

<p>ORDINARY MEETING</p> <p>19 JUNE 2024</p>	<p>1</p>
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CEO MONTHLY REPORT

93/1/2 | #7432536

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **That Council notes:**
 - a. **The status of Council Resolutions.**
 - b. **The CEO Month in Review.**
 - c. **The Ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper Flooding Recovery Update, including the intention to lodge a \$4.35M Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements submission for the proposed landslip remediation works at Lake Morris Road, Kanimbla.**

2. **That Council:**
 - a. **Endorses Cairns Libraries' participation in Deadly Digital Communities pilot program and funding offer of \$50,000 from State Library of Queensland.**
 - b. **Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to the Deadly Digital Communities contract, subject to Council's normal grant funding policies and practices.**

INTERESTED PARTIES:

In relation to the Cairns Libraries Deadly Digital Community Program Opportunity:

- State Library of Queensland.

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 32 resolutions have been completed and there are 7 resolutions outstanding. See below table:

Date of Meeting	Type of Meeting	Report Title	Directorate
08/11/2023	Ordinary	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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Awaiting proponent execution of the infrastructure agreement.</i> 	PG&S
22/11/2023	Ordinary	Major Events Precinct - Application to Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Due to be submitted June 2024.</i> 	L&C
01/05/2024	Ordinary	Petition - Clyde Bridge Over Russell River <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Officers are preparing a presentation to take to a Councillor workshop in July 2024.</i> 	CIA
05/06/2024	Ordinary	Major Events Sponsorship Application – Dream Aloud 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Sponsorship Agreement in draft.</i> 	ED&A
05/06/2024	Ordinary	Major Events Sponsorship Application – Shine on Gimuy 2024-2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Sponsorship Agreement in draft.</i> 	ED&A
05/06/2024	Ordinary	Major Events Sponsorship Application – AFWL Northern Nest 2024-2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Sponsorship Agreement in draft.</i> 	ED&A
05/06/2024	Ordinary	2023/2024 Industry and Economic Development Fund (IEDF) Application – Babinda District Community Association Inc <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Awaiting invoice from the Association.</i> 	ED&A

CEO Month in Review – May 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.

Cairns Libraries Deadly Digital Community Program Opportunity

Cairns Regional Council is among three councils in Queensland chosen to participate in the Deadly Digital Communities (DDC) pilot program initiated by the State Library of Queensland who are currently developing a Service Level Agreement (SLA) which will see Cairns Regional Council receive a one-time payment of \$50,000 from SLQ. No co-contribution from Cairns Regional Council is required to participate in this pilot program. Cairns Libraries has agreed in principle to participate in the program pending Council endorsement.

The DDC program places a stronger emphasis on co-designing and delivering digital initiatives that are tailored to specific locations and developed in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, facilitated through participating

local government public library services. Local DDC programs may encompass various projects and activities, such as digital storytelling, which can be adapted throughout the program as necessary.

Participation in the program offers Cairns Libraries a valuable opportunity to extend community outreach and engagement through digital platforms. This involvement not only enhances library services but also contributes to advancing digital literacy and information access within the community.

Background:

State Library of Queensland is responsible for delivering digital inclusion initiatives in Our Thriving Digital Future (Queensland's Digital Economy Strategy 2023-2026) with funding from the Queensland Government, that focus on closing the digital divide.

1. Growing IKCs - Establishing new Indigenous Knowledge Centres in remote and discrete communities and improve the viability of existing centres.
2. Regional Digital Development - Employing Regional Digital Development Officers to help identify opportunities for regional communities to realise their digital potential.
3. Next Deadly Digital Communities program - Co-designing and delivering the next deadly digital communities' program, working closely with Elders and First Nations communities.

In line with the SLA, Cairns Regional Council will receive a one-time payment of \$50,000 from SLQ to implement a bespoke program that addresses local needs and interests. This funding requires no co-contribution from Cairns Regional Council.

