



Our Ref:#5993557

8 February 2019

Hon Josh Frydenberg MP  
Treasurer  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Treasurer

**Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils Pre Budget Submission**

The Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC) was established in the 1980's and represents 13 member councils from Hinchinbrook, north to Cook and west to Carpentaria in far north Queensland. The FNQROC region is the largest and fastest growing region in Northern Australia. It extends over 320,000 square kilometres with a population of approximately 275,000 and a gross regional product (GRP) of \$15.15 billion. Unemployment for the 2018 June quarter was 6.97% which is above the Australian, Queensland and regional Queensland average.

The communities within our region welcome the opportunity to contribute further grow the GRP through the utilisation of existing assets, identifying our gaps and working collaboratively to support sustainable economic growth and develop for Far North Queensland.

We know we can't do this alone and we thank the government for the support received to date. Please find attached priority projects we are seeking a commitment to, which will make a real difference to our communities and support economic growth within our region.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of our submission please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Cr Tom Gilmore  
**CHAIR**  
Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils

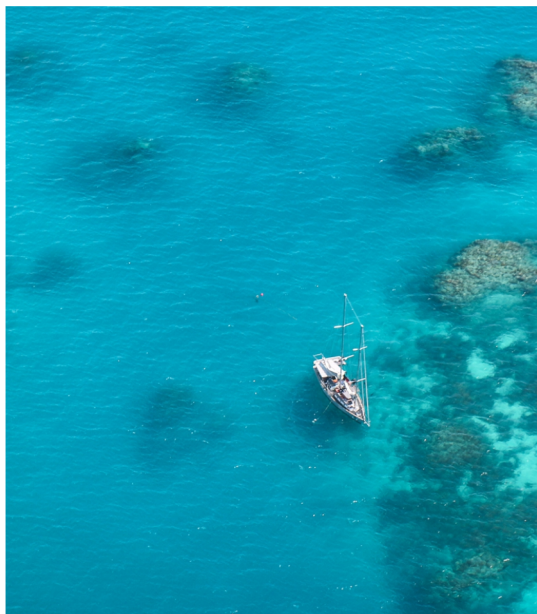


# Far North Queensland

*Northern Australia's largest  
and fastest growing region.*



## FEDERAL ELECTION PRIORITIES | 2019





## Member Councils



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# Foreword

## *Sustainable Economic Growth and Development for Far North Queensland*

### **Our Organisation**

The FNQROC region is the largest and fastest growing region in Northern Australia. It extends over 320,000 square kilometres with a population of approximately 275,673<sup>1</sup> and gross regional product is \$15.15 billion<sup>2</sup>. Unemployment for the 2018 June quarter was 6.97% which is above the Australian, Queensland and regional Queensland average.

The communities within the thirteen Councils of Far North Queensland welcome the opportunity to contribute further to the National and State domestic productivity through the utilisation of existing assets, identifying our gaps and working collaboratively to support sustainable economic growth and development for Far North Queensland.

### **Transport**

History tells us that investment in transport infrastructure is a vital precursor to the economic growth and development of a region and the nation. Until this investment is made the FNQ region will fail to deliver on its vast potential. Resilient transport infrastructure to ensure connectivity across the region is essential; the current situation however is far from satisfactory and the state of the roads and ports is an inhibitor to further exploit the vast untapped potential that FNQ North Queensland offers.

### **Water and Energy**

Reliable and affordable water and energy is critical to the FNQ region if it is to have sustainable economic growth and development. COAG policies including Northern Australia White Paper, Regionalisation, Asian Market Access and Indigenous Advancement have identified the strategic importance of FNQ to economic and social development. FNQ has a seasonal over and under water supply and bulk storage and control via new and enlarged dams is a key solution offering the collateral benefits of hydroelectric power, tourism and lifestyle opportunities.

### **Environment**

Our region's world renowned natural assets, natural resources and environment are key factors in the economic success of the region. The region includes two World Heritage listed areas, the rainforests of the Wet Tropics and the reefs and waters of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) and to the west, the Gulf Rivers Strategic Environment areas.

