

ORDINARY MEETING 6 MARCH 2024	1
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CEO MONTHLY REPORT

93/1/2 | #7364249

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council notes:
 - a. The status of Council Resolutions.
 - b. Submissions to the Inquiry into the Queensland Youth Justice Reform and the Inquiry into the Corrective Services (Promoting Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.
 - c. The update on advocacy activities relating to the Cairns Water Security Stage 1 project and the two page advocacy summary used to support these activities.
 - d. The Ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper Flooding Recovery Update, including the intention to lodge a \$25.5M Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements submission for the proposed Holloways Beach Bridge.

INTERESTED PARTIES:

Nil

Outstanding Council Resolutions

Since the previous reporting period 20 resolutions have been completed and there are 19 resolutions outstanding. See below table:

Date of Meeting	Meeting type	Clause No.	Report Title	Directorate
04/10/2023	Ordinary Meeting	Clause No. 6	Proposed Infrastructure Agreement for the Deferred Payment of Levied Charges for a Development Permit for Reconfiguring a Lot (1 Lot Into 60 Lots and Common Property) – 15 Short Street, Redlynch – Division 6	PG&S
08/11/2023	Ordinary Meeting	Clause No. 4	Infrastructure Agreement for the Deferred Payment of Levied Charges Between Cairns Regional Council and Goldsborough Valley Properties Pty Ltd for Reconfiguring a Lot (3	PG&S

Date of Meeting	Meeting type	Clause No.	Report Title	Directorate
			Lots into 95 Lots and Open Space) at Fairweather Access, Goldsborough – Division 1	
22/11/2023	Ordinary Meeting	Clause No. 18	Major Events Precinct - Application to Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program	L&C
21/12/2023	Ordinary Meeting	3	Cairns Water Security Stage 1 – Project Construction Matters	CIA
21/12/2023	Ordinary Meeting	10	Major Events Sponsorship Application – Cairns Amateurs 2024-2026	ED&A
21/12/2023	Ordinary Meeting	11	Major Event Sponsorship Application – Cairns Italian Festival 2024	ED&A
21/12/2023	Ordinary Meeting	12	Major Events Sponsorship Application – Reef to Reef 2024-2026	ED&A
21/12/2023	Ordinary Meeting	13	Major Events Sponsorship Application – Red Hot Summer 2024-2026	ED&A
21/12/2023	Ordinary Meeting	22	Cairns Gallery Precinct Steering Project Steering Committee Dissolution	L&C
21/12/2023	Ordinary Meeting	Closed Session No. 2	Prejudicial Matter - Infrastructure Agreement between Cairns Regional Council and Community Housing (Cairns) Limited for the Discretionary Full Waiver of Levied Charges to the Sum of \$8,668,207.28 for Catalytic Development under the Development and Investment Incentive Support Policy for Multi Unit Housing at 710-714 Des Chalmers Drive, Woree	PG&S
21/02/2024	Ordinary	Clause No. 1	CEO Monthly Report	EXEC
21/02/2024	Ordinary	Clause No. 2	Resource and Performance Agreement with ANZAC Day Regional Events	POP
21/02/2024	Ordinary	Clause No. 8	Tenure Arrangement – Surrender of existing Freehold Lease and Offer of New Freehold Lease over part of Lot 3 on RP701079, 28 Groove Street Cairns North - Division 5	PG&S
21/02/2024	Ordinary	Clause No. 9	Cairns & District Family History Society Inc. Resource and Performance Agreement	L&C
21/02/2024	Ordinary	Clause No. 10	Creative Australia - Arts Projects for Organisations Funding Application	L&C

Date of Meeting	Meeting type	Clause No.	Report Title	Directorate
21/02/2024	Ordinary	Clause No. 11	Tropical Arts Association Inc. Resource and Performance Agreement	L&C
21/02/2024	Ordinary	Clause No. 12	Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Committee Appointments	L&C
21/02/2024	Ordinary	Business Not on Agenda No. 1	Petition Bramston Beach Green Waste	CIA

Submissions to the Inquiry into the Queensland Youth Justice Reform and the Inquiry into the Corrective Services (Promoting Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Council provided written submissions to two recent State Government inquiries in line with the advertised deadline being 29 February 2023.