Budget:

Project	\$
Deadly Digital Communities Pilot Program	\$50,000

Anticipated Cost of Project

Expenditure Item	\$
Consultation and Program Development	\$10,000
Service Providers	\$35,000
Advertising and Promotions Costs	\$5,000
Total \$ (Indicative)	\$50,000

Dates for planning and delivering the Program would be determined by Cairns Libraries however need to fit into the dates listed below.

- Project Commencement: To be confirmed by State Library of Queensland
- Project Completion and acquittal: 30 November 2025

Ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper Flooding Recovery Update

Human and Social Pillar:

James Cook University (JCU) is in the final stages of analysing the 300+ completed Rapid Social Needs Assessment responses following the closure of the survey period on 10 May. The findings will be peer assessed with service providers in June to ensure the “on the ground” feedback is considered against the survey responses. Key service agencies continue to meet on a fortnightly basis via the Interagency Case Management Network of which Council is a member. These meetings have replaced the Human and Social Recovery Subcommittee meetings reflecting the growing focus on case management support as recovery efforts continue. Active cases (around 100 for the Cairns LGA) range in need from requests for household contents, financial emergency relief, mental health support and complex case management.

The majority of individuals and families from Wujal Wujal who were based in Cairns have now returned with only those requiring ongoing medical treatment remaining. There is still confusion around Community Recovery Grants with client feedback regarding document and ID requirements which Community Recovery is addressing. The Insurance Council of Australia recently completed its third stage of local consultation (Tues 11 June) providing support and claims assistance to affected individuals and businesses with the 9,885 TC Jasper related claims that have been lodged with many homeowners and businesses facing ongoing challenges and distress due to lengthy claims delays.

Infrastructure Pillar:

A communication and engagement strategy is being prepared for infrastructure related recovery projects to ensure Councillors, Stakeholders and the Public are kept abreast of all major projects and the program as a whole.

There are currently 20 significant projects and dozens of minor sites. The significant projects currently of note being:

1. Barron Gorge Road
2. Fisheries Bridge Goldsborough
3. Lake Morris Road
4. Casuarina St Bridge
5. Deep Creek Pedestrian bridge
6. Lake Placid Road
7. Savannah Drain Palm Cover
8. Goldsborough Road
9. Friedley Access
10. Woopen Creek Road
11. Ambulance Access – Yellow Arrow
12. Paradise Palms Drive
13. Gundy Anton Bridge
14. Kamerunga/Caravonica Pedestrian Bridge
15. Orana St Caravonica – Landslip
16. Grays Bridge
17. Figtree Drive
18. Lower Freshwater Road

- 19. Dalton Road (Lamins Bridge)
- 20. Joyce Road

Fisheries temporary bridge is in construction with a scheduled install date of mid-July.



Segment of the steel bridge under construction at Dawsons Engineering.

Environment Pillar:

On 6 June 2024, a meeting with MP Craig Crawford addressed the long-term plan for beachfront erosion. The immediate focus is on natural sand replenishment, with additional sand, repairs, and stabilization measures to be determined.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority's Clean-up Program grants are currently available for environmental repairs and waste management related to recent events, with submissions underway.

The stability of the sand base at upper Barron sites or exposed rock areas is delaying immediate planting projects until late in the year. Caution is necessary to ensure that planting efforts aren't washed away in the next wet season and don't increase flood risks. The ecosystem remains dynamic, influencing planting decisions, substrate needs, and timing for revegetation, which is ideally planned for the end of the year to reduce costs.

Some erosion repairs in the Barron River have been completed, and major planting projects are being scheduled with a \$100K grant from Council's sustainability team. Council will soon open grants for community group projects.

Internal pest control efforts include managing aquatic pests like Amazon Frogbit, Salvinia, and Water Lettuce. No new spread of Tramp ants has been noted externally, though future infestations remain possible. Mosquito populations have significantly decreased post-event, with only a slight increase in disease rates, mainly due to saltwater habitats rather than the event-related freshwater impacts.

