

<b>ORDINARY MEETING</b>	<b>1</b>
21 FEBRUARY 2024	

## **CEO MONTHLY REPORT**

93/1/2 | #7352332

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That Council notes:
  - a. The status of Council Resolutions
  - b. The CEO Month in Review
  - c. The Understory Film Festival 2023 Wrap Up
  - d. The Ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper Flooding Recovery Update
  
2. That Council approves:
  - a. The extension of event activities in the Lagoon Carpark, Cairns Esplanade until 2:00am on Monday 17 June 2024 for IRONMAN Cairns, and then for each subsequent year under the IRONMAN Cairns Major Events Sponsorship agreement (2024-2028).
  - b. The extension of event activities in Fogarty Park, Cairns Esplanade until 12:00am (midnight) on Saturday 27 July 2024 for the Cairns Italian Festival La Festa event.
  - c. The extension of event activities on the Eastern Event Lawn, Cairns Esplanade until 12:00am (midnight) on Friday 13 September 2024 for the Cairns Amateurs Carnival Gala Ball, and then for each subsequent year under the Cairns Amateurs Carnival Major Events Sponsorship agreement (2024-2026).
  
3. That Council endorses:
  - a. The nomination of Palm Cove into the 2024 Queensland Top Tourism Town Awards.

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### **INTERESTED PARTIES:**

In relation to the extension of event activities for IRONMAN Cairns:

- Coral Coast Catering
- USM Events Pty Ltd T/A IRONMAN

In relation to the extension of event activities for the Cairns Italian Festival:

- Cairns Italian Festival Inc.

In relation to the extension of event activities for Cairns Amateurs Carnival:

- Ochre Restaurant and Catering
- Far North Queensland Amateur Turf Club Inc

*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 13 resolutions have been completed and there are 12 resolutions outstanding. See below table:

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Meeting</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	8	1-Year Extension of Five Resource and Performance Agreements	ED&A
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	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
24/01/2024	Ordinary Meeting	Clause No. 8	Review of Submissions and Adoption of CairnsPlan 2016 Planning Scheme Policy – FNQROC Regional Development Manual Amendment 1 of 2024	PG&S

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

The CEO's monthly review summarises several 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.*

## **Understory Film Festival 2023 Wrap Up**

Understory Film Festival has been designed to develop screen culture in Far North Queensland by promoting our unique environment, sharing our stories through the magic of short film, and providing screen pathways for filmmakers from the region. Celebrating 10 years of local filmmaking in 2023, the festival showcases local talent, builds industry capacity, awards achievement, and enhances audience development in short film culture. Submissions are accepted from Townsville to Cairns, across Cape York, the Gulf of Carpentaria and the Torres Strait Islands, and represent a broad cross section of our community that reflect different age groups, diverse cultures, scenery, genres and ideals that make up the region.

Submissions are judged by a professional panel of filmmakers, with the finalist shortlist screened at Munro Martin Parklands on Saturday 18 November 2023. Awards and prizes are presented to the winning films including \$2,500 each for *Best Film* and the *People's Choice Award*, which is decided by the audience on the night. Noted Actor Jimi Bani hosted the event to an audience of over 500 people. Currently both the Understory Film Festival and Understory High finalist shortlists are touring the broader region with the assistance of the Regional Arts Services Network as part of their community engagement activities.

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

*Updates from each of the Recovery Subcommittees are as follows:*

### **Human and Social Pillar**

The pillar's current focus is on facilitating development of a rapid social needs assessment to identify the effects and ongoing recovery needs in the community. This process includes a range of inputs, such as continuing community consultation via a public online survey and targeted focus group involving key human and health services.

Whilst the full extent of the human and social impact is still being determined, it is evident that the most recent event has compounded pre-existing challenges and there remains a significant degree of vulnerability including emotional stress in the most affected areas. Council continues to work closely with the community sector to support the service responses and provision of essential assistance for impacted communities.

### Infrastructure Pillar

Hard waste collection was completed on Friday 19 January with case-by-case assessments in flood affected areas throughout early February. Priority works include Barron Gorge Road, Casuarina Street reconstruction options, Savannah Street (Palm Cove) drainage reconstruction and numerous culvert and drainage structure projects. A recent addition to the priority works list is the principal cycleway network bridge crossing the Barron River at Caravonica and the installation of a temporary pedestrian bridge at Fisheries Bridge, Goldsborough.



