

5.13. REPORT FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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DEPARTMENT: Office of the Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents an outline of the operational initiatives and progress made by Council's administration from early October to mid November 2015.

BACKGROUND

This report provides an overview of the administration's operations to Council on a regular basis. The aim of these reports is to communicate how the administration is managing the diverse activities and challenges arising in the course of Council's business, and to summarise work in progress and the milestones achieved.

The administration continues to extend an open invitation to the community to provide feedback, at any time, on any aspect of Council's service delivery, or on broader issues that pertain directly to Council's business. The organisational goal of continual improvement will be always better informed if staff has a greater understanding of the community's observations, and so we welcome and encourage all comments.

REPORT

Establishment of the Bama Working Group

Although we are moving rapidly towards the end of the year we have nevertheless introduced some further initiatives into our work plan. In recognition of the many projects underway that have an Indigenous component we have established an internal working group of multidisciplinary staff to give appropriate standing to these projects and to ensure that Council offers a respectful and productive environment in which progress can be made on many issues and outcomes delivered for the benefit of the whole community.

Over the coming months the Bama Working Group (BWG) will be introducing training on Native Title, Indigenous Land Use Agreements, conducting the scheduled review of the Blue Pools Management Agreement, inviting Indigenous consultation regarding the design of the Mossman Aged Care Facilities, developing Welcome to Country signage, conducting Indigenous consultation (along with broader community consultation) on the proposed Flagstaff Hill Walking Track, seeking guidance on the proposed Mountain Biking and Hiking Trails, Mossman Gorge Walking Tracks, the Mossman Gorge Cemetery and to finalise the Bloomfield Track Drive project. With the recent move of Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC back to Mossman, Council staff are able to more easily meet to jointly manage a variety of projects. Other stakeholders, including the Wet Tropics Management Authority, will be invited to participate as appropriate. Staff are also working with Yirrganydji Traditional Owners and others on projects 'on country' within the Douglas Shire.

Participation in Other Forums

Council's Corporate Plan promotes the development of strategic planning and partnerships with regional, state, national and international stakeholders. In October the CEO attended the LGAQ Annual conference in Toowoomba which provides an excellent opportunity to engage with other Councils, CEOs, consultants and suppliers to local government.

In October the CEO presented a paper to the Women in Local Government Summit in Brisbane, receiving very positive feedback about Douglas Shire Council's work. The CEO has been further invited to participate on a panel of CEOs presenting at the Local Government Finance Professionals Annual Conference in late November. In December and at the invitation of the LGAQ, the CEO will again participate in a focus group comprising the President and CEO of LGAQ, a former Queensland Treasurer, and several representatives from Local and State Government, meeting to consider issues around workforce diversity.

CEO UNIT

The CEO Unit continues to be proactively involved with community initiatives and economic development opportunities throughout the Shire.

Community Partners and Participation

Officers have been involved in a number of meetings coordinated by community groups such as the Douglas Community Housing Group, Elders Justice Group, Mossman and Port Douglas Liquor Accords and the Community Agency Meeting (CAN).

The Mayor's Christmas Appeal was launched on 13 October with the Mayor, and representatives of various community organisations. Applications for hampers are open until 30 November 2015 and can be filled in at Council's Mossman and Port Douglas service centres, Mossman Community Centre, Port Douglas Neighbourhood Centre and Jawunkarra Family Support Services in Mossman.

In collaboration with the Mossman Library, National Children's Week was celebrated with an Art Competition. Winning entries were given an art pack to encourage further development of their artistic talent. The Port Douglas Neighbourhood Centre hosted a Teddy Bear's Picnic on 27 October 2015. Attendance at this event was high with 55 participants.

The 2016 Australia Day Nominations are currently open with nominations to be received by 4.30pm Friday 18 December 2015. The Awards will be presented at the Australia Day Awards ceremony at Port Douglas Community Hall, January 26, 2016. Please follow this link to the nomination form.
http://douglas.qld.gov.au/download/community_development/2016%20Australia%20Day%20%20Nomination%20Form.pdf

Disaster Resilience: Get Ready Douglas.

Community engagement stalls have been held in collaboration with the Mossman SES at the Mossman Family Fun Day, Mossman Markets, Woolworths, Mossman Newsagents and IGA Port Douglas. Further stalls will be held through to mid-December with locations to be identified.