Council will explore current and future Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to cover the costs and of these measures.

Economic Pillar:

Conus Consultancy Services were engaged by Cairns Regional Council on behalf of the Economic Recovery Sub-Committee to undertake an Economic Impact Assessment of the Cairns region to understand the economic impact of the event. This included a survey of 511 organisations across the Cairns SA4 region. A substantial 85.9% of organisations surveyed were impacted by the event, with 73.2% closing temporarily, and 38.8% reporting impacts to their employment levels. The scale of asset damage of the organisations surveyed was over \$100 million, with over 7.5% of respondents stating their respective asset damage exceeded \$500,000. With consideration of the survey findings, the estimated gross economic impact (adverse impact to Gross Regional Product) in the Cairns Local Government Area due to the event was \$389.4 million, and \$649.1 million in the wider Cairns SA4 region. The draft Economic Recovery and Resilience Plan (which includes a series of actions and objectives), to be included in the Local Recovery Plan has been informed by the Economic Impact Assessment as well as engagement and consultation with key stakeholders.

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, end of April estimates put the cost of the weather event at \$127 million of which \$100 million is expected to be recovered from external funding, resulting in a net cost to Council of \$27 million. We continue to work closely and collaboratively with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) to advocate for funding.

Request for IGEM Review:

The Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management is reviewing Queensland's 2023–24 Severe Weather Season. To assist with the review, the Mayor and Council's Disaster & Community Resilience Manager have been authorised as key points of contact to provide information and make decisions on behalf of Council. Those involved with or impacted by the significant weather event are invited to provide submissions via the website <https://www.igem.qld.gov.au/submissions>

An interim IGEM report is expected by 30 July 2024. The final Review Report is to be provided by 30 September 2024. 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 investigations into the landslips on Lake Morris Road, Kanimbla, 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 a \$4.35M Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements submission for the proposed landslip remediation works at 5 sites which

suffered significant damage during the December weather event (example pictured below at 5.1km from the intersection of Lake Morris Rd and Reservoir Rd).

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.



Landslip damage at 5.1km from the intersection of Lake Morris Rd and Reservoir Rd, Kanimbla.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: CEO Month in Review – May 2024 #7432388

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Andrejic'.

John Andrejic
Acting Chief Executive Officer

CEO Month in Review

93/1/2 | #7432388 | #7432536

MAY 2024

The data contained within this review relates to the following:

- Events from the month
- Employment Pathways
- Animal Management
- Cairns Infrastructure and Assets Customer Requests
- Major Projects and Initiatives
- Development and Activity Snapshot
- Licensing and Compliance update
- Economic Development and Advocacy Highlights
- Economic Snapshot

John Andrejic
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Major and Economic Events

Major Events are nationally significant events that drive economic activity in Tropical North Queensland,.

UCI Master MTB World Championships

14 – 19 May 2024

- 643 Masters participants*
- 174 international
- 285 interstate
- 131 intrastate/ 53 locals

**Full breakdown on economic and tourism data will be available by September*

Crankworx Cairns

22 – 26 May 2024

- 15,000 estimated attendances*
- 5x live broadcasts on Redbull TV
- 6x competition events – Dual Slalom, Downhill, Whip Off, Speed & Style, Pump track, Slopestyle
- Esplanade Skate park “jam session”
- Kidsworx youth program
- 10x live music acts played the “Party in Paradise” stage, including Spiderbait
- Local hero Tracey Hannah won the Women’s Downhill



Community and Civic events

Citizenship

Date: Thursday 18 May

Venue: Cairns Regional Council, Civic Reception Rooms

Attendance: 130, including 70 new citizens

Time: 10:00am – 11:00am

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.