The submission to Queensland Parliament's Youth Justice Reform Select Committee in regard to Youth Justice Reform (see Attachment 1) supports the recommendations provided by the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) to the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee and advocates for youth justice reform that maintains a focus on public safety, but also places emphasis on rehabilitation and sentencing options that aim to address the underlying causes of criminality.

The submission urges the Commission to advance holistic, culturally appropriate programs that apply a public-health lens in lieu of/or in addition to punitive focussed sentencing frameworks and spans all stages of a young persons contact with the youth justice system.

The submission to the Queensland Parliament's Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee in regard to the Corrective Services (Promoting Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 (see Attachment 2) seeks to highlight several areas of failing of current discharge to liberty processes that do not adequately support a released individual.

The submission advocates for increased investment for return to liberty arrangements such as transition programs that repatriate those released from incarceration back into family and community settings, including supported housing options and specialist programs that prevent re-offending.

This includes calls for a wider range of specialist domestic violence perpetrator programs, mentoring and peer support and mental health supports. In addition, Council supports those measures as identified in the Bill that aim to strengthen the

voice of victims and their advocates in decision-making processes and program/support service development.

Cairns Water Security Stage 1 (CWSS1) Advocacy

On 21 December 2023, Council reconfirmed the Cairns Water Security Stage 1 (CWSS1) project as Council's Number One Advocacy Priority. The project delivers additional water to meet the needs of a growing population and also provides critical risk mitigation for the city's water supply during periods of natural disaster. The Queensland and Australian Governments have already committed \$107.5 million each in funding to this critical infrastructure project. With an increase in project cost and council's (and the broader community's) capacity to fund this increase compromised due to the impacts of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper, Council has formally requested that the Queensland and Australian Governments increase their funding commitments to \$236 million each with these commitments to be provisioned in the upcoming 2024/25 State and Federal budgets. Advocacy activities to support this request, led by the Mayor, have been ongoing and have included numerous meetings, discussions and correspondence with State and Federal ministers, local State and Federal MPs, shadow ministers, departmental representatives and other key stakeholders. The request was also discussed with Queensland Cabinet when Community Cabinet was held in Cairns on 28 February 2024 and with the Queensland Shadow Cabinet during their recent visit to Cairns on 19 February 2024. The attached two page advocacy summary (Attachment 3) provides a high level overview of the advocacy ask and has been used to support engagement with key stakeholders. Council's request for increased funding is also supported by Advance Cairns, the Cairns Chamber of Commerce, the FNQ Regional Organisation of Councils, Regional Development Australia Tropical North and Tourism Tropical North Queensland.

Ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper Flooding Recovery Update

Updates from each of the Recovery Subcommittees are as follows:

Human and Social Pillar

To gather information about short and medium-term recovery needs at an individual and neighbourhood level, James Cook University has been appointed to undertake a rapid social needs assessment (RSNA). The RSNA will include a public survey to understand individual and neighbourhood-level impacts and needs (emotional, financial, physical, material), as well as engagement with the Human and Social Subcommittee membership to ground-truth results and identify sector-level trends relating to indicators of wellbeing. The results of the RSNA will inform priority areas for human and social recovery efforts, including intervention, strategy, investment and advocacy. A follow up Pulse of the Community survey will be undertaken in approximately 6 months' time to measure distance-travelled and inform long-term human and social recovery efforts.

Infrastructure Pillar

Hard waste and surrendered car collections continue with case-by-case assessments in flood affected areas throughout February.

Priority works include Barron Gorge Road, Casuarina Street reconstruction options, Fisheries Bridge reconstruction (temporary pedestrian bridge installed), Lake Morris Road (closed for at least 6 months), Savannah Street (Palm Cove) drainage reconstruction and numerous culvert and drainage structure projects across the city. Maintenance and beautification programs are now back on schedule following interruptions caused by the December floods, with resources and personnel redeployed to high priority recovery areas.

