

ORDINARY MEETING**30 SEPTEMBER 2026****5.1****CEO MONTHLY REPORT**

EXE | 93/1/2 | #7943284

RECOMMENDATION:**That Council notes:**

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

Outstanding Council Resolutions

Since the previous reporting period 23 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 <i>In progress</i>	PGS
12/08/2026	Ordinary	Prejudicial Matter – Support for Major Event <i>In progress</i>	EDA
12/08/2026	Ordinary	Prejudicial Matter – Support for Major Event <i>In progress</i>	EDA
16/09/2026	Ordinary	Preferred Supplier Arrangement (PSA) CT005358 – Supply and Delivery of Quarry Products <i>In progress.</i>	CIA
16/09/2026	Ordinary	Register of Prequalified Suppliers (ROPS) 2881 – Wet and Dry Plant Hire <i>In progress</i>	CIA
16/09/2026	Ordinary	Development Permit for Material Change of Use (Dwelling House & Short Term Accommodation) – 302 Toogood Road, Bayview Heights – Division 3 <i>In progress</i>	PG&S
16/09/2026	Ordinary	Development Permit for Material Change of Use (Dwelling House & Short Term Accommodation) – 14 Oceanview Place, Mooroolbool – Division 4 <i>In progress</i>	PG&S
16/09/2026	Ordinary	Material Change of Use Health Care Services – 5 Pyne Street, Edge Hill – Division 7 <i>In progress</i>	PG&S

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 <i>In progress</i>	PG&S
16/09/2026	Ordinary	Prejudicial Matter – Support for Major Event <i>In progress</i>	EDA
16/09/2026	Ordinary	Prejudicial Matter – Support for Major Event <i>In progress</i>	EDA
16/09/2026	Ordinary	Prejudicial Matter – Support for Major Event <i>In progress</i>	EDA

CEO Monthly Update

Monthly Activity Review – August 2026

Australian Festival of Chamber Music

This year marked the inaugural Australian Festival of Chamber Music (AFCM) in its new home of Cairns, where it enjoyed an extraordinarily successful opening: 10,910 ticketed attendances, record ticket sales, packed and sold-out performances, and a tremendous response from both audiences and the Australian and international musicians. The festival's CEO remarked that it genuinely felt as though AFCM had arrived in a city that embraced it.

Delivering a festival of this scale in a new venue for the first time is never straightforward, and the professionalism, patience and commitment of the CPAC team working in partnership with AFCM was fundamental to the festival's success.

Cairns Festival

Friday 28 August 2026 marked the opening night of Cairns Festival with more than 2,500 people enjoying Queensland Symphony Orchestra's performance beneath the stars at Munro Martin Parklands, while across town, the Twilight Markets also proved popular, drawing over 8,000 people to the Tanks Arts Centre.

The Grand Parade featured a special Cairns 150 Years Fun in the Sun theme and included 68 floats and more than 4000 participants, with audiences of more than 30,000 drawn to the Esplanade to celebrate. Impressive crowds of almost 20,000 people attended the annual Carnival on Collins Father's Day festival finale, which featured roving performers, more than 200 market stalls, local food, live music and a variety of interactive activities.

Sister Cities

Cairns Regional Council welcomed visitors from three of Council's Sister Cities to join in marking Cairns Celebrating 150 Years and coinciding with the Cairns Festival program. Council hosted:

- Mayor Kageji, and a delegation of town officials and students from Minami, Japan.
- Mayor Asano and delegation of city officials, citizens and students from Oyama, Japan.
- John Byrne President Lae Chamber of Commerce and a delegation of city officials from Lae, Papua New Guinea.

As part of the visit the Sister City relationship between the City of Oyama and Cairns was renewed for another decade.

Council acknowledged Mrs Sim Hayward, Cairns' Sister Cities Ambassador, and the forty years of involvement Mrs Hayward has had in Cairns' Sister Cities Programs. The installation of a plaque at the Sister Cities BBQ Precinct, Cairns Esplanade occurred during the Sister Cities week and was unveiled at the Sister Cities Joint BBQ for Students & Homestay Families with over 100 attendees.

