***

Issue	Comments
Dog Attacks	A total of 59 dog attack reports were recorded in September, a slight decrease of 1.7% compared to 60 in August. Report volumes have remained relatively consistent over the past three months, following 57 reports in July. Quarterly results also show an 11% reduction on same period last year. This trend highlights the importance of continued proactive patrols and community education on dog attacks.
Animals Impounded	A total of 122 animals were impounded during September month, a decrease of 27% compared to 168 in the previous month and 180 in July. This represents a positive reduction in impoundment numbers however is still high when compared with previous year (+15%). Of note is a surge in feline surrenders, often with litters that has increased overall numbers.
After Hours Calls	A total of 28 after-hours calls were received in September, a decrease of 26.3% compared to 38 in August and a reduction of 41.7% from 48 in July. Like last quarter, this is attributable to the restructure of the Animal Management unit with expanded standard operational hours.

Council Assets – Vandalism Costs

2026/27 VANDALISM & GRAFFITI COSTS	SEPTEMBER	SEPTEMBER YTD
Business Area	**($'000)**	**($'000)**
Facilities Maintenance	13	43
Community Spaces	24	94
Works	14	59
TOTAL	**50**	**195**

Cairns showcasing resilience leadership at the 2026 PIA State Conference

The 2026 Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) Queensland State Conference was held in Cairns from 16 to 18 September, bringing together planners, policymakers and industry leaders from across Queensland and beyond. As the profession's flagship event, the conference provided a platform for sharing ideas, insights and practical solutions to some of the most pressing challenges facing communities today.

This year's theme, *Beyond Planning: Building Resilient Futures Through Multi-Disciplinary Collaboration*, highlighted the need for planners to work alongside engineers, designers, policymakers, certifiers, engagement specialists and other allied professionals to tackle increasingly complex issues such as climate risk, housing affordability, infrastructure demands, and environmental and social pressures. Council was incredibly proud to have five staff members presenting at the conference, showcasing the outstanding work being delivered by Council for the betterment of our community:

- **Sophie Barrett -** *Managing Heat in a Tropical City: Applying Sensors and Microclimate Simulation Modelling to Support Planning and Decision-Making in a Changing Climate*
- **Sri Leach** - *Building Climate-Ready Urban Waterways through Collaboration: The Saltwater Creek Catchment Resilience Master Plan*
- **Sean Lisle** - *Collaborating Across Multiple Jurisdictions to Activate the Cairns Southern Growth Corridor*
- **Ellen Buttrose -** *Where Design Meets Planning: Getting Real with Tropical Gentle Density in Cairns*
- **Debbie Wellington** - *Mitigation-Supported Climate Resilient Development.*

In addition, Michelle Henderson organised two conference study tours led by Council staff providing delegates with firsthand insights into resilience and adaptation planning initiatives across the region.

"It was an incredibly rich, jam packed, high energy shot in the arm of 'everything planning' and the practical and purposeful work that our colleagues are doing".

- Feedback from conference delegate



Mayor Amy Eden addressing conference delegates

Clean Up Cairns 2026: Community Partnerships Deliver Strong Results

Clean Up Cairns 2026 has once again demonstrated the power of community partnerships in creating a cleaner, healthier and more connected region. Throughout September, more than 150 volunteers joined forces with Cairns Regional Council, Traditional Owner organisations, environmental groups, local businesses and community groups to tackle litter across waterways, parks, beaches and urban spaces. Together, they collected an estimated 1.3 tonnes of rubbish from sites stretching from Yorkeys Knob and East Trinity to Gordonvale, Babinda Creek and the heart of Cairns.

The success of the program was driven by strong collaboration between Mandingalbay Aboriginal Corporation, Yirrganydji Gurabana Aboriginal Corporation, local environmental business Mangrove Solutions, Dulabed and Malanbara Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation, Mulgrave Landcare, Madjandji Aboriginal Corporation, OzFish, Tangaroa Blue, Treeforce, No More Butts, FNQ Young Rotaract and the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji Elders Aboriginal Corporation. Volunteers removed plastics, bottles, tyres, shopping trolleys, abandoned camping gear and thousands of cigarette butts, helping protect local waterways, wildlife and public spaces.