The economic success of our natural assets is evidenced by the growth in our largest industry, tourism, which is valued at over \$3.1 billion dollars. This is in addition to the contributions from the region's growing global reputation in primary industries, education, health, marine and aviation.

### **Social Infrastructure**

There is universal agreement that strong, resilient and healthy individuals, families and communities play a vital role in building the ongoing prosperity, wellbeing and economic development of a region. It has been demonstrated that long term economic growth in the regions occurs through investment in human capital development.

### **Communication**

An equitable communication network for the region is essential if FNQ is to have sustainable growth and development. The size of FNQ means there is a reliance on communication networks whether mobile, broadband, fixed Wi-Fi or satellite. To be competitive in current marketplaces (national and international) and drive increased productivity and access to greater economic opportunities through a global marketplace our communication network is essential. FNQ has vast untapped potential for the development of an array of 'Agri Business', tropical expertise and tourism products which can be exported from the region. An equitable communication network will also support efficient and effective employment, government service delivery, education, health, workplace health and safety and social wellbeing.

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<sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth, Australia (3218.0)

<sup>2</sup> National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) 2018.

## **Far North Queensland is seeking a commitment to:**

### **Critical Infrastructure**

#### **Kuranda Range Road**

\$800m contribution towards an estimated \$1bil project to resolve the safety, capacity and reliability issues of Kuranda Range Road.

### **National Land Transport Network**

#### **Extension of the national Land Transport Network**

**Innisfail Strategic Masterplan Project – Linking to the Bruce Highway** - \$8.3mil towards the estimate \$25mil required to deliver the project.

### **Defence**

**Port Master Plan** - commitment to the expansion of HMAS Cairns and ancillary facilities and commitments to undertake naval maintenance activities in Cairns.

### **Bio Precincts**

**Mossman Mill** - formal commitment of \$20mil now that the business case has been completed.

**North Queensland Bio-Energy (NQBE) Project** - Commitment of \$20m towards the NQBE \$600m Renewable Energy Facility.

### **Energy**

FNQROC supports further progression of the **Cardstone Pumped Hydro Scheme**, Business Case with an estimated timetable for delivery.

### **Water**

**Nullinga Dam** - timetable for the delivery of Nullinga Dam to support agricultural development and the long term urban water security needs of Cairns.

**Tablelands Irrigation Project** - \$7mil funding to proceed from Preliminary Business Case (completed) to Detailed Business Case and Environmental Impact Assessment.

### **Environment**

**Weather Station** - covering central Far North Queensland.

**Yellow Crazy Ant eradication** - Wet Tropics Management Authority request for \$3mil per year (\$3mil State and \$3mil Federal) for seven years from July 2019 to continue its successful Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program.

**Management of the Great Barrier Reef into the future** – Review existing management structure and investment cognisant to the value of the asset.

### **Indigenous Liveability**

**National Partnerships for Remote Housing** – continuance of NPRN or similar and funding for priority projects in Yarrabah not previously capture in NPRN.

### **Digital Connectivity**

**Carpentaria Fibre Optic Project** - Building Better Regions funding of \$1mil towards the estimated \$2.9mil project cost.