Hydraulic analysis of the Casuarina St temporary causeway has recommended advancing the design of a bridge at this location which is being submitted to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority for funding assessment. The initial analysis has indicated a bridge in favour of a land-based causeway will provide improved flood immunity for the adjacent Holloway's beach zone by up to 500mm in a 1% AEP event (Q100). Further detailed design and engineering analysis is being advanced on this basis.



Pictured: Casuarina St Holloways with temporary causeway

Environment Pillar

From an environmental perspective, most groups have returned to business as usual and assessments of sites in preparation of any forthcoming grants are completed.

Significantly impacted areas in the Upper Barron and Northern Beaches are waiting on system stability or natural deposition of materials before environmental works can be more clearly defined and planned. In many locations, Infrastructure repair projects will achieve environmental outcomes. A range of smaller environmental projects have been identified for repair as part of ongoing project planning. These target reducing further sediment loss in select areas. Major pest infestation spread from flooding has so far not been observed but remains the largest risk post-event.

Economic Pillar

The roll out of a range of industry and business *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements* packages (jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments) is continuing. Conus Consulting has been appointed to undertake an Economic Impact Assessment to understand the depth, breadth and likely duration of the economic impacts from Ex- Tropical Cyclone Jasper. This work will inform medium to long term recovery and resilience planning and will include desktop analysis, industry consultation as well as a comprehensive business survey. Concurrently, Council officers have commenced development of the economic recovery and resilience action plan including stakeholder engagement and consultation.

Next steps

Measuring the financial impact: The full impact of the Ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper Flooding event on Council's financial position is still being worked through, with costs incurred to date of \$11.67 million, of which \$8.84 million is expected to be recovered from external funding, resulting in a net cost to Council of \$2.83 million as at the end of February. Total Council costs associated with the event are expected to exceed \$100 million. Whilst funding programs such as the joint Commonwealth and State Government's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), particularly the Reconstruction of Public Assets portion, are expected to cover significant elements of these costs, Council officers estimate that around a third of Council's total costs will not be covered by any of the current funding programs.

We continue to work closely and collaboratively with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) to advocate for funding to cover the expected shortfall, primarily through the Extraordinary Special Assistance (Category D) provisions of the DRFA. Activation of measures under Category D is by a joint agreement between the Prime Minister and the Premier and approved by the Prime Minister. This funding is intended to provide special assistance above and beyond the standard suite of DRFA assistance. Officers understand that QRA, via the Premier, have submitted several proposals for Category D funding streams to the Federal Government, however it is unlikely that any final decisions will be made until the 2nd quarter of 2024.

Recovery Plan Draft: A range of processes are underway to complete the ex-TC Jasper / Flooding Recovery Plan draft, which is due for Local Disaster Management Group endorsement and Council noting in April 2024. The Plan will outline the range of actions, works and activity undertaken by Council and relevant agencies with a focus on community sustainability and resilience.

Request for IGEM Review: Council awaits the State Government's support of the formal request to the Inspector-General of Emergency Management (IGEM) for a review into ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper and the subsequent flooding event. In February, Council made a formal request to the Inspector-General of Emergency Management (IGEM) for a review to be conducted in an expedient manner and urged that public input be allowed. Council is committed to fully engage in this exercise, with

the goal of applying learnings to the development of further mitigation, preparedness, management and recovery strategies.

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements submissions:

- Council officers are working closely with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) to formulate Council's official submissions for funding. As part of these discussions, officers are prioritising projects and intend to lodge submissions quickly, once enough is understood about the scope of the works needed.
- The repairs at Casuarina Street, Holloways Beach have progressed to a point whereby officers are able to make a submission for funding to QRA under the Restoration of Public Assets section of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, which is a joint funding initiative of the Australian and Queensland governments. The submission is to repair the access to the isolated area of Casuarina Street by building a bridge over the newly formed creek mouth. This submission for this repair work will total \$27.1M. Early submission of this project to QRA will provide certainty that funding is available for the proposed solution to the damaged caused to Casuarina Street.
- Future submissions will be reported to Council for noting via the CEO report. When appropriate, a stand-alone report will be provided to Council detailing all of the QRA submissions made in relation to the Ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper flooding event.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Submission to Queensland Parliament's Youth Justice Reform Select Committee in regard to Youth Justice Reform #7361430

