

ORDINARY MEETING

24 JULY 2024

2**CEO MONTHLY REPORT**

93/1/2 | #7459656

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council notes:
 - a. The status of Council Resolutions.
 - b. The CEO Monthly Update.

Outstanding Council Resolutions

Since the previous reporting period 49 resolutions have been completed, leaving 6 open resolutions. See below table:

Date of Meeting	Type of Meeting	Report Title	Directorate
01/05/2024	Ordinary	Petition - Clyde Bridge Over Russell River - <i>Presentation scheduled for Councillors on this matter (end of July 2024).</i>	CIA
19/06/2024	Ordinary	CEO Monthly Report - <i>Project plan for Cairns Libraries' participation in Deadly Digital Communities pilot program to be finalised end of July 2024.</i>	Exec
19/06/2024	Ordinary	Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) 2023/24 – Major Round Two and City of the Arts Hero Project - <i>Waiting on all signed agreements to be returned to Council.</i>	L&C
19/06/2024	Ordinary	Community Partnerships Grant Round 11 - <i>Waiting on all signed agreements to be returned to Council.</i>	L&C
19/06/2024	Ordinary	Financial Assistance for Not For Profit Organisation – Fees and charges for Pyramid Residential Care Centre Incorporated for the discretionary full waiver of levied charges for an extension to existing Retirement Village at 65-97 Cairns Road, Gordonvale Division 1 - <i>Infrastructure Agreement currently being drafted.</i>	PG&S
10/07/2024	Ordinary	Register of Pre-qualified Suppliers (ROPS) 2939 - Supply and Delivery of Water Meters and Associated Equipment - <i>Currently being finalised by Procurement</i>	CIA

CEO Monthly Update

Cairns Water Security Strategy Stage One prepares for commencement of construction

Cairns Water Security has achieved several significant milestones this month which will enable construction to commence on site. Approvals received include the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation not controlled action, Ministerial Infrastructure Designation which supports works to commence on the Water Treatment Plant site and Cultural Heritage Management Plan endorsement with Gimuy Walubara Yidinji People also for the Water Treatment Plant site. Work is continuing on the remaining CHMP's and we thank all traditional custodian groups for the collaboration with Council in sharing their valuable knowledge of the area. Construction will now commence on the temporary road access, site buildings and the reservoir access road.

Local Government Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Champions Network Representation

Council has reaffirmed its support to reducing Domestic and Family Violence by recommitting to the Local Government Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Champions Network. This network was formed by the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Council and the Local Government Association of Queensland to support local government authorities leading a place-based response to domestic and family violence in the workplace and across communities, and to promote the sharing of practice, learnings, resources and tools. This highly effective form of primary prevention, which relies on shared understanding and consistent messaging, is essential to bringing about the grass-roots shift in attitudes and behaviour required to achieve cultural change to prevent domestic and family violence. Director Lifestyle and Community Destry Puia and Director People and Organisational Performance Christine Posgate will represent Council ensuring that there is an equal focus on internal and external facing opportunities.

Development Application Community Meeting

On 8 July, Council staff from the Planning, Growth and Sustainability Directorate hosted a community information evening for the residents of Redlynch to discuss the development application at 626R Redlynch Intake Road. Approximately 130 people of the community were in attendance and Council staff had an opportunity to outline the particulars of the application and answer questions from the community. The community information evening was designed to provide members of the community a greater level of understanding, given the significant interest generated by the application during the public notification period. A fruitful discussion was had, where Council officers responded to questions relating to:

- Conflicts of interest
- Legislative background and assessment processes

- The type of approval sought by the applicant
- Flooding
- Transport
- Land uses
- How to make a properly made submission.

The public notification period for the application has now concluded, and the application has moved into the next stage of the assessment process.

Monthly Activity Review – June 2024

The Monthly Activity 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.

Ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper Flooding Recovery Update

Human and Social Pillar:

Transitioning vulnerable cohorts from the Vulnerable Peoples Register (VPR) to Person Centred Emergency Plans (PCEP) is progressing as part of the recovery initiatives while the Interagency Social Services Meetings continue to roll out on a fortnightly basis. Intel from these meetings indicates that people are still experiencing stress and mental health challenges for a variety of reasons. Frustrations around insurance delays continue and reports have also been received in regard to people relocating once payouts have occurred due to the continuing anxiety of living in impacted areas.

