

<b>ORDINARY MEETING</b>  <b>16 JUNE 2015</b>	<b>5.4</b>
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## ROAD CLOSURE ON LANGLEY ROAD-PORT DOUGLAS

**Michael Matthews: Project Engineer**

**Paul Hoye: General Manager Operations**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council resolve to:**

1. maintain the existing road closure at Langley Road, Port Douglas; and
2. notify the respondents and the residents of the precinct of the outcome.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The road closure at Langley Road, Port Douglas was installed in 2006 at the request of local residents. The road closure was requested to restrict bus access, reduce through traffic and traffic noise generated by vehicles, in particular buses, utilising Langley Road, Little Reef Street and Coral Drive as a loop access.

Residents have requested consideration be given to the removal of the Langley Road Barricade due to:-

- The bus route no longer being required as the resort located on Langley Road has closed and been demolished; and
- To allow access for emergency vehicles and egress for residents during emergency incidents to Coral Drive via Langley Road or Little Reef Street.

### **BACKGROUND:**

In April 2014, Douglas Shire Council received requests from some local residents for Council to review the existing road closure at the intersection of Langley Road and Little Reef Street. The barricade was originally installed in 2006 after Council received requests from local residents to restrict bus access and reduce traffic noise.

In September 2014, Council requested feedback from residents on the proposal to remove the road barricade between Langley Road and Little Reef Street to allow access for emergency services vehicles and improve traffic circulation.

Community consultation via a mail out, public notice and website notice resulted in 30 submissions in response to the request for feedback. Eight (8) submissions including the original request were in favour of the proposal and twenty-one (21) were opposed. One (1) submission was received detailing the submitter's concern regarding the cost of undertaking the community consultation.

**LOCALITY PLAN:****COMMENT:**

The Road Hierarchy has defined Langley Road as a Minor Collector and Coral Drive and Little Reef Street as Access Streets. The functional configuration of the road infrastructure with the barricade installed is consistent with the original design specification for an acceptable solution detailed in the Far North Queensland Region Organisation of Councils Development Manual.

The Development Manual defines the traffic catchment for an access street as between 20 - 74 dwellings, generating between 200-740 average annual daily trips. Coral Drive and Little Reef Street has 72 dwellings (39 units and 33 houses) and based on a trip generation rate of 10 trips per dwelling, the existing theoretical traffic generated in this catchment is 720 trips per day. The trip generation matches the environmental capacity of the street network in the precinct.

Future developments in this area will be subject to the Douglas Shire Planning Scheme and future applicants will be required to submit traffic planning studies as part of any development application. This will allow Council to assess the impacts of future development on the existing street network and ensure that traffic volumes stay below the environmental capacity of these access streets. Furthermore, Council has determined that Little Reef Street and Coral Drive are not suitable bus routes.

The overwhelming majority of residents are in favour of maintaining the road closure (21 out of 30 supported the road closure). The existing street network geometry and pavement widths are within the environmental capacity of a local street and the maintenance of the road closure will not impact on the functionality of the street network in this precinct.

**PROPOSAL:**

That Council maintain the road closure at Langley Road, Port Douglas.

The residents who responded to the community consultation request, together with all residents within the precinct, will be advised of the outcome of this request for the road to be opened to vehicular traffic.

**CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE:**

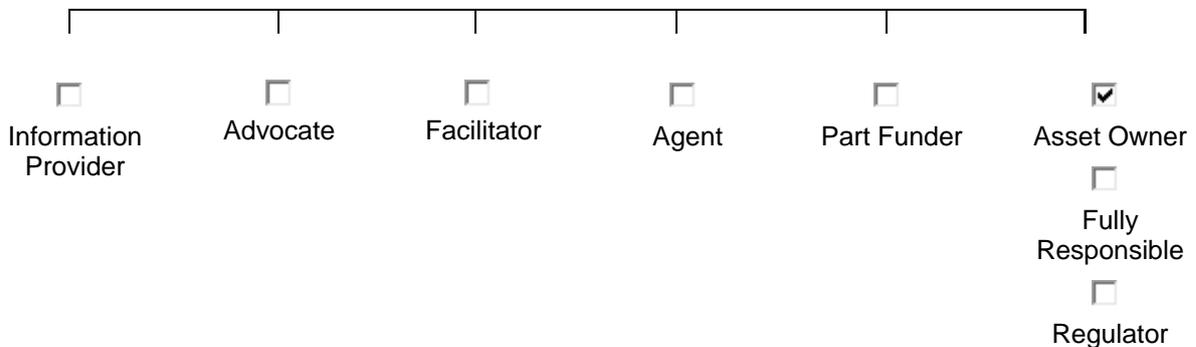
In accordance with Council's Corporate Plan 2014 – 2019; Council will ensure our infrastructure is developed and maintained to connect our communities and provide safe recreational opportunities. Open spaces that are adequate, planned and enhanced to encourage use and provide safe recreational opportunities, will support the growth of a healthy and vibrant community, and showcase the region's exceptional natural assets.

Corporate and Operational Strategies have identified Little Reef Street as a strategic linkage for a combined pedestrian and bikeway to allow access along the esplanade for local residents and tourists.

**COUNCIL'S ROLE:**

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

**Asset Owner:**

Meeting the responsibilities associated with owning or being the custodian of assets such as infrastructure.

**INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION:**

Local residents and community feedback was requested via a mail out to local residents and owners of property on Langley Road, Coral Drive and Little Reef Street. Community feedback was also advertised using the Douglas Shire Council Website and by placing a public notice in the Port Douglas and Mossman Gazette on 18 September 2014.

Thirty (30) submissions were received for the proposal for the removal of the Langley Road Barricade.

Eight (8) submissions were received in favour of the proposal for the removal of the Langley Road Barricade and a summary of items for consideration in favour are:-

- Emergency and residential vehicle access to Coral Drive via Langley Road or Little Reef Street during emergency events; and
- Improved traffic movement utilising Langley Road as a Minor Collector Road with access directly provided to Coral Drive and Little Reef Street.

Twenty (21) submissions were opposed to the proposal for the removal of the Langley Road Barricade and summary of issues for consideration opposed are:-

- Maintain safe environment for local children;
- Provide low traffic movement adjoining the pedestrian and bikeway linkage between Barrier Reef Street and Solander Boulevard;
- Permanently close the corner of Langley Road and Little Reef Street and provide revegetation with native species;
- Foreshore Protection;
- Lack of existing road kerb and channel, foot paths and car parking; and
- Reduced traffic volume and noise.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Nil.