130 people



2025 GBRMG Launch

Date: Thursday 30 May

Venue: Tanks Arts Centre, Tank 5

Attendance: 50

Time: 4:30pm – 6:30pm

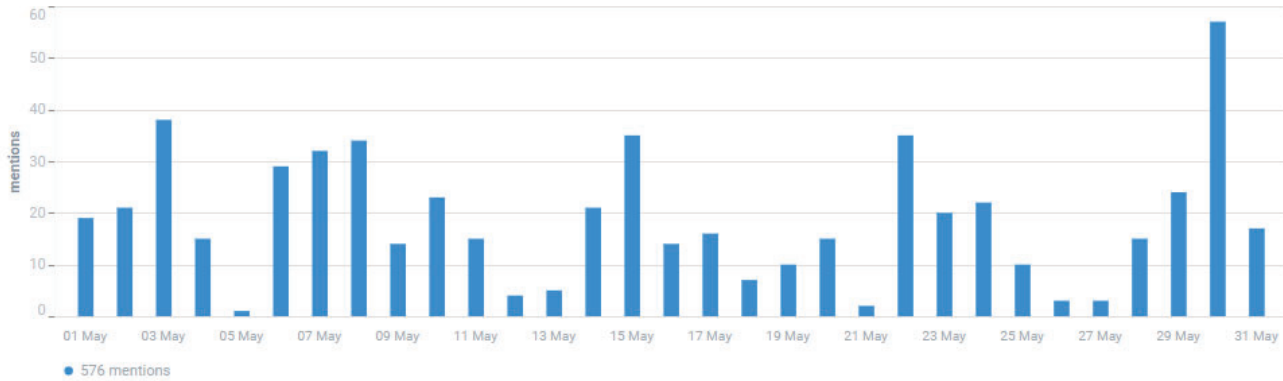
Purpose: To launch the 2025 Great Barrier Reef Masters Games event via the announcement of our 2025 Games ambassador and sports offerings. A target of 20 sports has been set for the May launch date.



50 people

Media Coverage in May

Coverage over time

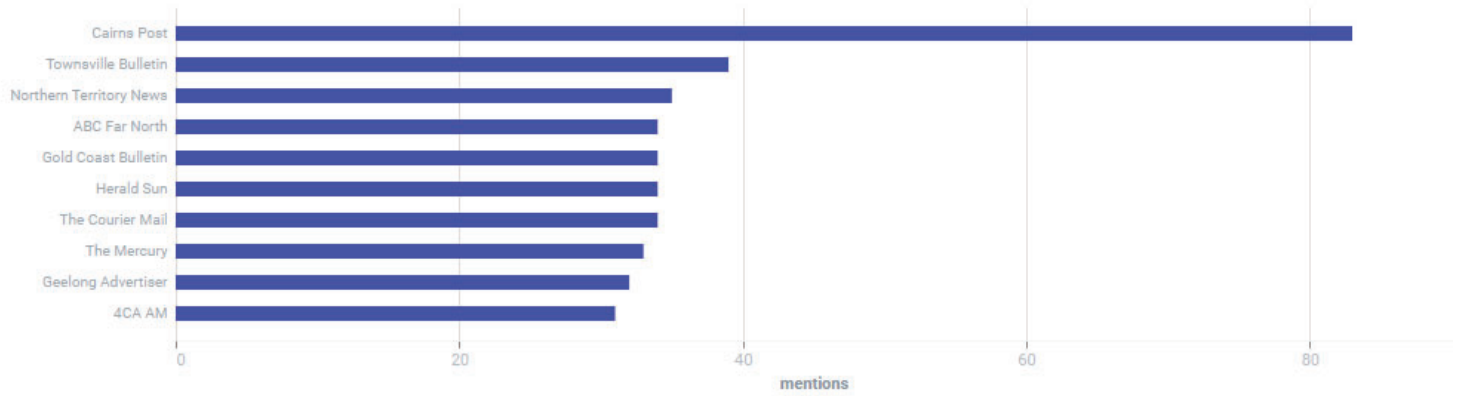


Media coverage from 1 to 31 May had 576 mentions of Cairns Regional Council.