### **Tourism Infrastructure**

**Wangetti Trail** - \$10mil towards the capital cost of establishing the Wangetti Trail.

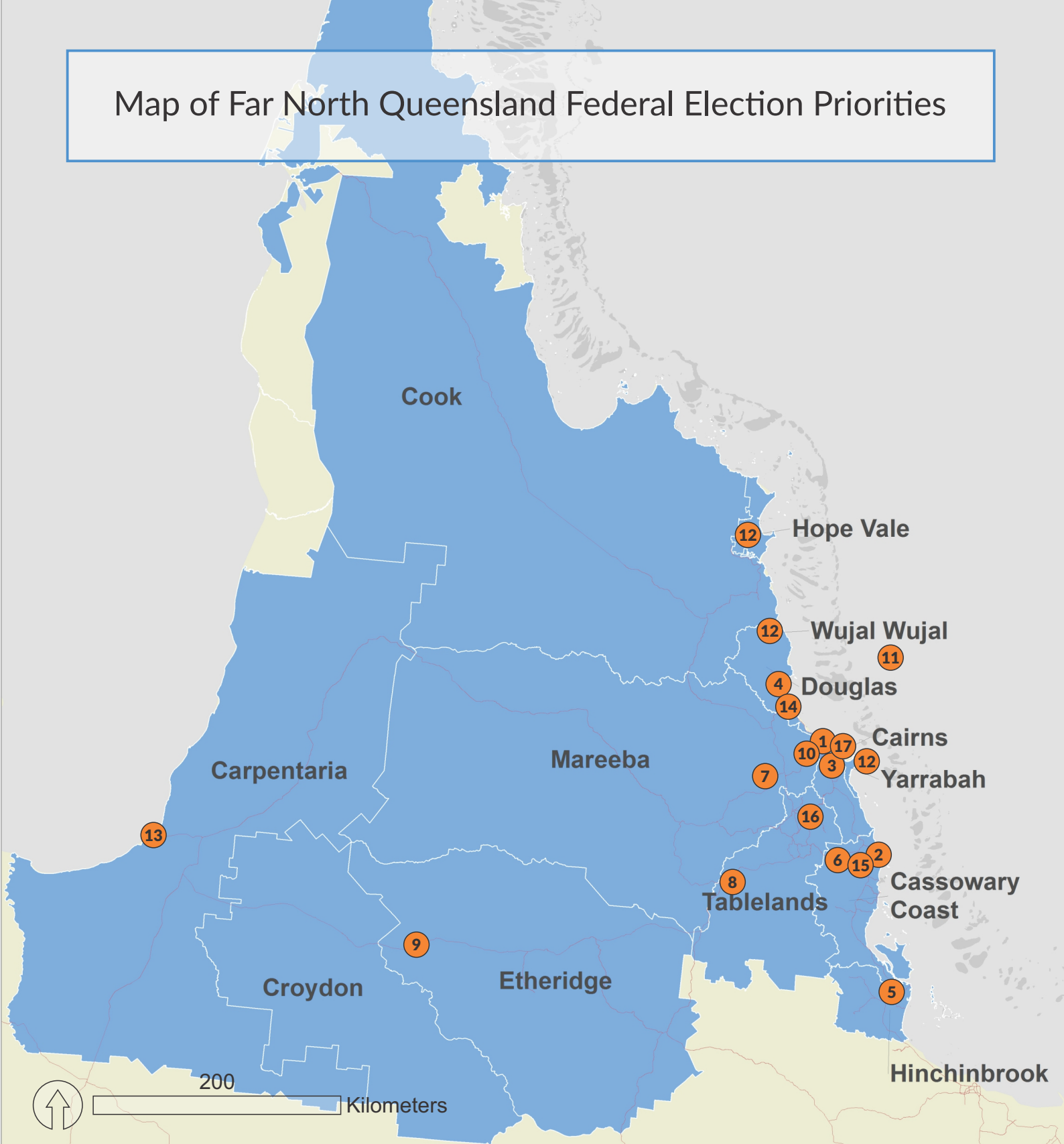
**Tully Multi-Use Sporting Complex and Grandstand Project** - Building Better Regions Funding of \$3m towards the estimated construction cost of \$7.1mil.

**Atherton Town Centre Revitalisation Project (Priors Creek Master Plan)** - \$21.5mil to progress implementation of Priors Creek Master Plan.

### **Building relationships with Papua New Guinea**

Financial and administrative assistance in a collaborative approach with Papua New Guinea to enable expanding the NRL to include a PNG team with an Australian home ground in Cairns.