Social sector service interviews will be conducted by JCU during July as the final stage in the Rapid Social Needs Assessment process with the key findings expected to be finalised in August and a summary report to be tabled at a future Council meeting. August will also see the reconvening of the Human and Social Subcommittee meetings as part of the preparations for the upcoming wet season with the updating of the Human and Social Sub-Plan being the immediate priority.

Infrastructure Pillar:

The Immediate Reconstruction Work element of the TC Jasper event was extended to 30 June 2024; at that time there was approximately \$14m of works complete with approximately \$11m eligible, subject to approvals.

The temporary bridge (Fig 1) at Goldsborough Valley advanced construction and piles have been driving to receive the headstocks and deck structure. Wet weather has seen a slip in timeframes with welding of headstocks not possible until the water way reduces to a safe operating level. Current forecasts (weather pending) have the temporary bridge in place in early August.

Design work for the Barron River shared pathway bridge at Caravonica and the road traffic bridge at Holloways beach advanced, with both requiring updated flood study inputs to confirm design parameters. This package has been included in the recovery submission and will dovetail with the greater flood study review program.



Fig 1 – Fisheries Bridge pile driving for the temporary bridge unit at Goldsborough Valley.

Environment Pillar:

The Department of Environment and Science advise that the Environmental Recovery package of \$43M will be available to 9 local government areas and will include multiple categories and grants accessible to community and council. These categories target Environmental Investigations Program, Healthy Waters Clean Up and Recovery Program, Biodiversity and Invasive Species Management Program, National Park Recovery Program and Environmental and Cultural Asset Steward Support. The grant guidelines are expected mid to late 2024 with the grant due to open in late 2024.

Holloways Beach remediation

Remedial work continues along the foreshore of Holloways Beach. Restricted areas have been mowed and consolidated where possible, loose trees along the foreshore removed and barrier mesh and signage has been made good. There remains significant work to be done in some areas; Council continues to work closely with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to advocate for funding.

Lake Placid and Barron River Tourism / Community access project

Cairns Adventure Group has resumed limited rafting on the Barron River after being closed for seven months. This temporary reopening enables commercial trips until the end of August and has been achieved through an extensive collaborative effort of CleanCo Queensland and Council.

Remedial works to the balance of the recreation area are ongoing and Council continues to work closely with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and National Emergency Management Authority to advocate for funding.

Tropical Cyclone Jasper Local Disaster Recovery Plan 2024 – 2026

The Tropical Cyclone Jasper Local Disaster Recovery Plan was endorsed by the Local Recovery Committee and adopted by the Local Disaster Management Group– Cairns Region on 18 June 2024.

The Recovery Plan sets out a total of 72 tasks and actions to guide our community towards recovery, helping to establish a ‘new normal’ and improve lifestyles and livelihoods for our community. To date, 21 recovery tasks and actions across all four pillars have been completed with another 25 significantly underway.

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 May estimates put the cost of the weather event at \$115 million of which \$90 million is expected to be recovered from external funding, resulting in a net cost to Council of \$25 million.

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements submissions:

On 21 June, Hon. Craig Crawford announced the extension of funding for the generators at Kamerunga Villas until March 2025. Council will continue the ‘on ground’ service by facilitating the generator hire and maintenance contracts to ensure continuity of power supply. The Body Corporate Committee are continuing to work through their power restoration plan. Retrospective approval is sought for a submission under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), grant assistance for Counter Disaster Operations for \$927,798.52 being all costs associated with Kamerunga Villas generators (hire fees, maintenance costs and fuel costs) for the 2023/24 financial year.

Council officers are working closely with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) to formulate Council’s official submissions for funding.