Most coverage was on 30 May regarding Cairns Water Security, AFL and launch of the Great Barrier Reef Masters Games.

Media Coverage in May

Top 10 outlets



The majority of media coverage was from the Cairns Post.

Employment Pathways

CRC is currently supporting:

- **33** apprentices undertaking training to earn their trade in: electrical, horticulture, plumbing, mechanical, fitting & turning:
- **11** trainees building their skills in business, live production/technical services, supply chain operations. This includes two school-based trainees undertaking a 2-year Cert 3 level program.



Trainee cohort internal and external event participation/volunteering:

- Declaration of Office
- April Citizenship Ceremony
- ANZAC Day
- May Citizenship Ceremony
- Great Barrier Reef Masters Games Launch Event
- International Womens Day
- Ecofiesta

Employment Pathways

First People Employment Pathway Program – update

The project was endorsed by ELT in 2022. It is an opportunity to leverage Council's diverse services and career offerings to create successful employment opportunities to First People - commencing with networking/site tours, work experience, leading into traineeships/apprenticeships, then employment (a key Reconciliation Action Plan priority).

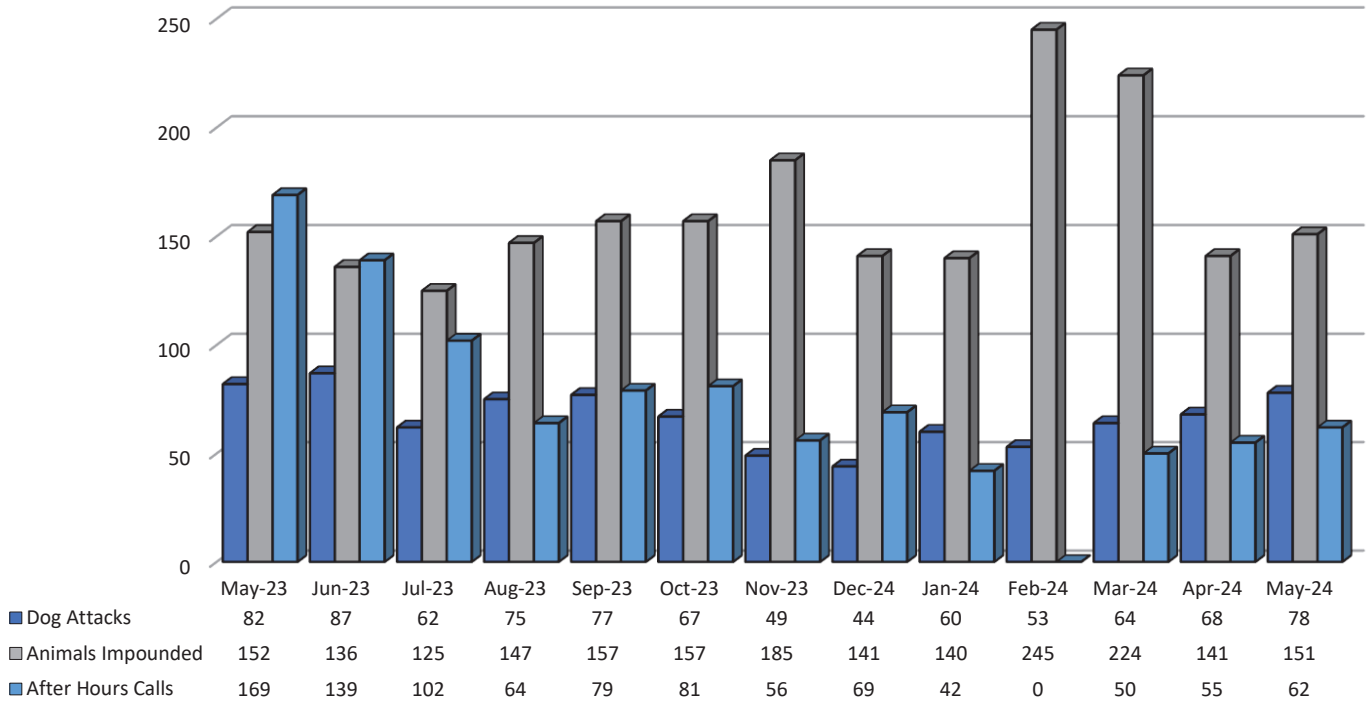
In May, we hosted 2 x site tours at the MRF (boys and girls):