# Map of Far North Queensland Federal Election Priorities



## Legend

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| ① Kuranda Range Road             | ⑩ Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication   |
| ② Innisfail Strategic Masterplan | ⑪ Great Barrier Reef Management  |
| ③ Cairns Port Masterplan         | ⑫ National Partnerships for Remote Housing                               |
| ④ Mossman Mill                   | ⑬ Carpentaria Fibre Optic Project  |
| ⑤ North Queensland Bio-Energy    | ⑭ Wangetti Trail   |
| ⑥ Cardstone Pumped Hydro Scheme  | ⑮ Tully Multi-Use Sporting Complex and Grandstand Project                |
| ⑦ Nullinga Dam                   | ⑯ Atherton Town Centre Revitalisation Project (Priors Creek Master Plan) |
| ⑧ Tablelands Irrigation Project  | ⑰ Building relationships with Papua New Guinea                           |
| ⑨ Central FNQ Weather Station    |  |

**PRIORITY: CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Project:** Kuranda Range Road

**FEDERAL  
REQUEST**

FNQROC seeks \$800m contribution towards an estimated \$1bil project to resolve the safety, capacity and reliability issues of Kuranda Range Road.

**Project Details:**

Kuranda Range Road (Kennedy Highway, Cairns/Mareeba section) links Smithfield with Kuranda and is the coastal gateway to Mareeba, Atherton Tablelands, Cape York and Gulf. The road is technically described as low geometric standard with limited capacity.

This road currently:

- has an average weekly cost of \$871,992 per week due to fatalities, hospitalisations, injuries and property damage. On average:
  - 2.5 fatalities/year
  - 1.2 hospitalisations/week
  - 1.0 injury every 4 days
  - 1.3 vehicles damaged/week
- has 8,871 vehicles per day (12.23% commercial) which exceeds capacity by 1,686 vehicles per day
- 1.3 unplanned closures/week (economic loss yet to be costed). An alternative route (Gillies Highway) being 91km away. Nearly once a month (0.7 times) this alternative route has an unplanned closure at the same time.
- inhibits economic growth; recent application for 200 lot rural subdivision in Kuranda will not be supported by the Department of Transport and Main Roads due to the traffic impact on the Kennedy Highway.

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**PRIORITY: NATIONAL LAND TRANSPORT NETWORK**

**Project:** Extension of the national Land Transport Network

**FEDERAL  
REQUEST**

FNQROC seeks the extension of the national Land Transport Network.

**Project Details:**

The road networks both within Cairns and connecting Cairns to regions located to the north, south and west are critical enablers for the regional economy. An effective road transport network also contributes to the region's liveability by facilitating efficient travel both within region and to/from outside the region for work, leisure and social purposes. Safety considerations for all modes of transport are also an important consideration.

Extension of the National Land Transport Network (which currently terminates at Draper Street just south of the Cairns CBD) will unlock increased investment in the elements of the road network which supports connectivity with the Cairns Airport and Cairns Seaport, as well as delivering improved road connectivity to the north of the city and west to the Atherton Tablelands and beyond. This improved connectivity would deliver significant economic, safety and liveability benefits to Cairns and the broader region.

**PRIORITY: NATIONAL LAND TRANSPORT NETWORK**

**Project:** Innisfail Strategic Masterplan Project – Linking to the Bruce Highway

<b>FEDERAL REQUEST</b>	FNQROC seeks \$8.3mil towards the estimate \$25mil required to deliver the project.
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**Project Details:**

To provide liveable and vibrant areas with a unique Master Plan that connects the Bruce Highway with Fitzgerald Esplanade and entices passing visitors into the town centre via the reconfiguration of the Bruce Highway/Edith Street intersection.

With over 800,000 vehicle movements through this area a year, and the redevelopment of Innisfail's Central Business District, Fitzgerald Esplanade and Anzac Park, increased visitation will generate growth and new opportunities for investment and employment.

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**PRIORITY: DEFENCE**

**Project:** Cairns Port Masterplan

<b>FEDERAL REQUEST</b>	FNQROC seeks Port Master Plan, commitment to the expansion of HMAS Cairns and ancillary facilities and commitments to undertake naval maintenance activities in Cairns.
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**Project Details:**

HMAS Cairns has a responsibility extending from Rockhampton to Thursday Island. HMAS Cairns' primary responsibility is to provide maintenance, logistic and administrative support for Cairns based units and to provide refit and training support for neighbouring Pacific Island nations (Pacific Class Patrol Boats). The recent announcement of the establishment of a joint US/Australian naval base on Manus Island further underlines the strategic importance of HMAS Cairns.