Beyond the impressive clean-up results, Clean Up Cairns strengthened community connections and highlighted a shared commitment to caring for Country. The program showcases what can be achieved when Traditional Owners, community organisations, local businesses and local government work together toward a common goal: a cleaner, more sustainable Cairns for everyone. ***A massive THANK YOU to everyone involved.***













Planning, Growth & Sustainability

Complex Compliance and Enforcement Matter

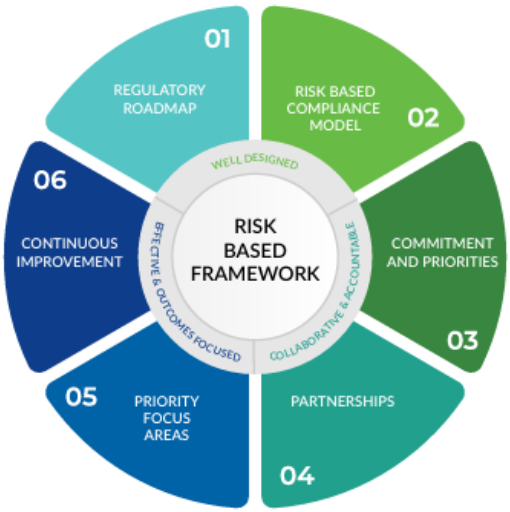
Councils Licensing and Compliance Branch manages complex compliance and enforcement matters across the region which contribute to the Cairns Regional Council vision of shaping a tropical future by ensuring the amenity, natural assets, resilience, and safety of the Cairns Local Government Area.

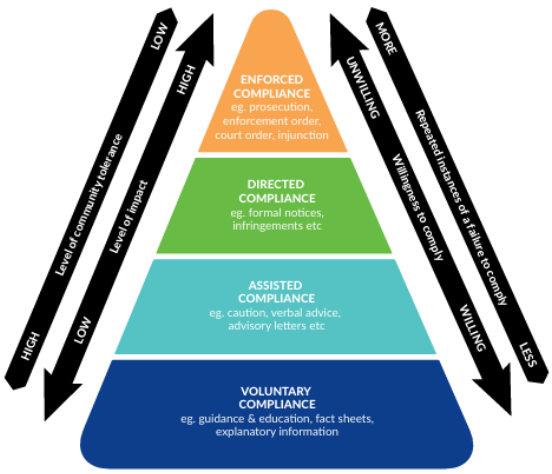
A recent case involved significant private encroachments within a Council-controlled stormwater easement, impacting access by Council's maintenance teams and drainage infrastructure functionality.

Following collaboration across multiple Council divisions, the Local Laws Compliance team identified and documented the encroachments and liaised with impacted stakeholders to commence removal of private structures from the Council-controlled land.

Through assisted compliance, consistent with Councils *Licensing & Compliance Framework*, a 5m² structure was successfully relocated onto private land. Remaining minor encroachments are expected to be removed before the wet season – when access to, and effective functioning of, drainage infrastructure is needed most.

This outcome demonstrates the Branch's commitment to fostering positive stakeholder relationships, ensuring transparent and accountable decision-making, and delivering practical compliance outcomes that protect essential community infrastructure. These principles reinforce the importance of Council's *Licensing and Compliance Framework* and its role in guiding the Branch's day-to-day operations.





RISK BASED COMPLIANCE MODEL

Cairns Infrastructure and Assets Customer Requests – September 2026



Percentages indicate movement on last month.

Major Projects & Initiatives
September 2026



Resource Recovery 2040 Roadmap

- D&C Contract awarded for Aeration hall upgrade 18th September
- Kerbside collection contractor mobilising
- O&M contract of residual waste progressing well

Cairns Water Security Stage 1

- Pre commissioning planning well underway.
- Major cut-in works progressing successfully with good collaboration between contractor and Council's teams
- Pipeline up the ridgeline is completed, with remaining concrete pouring of supporting bulkheads underway.





Smart Water Meter Project

- 42,000 + smart water meters installed, out of 55,000 scope
- SWM project rollout team installed 1,314 meters last month
- Potential leaks are being identified by the new smart water meters and customers contacted accordingly

Economic Development & Advocacy Highlights – September

Economic Development

- Councillor visit to Mulgrave Mill
- Submitted the Regional Business Gateway grant application for the Cairns Creative & Screen Industry Connector project
- TAFE MOU has been signed
- Quarterly stakeholder meetings with Study Cairns, TTNQ
- Participated in Gordonvale stakeholder meeting with external consultant to discuss visitor attraction strategies

