

<b>ORDINARY MEETING</b>	<b>2</b>
1 MAY 2024	

## **CEO MONTHLY REPORT**

93/1/2 | #7399816

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That Council notes:
  - a) The status of Council Resolutions.
  - b) The planned review into Safety at Natural Waterways and Natural Areas.
  - c) The CEO Month in Review.
  - d) The wrap up of the Declaration of Office 2024.
  - e) The Ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper Flooding Recovery Update, including the intention to lodge an \$11M Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements submission for the proposed replacement Lower Kamerunga Cycleway Bridge.
  
2. That Council approves:
  - a) The Play Our Way Program Application – Redlynch Community Sports Facilities.
  - b) Retrospectively, a financial contribution of \$3000 to the Stratford Bowls Club in order for them to conduct their ANZAC Day remembrance event.

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### **INTERESTED PARTIES:**

In relation to the Stratford Bowls Club:

- Rod Hansen (President)
- Simone Miller (Vice President)
- Stuart Rifkin (Secretary)
- Gail Priest (Treasurer)

*Note: The identification of interested parties is provided on a best endeavours basis by Council Officers and may not be exhaustive.*

## Outstanding Council Resolutions

Since the previous reporting period 18 resolutions have been completed and there are 13 resolutions outstanding. See below table:

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Meeting type</b>	<b>Clause No.</b>	<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Directorate</b>
04/10/2023	Ordinary Meeting	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	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 Lots into 95 Lots and Open Space) at Fairweather Access, Goldsborough – Division 1	PG&S
22/11/2023	Ordinary Meeting	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	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	1	CEO Monthly Report	Exec
21/02/2024	Ordinary	Business Not on the Agenda 1	Petition Bramston Beach Green Waste	CIA
06/03/2024	Ordinary	6	Community Partnerships Grant Round 10	L&C
12/04/2024	Post Election	1	Appointment of the Deputy Mayor	Exec
12/04/2024	Post Election	2	Council Meeting Dates for 2024	Exec
12/04/2024	Post Election	3	Councillor Appointments to Committees and Boards	Exec
12/04/2024	Post Election	4	Appointment of Councillor Advisor/s	Exec

## **Review into Safety at Natural Waterways and Natural Areas**

### **Background:**

Several incidents occurred recently in natural areas and waterways in the Cairns Regional Council area that tragically resulted in the death of three people. Specifically, these occurred at Isabella Falls, where on 7 December 2023 a 17 year old male lost his life, and on 7 April 2024, where a 26 year old male lost his life. At Crystal Cascades, a 21 year old male lost his life on 10 March 2024.

Councillor Moller raised a General Business Motion at the Ordinary Meeting on 21 December 2023 as follows:

SAFETY AUDIT FOR ISABELLA FALLS. Cr Moller acknowledged the passing of Christian Laska and as a priority in the new year will request via the office of the CEO a workshop on the prospects of a safety audit for Isabella Falls.

### **Comment:**

Council completed a comprehensive review of safety at The Boulders, Babinda in 2022 which was adopted in January 2023. A range of actions were undertaken and implemented in 2023 in order to meet the recommendations of the review. Following on from the outcomes and learnings from this, an audit and review is proposed to be conducted across natural areas and waterways in the Council area where safety risks are identified. This review will include Crystal Cascades and Isabella Falls. A suitable consultant with specific expertise in the area is presently being engaged to undertake this body of work. The audit and review will involve the following:

- Site identification and inspections;
- Identification and assessment of current risks at each site and severity;
- Investigation of potential mitigation and/or control measures for each risk at each site;
- Outline of the residual risks if control measures were implemented;
- Details of costs associated with proposed control and mitigation measures,
- Detailing an inspection regime for each site;
- Identify necessary considerations and requirements for seasonal closures if applicable; and
- Establishing an assessment framework for sites across Council where safety may be an issue.

A coroner's report was recently released on 16 April 2024 in regard to the Crystal Cascades fatality with the report concluding that there were adequate warning signs with no recommendations for Council to take further preventative measures. The audit and review is a key pro-active initiative to enhance risk management within inland waterways across the Cairns Local Government Area.