Continued investment in the HMAS Cairns base not only strengthens Australia's border security and defence capabilities but has significant flow on economic benefits to the Cairns region and supports skills development in the marine maintenance sector. The economic contribution from this sector is also relatively stable and not subject to the impact of fluctuations in economic conditions and other factors such as interest and foreign exchange rates. As a result, this sector plays an important role in supporting regional economic resilience.



**PRIORITY: BIO PRECINCTS**

**Project:** Mossman Mill

**FEDERAL  
REQUEST**

FNQROC seeks formal commitment of \$20mil now that the business case has been completed.

**Project Details:**

\$25mil has been committed by the State and \$20mil Federal funding was contingent on a business case which has now been completed.

A new entity, Far Northern Milling (FNM), has been established by the growers to acquire the mill from its current owner Mackay Sugar Limited. Mackay Sugar Limited has had significant financial challenges and entered in to a restructure process which included selling the Mossman Mill. Hundreds of jobs, many small businesses and countless families depend on the sugar industry in Mossman and a sustainable industry is fundamental to Mossman's economic future.

Douglas Shire Council has been supporting FNM in a number of ways and in particular made application under the Federal Government's Regional Growth Fund for \$20m on the basis it would be matched by contributions from the growers over time.

This Federal and State funding is critical to the future of the mill as it will ensure the establishment of an innovative bio refinery which will enable value adding facilities which are for the planned "Daintree Bio Precinct".

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**PRIORITY: BIO PRECINCTS**

**Project:** North Queensland Bio-Energy (NQBE) Project - Ingham

**FEDERAL  
REQUEST**

FNQROC seeks formal commitment of \$20m towards the NQBE \$600m Renewable Energy Facility.

**Project Details:**

Ingham has had a declining population since 2003 and the Hinchinbrook Shire Council and community are committed to diversifying to grow their economy and population which will save the town, jobs, small businesses and families who depend on the sugar industry.

NQBE was incorporated by the growers to diversify the way they conduct their business and not only be sustainable into the future but grow jobs and the economy. It is envisaged this will be the start of a bio precinct in Hinchinbrook Shire Council.

The NQBE Project has State and Federal Development Approvals in place and will deliver:

- a net increase of 253 "new" jobs to the region (not including an additional 114 truck drivers required to transport the cane to the facility);
- a net increase of \$96m per annum in regional output;
- a net increase of \$68m per annum in regional value added; and
- a net increase of \$19m per annum in regional income.

Hinchinbrook Shire Council has been supporting NQBE in a number of ways and will make application under the Federal Government's Regional Growth Fund for \$20m on the basis it would be matched by contributions from the growers over time.

**PRIORITY: ENERGY**

**Project:** Cardstone Pumped Hydro Scheme

<b>FEDERAL REQUEST</b>	FNQROC supports further progression of the Cardstone Pumped Hydro Scheme, Business Case with an estimated timetable for delivery.
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**Project Details:**

Cardstone is a pumped hydro concept which when combined with wind and solar has the potential to deliver at least 2GW of 100% renewable base load equivalent generation (one third of Queensland demand) at a materially lower cost than alternative options, with 300GWh of energy storage. Cardstone has sufficient storage to generate continuously at a capacity of 2GW for 4 days. (300GWh represents 1 year of electricity consumption for 50,000 households).

The development of Cardstone's generation capacity is able to be staged to coincide with the closure of coal fired power stations.

Cardstone is a nation-building project with potential scale equivalent to Snowy2.0 (at significantly lower cost), the Cardstone Pumped Hydro scheme ably solves the energy trilemma of reliability, affordability and sustainability.

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**PRIORITY: WATER**

**Project:** Nullinga Dam

<b>FEDERAL REQUEST</b>	FNQROC seeks commitment to a timetable for the delivery of Nullinga Dam to support agricultural development and the long term urban water security needs of Cairns.
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**Project Details:**

The Nullinga Dam site, located on the Walsh River on the Atherton Tablelands, has been proposed as a critical piece of water supply infrastructure to stimulate and expand irrigated agriculture in the region by supplementing existing water supplies. Nullinga Dam is also an important consideration in the long term urban water security for Cairns.