Officers will further develop the Extreme Weather Photograph competition held last year, by collecting a series of video-interviews with people about their experiences of extreme weather events in Douglas. By sharing lived experience of local weather events we hope to assist both locals and those new to the region Get Ready!

Events and Programs

The *Get Out Get Active* series of Come and Try programs has proven to be very successful. The activities on offer included, Yoga in Mossman and Port Douglas, Tai Chi in Mossman and Port Douglas, High Energy in Mossman and Port Douglas and Steady Steps in Mossman and Port Douglas. The activities were offered over an eight-week period with consistent participant numbers at each activities.

The Beginner and Advanced Tai Chi in Port Douglas was so successful that the Port Douglas Neighbourhood Centre is continuing the program with Council support through the provision of the Port Douglas Community Hall.

Officers are assisting with coordination or are the key organiser of a number of events and activities taking place over the next two months. These include:

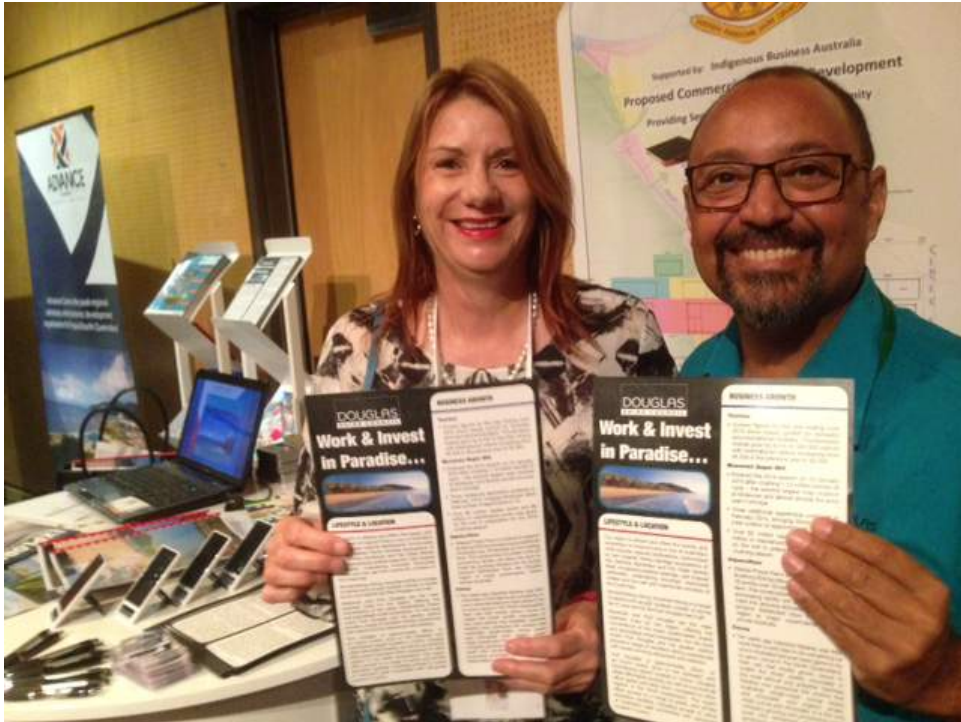
□

- 11 November – Remembrance Day
- 12 November - Business Forum
- 20 November – Commence development of Go Douglas!
- 25 November – White Ribbon Day - Stand Up, Speak Out Twilight Walk.
- 27 November – RADF applications close □
- 9 December – Mayor's Christmas appeal – Quicksilver and food delivery
- 10 December – Packing and delivery of Mayor's Christmas Appeal hampers
- 18 December – Australia Day Award nominations close
- 24 December – Christmas Eve
- 31 December – New Year's Eve celebration
- 4 January 2016 – Council reopens
- 15 January 2016 – Finalise the Australia Day Award recipients
- 26 January 2016 - Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony at Port Douglas.

Officers are also in the final stages of planning for the Christmas tree decorations to be installed in Mossman and Port Douglas.

Economic Development

The North Queensland Economic Summit was held in Cairns on the 5 November. Council was fortunate to be invited to participate in the Summit by hosting a stall. The 'Invest in Paradise' brochure was developed and distributed among the hundreds of international delegates.