The audit and review will be included as a component of the Aquatic Strategy that will be presented to Council at a workshop in mid-2024. In the interim, Council is actively

monitoring these sites and undertaking necessary actions where possible to improve public safety.

### **CEO Month in Review – March 2024**

The CEO's monthly review summarises a number of Council's operational activities and associated metrics from the previous month, as well as providing relevant updates on major initiatives and projects. See Attachment 1.

### **Declaration of Office 2024**

Almost 500 people attended the swearing-in of the new Council at the Declaration of Office event at the Cairns Performing Arts Centre on Thursday 11 April. Amy Eden became the city's 36th Mayor and only the second woman to hold the office, and was joined by returning councillors Brett Moller, Cathy Zeiger, Rob Pyne, Kristy Vallely, Rhonda Coghlan and Brett Olds, along with new faces Anna Middleton, Matthew Tickner and Trevor Tim. The event was a resounding success and provided residents the opportunity to celebrate the people they elected to represent and guide the city for the next four years. It was also live-streamed on Council's Facebook and YouTube channel. Characterised by a jovial and celebratory ambience, a highlight of the event was the donning of the ceremonial mayoral robe and chains on Mayor Amy Eden by Cairns Youth Council Mayor Antonije Dimitrijevic, and Deputy Mayors Aiden Senaratne and Sofia Hoorn.

Each elected member made their Declaration of Office, the record of which will be kept in perpetuity by the Council.

### **Ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper Flooding Recovery Update**

#### **Human and Social Pillar:**

Officers from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority were in Cairns from Monday 15 April to Friday 19 April checking on homes and businesses damaged by the severe rainfall and flooding of Tropical Cyclone Jasper. QRA officers will collect information on property damage, progress of repairs, insurance matters, and residents' ability to access financial and personal support where required.

Cairns Regional Council has partnered with James Cook University (JCU) to conduct a rapid social needs assessment to identify those needs our community feel are important to support their recovery and long-term resilience.

The survey is open from 19 April to 10 May, is anonymous and no identifying personal information will be collected.

The survey will aim to understand both short-term and medium-term recovery needs (up to 12 months), with a view to understanding longer-term support requirements related to aspects of emotional, financial, physical, material wellbeing.

#### **Infrastructure Pillar:**

Priority works include Barron Gorge Road, Casuarina Street /road bridge 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.

*Environment Pillar:*

Assessments of damage to significant, high value vegetation, waterways and protected areas continue but indicators so far, are that significant damages were localised. Management actions have addressed environmental impacts with pest infestation and long-term ecological changes to be monitored to determine if interventions are necessary. Some areas will naturally recover.

*Economic Pillar:*

The range of industry and business Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements packages (jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments) continues, however applications have closed for some grants under the Tourism Recovery and Resilience Program.

An Economic Impact Assessment Interim Report, that provides an understanding of the depth, breadth and likely duration of the economic impacts from Ex- Tropical Cyclone Jasper, has been completed. The report will help inform actions in the Economic Recovery and Resilience Plan that is currently being finalised.

*Next steps (Measuring the financial impact):*

While the assessment of the full impact of the Ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper Flooding event on Council's financial position continues, the latest estimates put the cost of the weather event at \$131 million of which \$102 million is expected to be recovered from external funding, resulting in a net cost to Council of \$29 million. We continue to work closely and collaboratively with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) to advocate for funding.

*Recovery Plan Draft:*

The Tropical Cyclone Jasper Flooding Event Recovery Plan draft is due for Local Disaster Management Group endorsement and Council noting in May 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:*

On Thursday 19 April it was announced the Queensland's office of The Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM) will conduct a review of the significant weather events, relating to the 2023-24 Severe Weather Season. The review will include the severe storms, tropical cyclones, tropical lows, flooding and bushfires and will also include any other significant weather events that occur prior to the conclusion of the severe weather season.

IGEM will engage with impacted communities and consider the views of community members. An interim IGEM report is expected by 30 July 2024. The final Review Report is to be provided by 30 September 2024.