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.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Monthly Activity Review – June 2024 #7459885



John Andrejic
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Monthly Activity Review

93/1/2 | #7459885 / #7459656

JUNE 2024

The data contained within this review relates to the following:

- Events from the month
- Workforce Profile
- Creative Venues Attendance
- Community Events and Spaces Attendance
- Cairns Infrastructure and Assets Customer Requests
- Major Projects and Initiatives
- Development and Planning Snapshot
- Planning Growth and Sustainability events
- Economic Development and Advocacy Highlights
- Economic Snapshot

John Andrejic
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Major Events

IRONMAN Cairns

13 – 16 June 2024

- 3,817 participants:
 - 1,085 IRONMAN
 - 1,895 70.3
 - 837 festival events including IRONKIDS
- First and only Pro Series event in Asia Pacific for 2024
- Asia-Pacific Championship event
- Live broadcast on IRONMAN digital platforms



Community and Civic events

Citizenship

Date: Friday 21 June

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.

Great Barrier Reef Masters Games Ironman Activation

Date: 13 – 15 June

Venue: Cairns Esplanade

Attendance: 500 visitors over the 3 days

Time: 9:00am – 4:00pm daily

Purpose: A booth activation at the Cairns Ironman Lifestyle Expo. As per the benefits of Council's Major Event Partnership with Ironman Cairns, the Great Barrier Reef Masters Games promoted the 2025 event via registration engagement and promotional giveaways.



130 people

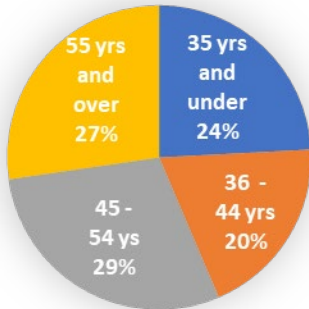


500 people



Workforce profile

Age



Gender

Stream A (indoor staff)

Female – 426
Male – 374

Stream B (outdoor Ops)

Female – 60
Male – 379

Stream C (Trades)

Female – 0
Male – 93

Trainee / Apprentices

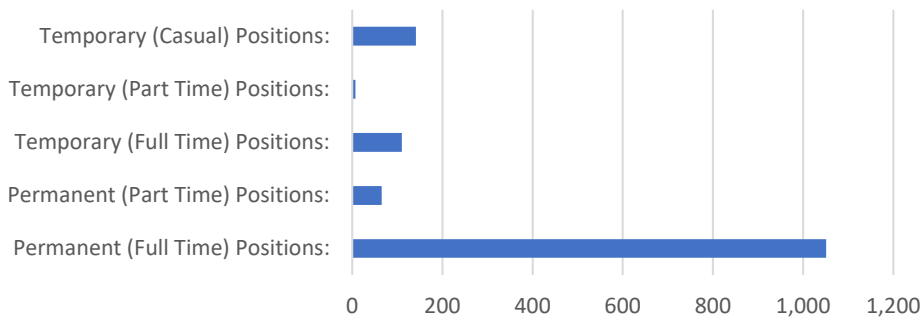
Female – 10
Male – 32

Of the 1374;