A preliminary business case for the Nullinga Dam project was completed in 2017 and a detailed business case is currently being undertaken by Building Queensland engaging with the project proponent (SunWater) and stakeholders more broadly. Timetable commitments are required to ensure this critical regional infrastructure project is able to proceed.

**PRIORITY: WATER**

**Project:** Tablelands Irrigation Project

<b>FEDERAL REQUEST</b>	FNQROC seeks commitment of \$7mil funding to proceed from Preliminary Business Case (completed) to Detailed Business Case and Environmental Impact Assessment.
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**Project Details:**

Through funding from the National Water Infrastructure Fund, a Preliminary Business Case has been completed, with the recommended solution being a medium size dam at Woodleigh on Millstream as follows:

- Capacity – 35,000 ML
- Demand – 32,195 ML per year
- Reliability – 90% of Demand is met at 98.5% Reliability

**Project opportunities:**

- Allowing the transition from a land use predominantly for beef cattle to a variety of higher value crops. The value added production benefit is \$1.35 billion estimated to the region's agriculture industry;
  - Providing opportunities to increase the tourism offering in the Tablelands region with contemporary attractions. The estimate recreational benefits for the community is \$9.28 million;
  - Providing capacity to increase total renewable energy generation in the Tablelands region and provide efficient energy storage solutions. Estimated hydro power benefit from the sale of electricity is \$2.60 million;
  - Increasing the region's economic resilience, diversity and competitiveness by building a stronger and more cohesive economy with complementary industries.
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**PRIORITY: ENVIRONMENT**

**Project:** Central Far North Queensland Weather Station

<b>FEDERAL REQUEST</b>	FNQROC seeks the establishment of a weather station covering central Far North Queensland.
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**Project Details:**

There is an area in central Far North Queensland supporting significant agricultural, grazing and mining industries which is not covered by a weather station. The area includes Richmond (in the south), Georgetown (to the east), 100k west of Croydon and North up to Pompuraaw. Whilst it appears the Bureau of meteorology uses these stations predominately for scientific and research purposes, industry and communities rely heavily on this information on a day to day basis.

For the purposes of economic growth and community safety, the region is seeking coverage which includes fire weather, wind reading, rainfall, pressure, dew point and humidity.

**PRIORITY: ENVIRONMENT**

**Project: Yellow Crazy Ants**

<b>FEDERAL REQUEST</b>	FNQROC seeks support for the Wet Tropics Management Authority request for \$3mil per year (\$3mil State and \$3mil Federal) for seven years from July 2019 to continue its successful Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program.
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**Project Details:**

The Wet Tropics Management Authority has led the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program since 2013. The program was significantly enhanced in 2016 as a result of a three-year funding commitment from the Australian Government (\$7.5 million) and the Queensland Government (\$3.04 million).

An independent review by Melbourne University stated that eradication remains feasible, commending the program's progress and achievements to date in stopping the spread.

In addition, a preliminary cost-benefit analysis compared the cost of funding the Eradication Program to allowing the uncontrolled spread of ants. It found that the annual socioeconomic impact to the region would exceed \$700mil over the next seven years and including environmental effects, the total economic impact would exceed \$5billion.

We believe it is vital to take advantage of this window of opportunity to keep the Cairns and Kuranda districts and the Wet Tropics safe from such a destructive invader.

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**PRIORITY: ENVIRONMENT**

**Project: Management of the Great Barrier Reef into the future**

<b>FEDERAL REQUEST</b>	FNQROC seeks government support of the following recommendations given the critical importance of the GBR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That the existing management structure should be reviewed and an overarching, de-politicized body established to manage both the Wet Tropics Rainforest and Great Barrier Reef with a contiguous approach established.</li><li>• Investment in Reef and Rainforest Management should be reviewed in the context of the significant economic benefits these assets deliver to the region.</li></ul>
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**Project Details:**

The existing management structure for both the GBRMP and the GBR Coast MP and the external factors that impact upon them are extremely complex; we can identify 13 different organisations who receive government financial support and 54 entities and advisory groups involved in advocacy, research, monitoring, management or protection for/of the Great Barrier Reef.