Officers successfully developed, planned and implemented the inaugural Douglas Business Forum, held on Thursday 12 November 2015. This event saw twenty speakers and panellist share knowledge and experience with over one hundred delegates.



Council has recently installed the economy .id tool on Council's website <http://economy.id.com.au/douglas>. This tool will provide new or emerging businesses and investors the opportunity to see the Shire's economic profile and explore options for expansion, diversifying or investing.

Officers will also be able to utilise this tool to calculate the economic impact of projects or events.

Grants

Officers are currently accessing the applications received for the Community Support Program and the new Event Funding Program. A report will be presented to the 24 November Council meeting with recommendations based upon the information contained in the applications.

The newly announced Business Development Fund will also be presented to the 24 November Council meeting.

Website and Facebook

Council's website is continually being updated with new, valuable information. The search tool on the website is one of the easiest ways to look around the site. It is based upon google search, which allows users to type in a keyword and all related documents on Council's website will be found.

The Facebook page is one of the valuable tools Council utilises to keep out communities informed. From 2 October to 9 November 2015, Council posted 75 items with a total reach of 53,623. The top 5 posts were: world-renowned track builder appointed to come up with concept for Flagstaff Hill trail, four-week-old puppy looking to be rehomed, John Anich honoured for Pharmaceutical Guild life membership, free travel on the Daintree ferry available with the Douglas Card, dog found at Wangetti. The Facebook page is regularly updated during Council's operating hours.

CORPORATE SERVICES

GOVERNANCE

Human Resources

Human Resources continues to be a very active area of Council with the recruitment of three new employees being finalised. The positions that have been filled are Planning & Compliance Officer; Senior Procurement Officer & It Support Officer (Casual). In addition to these roles the following positions are also under recruitment:

- Labourer Mossman Amenities
- Grants Officer
- Frontline Services Officer (fixed term 6 months)
- Inspector Roads & Infrastructure (Internal Expression of Interest)
- Labourer Water Reticulation

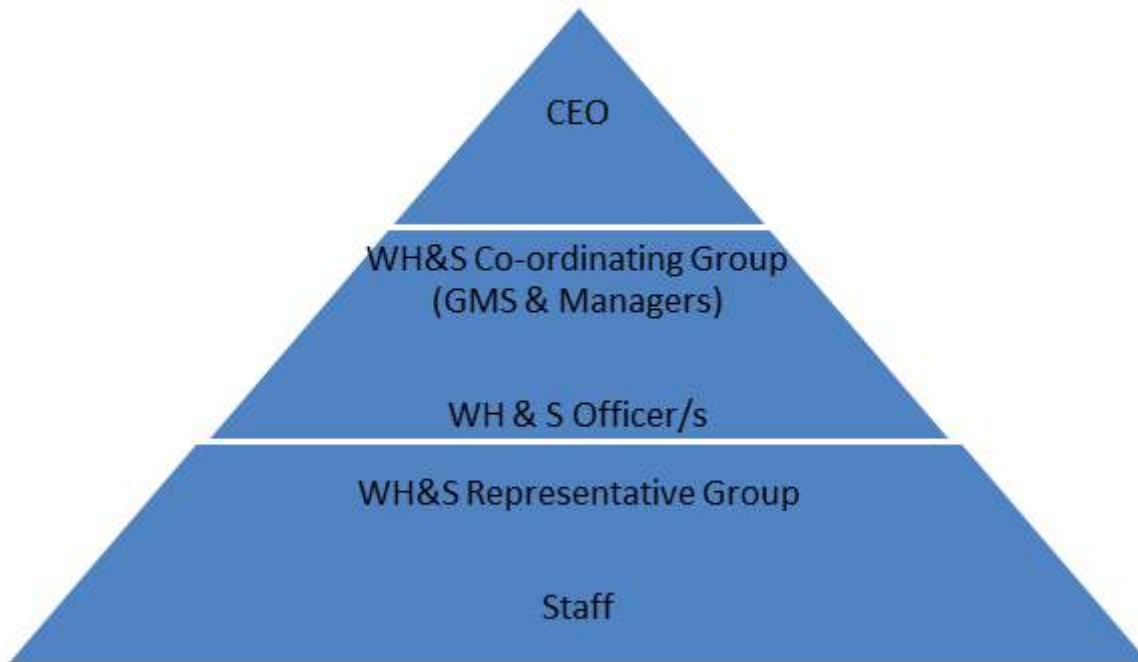
LGAQ has recently advised that Council have been successful in obtaining funding under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work - First Start Program. This funding is to establish three traineeships within Council. Senior Management is in the process of allocating where these traineeships will sit and arrange recruitment once this decision is made. This is a wonderful opportunity for Council to invest in the future of our Shire.

