

POST-ELECTION MEETING	3
12 APRIL 2024	

COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

93/1/2 | #7394521

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorses the representation on the Committees and Boards listed in this report and in accordance with Schedule 1 of the report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Council has previously been represented on a number of Committees and Boards and needs to endorse the continuation of this representation. The continuing representation by Councillors on these boards / committees will both enhance Council's knowledge of community needs to inform Council's decision-making process, and ensure that Council can contribute to these organisations on behalf of the community.

It is recommended that Council appoints the Councillor representatives to these bodies as set out in Schedule 1 (Attachment 1).

COMMENT:

The following identifies the organisations / committees that Council has had representation on and the purpose of these organisations / committees.

Cairns Audit Committee

The Local Government Regulation (s210) sets out that the audit committee of a local government must consist of at least three and no more than six members; and include two, but no more than two, councillors appointed by the local government.

Local Disaster Management Group

The Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) is established to support and coordinate disaster management activities within the Cairns region.

Membership of the LDMG is outlined in the *Disaster Management Regulation 2014*. Local group members are appointed under section 33 of the Act. LDMG members must have the necessary expertise or experience and delegated authority to assist with a comprehensive, all hazards, all agencies approach to disaster management.

Representation by Councillors on the LDMG enhances Council's knowledge of community needs which in turn informs Council's decision-making process.

Cairns Art Gallery Board

- Cairns Art Gallery (formerly Cairns Regional Gallery) officially opened on 15 July 1995 as a not for profit company managed by a Board of Directors. The Gallery's mission is:

To inspire and enrich people's lives by presenting the best Australian and international art in the region and taking the region's unique culture to the world.

- The Gallery Constitution (S6.1) restricts membership to eleven members being the Mayor and CEO as ex officio, four Cairns Regional Council appointed members and five persons interested or experienced in art organisations who are nominated by the Board and approved by Council.

FNQ Organisation of Councils Board (FNQROC)

- The Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils was established in the 1980's with membership being the 13 local governments of Cairns, Carpentaria, Cassowary, Cook, Croydon, Douglas, Etheridge, Hinchinbrook, Hope Vale, Mareeba, Tablelands, Wujal Wujal and Yarrabah. The role of the Board is to advocate on behalf of, and foster cooperation and resource sharing between, FNQROC Councils.
- There are five strategic goals to support the sustainable economic growth of the FNQROC region and the Board is supported by 11 technical committees and 5 sub committees across the areas of asset, waste, water, civil engineering, transport, natural assets, coastal management, animal management, procurement, economic development and planning to develop and deliver initiatives and evidence to support advocacy efforts.

FNQ Regional Roads & Transport Group

- The FNQ Regional Roads and Transport Group is a part of the Roads & Transport Alliance which is a cooperative governance arrangement between LGAQ, on behalf of all Queensland local governments, and TMR to invest in and regionally manage the Queensland transport network. The Alliance was established in 2002 to create a more collaborative and coordinated approach to road management and investment.

Regional Road and Transport Groups (RRTGs) are responsible for:

- Determining the "Local Roads of Regional Significance"
- Adopting and operating asset management practices
- Managing regional funding and investment
- Establishing and utilising regional investment strategies in road network planning and prioritisation
- Adopting and implementing practices for works program development including investment strategy development and project prioritisation procedures
- Adopting policy to increase joint purchasing and resource sharing and maximise the potential benefits from this initiative
- Reviewing and planning for improved capability across Transport and Local Government workforces

- Introducing change management procedures that will provide continuous guidance on achieving targets of the Roads Alliance

Local Authority Waste Management Advisory Committee

- The Local Authority Waste Management Advisory Committee (LAWMAC) is an organisation of 29 North Queensland Local Government Councils and 19 Associate Members dedicated to best practice waste management aiming to provide sustainable solutions through its regional forum and interactive participation across the LAWMAC region on current and future Waste Management Practices and Technologies.
- LAWMAC is a 'not for profit' group comprising members from the North Queensland Local Government area from Cook Shire in the north, to Gladstone in the south, and extending inland to Mount Isa, Burke and Cloncurry shires.
- LAWMAC General Meetings are held quarterly with the Annual General Meeting scheduled as soon as possible after the end of each financial year plus a Waste Management Conference being held bi-annually.

Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF)

- CIAF is an Indigenous Art Fair committed to strengthening and celebrating culture, creating professional development opportunities for artists, and cultural exchange between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and visitors.
- CIAF updated their constitution in 2023 with a provision that the Mayor of Cairns has membership of the CIAF board.

Cairns River Improvement Trust

- The Cairns River Improvement Trust is a statutory body and operates in accordance with powers and responsibilities of the River Improvement Trust Act 1940.
- The Trust operates very closely with the Cairns Regional Council, Terrain Natural Resource Management and local catchment groups with like interests such as protection of the Great Barrier Reef and improvement of water quality.
- The role of the Trust is to help to:
 - Mitigate flooding and reduce flood damage in urban and rural areas.
 - Restore and stabilise the bed and banks of rivers and the many creeks in the Cairns Local Government Area (working under legislation) for the residents and industries within that area, and to protect State and Commonwealth transport and other infrastructure
 - Help with community recovery after extreme weather events like major floods and cyclones – clear rivers and creeks that are (essential) drainage lines
 - Maintain the stabilization works – works completed at over 550 sites in the Cairns Local Government Area since the Trust was formed in 1973
 - Undertake works of riverine improvement to help prevent changes in course of rivers and address erosion and associated issues with economic, social and environmental benefit to the community

IRRT – Independent Rate Relief Tribunal

- Council has adopted an Independent Rate Relief Tribunal Policy to assist ratepayers facing financial hardship. The Tribunal consists of nominated Councillors and independent members of the community who meet to assess applications from ratepayers facing financial hardship who are unable to pay their rates by the due date.
- Under the provisions of the current Independent Rate Relief Tribunal Policy membership consists of a minimum of two voluntary members and two who are members from Cairns Regional Council.

North Queensland Sports Foundation

- The Foundation, established in 1983, aspires to improve sporting opportunities within North Queensland. Activities include North Queensland Games, Great Western Games and NQ Sportstar awards and a scholarship program.
- 22 Local Authorities are members and the Board consists of a Chair (currently from Townsville) and a representative from Mackay, Cairns, Charters Towers and Isaac and two independent directors and one life member. An officer from Council is required to participate in the Forum which makes recommendations to the Board.
- Each regional council makes an annual contribution (proportional to population) and the Cairns Regional Council three year resource and performance agreement was renewed in May 2019 for a total contribution of \$120,789.07 (ex GST).
- Council has previously secured funding for its Active Living in the suburbs program through the Foundation.

Cairns Local Marine Advisory Committee

- The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) established 12 Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMAC) to provide a forum for local communities to raise issues and have input to management arrangements relating to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
- This Cairns Committee has been operating since 1999 and covers the area from Buchan Point to Flying Fish Point (Cassowary Coast) and includes the Cairns northern beach suburbs, Gordonvale and Babinda.
- Members represent a community stakeholder group and may be independent, or represent an organisation or association from which they coordinate feedback. The aim is to have balanced representation of local people who are involved in the management or use of the Marine Park. Composition of each LMAC varies depending on local interests and industries.
- The Committee meets five times a year.

Reef Guardian Councils

- Council has been a member of the [Reef Guardian Councils program](#) since 2008. The Reef Guardian Councils program has 18 member Councils and is managed by the

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) with an aim to showcase environmentally sustainable practices undertaken by councils in the Great Barrier Reef catchment. The program recognises that the effective management and protection of the Reef requires a coordinated effort from industries, communities and all levels of government. Membership is through a steering committee (Councillor representation) and a working group (staff representation).

- Council prepares a bi-annual [Reef Guardian Action Plan](#) which outlines Council commitments and actions to support the program and the protection and conservation of the Great Barrier Reef.
- Projects that Council has undertaken that support the program include: Cleaner Seas upgrade of wastewater treatment plans, land-use planning, urban stormwater monitoring, participation in Wet Tropics Healthy Waterways Partnership, Nature-based Learning and Sustainability Grants, Workplace Giving Program, emission reduction initiatives and solar installations, coastal hazards adaptation planning, pest management and natural resource management, education programs and partnerships with environmental groups and organisations.
- Progress is reported through Council's annual State of the Environment Report and annual milestone reports to GBRMPA.