*Pictured: Fisheries Bridge, Goldsborough Road – installation of a temporary pedestrian (2 week build) bridge on Friday 9 Feb is the first stage of both providing temporary and long-term solutions.*

### Environment Pillar

Environmental impacts on Council land predominantly on beachfronts (sand erosion) need to be addressed in the medium to long term. Assessments of damage to significant, high value vegetation, waterways and protected areas continue but indicators so far, are that significant damages were localised. Some areas will naturally recover. Environmental damages such as pest infestation spread will be unknown until germination occurs or populations grow to detectable levels.

### Economic Pillar

The short-term focus has been on providing support to mitigate the immediate economic impacts from the disaster. This includes informing the development and deployment of various funding and ancillary packages from all three levels of government to support business and industry sector recovery. An independent economic assessment of the impacts of the disaster has commenced and will inform medium to long term economic recovery and resilience planning.

### 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 the costs incurred to date at approximately \$8.5 million and total Council costs associated

with the event expected to exceed \$100 million. Whilst funding programs such as the joint Commonwealth and State Government's *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements*, 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 to advocate for funding to cover the expected shortfall.

*After Action Review Update:* Consultation with the IMT and Executive core of LDMG has been completed. Consultation with the wider LDMG is expected over the coming weeks including at the LDMG meeting in February. A final report with executive summary and key findings and recommendations for improvement will be provided to the Council in April.

*Recovery Plan Draft:* The ex-TC Jasper / Flooding Recovery Plan draft, due for Council endorsement in April, will outline the range of activity undertaken by Council and relevant agencies with a focus on community sustainability and resilience.

*Request for IGEM Review:* In early February, a joint letter from the Office of Mayor and CEO was sent to the Inspector-General of Emergency Management (IGEM) Alistair Dawson, requesting that; an IGEM Review of the ex-Tropical Cyclone and subsequent flooding event take place, that it be done so expeditiously, and urging that public input be allowed into the review. We further reiterated our commitment to fully engaging in such an exercise.

### **Major Events – Extension of Event Hours**

Council has received three event applications that include a request to extend activities beyond the 10pm threshold as specified in the Cairns Esplanade Usage General Policy.

Carins Regional Council's Esplanade Usage Policy does not routinely support event activities and associated noise on the Esplanade for open air events past 10pm. Consideration to extensions beyond this time must be endorsed through a full Council Resolution.

Given the nature of the events and the proposed set up, officers do not anticipate that these activities will have an adverse or contentious effect on surrounding residents or the public. Conditions for the hire of the Esplanade spaces (eastern Events Lawn, Fogarty Park, Lagoon Carpark) will include a requirement for community consultation to surrounding residents and businesses detailing the anticipated projected noise levels after 10pm.

### **IRONMAN Cairns:**

Council has entered into a Major Event sponsorship agreement to support the IRONMAN Cairns festival for the five-year period 2024 to 2028.

For 2024, IRONMAN Cairns will take place across the region on Sunday 16 June 2024, with the finish line for the event being held in the Lagoon carpark at the Cairns Esplanade. The event will host approx. 4,000 athletes plus spectators, with the final finisher expected to cross the finish line between midnight and 1am. There will be amplified music and an MC until the final finisher crosses the line, the catering in the VIP area will also continue until the final finisher. Bump out will commence on Monday morning from 6am. This follows the same format as the event in previous years.

#### *Cairns Italian Festival La Festa:*

Council recently endorsed a Major Event sponsorship of the Cairns Italian Festival 2024, which includes the annual La Festa event in Fogarty Park.

In 2024, this event will take place on Saturday 27 July. Live music will be played from 10am until the events conclusion at midnight. The projected noise levels between 10pm and 12 midnight will be in line with the conditions of the liquor licence for the event (Cairns Italian Festival Inc. are license holders).

#### *Cairns Amateurs Carnival Gala Ball:*

Council recently endorsed a Major Event sponsorship of the Cairns Amateurs Carnival for the three-year period 2024 to 2026, which includes the annual Gala Ball on the Esplanade Eastern Events Lawn.