- AFL Cape York House, Clontarf, Busy Schools – 50 attendees
- Bentley Park College - Project Yaburu Bulmba and AFL Cape York House – 15 attendees

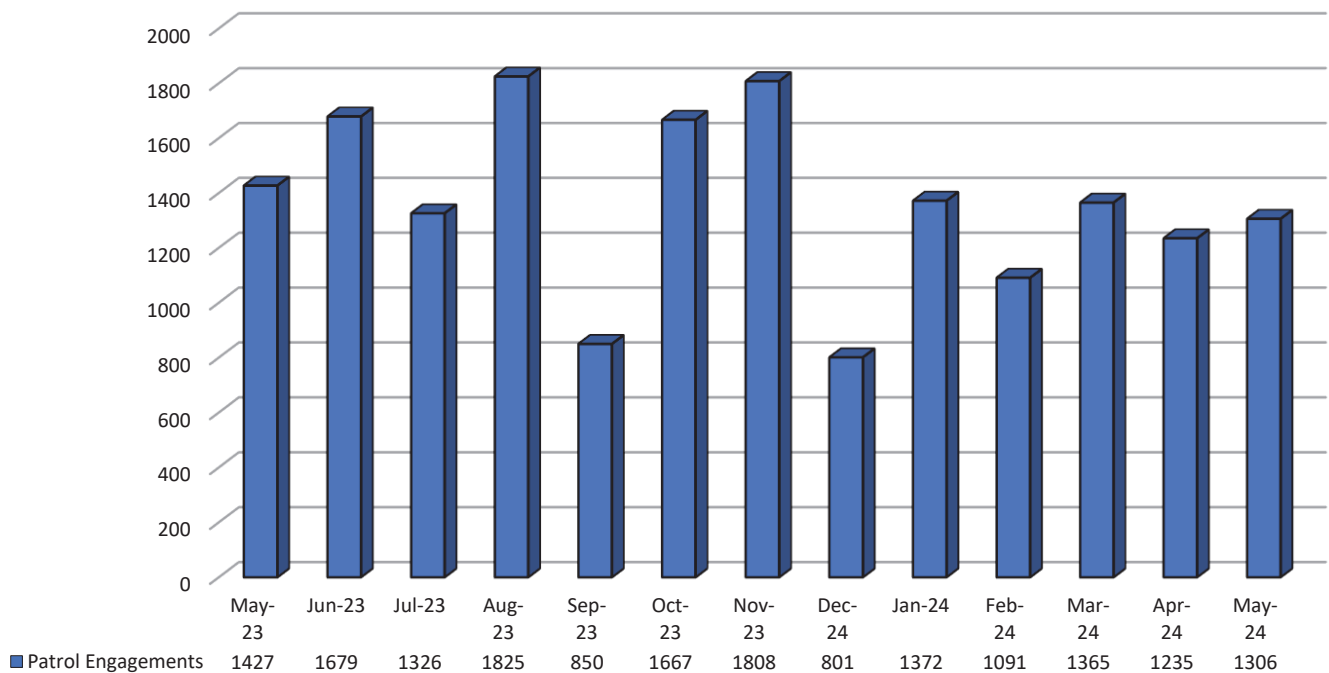
The cohorts over both days were highly engaged and very excited to learn more about Council. We hope to see these tours translate into work experience placements throughout Council in the very near future.