Attachment 2: Submission to the Queensland Parliament's Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee in regard to the Corrective Services (Promoting Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 #7367135

Attachment 3: Cairns Water Security Stage 1 (CWSS1) Advocacy Summary #7365878



Mica Martin
Chief Executive Officer



ENQUIRIES: Destry Puia
PHONE: 4044 3254
OUR REF: #7361430

29 February 2024

Committee Secretary
Youth Justice Reform Select Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Via email: youthjustice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Members,

Re: Submission to the Queensland Youth Justice Reform Select Committee

Cairns Regional Council (Council) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the above inquiry, conducted by the Queensland Parliament's Youth Justice Reform Select Committee.

Local Government is a key player in community safety, through a focus on safety, wellbeing, and connectedness. As a public space manager, the role of Local Government spans from community-based crime prevention, including providing monitoring and intelligence, city-wide and site-specific safety planning and place-making, to setting protocols for behaviours and building social capital. Consequently, *Council has a significant interest in ensuring the justice system effectively meets its remit to protect the interests of the broader community while simultaneously responding to the needs of those most vulnerable within its institutions.*

Cairns Regional Council City Safe data indicates that persons under the age of 17 years account for a significant proportion of incidences of antisocial behaviour in the Cairns CBD and fringes, including offences of a more serious nature such as assault (CRC, 2022). Council's Community Safety Plan (2022-2026) highlights that approximately 40 young people under the age of 17 in the Cairns region are identified as high risk repeat offenders. This group are well known to both Youth Justice and Child Safety and Council acknowledges the complex health and social inequities experienced by this cohort. However, Council also stands by its position that everyone in the community has the right to feel safe.

In 2023, Cairns Regional Council engaged with counterparts in Townsville and Mount Isa to raise awareness of the range of anti-social behaviours and their significant impacts on constituents. Collectively this group raised concerns related to youth crime and called for immediate state government intervention to address the issue. Council also made calls for a total system overhaul that would curb the current trends as highlighted by a recent productivity commission report into government services (PC, 2023).

In the 2023 report, the Commission noted:

- Queensland recorded the highest daily average of young people in youth detention.
- More than half of youth offenders released from supervision were re-sentenced for new offences within 12 months of their release.

- Two thirds of nights in custody were spent by Indigenous children.
- Detention is considered the most expensive and least effective way to address youth offending - Queenslanders spend \$162 million every year on youth detention; that's more than \$1,800 per child every day (APC, 2023).
- Programs that have a rehabilitation, education and training focus are most successful in reforming behaviours (Cairns Safer Streets, 2023).

Recognising that many young offenders come from vulnerable backgrounds underpinned by dysfunction and entrenched disadvantage, overwhelming evidence suggests that current judicial policies further exacerbate pre-existing vulnerabilities and criminality among young offenders. Increasingly research indicates that Queensland's youth justice sentencing model, in particular sentencing frameworks and the lack of access to sustained health-based and culturally appropriate rehabilitative programming and supports, has created a counterproductive system that perpetuates crime (Atkinson, 2022; APC, 2023). This has contributed to Queensland having the highest number of youth offenders in custody and the highest rates of reoffending in the country (APC, 2023). The need for an alternative approach is clear.

Cairns Regional Council supports the submission and recommendations provided by the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) to the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee. Additionally, Council advocates for youth justice reform that maintains a focus on public safety, but also places emphasis on rehabilitation and sentencing options that aim to address the underlying causes of criminality. We urge the Queensland Government to consider investment and policy reform related to:

- Expansion of place-based early intervention and prevention programs that encourage pro-social and protective behaviours and reduce the instances and severity of antisocial behaviour in young people.
- Long-term, mandatory health-based rehabilitative sentencing for serious repeat offenders, with high consideration of alternative custodial models.
- Greater connectivity and alignment between the policing, youth justice and judicial systems and sentencing principles to ensure sentences that allow a meaningful rehabilitative outcome.
- Service coordination and integration that provides consistent, evidence-based, therapeutic wrap around supports for young offenders that span sentencing, incarceration, and reintegration.
- Increased focus family and community wellbeing to improve reunification and reintegration outcomes.