In February, Council made a formal request to the Inspector-General of Emergency Management (IGEM) for a review into ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper and the subsequent flooding event. Council asked that it 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.

An IGEM review is a separate exercise to Council's independent After Action Review and the engagement with National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

**Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements submissions:**

Council officers are working closely with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) to formulate Council's official submissions for funding.

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.

Council intends to lodge an \$11M Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements submission for the proposed replacement and betterment of the 200 metre bridge/causeway that is part of the Lower Kamerunga Cycleway which suffered significant damage during weather event (pictured below).

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.



*Lower Kamerunga Cycleway: view from southern abutment, facing north, showing loss of asphalt running surface, damaged kerb and beams.*

**Play Our Way Program Application – Redlynch Community Sports Facilities**

**Background:**

Council adopted the Redlynch Sport and Recreation Parklands Masterplan on 24 May 2017. The Masterplan aimed to meet the emerging and future needs for sport and recreation facilities of the catchment. The first stage and second stages of implementation of the masterplan saw the development of AFL Cape York House for

Girls, active transport and part of the nature based recreation. The remaining stages of the masterplan are referred to as the Redlynch Community Sports Facilities and have been provisioned for in the ten year capital works program. The Redlynch and surrounding catchment has reached capacity of its available sporting facilities and as such, the next stage of development is imminently required.

The Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care has opened the Play Our Way Program, a funding opportunity that aims to build and upgrade sport and physical activity facilities to better meet the needs of women and girls. Officers have assessed the program objectives against Council's ten year capital works program and identified the Redlynch Community Sports Facilities development as an eligible project.

Comment:

The Play Our Way Program Stream One (Facilities) program objective is: build and upgrade sport and physical activity facilities to better meet the needs of women and girls and prioritise equitable and enduring access and use of these facilities for the purposes of women and girls' participation in sport and physical activity. Eligible projects can receive 100% funding of total project costs up to \$1.5M. No co-contribution is required however, co-contribution will be viewed favourably.

The next stage of facilities to be constructed in accordance with the Masterplan are:

- Zone 2: carparking and access (minimum requirements in accordance with Development Approval).
- Zone 4: 1 x rectangular field (including lighting and irrigation), 1 x clubhouse amenity.
- Zone 5: 1 x oval field (including lighting and irrigation), 1 x clubhouse amenity.

To respond to the assessment criteria of the Play Our Way Program, officers propose to submit a grant application for two x female friendly amenities buildings and seek the maximum contribution of \$1.5M in the 2025/26 financial year. Council's adopted capital works program includes the following allocation:

- 2024/25 - \$1.5M
- 2025/26 - \$1.9M

The draft (proposed) capital works program retains the allocations and recommends changes to timing of these allocations to enable detailed design to be completed in the 2024/25 financial year.

Expressions of Interest were due 29 April 2024 and officers finalised a submission by this date. If successful in the expression of interest stage, Council will be invited to submit a formal application. It is recommended that Council endorses the submission of an application for two female friendly amenities to the Play Our Way Program.

### **Contribution to the Stratford Bowls Club ANZAC Day remembrance event**

The Stratford Bowls Club annually conduct a remembrance event to commemorate Anzac Day. A not-for-profit, the Club shows their support to current and returned services personnel by ensuring the upkeep of the Epitaph surrounds (adjacent to their bowling green), as well as providing hospitality following the local Anzac Day services. This is typically a self-funded exercise and this event is staffed wholly by volunteers.

As a result of the unprecedented weather events of December 2023, and the subsequent flooding of the bowling green, maintenance shed, BBQ and club house, the Club currently faces a six-figures damages bill with insurance complications due to the proximity of the club to the Barron River. Further, due to this damage, the club faces challenges in relation to incoming revenue.

In order to continue with their yearly effort to recognize servicemen and women, the club sought \$3,000 from Council in order for them to safely accommodate attendees on 25 April 2024 (Anzac Day).

Whilst not assessed as part of the Community Partnerships grant stream, there is capacity for this to be funded via the Community Partnerships grant stream budget to meet this request.