Queensland Climate Resilient Councils Program – LGAQ

- The [Queensland Climate Resilient Councils Program](#) (Q-CRC) is a 5 year program with the intent to strengthen internal council decision-making processes to respond to climate change.
- The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) and the Department of Environment and Science (DES) established a partnership in 2016 to fund and implement the program. Cairns is one of 32 Queensland Councils participating in the program.
- The program supports Council's decision-making processes in relation to climate resilience through peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, increasing capability and the provision of leading practice resources and tools.

Coastal Council Adaptation Task Force (C-CAT) - LGAQ

- Established in 2012 as a vehicle for councils with a shared commitment to effectively plan for coastal adaptation challenges, the C-CAT provides leadership and advocacy for climate action by local government as well as building the governance and capability of organisations to effectively plan for the future. Cairns is one of six councils participating in the taskforce. The C-CAT helped pilot and obtain funding from the Department of Environment and Science (DES) for the QCoast2100 program to fund Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategies (CHAS) for Queensland Coastal Councils.
- The C-CAT was re-established in 2019 and a Coordinator appointed for 1 year who sits at the Whitsundays Climate Change Innovation Hub and is managed by LGAQ and the committee. The renewed focus includes delivering projects to help research, provide advocacy, obtain funding, engage and implement future adaptation for coastal councils in Queensland.

- Membership to the C-CAT Committee consists of one Councillor and one staff representative from each of the member Councils.

Cities Power Partnership - Climate Council

- Council has joined over 120 local governments (representing 50% of the Australian population) to partner in the Climate Council's [Cities Power Partnership](#) Program to accelerate and celebrate local government successes in achieving emission reductions and transitioning towards clean energy.
- Pledges selected by Council are: support active travel; upgrade council's fleet; provide education for residents and businesses to support energy efficiency and renewables; roll out energy efficient lighting; maximise renewables and to improve energy efficiency of council buildings and facilities.
- Council staff, in consultation with management and Council, complete a 12 monthly survey that provides the Climate Council with basic information on how Council is progressing on 5 pledge items. There is also an annual conference, education and information sharing forums.

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

- Council was a member of [ICLEI](#) (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) from 2009 to 2014 and recently re-joined the program which supports local governments' commitment to sustainability through networks, programs, training, resources and case studies. ICLEI has members in over 100 countries comprising over 1,750 local and regional governments.
- In 2020 there was the opportunity to participate in the [ICLEI Cities With Nature Program](#) which recognises and enhances the value of nature in cities around the world by integrating nature with planning and development. Other programs run by ICLEI include Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, climate adaptation and mitigation, 100% Renewable Energy Network, sustainable transport, circular economy, disaster risk reduction and Sustainable Development Goals.
- Membership of ICLEI consists of one Councillor and one staff representative from each of the member Councils.

Recreational Fishing Working Group

- In 2018 Council received funding from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to develop the Cairns Recreational Fishing Strategy 2018-2022. The purpose of the strategy was to assist with the implementation of the Net Free Zone. In May 2019, Council adopted the General Policy Cairns Recreational Fishing Working Group Terms of Reference. At that meeting, Council also adopted the Cairns Recreational Fishers Voluntary Code of Conduct prepared by the working group.
- Membership includes key recreational fishing bodies, State and Federal agencies, TTNQ and a Yirrganydji Traditional owner. The group are required to meet at least twice a year with the last meeting held in October 2019.

- The group has provided strategic advice on key infrastructure projects, vegetation management, restocking programs and has been responsible for the implementation of Recreation Fishing signage strategy and associated social media campaigns.

Bluewater Maintenance Dredging Technical Advisory & Consultative Committee

- The Bluewater Maintenance Dredging Technical Advisory & Consultative Committee (BMDTACC) has been set up as a requirement of a dumping at sea permit issued under the Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981. The Committee assists Council and the Determining Authority to access local knowledge and reconcile various stakeholder interests with specific regard to the disposal of dredge spoil from the Bluewater Harbour, Half Moon Creek, the Entrance Channels and Half Moon Bay Marina.

The BMDTACC is intended to:

- Provide continuity of direction and effort in protecting the local environment
- Aid communication between stakeholders and provide a forum where points of view can be discussed and conflicts resolved
- Assist in the establishment, as appropriate, of longer term permitting arrangements, including reviewing the development and implementation of Sampling and Analysis Plans, Long Term Management Plans and research and monitoring programs
- Review ongoing dredge spoil dumping activities in accordance with relevant Guidelines and permitting arrangements
- Make recommendations to the proponent and the determining authority as necessary or appropriate
- Meet approximately twice a year.