In 2024, this event will take place on Friday 13 September, with 2025 and 2026 dates to be confirmed (held in September each year). Live music will be played from 6:00pm until the events conclusion at midnight. A fireworks display is proposed between the hours of 9pm and 9.30pm. The projected noise levels between 10pm and 12 midnight will be in line the conditions of the liquor licence for the event (Oche Catering are license holders). This event follows the same format as the event in previous years.

#### **Top Tourism Town Award Nomination 2024**

The Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) Top Tourism Town Awards celebrates Queensland's outstanding regional destinations. The President of Tourism Palm Cove has approached the divisional Councillor seeking support to nominate Palm Cove in the Top Small Tourism Town category for the 2024 Awards. It is only Local Councils or accredited Visitor Information Centres that can nominate a destination for the awards.

Council's endorsement to nominate Palm Cove is now being sought. This is a two-stage process. The first stage is a nomination via expression of interest form (incurs a registration fee of \$250), and the second stage is a submission which will include a sample itinerary, an editorial, promotional images and video. There will be a modest cost involved with the development of a video, which can be met within budget.

Winners are determined by a public vote which will take place in May 2024, with winners announced in June. TTNQ has indicated their support for the submission,

which is due by 12 April 2024.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: CEO Month in Review - January 2024 #7352322

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

Mica Martin  
Chief Executive Officer

# CEO Month in Review

93/1/2 | #7352332 / 7352322

## JANUARY 2024

The data contained within this review relates to the following:

- Events from the month
- Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate
- Animal Management
- Cairns Infrastructure and Assets Customer Requests
- Planning, Growth and Sustainability
- Major Projects and Initiatives
- Economic Development and Advocacy Highlights
- Economic Snapshot



**Mica Martin**  
Chief Executive Officer



# Community and Civic events

## Australia Day

### Family Fun Day new site

**Location:** Woree Sports & Aquatic Centre

**Date & Venue:** 26 January 2024

**Attendance:** 500 pax - families

**Purpose:** Provides a free fun day for the south of Cairns community.



500 people

### Family Fun Day

**Location:** Smithfield & Tobruk

**Date & Venue:** 26 January 2024

**Attendance:** 1,200-1,500 pax at each site – families

**Notes:** Provides a free fun day for the city central and Northern Beaches Cairns community.



1,000-1,500  
people



# Community and Civic events

## Citizenship

**Date:** Friday 26 January

**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.



75 people



## Citizen of the Year Awards

**Date:** Thursday 1 February

**Attendance:** 100

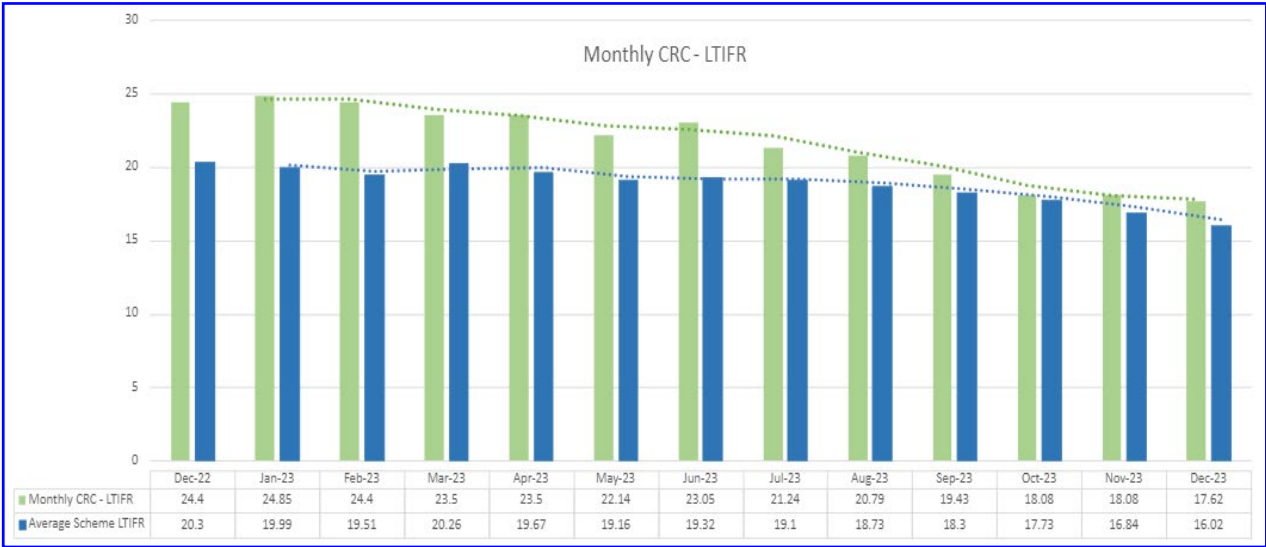
**Purpose:** To recognise local individuals and groups who make an outstanding contribution to the region.