Due to the above extenuating circumstances, Council is being asked to retrospectively approve this contribution.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: CEO Month in Review – March 2024 #7400072



Christine Posgate  
Acting Chief Executive Officer



# CEO Month in Review

93/1/2 | #7400072 / #7399816

## **MARCH 2024**

The data contained within this review relates to the following:

- Events from the month
- Media Coverage
- Supporting the Community
- Creative Venues attendance
- Community attendance
- Cairns Infrastructure and Assets Customer Requests
- Major Projects and Initiatives
- Planning, Growth and Sustainability
- Economic Development and Advocacy Highlights
- Economic Snapshot

**Christine Posgate**  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

# Community and Civic events

## Citizenship

**Date:** Thursday 29 February

**Attendance:** 180, including 75 new citizens

**Purpose:** A ceremony to naturalise incoming Australian citizens, welcoming them to the Cairns region with a morning tea post-ceremony. This event is delivered by Cairns Regional Council, held on behalf of the Department of Home Affairs.



180 people



## International Women's Day Awards

**Date:** Friday 8 March

**Attendance:** 300

**Purpose:** An awards program to recognise women who have demonstrated leadership, providing inspiration as a role model within our local community.

**Woman of the Year, Alana McKenna**  
**Highly Commended (WOTY), Libby Cook-Black.**

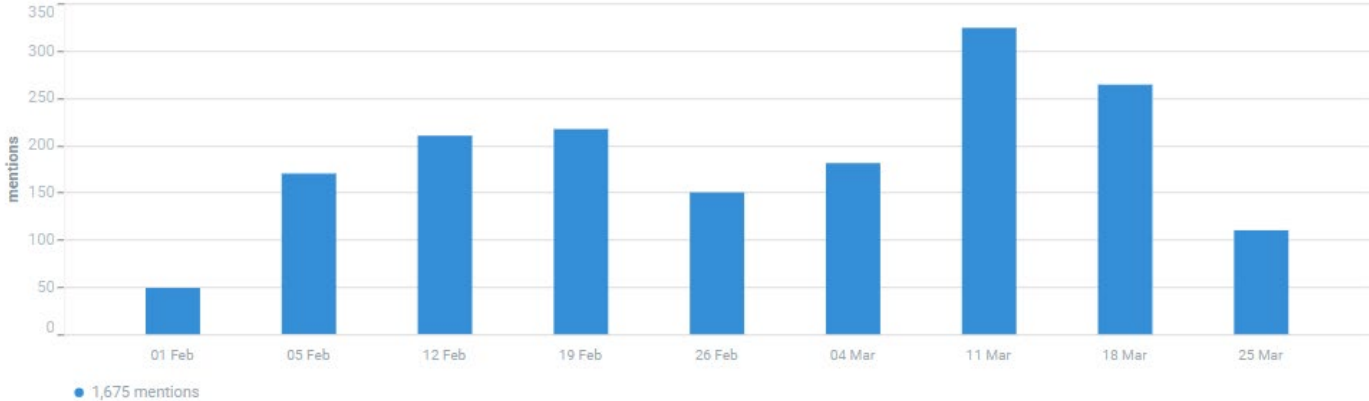
**Young Woman of the Year, Indianna Tillett**  
**Women's Recognition Award, Libby Cook-Black.**