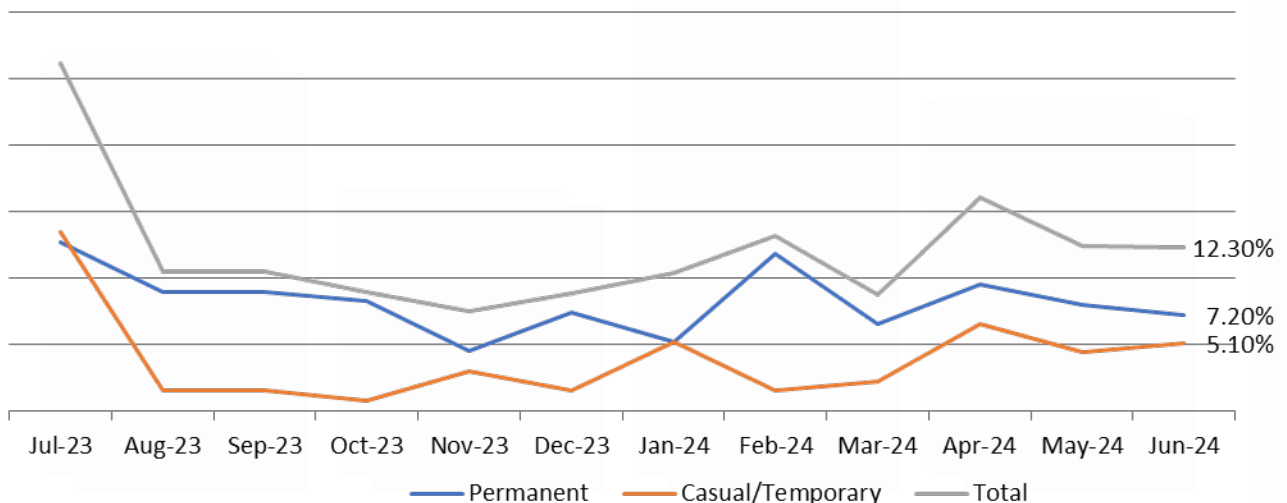
- 496 female
- 878 male

Note the total of 1374 (includes Directors and EM's which is 32)

Employees by Position Type



Employee Turnover



COMMENTARY:

According to ALGA, the national turnover rate in local government is around 15%, and closer to 20% in rural areas (current as at September, 2022).

Creative Venues Attendance

April – May – June 2024

Creative Venues

Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre, CPAC, Tanks, Court House Gallery, and Munro Martin Parkland (MMP):

- 226 workshops, classes, shows, exhibitions, live performances, and other events held across the five venues.
- Total attendance for period: 80,070
- 4th quarter attendance across all venues similar to same time last year (80,095)

Library Programs

- Program attendance for period: 23,001 across 345 inhouse and outreach programs delivered.
- All library attendance for period: 192,610
- All library combined loans: 194,404 for period - physical: 165,480, digital: 28,924

Comments on library program figures:

- 4th quarter total attendance figures commensurate with same time previous year (183,925)
- 4th quarter combined loans commensurate with same time previous year (203,297)

Community Markets

	Tanks	Gordonvale	Palm Cove
April	3,500	5,000	4,200
May	3,000	3,500	3,800
June	4,000	2,500	3,900

Stallholders:

April	87	136	131
May	76	145	132
June	87	115	131
Total	10,750	11,396	12,294

Community Attendance

April – May – June 2024

Community Events

In addition, the team delivered the NQ Games.

	Number of Events or Activities	Approximate attendance	Highlights
April	6	4,000	Youth after Dark (Youth Week Event)
May	8	4,500	Community Fun Day at Smithfield, Holi Festival of Colour, Cairns Bat Festival, FNQ Volunteer of the Year Awards, QPES Games and Freshwater Festival
June	6	8,100	Aloomba State School 125-year celebration, Gordonvale Sugar Solstice, VEXPO, Cairns African Festival, Cairns Coral Coast Athletics Carnival and the U14 Boys State Basketball Championships.
Total	20	16,600	

Active Living classes

Month	Attendance	Classes held	Weather cancellation
April	1,883	59	14
May	1,493	66	22
June	1,631	73	7

Community Spaces

Esplanade Boardwalk: 78,272 people attended the Esplanade Boardwalk in June, up from May (61,417). No stats available for April due to machine issues.

Barlow Park bookings: The Facility saw an increase in usage but still limited due to construction. Bookings are up from the previous year. Construction ongoing at the site.

Month	Attendance	Event
April	4,677	Construction ongoing
May	9,208	Open to school carnivals and Northern Pride
June	17,278	Increase in School Carnival Athletics

Cairns Infrastructure and Assets

Customer Requests – June 2024



137

Footpaths and
cycleways



31%



196

Roads and road
furniture



16%



49

Graffiti removal



21%

Percentages indicate movement on last month.

Major Projects & Initiatives

June 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

- Design works well advanced at approx. 70% complete
- Early works involving onsite investigations in progress
- Ongoing engagement with landowners directly affected and notification progressively issued to relevant stakeholders
- Federal EPBC approval granted, State MID approval granted
- Contractor looking to mobilise to WTP site in July 2024 in preparation for construction
- Anticipate execution of Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMP) in July/August 2024 (in progress)



Smart Water Meter Project

- Over 12,500 SWM meters installed with stable communication of water usage (out of 55,000 scope)
- SWM project rollout installation team averaging 800 SWM meter replacements per month.
- Upgrades to communications network now completed
- SWM NB-IoT water meters are now standard CRC issue for 20mm meters and are part of new ROPS
- Incorporating new SWM system and data into CRC BAU processes for water billing, maintenance and operations is ongoing to identify BAU teams