Advocacy

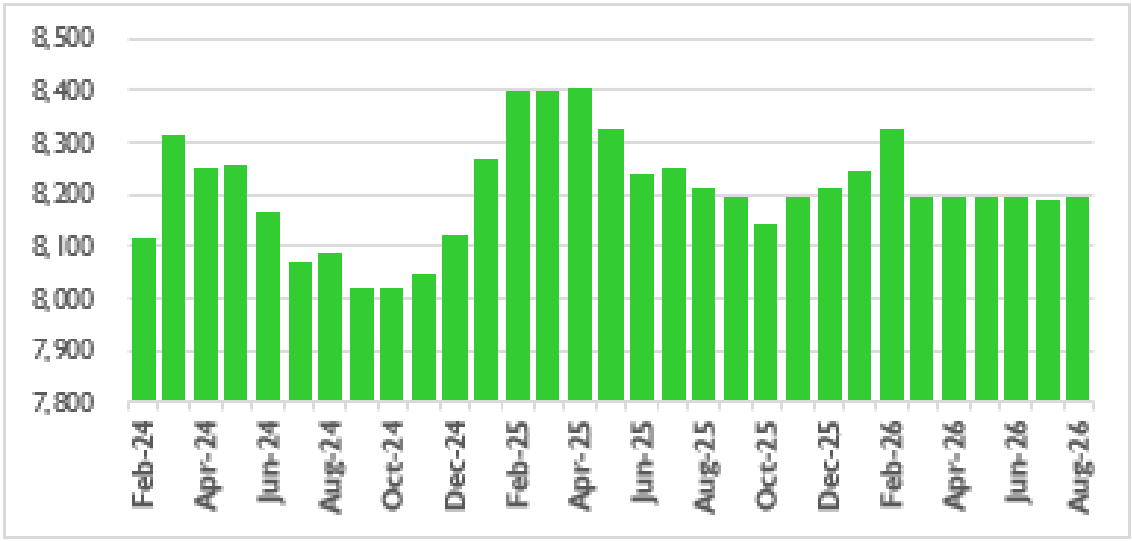
- Coordinated and facilitated the quarterly advocacy workshop with key regional partners including FNQROC, Advance Cairns, Cairns Chamber of Commerce and RDATN.
- Supported the Council's advocacy on proposed changes to Federal Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), including facilitating a face-to-face meeting with the Federal Minister for Local Government and Emergency Management, the Hon Kristy McBain.

Major Events & Film

- **Games Roadmap for Cairns** – Resource & Budget Analysis draft reviewed by internal project control team with feedback provided to Torch Advisory. The project is reaching the final stage of planning ahead of ELT and Council workshops and meetings.
- **Games Coordination** – City Readiness and Operations Sub-committee forum commenced; hosted an International team visiting Cairns for a potential Olympics training camp hub; Brisbane 2032 Emblems launch planning continued.
- **Cairns Rainforest Rumble renewal media announcement** – event renewed for two years at the Smithfield Mountain Bike Park.

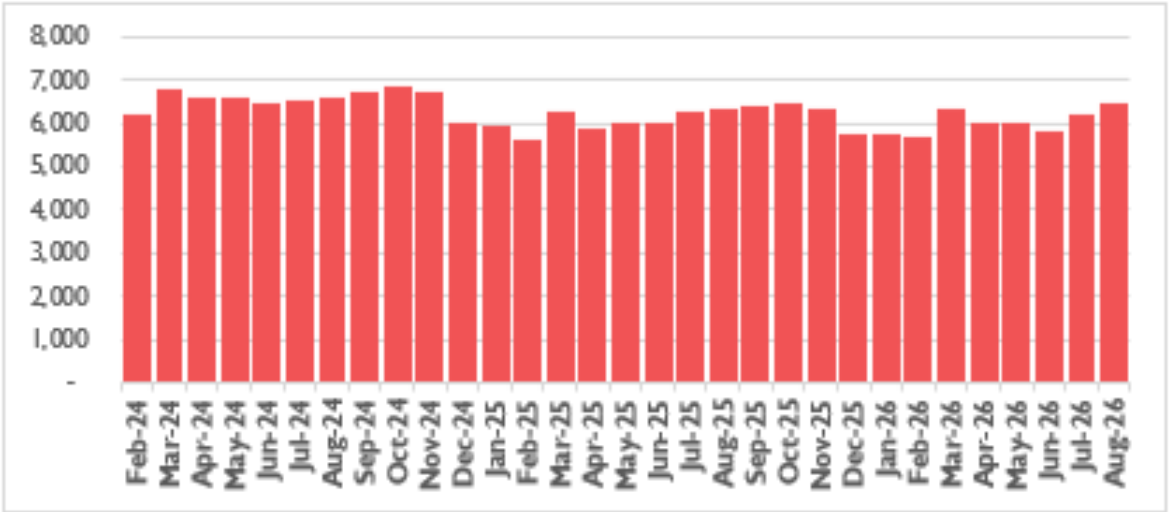
Economic snapshot

Jobseeker Recipients (CNS)



	Aug-26
Most recent JobSeeker recipient #s	8,195

Monthly Job Advertisements (FNQ)



	Aug-26
Most recent FNQ Job Ad #s	6,400