300 people

# Media Coverage in February and March

Coverage over time

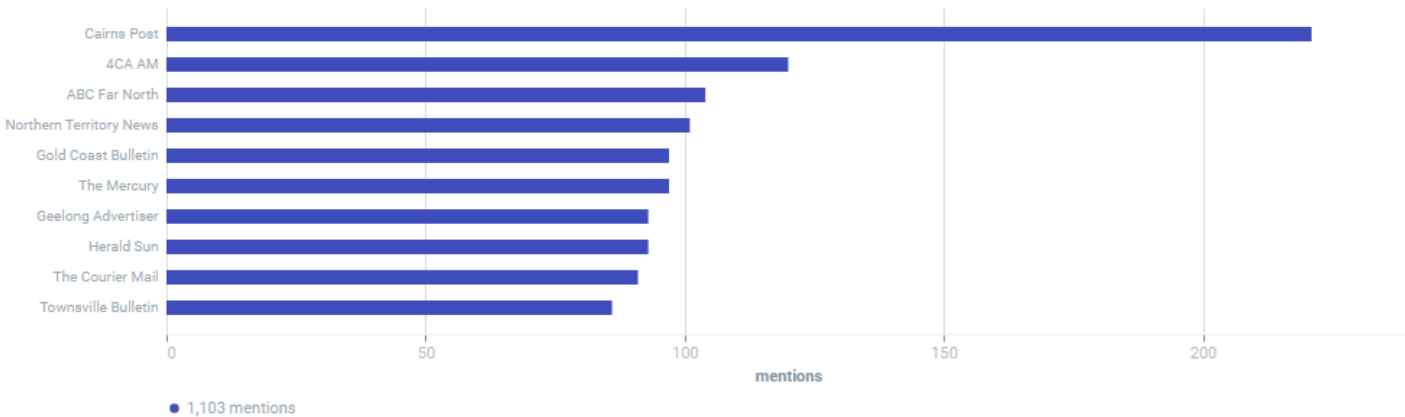


Media coverage from 1 February to 31 March had 1,675 mentions of Cairns Regional Council.

Most coverage was on March 11 regarding the election.

# Media Coverage in February and March

Top 10 outlets



The majority of media coverage was from the Cairns Post.

# Supporting the Community

## My Cairns App



### MyCairns App Downloads

Total Downloads:

**March 2024, 62,612**

**February 2024, 61,884**

January 2024, 61,220

December 2023, 60,305

November 2023, 58,005

October 2023, 57,314

September 2023, 56,649



## Creative Venues:

Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre, CPAC, Tanks, Court House Gallery, MMP and public parks for Movie Nights.

- **February:** 9,277
- **March:** 14,496
  
- **February:** 41 workshops, classes, shows, exhibitions, live performances, movie nights and other events across the six venues.
- **March:** 54 workshops, classes, shows, exhibitions, live performances, movie nights and other events across the six venues.

Attendance down from previous year due to technical failure with Tanks people counter which has been rectified and is being monitored.

## Library Programs:

- **February:** 2,247 across 130 inhouse and outreach programs.
- **March:** 3,299 across 173 inhouse and outreach programs.

## Total Attendances for all libraries:

- **February:** 60,687
- **March:** 74,367

## Members Loans:

- **February:** 65,236 loans.
- **March:** 79,139 loans .



■ Total loans, library visitation, in-house program attendance and new memberships across February and March are some of the strongest reported usage Library Services have observed across the 23/24 FY YTD. This may be connected to the advocacy campaign 'Library Lovers Month' and the fantastic participation from our customers in promoted events and programming.

# Community Attendance

## Markets:

- **February:** Gordonvale Cottage Markets attendance 2,500.
- **March:** Gordonvale Cottage Markets attendance 3,000 with 139 stallholders.

Tanks Markets resume Sunday 28 April 2024.

## Active Living

- **February:** 1,275 with 41 classes delivered. 14 classes cancelled due to wet weather.
- **March:** 1,714 with 58 classes delivered. 14 classes cancelled due to wet weather.

Active Living classes returned 12 February 2024.

## Esplanade Boardwalk:

- **February:** 44,954 people.
- **March:** 46,100 people.



Figures fluctuate based upon weather and events occurring at the Esplanade.

## Barlow Park:

- **February:** 2,908
- **March** 5,524

The Facility is only open to casual user or closed for repairs. Bookings are down from the same period last year (due to works and weather).