Animal Management



Active Patrols



Animal Management	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Total
Dog Attacks	64	68	78	210
Animals Impounded	224	141	151	516
After Hours Calls	50	55	62	167
Patrol Engagements	1,365	1,235	1,306	3,906

Dog Attacks: Quarter

Increase in dog attacks and wandering dogs. Could be due to wet weather and cooler temperatures, the first making it easier for dogs to escape yards (softer ground) and the second due to people being more active.

Animals Impounded: Quarter

Back to normal intake figures now that all guinea pigs have been rehomed. Background: large numbers of guinea pigs impounded from the same residence – 90 in February and 127 in March.

After Hours Calls: Quarter

The numbers are particularly low for this time of year possibly due to the wet weather into May. This quarters average calls were 55.6 and previous quarters average were 60.3. These numbers are a matter of timing and outside our control – e.g. incident post 4.30pm.

Patrol Engagements: Quarter

Slightly less than previous quarters due to the unseasonably wet weather since the beginning of the year.

New data collection system “Lighthouse” will commence 1 June 2024.

Breakdown of top 3 most visited parks etc in north, central and south is temporarily unavailable, pending finalisation of Power BI reporting tool for new Lighthouse system.



Cairns Infrastructure and Assets

Customer Requests – May 2024



198

Footpaths and
cycleways

↓
2%



234

Roads and road
furniture

↑
1%



62

Graffiti removal

↑
38%

Major Projects & Initiatives

May 2024

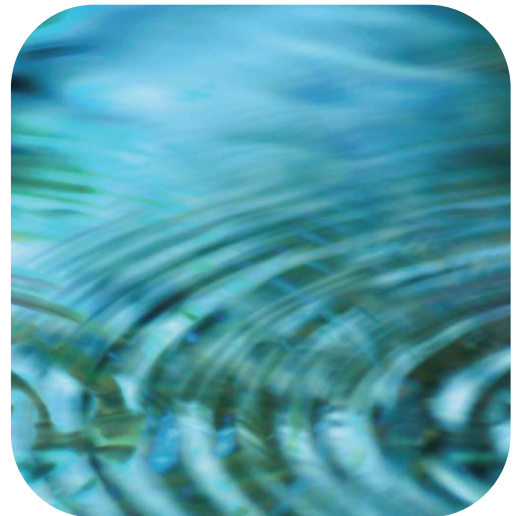


Resource Recovery 2040 Roadmap

- Stage 2 underway; with Program Prioritisation completed
- Detailed options analysis being finalised, 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 11,100 SWM meters installed with stable communication of water usage (out of 55,000 scope)
- SWM project rollout installation team averaging 600 SWM meter replacements per month.
- Upgrades to communications network now completed

Development & Planning Activity Jan - May 2024 Snapshot



158

Pre-lodgement Enquiries



214

Development Applications (DA's) Received



256

Referral Agency Applications Received



512

Active DA's & Referral Agency Applications



192

Referral Agency Decision Notices Issued



182

DA's Decision Notices Issued



15 new/draft

27 ongoing

Active Infrastructure Agreements



132

Lots Created



Development Application Lodged

1,115

CRM's submitted

Licensing and Compliance Branch update

Illegal Dumping

The Licensing and Compliance branch has just completed its next round of reporting to the State Govt outlining our actions to reduce littering and illegal dumping, as per Councils Illegal Dumping Partnerships Program funding agreement. As of the 24th of May 2024, the team has

- Investigated a total of 706 reports of illegal dumping.
- Secured a total of 237 successful compliance outcomes (including warnings, compliance notices and PINs issued).
- Issued a total of 13 PINs totalling \$39,244.
- Removed a total of 952,162 litres of waste.
- Raised community awareness of Illegal Dumping in the Machans Beach area through advertisement in the Machanations Community Newsletter.

Illegal Camping

Local Laws Officers recommenced proactive illegal camping patrols on the 13th of May 2024, and in the first two weeks on patrol the team provided support and education to 102 suspected illegal campers. The illegal camping proactive patrol team operates seven days a week through to the end of the year and covers an area from the Northern Beaches down to the Babinda Boulders.