In summary, Council urges the Commission to:

Advance holistic, culturally appropriate programs that apply a public-health lens in lieu of/or in addition to punitive focussed sentencing frameworks and spans all stages of a young persons contact with the youth justice system.

We thank you for your consideration of the recommendations above and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss the matters outlined in more detail. Should you have any further enquiries or require additional information, please contact Destry Puia, Director Lifestyle and Community, on the phone number above.

Yours sincerely



Mica Martin
Chief Executive Officer



ENQUIRIES: Destry Puia
PHONE: 4044 3254
OUR REF: #7361430

29 February 2024

Committee Secretary
Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Via email: CSLAC@parliament.qld.gov.au.

Dear Committee Members,

Re: Cairns Regional Council Response - Inquiry into the Corrective Services (Promoting Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.

Cairns Regional Council (Council) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the above inquiry, conducted by the Queensland Parliament's Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee.

Local Government is a key player in enhancing and maintaining community safety. As a public space manager, the role of Local Government spans from community-based crime prevention, including providing monitoring and intelligence, city-wide and site-specific safety planning and place-making, to setting protocols for behaviours and building social capital. Consequently, Council has a significant interest in ensuring the corrective services system effectively contributes to the remit of protecting public safety.

Council's Community Safety Plan 2022-2026 outlines its approach to working with all agencies to increase levels of community safety, amenity, and wellbeing in the Cairns LGA (CRC, 2023). Within this focus Council supports any measures that strengthen policing, judicial and custodial processes to protect the safety of the general population. This includes improving levels of recidivism and supports that address the often complex and significant underlying health or social barriers that effect successful reintegration of offenders back into society.

Council seeks to highlight several areas of failing of current discharge to liberty processes that do not adequately support a released individual. These areas include:

- The volume of daily releases prevents primary responders (Re-entry Services Teams) to adequately meet the needs of those persons being released.
- This does not include the service gap created whereby re-entry case managers are primarily responding to those individuals that have a release date stipulated by the Courts and have completed mandatory training requirements.
- There is no provision in place for persons attending Court via Videolink who have a same day (or in close proximity) release with no support plan established.
- There are no funded provisions for halfway housing to transition persons leaving custody at short notice. (In Cairns, historically this was supported by the Quigley Street Hostel, but that servicing has now ceased due to change of circumstances).

- Persons are exiting custody into a housing crisis. The Cairns rental vacancy rate currently sits at 0.7%, which is exacerbating barriers to access the rental market (SQW, 2024). Council's City Safe street-based outreach teams regularly report previously incarcerated persons being released into homelessness on a weekly basis.

In this regard, Council advocates for increased investment for return to liberty arrangements such as transition programs that repatriate those released from incarceration back into family and community settings, including supported housing options as identified in Council's H&H Plan and specialist programs that prevent re-offending. This includes calls for a wider range of specialist domestic violence perpetrator programs, mentoring and peer support and mental health supports. In addition, Council supports those measures as identified in the Bill that aim to strengthen the voice of victims and their advocates in decision-making processes and program/support service development.

We thank you for your consideration of the recommendations above and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss the matters outlined in more detail. Should you have any further enquiries or require additional information, please contact Destry Puia, Director Lifestyle and Community, on the phone number above.