# Cairns Infrastructure and Assets

Customer Requests – March 2024



194

Footpaths and  
cycleways



64%



285

Roads and road  
furniture



21%



26

Graffiti removal



18%



# Major Projects & Initiatives



## Resource Recovery 2040 Roadmap

- Stage 2 underway; with Program Prioritisation completed
- Detailed options analysis commenced, including long-listing to short-listing process

## Cairns Water Security Stage 1

- Council has awarded the D&C Contract to John Holland Queensland
- Early design works have now commenced, with construction forecasted for late 2024
- Formal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) negotiations underway



## Smart Water Meter Project

- Over 9,900 SWM meters installed with stable communication of water usage (out of 55,000 scope)
- Current supply of existing meters is sufficient
- Utility Services installation team averaging 600 SWM meter replacements per month.
- Upgrades to communications network commencing in April



## Decarbonisation Action Plan Workshop (14 March 2024)

As part of Council's commitment to achieving net zero emissions for its operations by 2030, Council held a workshop with local small and mediums businesses from a range of sectors to help prepare them for greenhouse gas emissions reporting and decarbonisation.

The workshop equipped local suppliers to respond to related information requests from large buyers and is part of an 'education first' long-term transition to low carbon procurement at Council.

## New energy and emissions system

Implementation is underway for a new energy and emissions software system to improve Council's tracking of greenhouse gas emissions and electricity costs across the business, to better inform mitigation options.



## Detailed Pathway to Net Zero Emissions

Council has engaged Pangolin Associates to assist in developing its Detailed Pathway to Net Zero Emissions for Council operations.

The project will deliver an updated and externally verified greenhouse gas inventory, scenario options and identify capacity, governance, data and resourcing requirements for a defensible, but agile pathway to 2030 and beyond.



## Towards 2050 Growth Strategy

A design workshop was held with Council staff to consider the challenges and opportunities associated with accommodating the expected population growth.

The design workshop was an early step in the development of options and scenarios for the growth strategy.

## Supporting our community (Feb)

Funding from Council's Sustainability and Climate Action grant has enabled Access Community Housing to install a 6.6kw solar system to the roof of the Pease Street Community Hall in a community housing complex, lowering emissions and electricity costs for the organisation.

*The Sustainability and Climate Action Grant provides financial assistance to not-for-profit community groups and organisations delivering projects in the Cairns region. The funding can be used to support initiatives, developments and educational activities that further the grant objectives of emissions reduction, improving ecosystem health and strengthening community resilience and capacity.*

*There is one grant round per year with applications open 1 June – 31 July.*

*More information:*

<https://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/online/apply/grants/sustainability-and-climate-action>

**Access Community Housing** + Follow  
196 followers  
1w • Edited • 🗨

🌱☀️ SUSTAINABILITY NEWS ☀️🌱 | Thanks to the Cairns Regional Council Sustainability and Climate Action grant, we're thrilled to announce a major green upgrade at the Pease Street community hall!

Solar panels are now soaking up the sun's energy, reducing our carbon footprint and paving the way for a brighter, cleaner future! ☀️🌱

Here's a throwback to the memorable opening day, with our former CEO Liz Brown, Housing Officer Hailee, and Cairns Councillors celebrating this big win. Together, we're making a real difference! ❤️

[#Sustainability](#) [#GreenEnergy](#) [#CommunityImpact](#)  
[#CairnsCouncil](#) [#ClimateActionNow](#) 🌍👏

A group of five people (three men and two women) standing in front of a modern building, some wearing festive hats.



## Economic Development

- Economic Development have coordinated delivery of the TC Jasper Economic Impact Assessment and the Economic Recovery and Resilience Plan, both of which will be consolidated into the Local Recovery Plan to be presented to Council in May.
- Economic Development also took part in Tradelinked Cairns-PNG- Pacific's Partnering for the Future forum on 27 March.