**Citizen of the Year,** Jacqui Backhouse  
**Young Citizen of the Year,** Yazmin Rivett  
**Volunteer of the Year Award,** Carol Mills  
**Sportsperson of the Year,** Hirari Kurihara  
**Young Sportsperson of the Year,** Rhiannon Forbes  
**Highly Commended,** Kalan Gosper  
**Cultural Award of the Year,** Maureen Cameron  
**Lifetime Achievement,** Joyce Swinton



100 people

# Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate



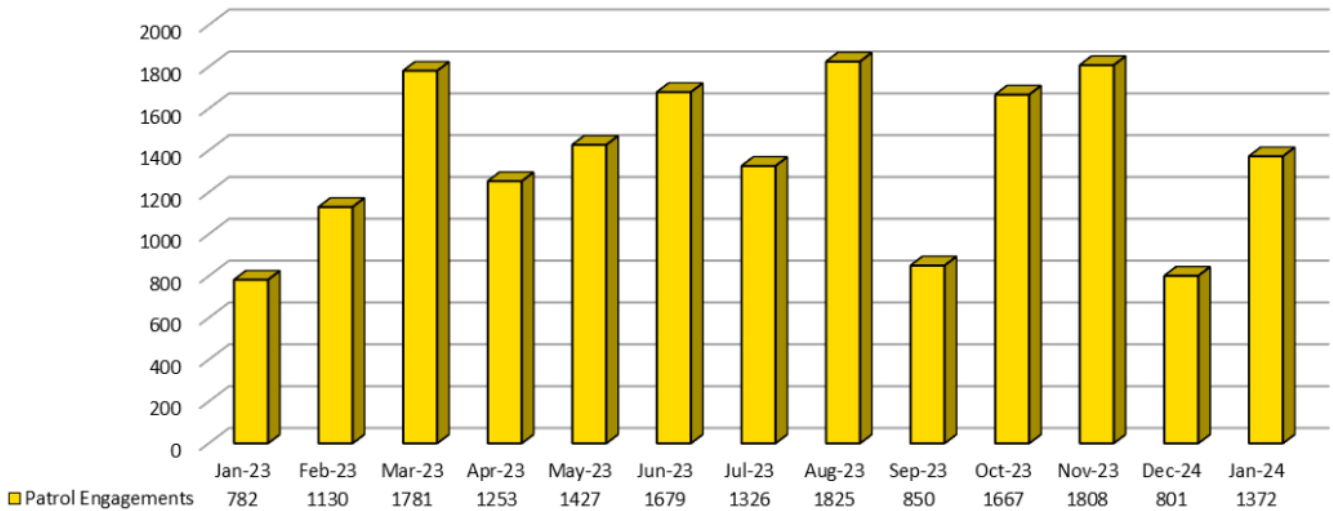
### Comments

The LTIFR (frequency) for Council has continued to decrease and is currently 17.62, with the scheme also decreasing to 16.02. This downward trend has been consistent across 2023 for both Council and the scheme average.