Crucially, a significant proportion of the river systems flowing into the GBR have their source within, or flowing through, the World Heritage listed Wet Tropics Rainforests (WTR). Responsibility for management of the WTR has been devolved to the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

The health of the Rainforest has a direct impact on river catchments and marine ecosystems with flow-on impacts on water quality and the health of the GBR.

The existing management structures (and the external factors that impact upon them) are extremely complex involving multiple Government agencies, they lack clarity of purpose, strategic direction and investment. Given the critical importance of both the GBR and WTR, the existing management structure needs to be reviewed to ensure it addresses these issues.

**PRIORITY: INDIGENOUS LIVEABILITY**

**Project:** National Partnerships for Remote Housing

<b>FEDERAL REQUEST</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FNQROC seeks support for the continuance of the NPRH program or implementation of a similar program (which includes Yarrabah) to continue program deliverables.</li><li>• FNQROC seeks State &amp; Federal Government funding support for the following priority projects in Yarrabah:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 235 new dwellings - \$124.6million</li><li>• Associated trunk infrastructure - \$110.75 million</li><li>• Upgrades to existing housing - \$14.04 million</li><li>• Repairs and maintenance to existing housing - \$4.26 million</li></ul></li></ul>
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**Project Details:**

The current National Partnership on Remote House (NPRH) expired on 30 June 2018 with no indication it will continue or be replaced with a similar program. Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council was also excluded from the program due to its 'as the crow flies' proximity to Cairns.

Indigenous council delegation main observations:

- a. Federal and State governments currently consult (and fund) groups that do not represent all indigenous people. Elected Councils democratically represent all residents and accordingly best placed to be consulted with when dealing with indigenous issues.
- b. Outside of remote housing outcomes, the program importantly addresses the social determinants of health, including health, education, employment and indigenous (and regional) economic outcomes.
- c. The Federal Governments own independent review highlighted positive program outcomes, however agreed 'the job is only half done' and should be continued.

Direct positive impact of NPRH Program:

- 80% of new housing construction is delivered by ATSI Councils (ie Hope Vale, Yarrabah and Wujal Wujal)
- 80% of minor works and repairs are delivered by ATSI Councils
- 87% Indigenous employment on housing projects

Yarrabah currently has a catastrophic housing crisis with over half the population homeless. There are 4,500 people living in the community with 364 social houses and approximately 700 people waitlisted.

A 15% contingency takes into account anticipated missing data from individual applications and fluctuating family numbers, given between 80 – 100 babies are born in Yarrabah per year.

**PRIORITY: DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY**

**Project:** Carpentaria Fibre Optic Project

**FEDERAL  
REQUEST**

FNQROC seeks Building Better Regions funding of \$1mil towards the estimated \$2.9mil project cost.

**Project Details:**

Currently Karumba receives its internet and mobile services via an ageing radio network that links Normanton to Karumba via two radio transmitters. Carpentaria Shire Council has been looking into various ways to solve the critical telecommunication issues faced by Karumba for a number of years. Essentially there is no more bandwidth nor is there available backhaul to increase it. This means that mobile and internet access will continue to be slow and unreliable in the absence of any intervention.

The total project consists of 70.4km of fibre optic cable, upgrading the Karumba Exchange to be ADSL2+ capable, and upgrade the Karumba mobile tower to enable 4G mobile services. Construction/installation will be facilitated through an Enterprise Works Agreement with Telstra and expected to take around 100 days to deliver

Both the State and Carpentaria Shire Council have committed \$1.9mil towards the project. The installation of fibre optic cable between Normanton and Karumba, with associated upgrade to the Karumba telecommunication exchange and tower will result in the positive outcomes related to population and jobs growth, tourism, health care, education, and disaster resilience.

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**PRIORITY: TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Project:** Wangetti Trail

**FEDERAL  
REQUEST**

FNQROC seeks \$10mil towards the capital cost of establishing the Wangetti Trail.