Mobile Muster Top Recycling Council in QLD

Cairns Regional Council topped Queensland's MobileMuster leaderboard as the #1 mobile phone recycling council in Queensland for FY 2025/26. With 258.73kg recycled in 2025/26 and 1007.72kg collected over the past five years.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Monthly Activity Review – August 2026
DM#[7943299](#)



Ken Gouldthorp
Chief Executive Officer

Monthly Activity Review

93/1/2 | #7943284 / #7943299

August 2026

The data contained within this review relates to the following:

- Community and Civic Events
- Major Events
- Community Safety
- 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

Air Force Cadets Freedom of Entry

Date: 1 August 2026

Venue: Cairns Cenotaph, Cairns
Esplanade

Attendance: 200 Pax

Time: 8:00am – 8:30am

Purpose: A ceremonial honour steeped in military tradition, recognising the longstanding relationship between a military unit and the community it serves. The parade marks the Squadron's 75th anniversary and is presented as part of the Cairns 150 celebrations.

August Citizenship Ceremony

Date: 10 August 2026

Venue: Cairns Performing Arts Centre

Attendance: 350 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.



200
people



350
people



Community and Civic events

Vietnam VETS Day

Date: 18 August 2026

Venue: Cairns Cenotaph, Cairns Esplanade

Attendance: 450 Pax

Time: 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Purpose: Formal annual commemoration to honour the service and sacrifice of those who served in the Vietnam War. The Cairns RSL Sub Branch plays a central role in organising this event with Councils support.

Positive Ageing Expo

Date: 21 August 2026

Venue: Cairns Performing Arts Centre

Attendance: 1000 Pax

Time: 9:00am – 4:00pm

Purpose: This community event brings together seniors, carers, service providers, and local organisations in a welcoming and engaging environment. Featuring live entertainment and complimentary morning and afternoon teas, the event encourages social connection while providing access to information, services, and resources that help enhance the wellbeing and quality of life of older residents.



450
people



1000
people



Community and Civic events

Sister Cities Welcome Reception

Date: 25 August 2026

Venue: Hilton Cairns

Attendance: 50 Pax

Time: 4:00pm – 6:00pm



50
people

Sister Cities Official Delegation Dinner

Date: 26 August 2026

Venue: Tank 5

Attendance: 60 Pax

Time: 6:00pm – 9:00pm



60
people

Sister Cities Farewell Gathering

Date: 29 August 2026

Venue: Salt House

Attendance: 35 Pax

Time: 4:00pm – 5:00pm



35
people

Purpose: As part of the Cairns 150 Years celebrations, all seven Sister Cities were invited to participate in the delegation program. Representatives from Lae, Papua New Guinea, Minami, Japan, and Oyama, Japan attended and participated in a range of civic events and cultural experiences across Tropical North Queensland, further strengthening international relationships and cultural understanding between partner cities.



Community and Civic events

Cairns Festival Cairns Regional Council Float

Date: 29 August 2026

Venue: Cairns Esplanade

Attendance: 100 Pax joined the float

Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Purpose: As part of the Cairns 150 Years celebrations, Cairns Regional Council participated in the Cairns Festival Grand Parade with a Council float complementing the parade theme, "Fun in the Sun." Inspired by a 1960s Cairns City Council float, the design celebrated the city's history, community spirit and tropical lifestyle. The float featured Council staff, Sister City delegates and representatives supporting the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



100
people



Major Events – August



Attendance
≈10,900*

Cairns Super Carnival

Date: Saturday 22 August – Saturday 29 August 2026

Venue: Cannon Park Racecourse

**Estimate figure–
pending final acquittal reports*

Event Overview: Cairns Super Carnival is Far North Queensland's premier horse racing event, combining world-class racing, high-end fashion, and premium hospitality and entertainment experiences.