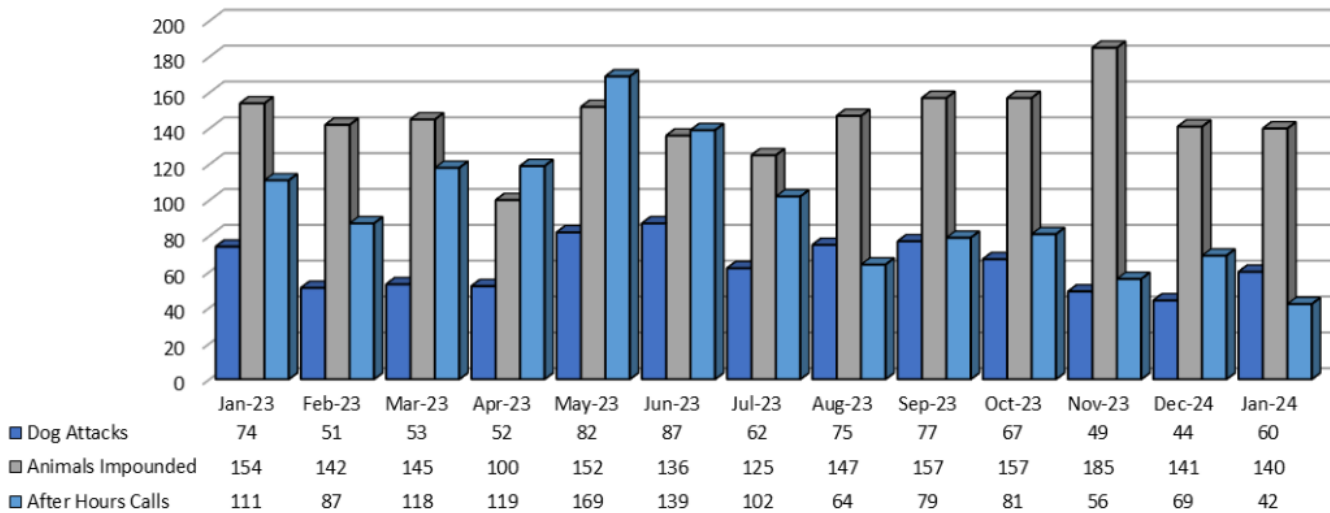
The variance between Council and the Scheme Average, increased slightly In November and December to 1.6, compared to October’s all-time low of 0.78.

# Animal Management – January 2024

## JANUARY 2024 ACTIVE PATROLS



## JANUARY 2024 ANIMAL MANAGEMENT





## **Dog Attacks: January 60**

- Increase in all areas this month which has returned to normal after the holiday period.

## **Animals Impounded: January 140**

- Decrease in cat intake due to cat flu outbreak.

## **After-hours Calls: January 42**

- Decrease in after-hours calls for this month could be due to holidays. Increase in Infringements issued due to the finalising of CRMs.

## **Patrol Engagements: 1,372 Total**

- Pro-active patrols getting back to normal however still impacted by numerous rainy days and hot weather.



# Cairns Infrastructure and Assets

Customer Requests – January 2024



↑  
110%

145

Footpaths and  
cycleways



↑  
33%

269

Roads and road  
furniture



↑  
6%

35

Graffiti removal



The **Development & Planning** branch has refreshed and refined Council’s **Post Approval Framework**, streamlining construction-related milestones and enhancing transparency in post approval processes. New guidelines and application forms have been introduced for quicker turnaround times, with industry consultation playing a key role.

The new Post Approval Framework can be viewed on Council’s [website](#).

The **Licensing and Compliance** branch has just submitted its annual report to the State Govt outlining Council’s actions to reduce littering and illegal dumping, as per it’s **Illegal Dumping Partnerships Program - Round 2A** funding agreement.

Of note, this funding has enabled Council to:

- Investigate 539 reports of illegal dumping.
- Secure 188 successful compliance outcomes (including warnings, compliance notices and PINs issued).
- Issue 12 PINs totalling \$38,935.
- Remove 748,745 litres of waste.



The **Growth and Sustainability** branch has been working to finalise the Draft Local Housing Action Plan (LHAP). As a State Government-LGAQ initiative, LHAPs are being developed by Council’s across Queensland. The Draft LHAP provides an overview of emerging issues relating to housing needs in the community. Action items have been developed from the emerging issues, established over 8 themes (as per diagram, below). The Draft LHAP is to be submitted to State Government for review and will be considered by the incoming Council.



# 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 Design & Construct Contract to John Holland Queensland, with contract particulars now being finalised for execution.
- Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) community consultation completed and now under assessment.
- Formal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) negotiations underway



## Smart Water Meter Project

- Total of 8,600+ SWM meters installed with stable communication of water usage (out of 55,000 scope)
- Current supply of existing meters is sufficient
- First 1,000 new NB-IOT meters due March 2024
- Utility Services installation team averaging 600 SWM meter replacements per month.
- Mid-2024 planned ramp up of installation rate



## Economic Development

- Economic Development joined the first International Education Working Group meeting led by Study Cairns.
- Conus Business Consultancy Services have been appointed to undertake the regional Economic Impact Assessment following TC Jasper.