The requirement for legislative training is high at present, the following training has been arranged for staff:

- Traffic Management refresher
- Playground Inspection & Certification (Level 2 Operational Inspection)
- Pool Safety Compliance course
- Coordinating Chainsaw Level 1 & 2
- CPR Refresher
- WHS for Safety Representatives (refresher for current reps and 5-day course new reps)☒

Workplace Health & Safety

The new committee structure for WHS has been implemented with the Workplace Health & Safety Coordinating Group meeting on two occasions, whilst the newly elected Health & Safety Representative Group met on 11/11/2015. The new structure allows the Coordinating Group to take a more strategic and policy driven stance on WHS matters, whilst freeing up the Representative Group to work with the WHS Officer to implement procedures; investigations and toolbox talks etc. This new structure came from the Managers within Douglas to allow for a clearer Governance Framework.



In addition to the new committee structure, education of staff has also increased and a new Douglas Safety slogan has been introduced: *Think SMART before you start for a SAFE Douglas.*

Governance & Property

Applications have now closed for Hot Food at the Port Douglas Markets. In total 14 applications were received, and two late submissions. A working group of staff comprising of Governance and Environment Health are assessing the applications to confirm that they are compliant with all Food Safety Criteria and then a report will be tabled to Council outlining the options available.

Council's Property staff have 43 case files underway, these vary with different degrees of complexity. Inspections of Council's properties are also continuing in line with the Operational Plan. Further to this, Council officers are working with Preston Law on the Native Title Claims that are underway within the Douglas Shire. Property staff are also actively involved in the newly formed Bama Working Group with other key stakeholders across Council to address any land tenure issues.

FINANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Final Audit Report for the 2014/15 financial year has been issued by the Queensland Audit Office (QAO) and was tabled at the last ordinary meeting of Council for noting. The issues raised in the report will now be recorded in Council's audit matrix and progress on addressing each issue will be reported to the Audit Committee at its future meetings. The QAO will also be reporting on the results of its 2014/15 local government audits to Parliament during the first half of 2016.

The 2014/15 Queensland Local Government Grants Commission Consolidated Data Collection has been completed and returned by the due date. The information contained in this document is used to assist the Commission in determining Council's annual general purpose financial assistance grant.

Work has commenced on a review of capital expenditure and capital revenue to be carried over from the 2014/15 budget and this will be the focus of a 2015/16 budget review to be presented to the next ordinary meeting of Council.

Approximately 50 rates supplementary notices for new properties and for amendments to properties as a result of valuation changes and adjustments to utility charges since the last full rate notice were issued on 16 October 2015 and were payable by 18 November 2015. Water usage notices covering the period from mid-June to mid-October 2015 were issued on 5 November 2015, with a due date for payment of 8 December 2015. Second reminder notices for outstanding water and rates were also issued during October (for amounts greater than \$50).

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines has advised that a full revaluation of all rateable properties within the Council area will be undertaken during December 2015 and advice of valuations will be provided to property owners during March 2016. The new valuations will take effect from 1 July 2016 and will be included in Council's 2016/17 rating process.

Testing is underway to support the annual upgrade of Council's core Authority Enterprise Suite of software. This is being done in conjunction with a planned upgrade to Council's Cloud based operating environment. Council is working towards a go-live date in either late November or early December, dependent upon successful completion of the testing process.

Configuration work has started on an upgrade to Council's phone system with on-site work scheduled for early December. The new equipment will remove the current limit on the number of extensions, provide for additional growth and introduce new functionality to support the Port Douglas Frontline Services requirements.

LIBRARY

The "Douglas Libraries Fun Palace" was a huge success. Approximately 400 people attended the event which was held at the Mossman Markets on Saturday 3rd October from 8am to 12 noon. The age of participants ranged from small children to grandparents.