Local Government Association Queensland (LGAQ) Policy Executive

- The purpose of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) is to be the peak body for local government in Queensland with a vision of strong and effective local government.
- The LGAQ is lead by a Policy Executive Board, and their Corporate Governance Charter defines the role, responsibilities and authorities of the Policy Executive and the Board of the LGAQ.
- Nominations for the Policy Executive are required by the 1st of May 2024.

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Tropical North

- RDA is a Federal Government initiative comprising of a national network of 52 Committees made up of local leaders who work with all levels of government and business and community groups, to support the economic development of their regions.
- Member representation on the RDA Tropical North is authorised by the Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories.

- Councillor Brett Moller has been appointed by the Minister as Deputy Chair of the RDA Tropical North, and Mica Martin has been appointed by the Minister as a member of the RDA Tropical North.

OPTIONS:

1. That Council endorses the representation on the Committees and Boards listed in this report and in accordance with Schedule 1 of the report.
2. Council proceeds with an alternative course of action.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

This report relates to the continuation of Councillor representation on various Committees and Boards and therefore there are no new budget implications in adopting the recommendation.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

Corporate Plan – Goal 4 Governance

An efficient organisation providing best practice service delivery through leadership and policy making and the effective management of people, assets and finances.

Statutory:

Local Government Act 2009.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Schedule of Councillor appointments to committees and boards.



Mica Martin
Chief Executive Officer

Attachment 1: Schedule of Councillor appointments to committees and boards

<u>Board/Committee</u>	<u>Representative (by position)</u>	<u>Recommended for endorsement for 2024 term</u>
Cairns Regional Council Audit Committee	<i>Mayor, one Councillor + one alternate in event of absence</i>	Mayor Eden Cr Moller Cr Tim as alternate
Local Disaster Management Group	<i>One Councillor as Chair plus one additional Councillor (could be Deputy but not mandatory)</i> <i>Chair for Recovery Committee</i>	Mayor Eden (Chair) Cr Olds (Deputy Chair) Cr Coghlan (Chair – Recovery)
Cairns Art Gallery Board	<i>Mayor or Mayor nominee, CEO or CEO nominee, not more than four additional nominees of the Council</i>	Mayor Eden Cr Tim Cr Vallely Cr Middleton Cr Pyne CEO
Far North Regional Organisation of Councils Board (FNQROC)	<i>Mayor & one Councillor (only one Councillor attends)</i>	Mayor Eden Cr Tickner (alternate)
FNQ Regional Road Group	<i>One Councillor</i>	Cr Tickner
Local Authority Waste Management Advisory Committee	<i>One Councillor</i>	Cr Moller
Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF)	<i>Mayor, per the CIAF Constitution</i>	Mayor Eden
Cairns River Improvement Trust	<i>Two Councillors</i>	Cr Tickner Cr Moller
IRRT – Independent Rate Relief Tribunal	<i>Two Councillors</i>	Cr Tim Cr Vallely
North Queensland Sports Foundation	<i>One Councillor</i>	Cr Coghlan
Cairns Local Marine Advisory Committee	<i>One Councillor</i>	Cr Tim
Reef Guardian Councils	<i>One Councillor</i>	Cr Middleton
Queensland Climate Resilient Councils Program – LGAQ	<i>One Councillor</i>	Cr Middleton
Coastal Council Adaptation Task Force (C-CAT) - LGAQ	<i>One Councillor</i>	Cr Tickner

Cities Power Partnership - Climate Council	<i>One Councillor</i>	Cr Middleton
International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) – Local Governments for Sustainability	<i>One Councillor</i>	Cr Middleton
Recreational Fishing Working Group	<i>One Councillor</i>	Cr Olds
Bluewater Maintenance Dredging Technical Advisory Committee	<i>Two Councillors (Division 8 and 9)</i>	Cr Coghlan Cr Olds
Local Government Association Queensland (LGAQ) Policy Executive	<i>One representative for District 10</i>	Mayor Eden
Regional Development Australia FNQ&TS (RDA)	<i>Appointed by ministerial approval</i>	Cr Moller CEO – Mica Martin