



CAIRNS YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT

OUTCOMES

Frequent meetings with young people to discuss & educate!



Cairns
REGIONAL COUNCIL



In late 2019, Cairns Regional Council facilitated a Youth Climate Summit for Student Delegates nominated by local high schools. The aim was to:

- SEEK** input from future leaders to help guide climate action from 2020-2030, including the development of a collective Youth Climate Statement
- CREATE** a space for students to express their concerns and ideas, heard by other youth, experts, Council and industry leaders
- PROVIDE** education, hope and a platform for contributing to positive action.

SUMMIT PROCESS



PARTICIPATION



35 STUDENT DELGATES



5 EXPERT PRESENTATIONS



6 GROUP PRESENTATIONS



400 IDEAS



36 HOPES FOR THE FUTURE



16 INDUSTRY & COMMUNITY LEADERS



17 VLOGS



1 YOUTH CLIMATE STATEMENT

KEY SURVEY OUTCOMES

15 SCHOOLS

227 responses from Grades 7-12

96% are taking one or more action to help tackle climate change

How do you feel about climate change?



Do you feel like you know enough about climate change in our region?



37% YES



18% NO



44% UNSURE

What actions are you taking to help tackle climate change?



70%
Reducing waste

52%
Reducing electricity use

50%
Eating more plant-based or locally grown foods

49%
Supporting businesses that have a commitment to sustainability

47%
Taking the bus, walk or ride to school instead of the car

39%
Using solar power or green power

34%
Encouraging people around me to take action

31%
Taking an interest in environmental/sustainability actions

22%
Getting involved in a sustainability environmental group

4%
I'm not currently taking any action



STUDENT DELEGATES' KEY ACTION IDEAS

Student delegates developed 400 action ideas. Focus areas aligned with the 2019 United Nations Climate Summit. Ideas with the highest votes are presented here:



STUDENT DELEGATES' CLIMATE STATEMENT

Our hope is that by 2030 Cairns will be a place where everyone feels empowered, fuelled with passion and moving with obligation. In the midst of this global crisis, we will be the light in the dark, leading by example as we transition to a more sustainable and climate-conscious future. Climate action must begin with our own mindsets. How can we progress if what we do and say contradict? Without community, any individual effort will be futile.

We hope to see Council transition to 100% renewable energy by 2030 and implement an effective education system that ensures that climate-awareness is not disproportionate in our society. We are all responsible, but we can all be part of the solution. Let's work together to build Cairns into a city of the present, driven by the future, using knowledge of the past. Let future generations live in a beautiful world.

Watch the Student Delegate Presentations in the Cairns Youth Climate Summit Film





FROM THE DELEGATES

"It's not just our problem, it's the adults' problem, it's the younger kids' problem, it's my problem - and we're a community and that's what communities do"

SOPHIE, REDLYNCH STATE COLLEGE

"Sharing our solutions for being more climate conscious... along with a collective aspirational statement.. it was great to see the industry leaders listening, interested and invested in what we had to say"

ANIKA, TROPICAL NORTH LEARNING ACADEMY

"Now in my final year of school, I am already beginning to see changes, albeit gradual, towards a more sustainable future – a momentum undoubtedly sparked by the Cairns Youth Climate Summit. Fortunate enough to be a leader at my school, I plan to further develop these passions by leaving behind a legacy"

GNU, PEACE LUTHERAN COLLEGE

"The summit gave me the opportunity to connect with like minded young adults and allowed us to share our love for helping the planet and our local community.. I've been able to inform my school and classmates on ways they can be more sustainable and have a positive impact on the environment."

MADDISON, TROPICAL NORTH LEARNING ACADEMY

"It's our future that we need to save and it's very important that we act upon it"

EMMA, GORDONVALE HIGH SCHOOL

"Climate action is important to me because I want a secure future for me, my friends and my children"

WILLIAM, ST MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE



FROM THE MAYOR

Youth are crucial in building a sustainable future for Cairns as they are tomorrow's leaders.

The Cairns Youth Climate Summit is believed to be the first Council-led youth summit on climate action in Australia and the delegates had the ear of key community, government and industry representatives.

I hope that you are inspired by their vision and are compelled by their concerns and ideas, as I am. I urge you to do what you can within your sphere of influence to ensure their aspirations come to fruition, so that a vibrant and climate resilient region may be secured for all generations.

Mayor Bob Manning

The Cairns Youth Climate Summit involved representatives from Cairns Regional Council, Queensland Department of Environment and Science, Local Government Association Queensland, Central Queensland University, Wet Tropics Management Authority, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Terrain Natural Resource Management, Articulous, Committee for Waste Reduction, Tourism Tropical North Queensland, North Queensland Airports, Cairns Chamber of Commerce, Citizens Great Barrier Reef, Young Entrepreneurs Project, The Missing Link Resource Coordinators and Climate Force.

FIND OUT MORE www.cairns.qld.gov.au/youthclimatesummit



Cairns Youth Climate Summit Outcomes Film



Download Cairns Youth Climate Summit Report



Watch the Student Delegates Video Logs



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