Activities focused on the manifesto "everyone a scientist, everyone an artist" and included 7 premium science and technology resources from the Qld Museum; a vegetable makey makey piano; 5 art activities; Wacky Professor Kel and giveaways.

Comments from participants included: "Such a great idea to get young children interested in science"; "Brilliant fun" The adults enjoyed it as much as the kids. An excellent way to spend a Saturday morning".



(Above) "Douglas Libraries Fun Palace"

Libraries received an \$800 "Ozobot grant" from the State Library of Qld. Staff have attended a workshop in Cairns on ozobots and the grant funding will be utilised to provide school holiday programming.

The "Our dreaming: animating country" travelling exhibition from the State Library of Queensland was well appreciated by the Douglas community. □ The exhibition showcased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and stories as they are retold through animation.



(Above) "Our dreaming: animating country"

Mayor Julia Leu will launch Douglas Libraries *first5forever* program with a Picnic in the Library and free morning tea on Thursday 19th November. The *first5forever* program is an initiative of the State Library of Queensland and the Qld. Government to improve outcomes for all children by supporting parents in early literacy and oral language development for children under 5 years of age.

In October, 8346 people visited their local Library; 82 people joined; 7855 items were borrowed; 15 inter-library loans were placed; 402 people attended library programs & events; outreach visits to 30 people and 218 people accessed Wi-Fi.

OPERATIONS

DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

Planning

There were six (6) development applications lodged with Council during October and up to 6 November, as well as six (6) requests for siting dispensations.

Council officers have been continuing discussions with stakeholders for the proposed Reef Marina re-development and the Sheraton Mirage upgrade and land redevelopment. A formal pre-lodgement request has been lodged by Reef Marina which will be considered by Council at the December meeting. An approval for the reconfiguration of one lot into 72 residential lots at Vixies Road, Wonga Beach, has been issued.

74 general enquiries were received by the planning department's inbox and responded to by staff in October and up to 11 November, as well as numerous telephone and in person enquiries.

The draft Planning Scheme is still at State interest check stage.

The Planning and Compliance Officer maternity leave role has been filled by a planning officer with extensive experience in State and local government planning, as well as within private consultancy.