2026 Theme: *Carnival of Colour.*

Attendance: Over 10,900* across the carnival period.

Duration: Eight-day carnival incorporating racing and associated social events.

Key Events:

- Cairns Amateurs Day – Saturday 22 August
- Cairns Cup Barrier Draw – Wednesday 26 August
- Sports Luncheon & Calcutta – Thursday 27 August
- Ladies Day – Friday 28 August
- Red Beret Hotel Cairns Cup Day – Saturday 29 August

Fashion Program: The *Carnival of Colour* theme was incorporated into the Fashions on the Field competition, encouraging racegoers to showcase vibrant colours, bold prints and contemporary racewear.

2026 Outcomes:

- Attracted significant attendance across two weekends of racing.
- Generated visitation and economic activity for the Cairns region, supporting local businesses.
- Enhanced the profile of Cairns as a destination for major sporting, social and lifestyle events.
- Provided a premier social occasion for local residents, bringing the community together through racing, fashion and entertainment experiences.
- Created valuable corporate hospitality and networking opportunities for local businesses, sponsors and industry stakeholders.



Major Events - August



Over 10,000
Tickets Sold

Australian Festival of Chamber Music

Dates: 24 July – 1 August 2026

Primary Venues: CPAC and Bulmba-ja

Established: 1991

Purpose: To enhance the cultural environment of North Queensland by presenting internationally acclaimed classical musicians to local, national and international audiences.

2026 Significance: First year the festival was hosted in Cairns following more than 30 years in Townsville.

2026 Program: 30 ticketed events delivered across 9 days.

Ticket Sales: More than 10,000 tickets sold.

Professional Development Opportunities: AFCM delivered their Pathways Program concurrently during the festival, which included International Masterclasses, Outreach Tours and Workshops, Emerging Composer initiatives, and Pathways Digital Outreach for Schools.

Emerging Composer Program: Opening Night featured the premiere of *Forest, Ocean City*, an original work by Emerging Composer-in-Residence Sam Wu, commissioned to celebrate Cairns' 150th anniversary and the festival's inaugural year in Cairns.

2026 Outcomes:

- Successfully delivered the inaugural AFCM in Cairns.
- Attracted strong audience attendance and visitation to the region.
- Enhanced Cairns' cultural profile through a nationally significant arts event.
- Provided professional development opportunities for emerging musicians and composers.
- Increased community access to world-class chamber music performances and education programs.

Future Event Dates: 23 July - 31 July 2027.

Council Support: Cairns Regional Council has secured funding support for AFCM through to 2028.



Community Safety

June, July & August 2026

Community Outreach – Activity & Engagement

Issue	June	July	August	Total
Outreach Activities	25	19	21	65
Recorded Engagements	59	56	97	212
Engagements per Activity	2.4	2.9	4.6	9.9
PSSO Site Visits	2,908	3,109	2,441	8,458
Camp Investigations	71	22	59	152

Operational Summary	- Recorded engagements increased significantly from 59 in June to 97 in August, despite outreach activity levels remaining relatively consistent across the quarter demonstrating stronger outcomes from each deployment. - Operational intelligence guided resource deployment, utilising hotspot analysis, CRM reporting, known locations, and frontline observations to inform targeted outreach actions. - Outreach activities were delivered in partnership with service providers, enabling coordinated welfare support, direct engagement, and integrated service responses for vulnerable community members.
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Community Safety

June, July & August 2026

Public Space Safety Officers	
June 2026	Officers visited 2,908 sites and completed 174 hotspot patrols; responding to 141 reports of anti-social behaviour and undertaking 71 camp investigations. Targeted patrols and investigations remained focused on known areas of concern across the region.
July 2026	Officers visited 3,109 sites, the highest monthly total for the quarter, and completed 145 hotspot patrols. During the month, officers responded to 177 reports of anti-social behaviour and conducted 22 camp investigations.
August 2026	Officers visited 2,441 sites and completed 120 hotspot patrols. Officers responded to 116 reports of anti-social behaviour and undertook 59 camp investigations, while maintaining a focus on public space amenity issues, including damage, graffiti and rubbish.
Quarterly Outcomes	Patrol and outreach activity remained focused on known areas of concern, anti-social behaviour, camp-related issues and vulnerable community members. This combined approach supported early identification of emerging issues, direct community engagement and opportunities to connect individuals with appropriate support services.