## Major and Economic Events

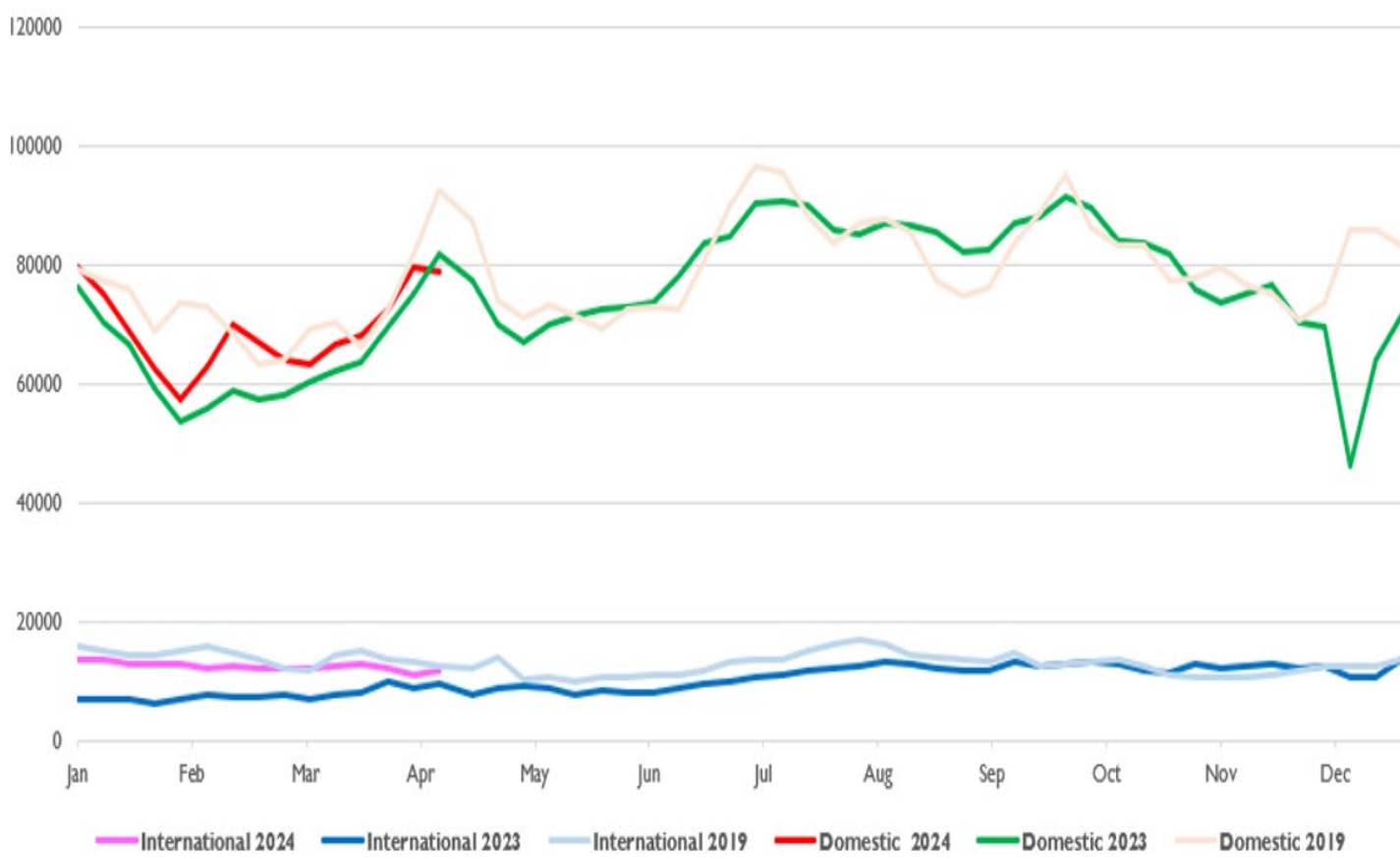
- Crankworx Cairns 2024 "Party in Paradise" program launched at media call at Cairns Esplanade on 23 April.
- In partnership with TEQ and TTNQ, supported allocation of \$3M in Jasper Disaster funding to Major Events across the region - the investment was jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

## Advocacy

- The TNQ Delegation to State Parliament took place from 6-7 March. The Delegation was led by Advance Cairns, Cairns Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Tropical North Queensland. Council Officers participated in meetings as part of the *Food and Water Security* team to discuss CWSS1 funding.



## Aviation (Weekly Passenger Movements Cairns Airport)



Data obtained from numerous sources, including Cairns Airport, Cairns Economic Profile (.id) and TNQ Regional Snapshot (TRA).