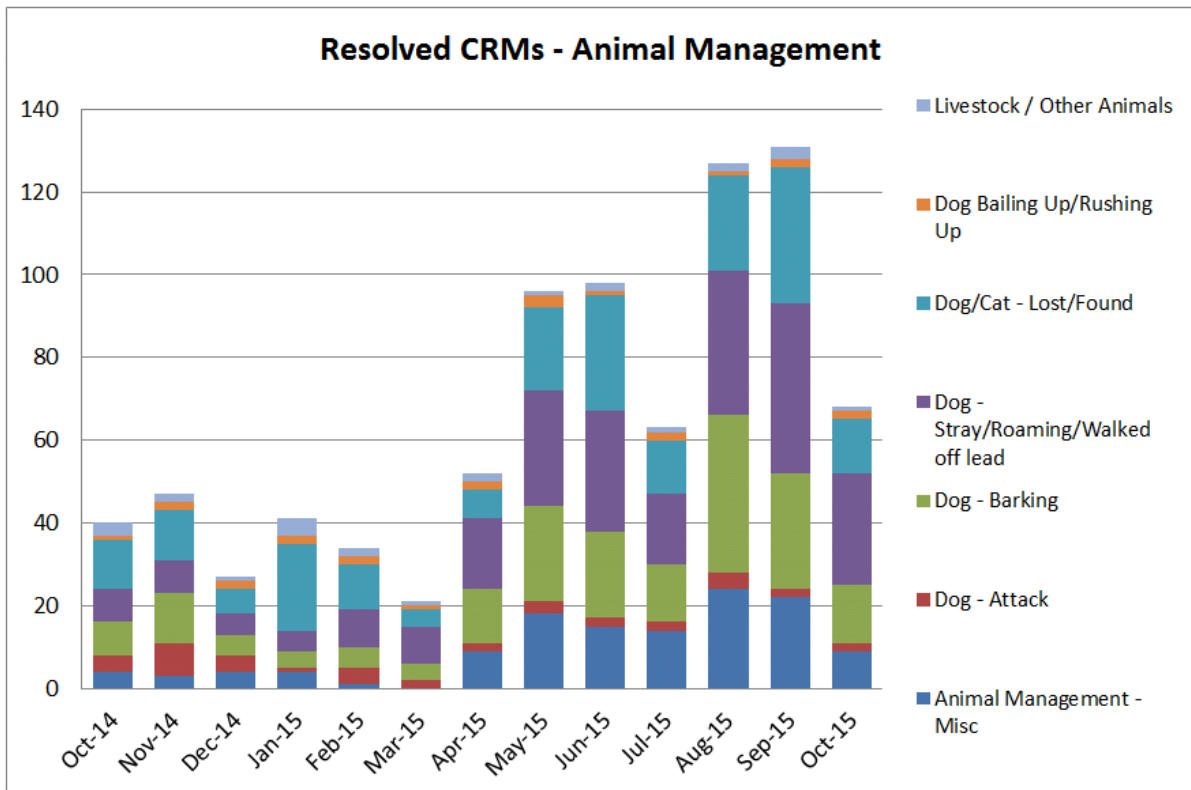
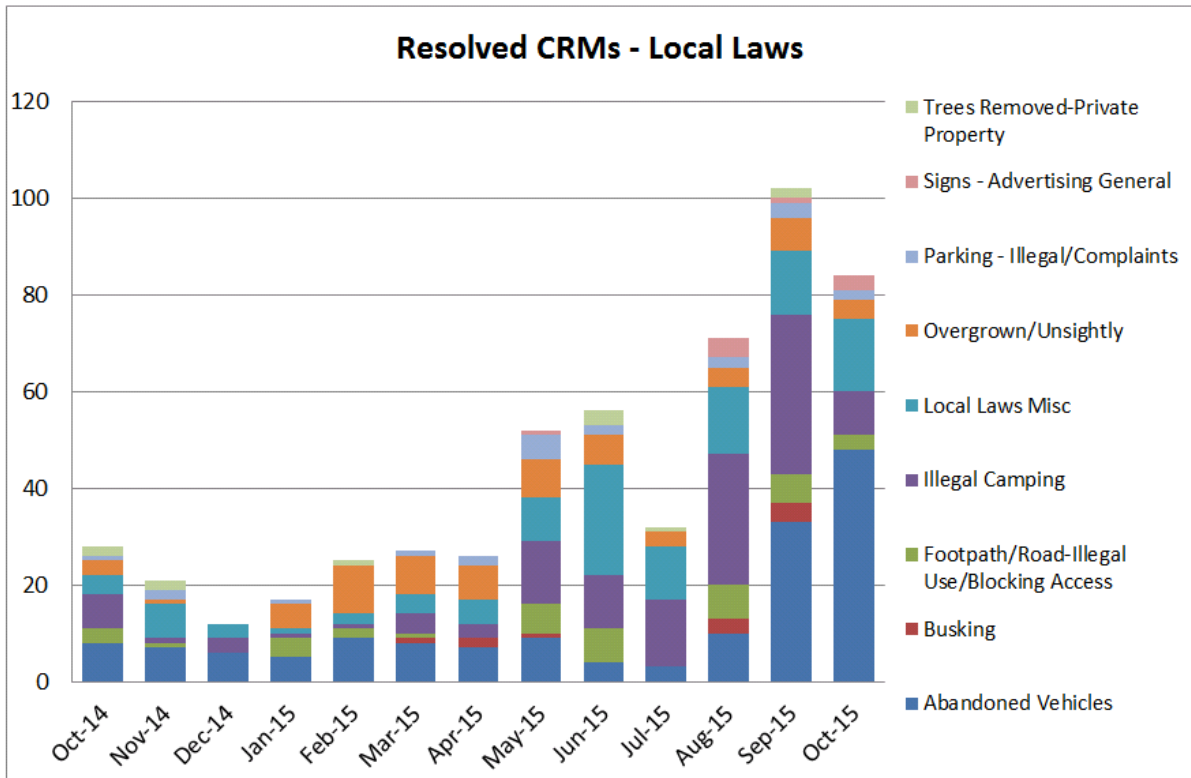
Appeals

No new appeals have been lodged.

REGULATORY SERVICES

Environmental Health & Regulatory Services

Customer requests resolved by Environmental Health & Regulatory Services for the month of October 2015, together with previous 12-month history.



