

7.3. LGAQ COASTAL LEADERS FORUM

REPORT AUTHOR	Executive Assistant
MANAGER	Chief Executive Officer
DEPARTMENT	Office of the Chief Executive Officer
DATE	26 May 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the attendance of Mayor Cr Lisa Scomazzon, Cr Abigail Noli and Cr Michael Rees at the Local Government Association of Queensland 2026 Coastal Leaders Forum.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) will host the 2026 Coastal Leaders Forum from Wednesday 29 July to Thursday 30 July 2026 in Shute Harbour, Airlie Beach. This event will bring together mayors, councillors and senior council officers from Queensland's coastal councils to explore the key challenges and emerging opportunities shaping the future of coastal communities.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONS / RESOLUTIONS

Not Applicable

REPORT/BACKGROUND

Over the two-day program, delegates will examine priority issues facing coastal councils, such as infrastructure planning, tourism development, climate risk and disaster resilience. The agenda features a combination of keynote presentations, ministerial contributions and facilitated panel discussions.

Emphasising practical insights and lessons drawn from real council experience, the forum offers a valuable platform for collaboration, knowledge-sharing and strengthening collective advocacy across Queensland's coastal regions.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The cost to Council will include conference registration, travel, accommodation costs and sundry expenses. The approximate total cost per Councillor will be \$2,200.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

NIL

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

NIL

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

NIL

CORPORATE AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2025-2030 Initiatives:

Theme 2 - Prosperity

Council plans, builds and maintains the infrastructure required to improve our lifestyle and promote economic growth, working actively to support local businesses.

2.7 - Build strong local, State and Federal relations.

Operational Plan 2025-2026 Actions:

2.7.4 - Continued membership of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ).

LEGISLATION AND POLICY

Not applicable

CONSULTATION

Not applicable

CONCLUSION

The 2026 Coastal Leaders Forum will provide an important opportunity for Mayor Scomazzon, Cr Noli and Cr Rees to join fellow mayors, councillors and senior council officers in examining the key challenges and emerging opportunities facing coastal communities. Discussions will centre on priority issues such as infrastructure, tourism, climate risk and disaster resilience.

ATTACHMENTS

1. coastal-leaders-forum-2026-preliminary-agenda [7.3.1 - 3 pages]



Coastal Leaders **Forum**

Leading Coastal Communities: Today and Every Day

Airlie Beach, Whitsundays
Shute Harbour Marine Terminal
29-30 July 2026

Coastal Leaders Forum

Day one



Every Queensland
community deserves
to be a liveable one

8:30am	Registrations open Tea & coffee on arrival
9:00am	Welcome to 2026 Coastal Leaders Forum
9:05am	Official welcome
9:15am	Welcome from host council
9:25am	Keynote Address
9:40am	Ministerial Q&A On the couch with Tim Cox
10:10am	Partner address
10:15am	Morning tea
11:00am	Mayoral Panel: Coastal Council Priorities
11:45am	Riding the wave: Bruce Highway upgrade
12:25pm	Partner address
12:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm	Tourist tides – Managing visitor surges
2:15pm	Crowds, coastlines & coastal communities
3:00pm	Partner address
3:05pm	Afternoon tea
3:50pm	Coastal Councils Infrastructure Showcase Advocacy focus on attracting large infrastructure investments
4:40pm	Partner address
4:45pm	Close of day
5:00pm	Coastal Leaders Networking Evening Sunset boat cruise from Shute Harbour

Coastal Leaders Forum

Day two



Every Queensland
community deserves
to be a liveable one

8:00am	Registrations open Tea & coffee on arrival
8:30am	Welcome back to day two
8:35am	Government update
8:55am	Managing coastal community's climate risk
9:15am	LGMS climate risk insurance case study
9:30am	Climate risk expert panel
10:25am	Partner address
10:30am	Morning tea
11:15am	The big swell – lessons from the disaster season
12:00pm	Discussion/next steps
12:30pm	Thank you from the LGAQ
12:35pm	Close of day & lunch