## Major and Economic Events

- Crankworx Cairns 2024 program launched in media call at Smithfield MTB park by Minister Healy and Mayor James.

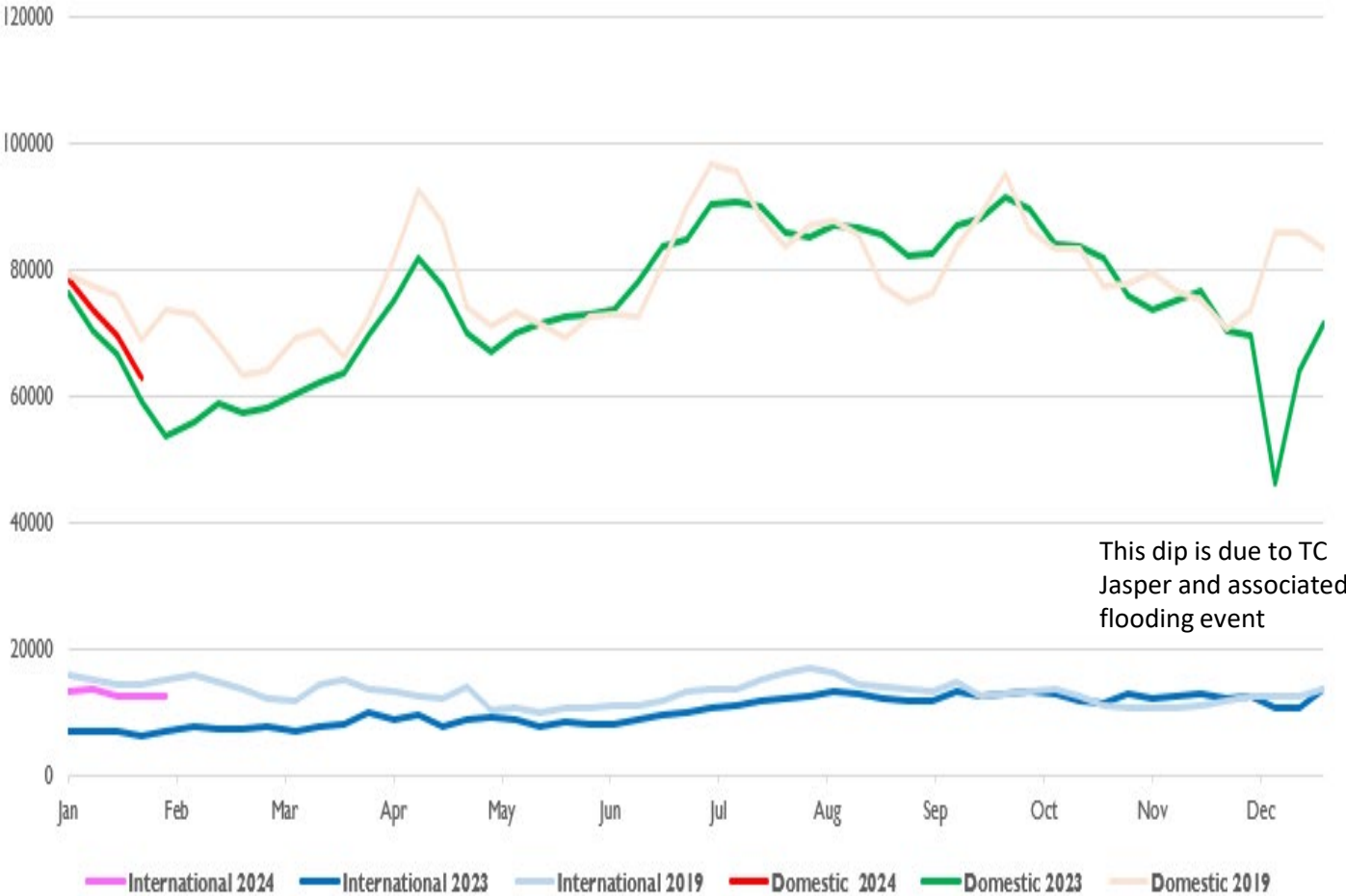
## Advocacy

- Cairns Chamber of Commerce Sponsorship Agreement signed.
- CWSS1 Funding – engagement with various stakeholders on additional funding request.



# Economic snapshot

## Aviation (Weekly Passenger Movements Cairns Airport)



This dip is due to TC Jasper and associated flooding event

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