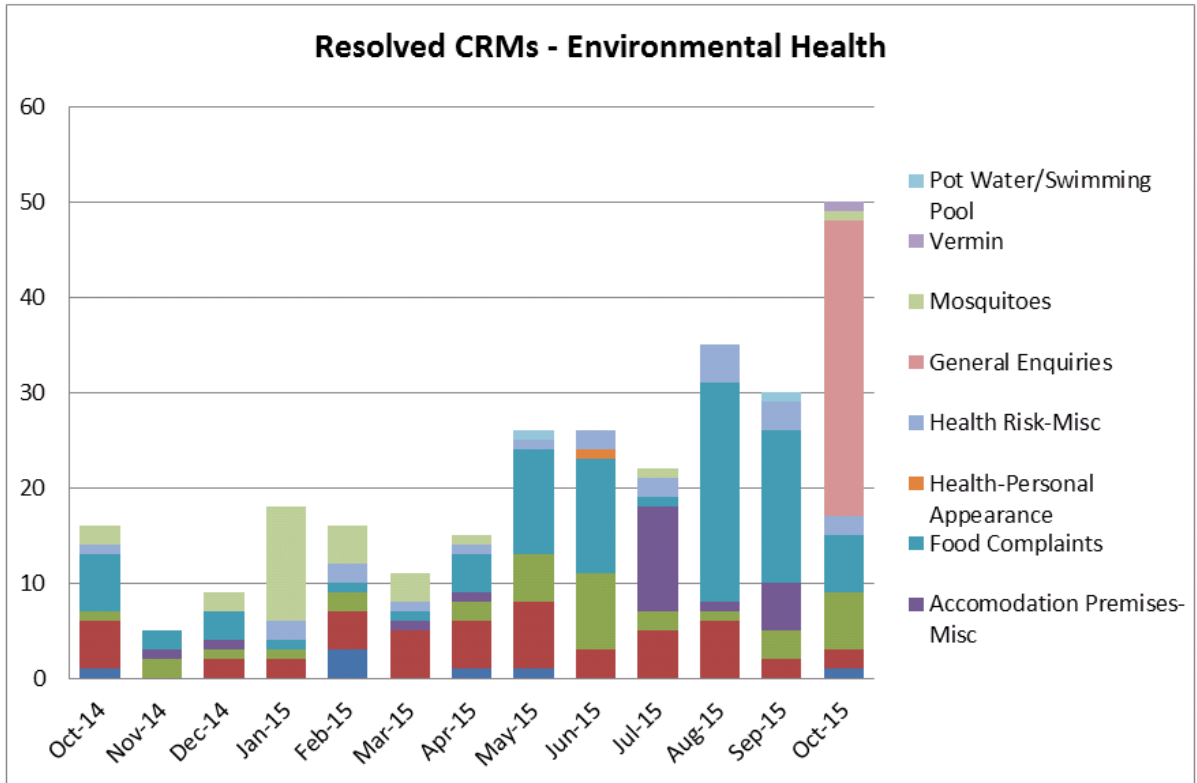
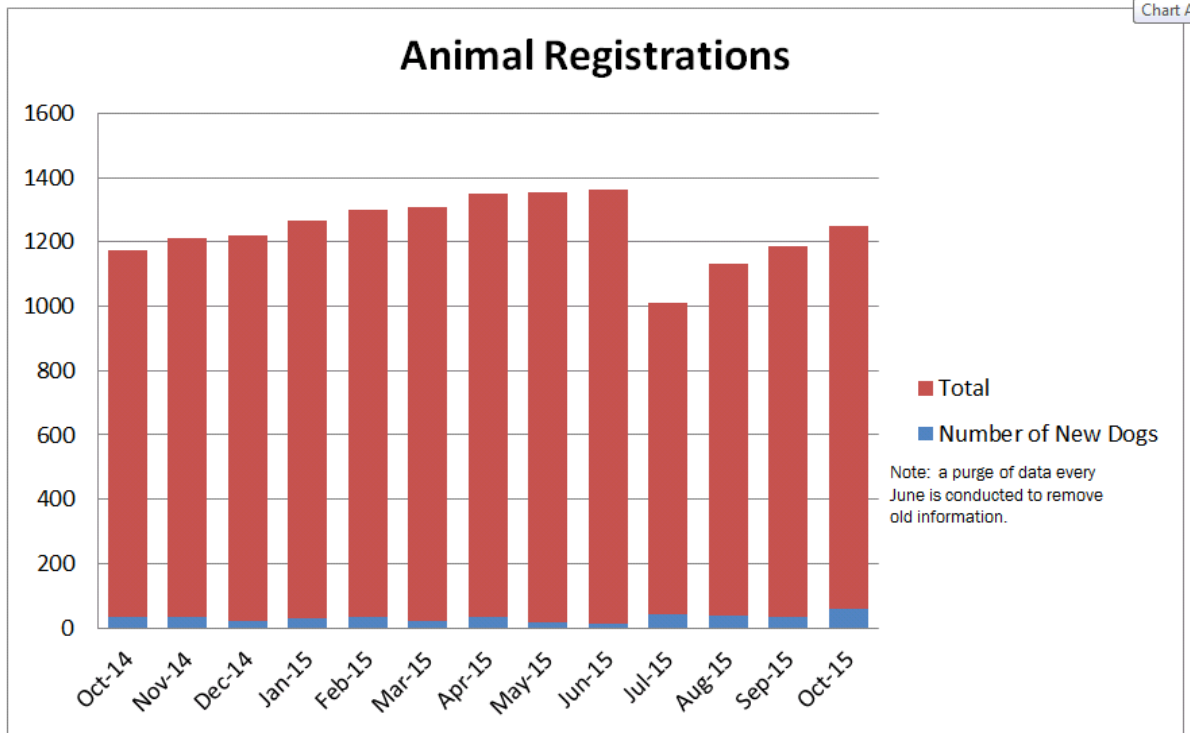