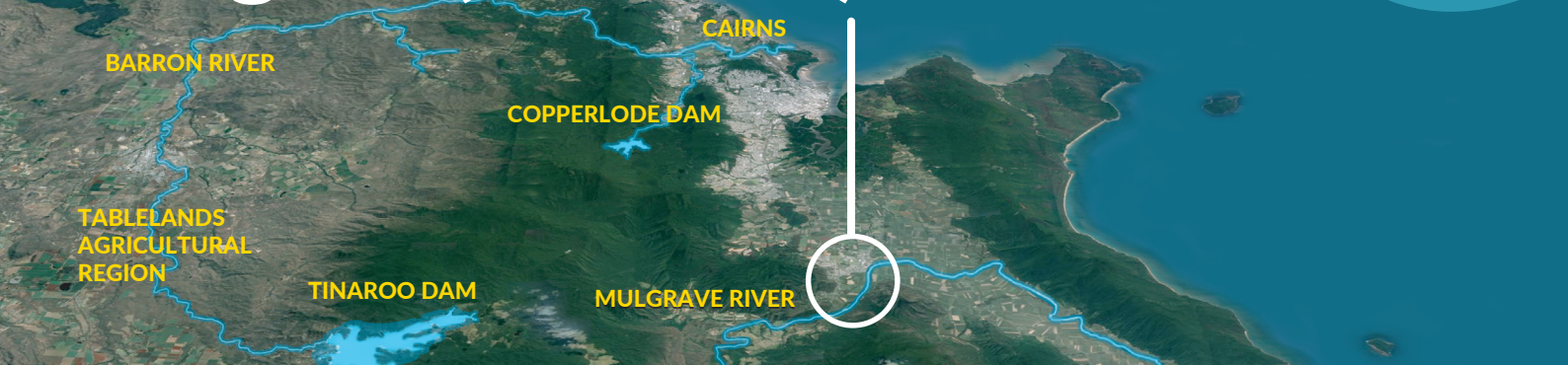
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mica Martin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mica Martin
Chief Executive Officer

CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL'S #1 ADVOCACY PRIORITY

Cairns Water Security Stage 1 (CWSS1)



A critical regional infrastructure project supporting population and economic growth, and disaster resilience in Cairns and FNQ.

The CWSS1 project secures Cairns' future water needs well into the next decade. It has been confirmed through a detailed independent business case as the best value for money solution to the city's water needs.

Existing funding commitments confirm there is consensus at all levels of government, across all political parties, that CWSS1 is the most viable option to provide essential drinking water for Cairns.

But with an increased total project cost and the financial impact of recovering from ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper, Council is calling on the Queensland and Australian Governments to fully fund CWSS1 to ensure sufficient drinking water - a basic human need - is available as our population and economy grow.

Total project cost

Following a rigorous procurement process for the design and construction of the new intake, water treatment plant and pipe

network, the total project cost has increased from \$248 million to \$472 million.

The Queensland and Federal Governments have already committed \$215 million (\$107.5 million each) to assist with the completion of the project.

These commitments were based on a preliminary capital cost estimate for the project of \$248 million prepared in early 2022 and based on a high-level understanding of the required investments and infrastructure.

The revised total project cost has been calculated by independent Cost Advisor Ranbury Management Group and takes into account the value of the design and construct tender for the project awarded to John Holland Queensland in December 2023.

The increase in cost reflects the substantial inflationary pressures being experienced in the construction sector across Australia that have led to similar cost increases across major projects nationally.

Project timeline

- 2015: Cairns Water Security Strategy adopted
- 2019-2022: Business case confirms CWSS1 as best solution
- Q2 2021: Council endorses CWSS1 as No. 1 Advocacy priority
- Q3 2021: Support from all local state and federal members
- May 2022: \$107.5 million funding commitment - Federal
- June 2022: \$107.5 million funding commitment - State
- From Q2 2023: Briefings with Ministers and key stakeholders on project cost increase
- December 2023: Construction contract awarded, Council reconfirms project as No. 1 Advocacy priority
- December 16 2023: Cyclone Jasper causes widespread damage and devastation to Cairns and the surrounding region
- Mid-2024: Construction starts
- Mid-2026: CWSS1 completed

What we need

State and Federal Governments to support the disaster recovery and future economic and social prosperity of Cairns by increasing their existing commitments to the Cairns Water Security Stage 1 (CWSS1) Project to \$236 million each.

Funding to be delivered over 4 years:

2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
\$6 million each	\$110 million each	\$85 million each	\$35 million each

Ex-TC Jasper

Ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper, the wettest cyclone on record, drenched the Cairns region in December 2023, causing extensive flooding to a number of Cairns suburbs. Homes were lost, infrastructure severely damaged and people's lives turned upside down following one of the most devastating natural disasters the region has ever experienced.