Council Assets – Vandalism Costs

2026/27 VANDALISM & GRAFFITI COSTS	AUGUST	AUGUST YTD
Business Area	(\$'000)	(\$'000)
Facilities Maintenance	14	30
Community Spaces	46	70
Works	9	45
TOTAL	69	145

New funding boosts illegal dumping prevention

As announced by the Honourable Andrew Powell MP, Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation, Cairns Regional Council has secured further funding through the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation's *Fighting Illegal Dumping Partnership Program* to employ a dedicated Illegal Dumping Compliance Officer through to 30 June 2029.

The funding will enable Council to undertake deterrence and prevention activities, including night-time patrols in identified hotspot areas, to help protect the surrounding rainforest and Great Barrier Reef.

Council thanks the Queensland Government for its ongoing investment in addressing this significant issue and looks forward to continuing to work together to protect our region, environment, and economy from the impacts of illegal dumping.



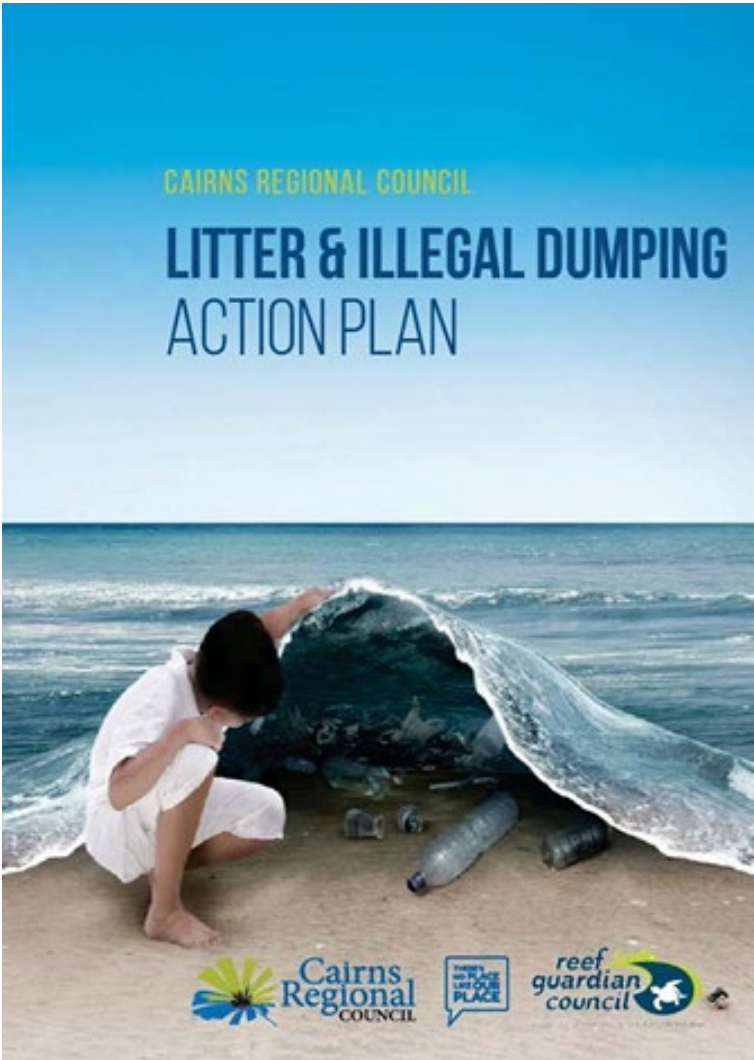
332

Illegal dumping
reports investigated
2025/26



165,612L

Waste removed from
the environment
2025/26



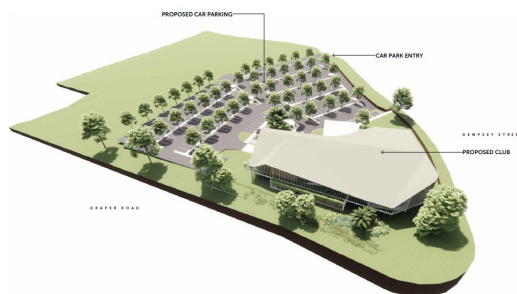
Council backs new social hub for Southern Growth Corridor

On 26 August 2026, Council determined at its Ordinary Meeting to approve a combined Development Application for a Material Change of Use (Club) and Reconfiguring a Lot (1 Lot into 2 Lots & Access Easement) at 3L Draper Road, Gordonvale. The development seeks to establish a new building on the site for the purposes of a Club and will include a bar, bistro and café area, kids play area and gaming room with ancillary office and staff areas, serviced by 161 on-site car parking spaces.



While the Applicant is identified as Cairns RSL Club Ltd, this development is not connected to the existing Cairns or Gordonvale RSL.

The approval of the proposed development provides a much-needed social offering to the growing Gordonvale/Mount Peter growth area and will further enhance the offerings found in Gordonvale on the western side of the Bruce Highway without adversely impacting upon the existing hierarchy of the Gordonvale Town Centre.



Council grants inspire next generation of environmental stewards