**Project Details:**

The Wangetti Trail is a proposed 76 kilometre dual use (mountain biking and hiking) trail stretching along the coastal plains and mountain hinterland between Palm Cove and Port Douglas. The trail will be one of Australia's leading adventure based ecotourism experiences, attracting visitors on an international scale which can be completed in six days/five nights (end-to-end) for walkers and two days/one night for riders. Due to the trail's unique accessibility, visitors will have the ability to 'drop in' and 'drop off', allowing them to complete individual sections rather than the entire trail.

The trail will provide walkers and mountain-bike riders with a wilderness bushland and ocean experience, showcasing the beauty of the Wet Tropics Rainforest, national parks and the Great Barrier Reef.

Detailed design and the preparation of a full business case is currently underway and being led by the Queensland State Government. The business case will define the commercial viability and management arrangements as well as the capital costs for construction and ongoing maintenance requirements. The project's capital cost is estimated to be in the vicinity of \$35 million. Subject to the outcomes of the business case, funding will be required to undertake the project's construction phase to establish this iconic nature based tourism experience that provides significant regional benefits.

**PRIORITY: TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Project:** Tully Multi-Use Sporting Complex and Grandstand Project

<b>FEDERAL REQUEST</b>	FNQROC seeks Building Better Regions Funding of \$3m towards the estimated construction cost of \$7.1mil.
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**Project Details:**

The Tully Multi-Use Sporting Complex and Grandstand project consists of the construction and fit out of a new 696 seat multi-use grandstand with associated facilities for the Tully community.

Securing funding for this project will increase the town's capacity for increased sport, not only locally but for touring events like the IRF 2019 International World Rafting Championships (which was traditionally held in Wanaka New Zealand) to be held in Tully. In addition to this, it will increase recreation participation by developing activities in a safe and appropriately supported environment.

The economic benefits of the Facility will include:

- Direct creation of 28.35 new jobs during the construction phase with materials sourced from local suppliers in accordance with Cassowary Coast Shire Councils local buy policy;
- Indirect creation of 30.6 new jobs between 2018 and 2043; and
- Direct injection of \$21,313,218.40 into the Cassowary Coast Economy between 2018 and 2043 with potential for significant growth into the future.

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**PRIORITY: TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Project:** Atherton Town Centre Revitalisation Project (Priors Creek Master Plan)

<b>FEDERAL REQUEST</b>	FNQROC seeks commitment of \$21.5mil to progress implementation of Priors Creek Master Plan.
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**Project Details:**

The Priors Creek Master Plan includes catalytic tourism, recreational, and commercial development opportunities that will revitalise the Atherton CBD.

The development of the Priors Creek area as a pedestrian dominated mixed use area will comprise recreation, commercial and residential uses that is attractive to tourists and residents. The site creates an opportunity to relocate and expand the Atherton Visitor Information Centre, provide entertainment, dining, accommodation, RV parking, playground and picnic facilities in the regional service centre of Atherton.

**PRIORITY: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

**Project:** Expansion of the NRL - Papua New Guinea/Cairns

**FEDERAL  
REQUEST**

Bipartisan support of a joint bid between Cairns and Papua New Guinea to expand the NRL to include a PNG team with an Australian home ground in Cairns. Commitment of financial and administrative assistance to enable the expansion, in a collaborative approach with Papua New Guinea.

**Project Details:**

In Papua New Guinea, rugby league is the national sport and followed with fanaticism by the 8 million-strong population. Australia is competing for influence in the region, and football could be the ideal platform to further build ties between our two countries.

Cairns is the closest Australian city to Port Moresby, less than a 90-minute flight away, with a large expat community of Papua New Guineans calling Cairns home. A foreign policy initiative supporting NRL expansion, and giving Papua New Guinea a helping hand to operate within the national league, would build immense soft diplomacy power for Australia. No single act from an Australian government would do more to strengthen the economic, social and cultural connection between our two countries, than bringing a PNG rugby league team in to the NRL. No other city would be a more appropriate location for an Australian-based home ground, than Cairns.





Far North Queensland Regional Organisation Of Councils

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