It also exposed the vulnerability of our current water supply, with residents placed on extreme water restrictions for 20 days, when blocked intakes at our key water source, Copperlode Falls Dam, resulted in treated water reserves falling to just 3%. The city came within two hours of running out of water. CWSS1 mitigates this risk by accessing a new water supply and establishing another treatment plant to the south of the city.

While the disaster recovery support packages provided by the State and Federal governments are welcome, our community will inevitably still bear significant costs as we look to rebuild infrastructure, address the environmental impacts of the event, and implement a range of initiatives necessary to support economic and social recovery.

This comes at a time where Cairns residents already face significant cost-of-living pressures with the rising cost of mortgage repayments, rent, insurance and day-to-day essentials all impacting household budgets and business profitability.

Cost-of-living relief

Increased funding from the State and Federal Governments will not only provide water security but offer significant cost-of-living relief to the Cairns community. The increased commitment to CWSS1 from both levels of government requested in this paper (\$236 million each) would deliver savings of \$7,320 per household, or \$488 per year over 15 years.

Cost of living relief: savings* per household



Queensland Government
\$244 pa
over 15 years
Total \$3,660

Federal Government
\$244 pa
over 15 years
Total \$3,660

*Savings per household represent future increases in Council rates and/or water charges avoided because of Government funding versus Council taking on debt to fund the project and repaying that debt over 15 years.

CWSS1 project - background

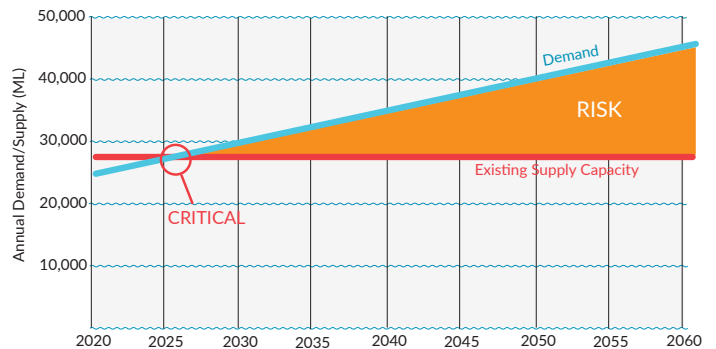
Constructed in 1976, when our population was 58,000, Cairns' primary water source, Copperlode Falls Dam, has served the city well. However, it can no longer meet the water needs of a growing population, expected to reach 241,000 by 2050.

Without a new water supply, Cairns faces the real possibility of a drinking water shortage by 2026.

The Cairns Water Security Stage 1 project will break ground in mid-2024 to provide a much-needed secondary supply, while increasing network resilience to respond to natural disasters.

A key part of the Cairns Water Security Strategy, and confirmed as the best value-for-money solution through a rigorous, independent business case process, the project sources water from a strategic reserve in the Mulgrave River near Gordonvale, and includes intake infrastructure, supply and mains connection pipelines, a treatment

plant and reservoirs. Adding 60ML of water per day to the network, CWSS1 is our 'new dam' but cheaper and with a lighter environmental footprint.



²⁶
“This project is absolutely critical for our city and the liveability of its residents.”

The Hon. Warren Entsch
Member for Leichardt

“This is a major infrastructure project that I wholeheartedly support.”

Hon. Michael Healy MP
Minister for Tourism and Sport
Member for Cairns

Regional benefits



- Essential additional water for Cairns and FNQ to grow and prosper.
- Delivers critical risk mitigation for Council's existing water facilities, particularly during periods of natural disaster.
- Significantly cheaper than a new dam and with a lighter environmental footprint.
- Protects our visitor reputation by minimising water restrictions.
- Avoids conflict with future agricultural water needs on the Atherton Tablelands by not sourcing water from the Barron River/Mareeba Dimbulah Water Supply Scheme.
- Strategically located adjacent to the city's primary urban development front (Mt Peter) and in close proximity to the Cairns South State Development Area.

For more information:

www.cairns.qld.gov.au/advocacy

Mayor's Office

4044 3083

t.james@cairns.qld.gov.au

CWSS1 is proudly supported by:



Open Session Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 6 March 2024 - #100388