Council's 2026 Nature-based Learning Grants have been awarded to 12 Cairns schools, supporting 816 students to take part in hands-on environmental learning experiences across the reef, rainforest, wildlife, waste and aquarium settings. The grants help schools meet the cost of excursions that connect students with Cairns' unique natural environment and build awareness of sustainability and conservation.

Recipient schools include Isabella State School, Edge Hill State School, Bentley Park College, Smithfield State High School, Cairns State High School, Freshwater Christian College, Bartle Frere State School, Autism Queensland School Cairns, Whitfield State School, St Mary's Catholic College, Gordonvale State School, Parramatta State School and Woree State High School.

Cairns Infrastructure and Assets

Customer Requests – August 2026



102

Footpaths and
cycleways



4%



187

Roads and road
furniture



16%



75

Graffiti removal



10%

Percentages indicate movement on last month.

Major Projects & Initiatives

August 2026



Resource Recovery 2040 Roadmap

- Kerbside Collection Contract awarded November 2025 – Mobilisation meetings have commenced
- 2 weeks post go live residual contract mobilisation
- Marketing & Comms workshopped with Council new campaign “Know before you throw”

Cairns Water Security Stage 1

- Pre commissioning planning well underway.
- External cladding to control building close to completion
- Major cut-in works progressing successfully with good collaboration between contractor and Council's teams
- Pipeline up the ridgeline is progressing well, with concrete pouring of supporting bulkheads commencing.



Smart Water Meter Project

- 42,000 + smart water meters installed, out of 55,000 scope
- SWM project rollout team installed 711 meters last month
- Potential leaks are being identified by the new smart water meters and customers contacted accordingly

Economic Development & Advocacy Highlights – August

Economic Development

- Presented as a panellist with City Architect at BNI event.
- Hosted the State of Cairns Presentation to internal and external stakeholders with 25 attendees.
- Presented to Oyama during City to City exchange.
- Attended PNG Gift Exchange with Sister City Lae.

Advocacy

- Submission made in response to the Australian Government's Disaster Management Reform Discussion Paper.
- Quarterly meetings held with Federal Leichhardt MP Matt Smith, and state representatives for Barron River MP Bree James and Mulgrave MP Terry James.