Economic Development & Advocacy Highlights

36

Economic Development

- The QLD Small Business Friendly Conference was held in Cairns 29-30 May with over 100 attendees. Council Officers supported the event's delivery. Council are signatories to the QLD Small Business Friendly Council Charter which includes commitments to supporting small business.

Major and Economic Events

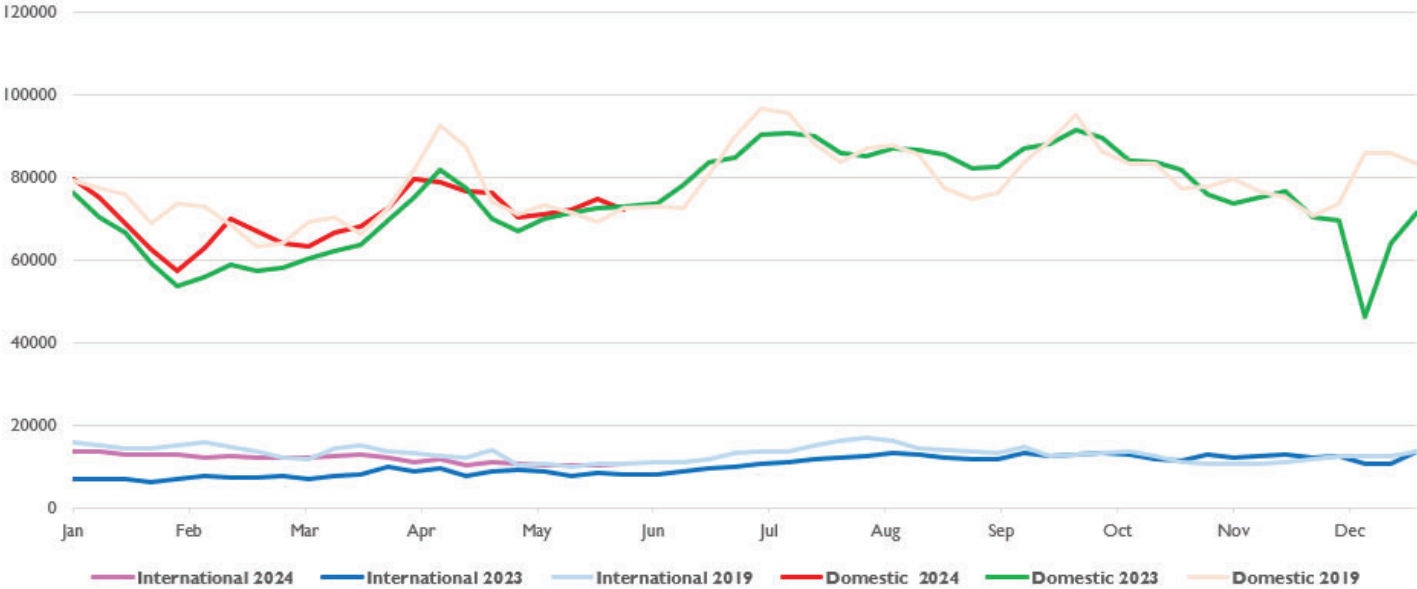
- UCI Masters MTB World Championships delivered.
- Crankworx Cairns 2024 delivered.
- Councillor engagement and attendance across both events.
- Tourism data outcomes will follow with event debrief process.

Advocacy

- The Mayor and Council Officers attended an insurance roundtable facilitated by the Katter Australia Party on 9 May.
- The Mayor and Acting CEO met with the President and CEO of Cairns Chamber of Commerce on 13 May to discuss issues that are impacting small business.
- The Queensland Government announced an additional \$87.5 million in funding for the Cairns Water Security Stage 1 project as part of the 24/25 State Budget delivered on 11 June 24. This increase takes their total funding commitment to \$195 million. An increased (matched) Federal commitment will continue to be sought.



Aviation (weekly passenger movements Cairns Airport)



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