Development & Planning

23/24 Snapshot



457
Decision Notice
issued



2,783
CRM's
Responded To



614
Referral Agency
Applications
Received

488
Lots Created



60
Infrastructure
Agreements
Executed

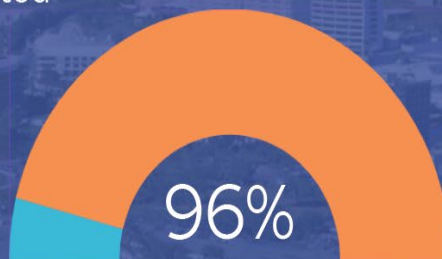


560
Referral Agency
Decisions Issued



229
Pre-lodgement
enquiries

515
Development
Application
Submitted



CRM's Completed
within KPI

Please note, this does not capture:

- Coordination and management of Appeals;
- Coordination and management of the construction phase of the development lifecycle;
- Other services such as planning certificates, letters of enquiry, compliance assessments, liquor licencing, advertising devices, advice for state projects etc.

Planning Growth & Sustainability

Cairns Ecofiesta 2024

The Cairns Ecofiesta was held on June 2nd at Munro Martin Parklands and attracted an estimated 7,000 attendees to celebrate the region's World Heritage-listed environment and sustainable living.

The 2024 Ecofiesta hosted a Reef Resilience Showcase, funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. The Showcase included expert panels on climate change and the Great Barrier Reef (featuring Dr Karl), the Science of Resilience, community efforts for Regenerating Australia and a Reef Resilience expo space. The funding also provided for a study with James Cook University to understand the event's impact regarding attitudes and behaviour change, with over 400 respondents taking part.

Event highlights included free bicycle maintenance, free bus transfers with Kinetic, an Ask an Architect session with Council, children's games, an electric vehicle display, native tree and book giveaways, film screenings, and household sustainability workshops on solar PV, gardening for wildlife and composting.

The 2024 event attracted \$75,650 in grant funding and sponsorships to assist with delivery, boasted 65 stalls and directly hosted 34 volunteers.



7,000
Attendee's



65
Stall-holders

Economic Development & Advocacy Highlights

Economic Development

- The Deputy Mayor, CEO and Council Officers hosted a small agribusiness delegation from PNG, facilitated by Tradelinked Cairns-PNG-Pacific on 1 July 2024.
- In partnership with informed decisions (.id), Council officers delivered State of the Region economic briefings for Councillors, staff and key stakeholders on 10 July 2024.

Major and Economic Events

- IRONMAN Cairns delivered.
- Councillor engagement and attendance across the 4x days including media call, COUCH run, IRONKIDS, IRONMAN and 70.3 race start, IRONMAN & 70.3 award presentation.
- Tourism data outcomes will follow with event debrief process.

Advocacy

- Following the increased State funding commitment of \$195 million towards Council's Cairns Water Security Stage 1 project, formal requests have been sent to relevant federal ministers seeking a matched federal commitment.
- Mayor Amy Eden visited Canberra during the week commencing 1 July 24 to meet with a number of Ministers, Shadow Ministers, Departmental representatives and other stakeholders regarding a range of advocacy priorities including Cairns Water Security Stage 1.



Economic snapshot



Key Tourism Data for March 2024 quarter

Annual Overnight Visitors Tropical North Queensland (TNQ)

		Year Ended		
		Mar-24	Dec-23	Dec-19
D'mestic	- Visitor #s (Million)	2.28	2.30	2.22
	- Visitors Exp (\$M)	\$3,826	\$3,754	\$2,508
Internat.	- Visitor #s (Million)	0.49	0.45	0.81
	- Visitors Exp (\$M)	\$895	\$831	\$1,028
Total	- Visitor #s (Million)	2.77	2.75	3.03
	- Visitors Exp (\$M)	\$4,721	\$4,585	\$3,536

Total visitor numbers and expenditure for the year ended Mar 24 were broadly consistent with the previous period (year ended Dec 23). Visitor expenditure is significantly above pre-COVID levels

Source: TEQ