Major Events & Film

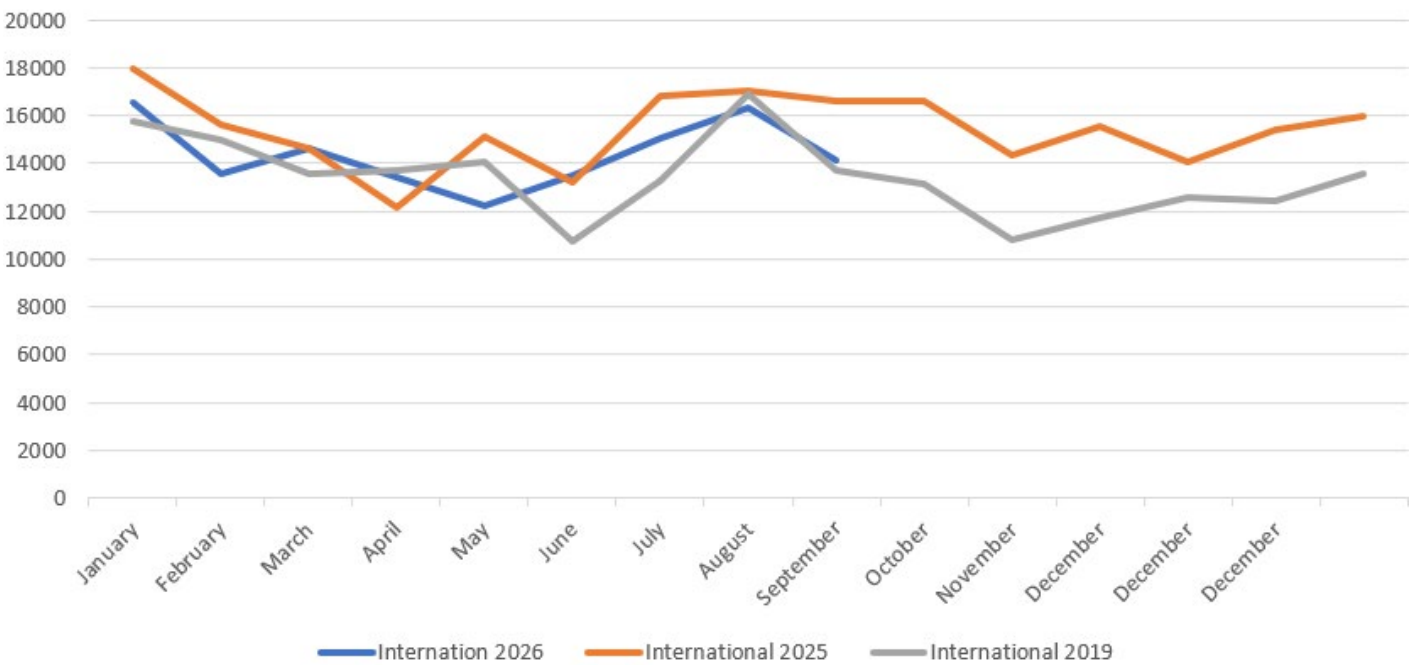
- **Games Roadmap for Cairns** – engagement across Council to develop the Resource & Budget Analysis
- **Games Coordination** – hosted 2x Australian athletes to participate in Council's 'Fun in the Sun' float as part of the Cairns Festival parade; ex Olympic rhythmic gymnast Saskia Broedelet and Australian Paralympic athletics competitor Rheed McCracken.
- **T20 Gold Clash media announcement** at Cazalys Stadium ahead of the new event taking place in Cairns on 22 November 2022. Talent included Jonathon Thurston, Usman Khawaja, Stephen Fleming, Mathew Hayden, and Joel Selwood.
- **The Conservatory** feature film completed its Cairns filming schedule.
- **Married at First Sight** filmed in the region during the reporting period.

Economic snapshot

Aviation

(weekly passenger movements Cairns Airport)

International



Domestic