Chart A



News in Brief

Local Laws

Good News Stories

- Local Laws has helped to re-home/returned 12 impounded animals.
- An illegal camper at Four Mile Beach who appeared to suffer from depression was spoken to by our local laws officers who helped the gentleman and setup an appointment for him at the local medical centre. It is worthwhile noting that not all illegal camping is by choice.

Other News

- Two (2) animals euthanized. One (1) dead dog, kangaroo and bandicoot picked up off Council roads.
- Officers delivered mail to residents along the Esplanade at Wonga Beach regarding dog matters including dog registration, wandering animals and barking.
- Issued 12 compliance notices, 2 regarding the breeding and supply of puppies, and 4 to alleged owners of quad bikes for their illegal use on Council land (3 at Wonga Beach, 1 at Wangetti).
- 22 abandoned vehicles notices were issued.
- A new Fact Sheet titled 'Avoiding Disputes about Trees, Fences and Buildings' has been developed.
- Mooring upgrades continued and are approximately 80% complete. New regulatory signs were ordered for the moorings and Sugar Wharf.

Illegal Camping

178 campers were spoken to in October.

- Camper's country of origin –

French	Australian	Italian	Spanish	German	Dutch	Other
41	35	32	14	12	10	34

- 118 First & Final Warning Notices were issued for the month of October, and 178 information pamphlets were handed out. Seven (7) on-the-spot fines were issued.
- During regular patrols of Port Douglas numerous people have commented on the positive effect the patrols are having on camping numbers. As a result, there is anecdotal evidence park and reserve amenities and associated facilities are much cleaner and more freely accessible.

Environmental Health

- 95% of Food Licence renewal applications received.
- 89% of Accommodation renewal of approvals received.
- 174 Swimming Pool renewal applications issued for 2014-15 approval period.
- 29 Enforcement Notices relating to Swimming Pool fences issued for non-compliance with pool safety standard.
- A resort's Swimming Pool Safety Certificate was cancelled due to an investigation of a pool immersion that occurred in August, 2015.
- Officers responded to six (6) hot food market enquiries.

- Two (2) Public Health Orders were Issued for the harbourage of vermin and mosquito breeding.
- Two (2) suspected dengue cases responded to in Port Douglas. Suspect homes sprayed, including a 50-metre radius of the cases.
- Eight (8) Prescribed Activity approvals (excluding weddings on the beach) issued for social/sporting and temporary events.
- An application received for Commercial Filming. Matchbox Queensland Productions, TV production called Wanted. Filming occurred around Mossman between 9 - 14 November 2015.

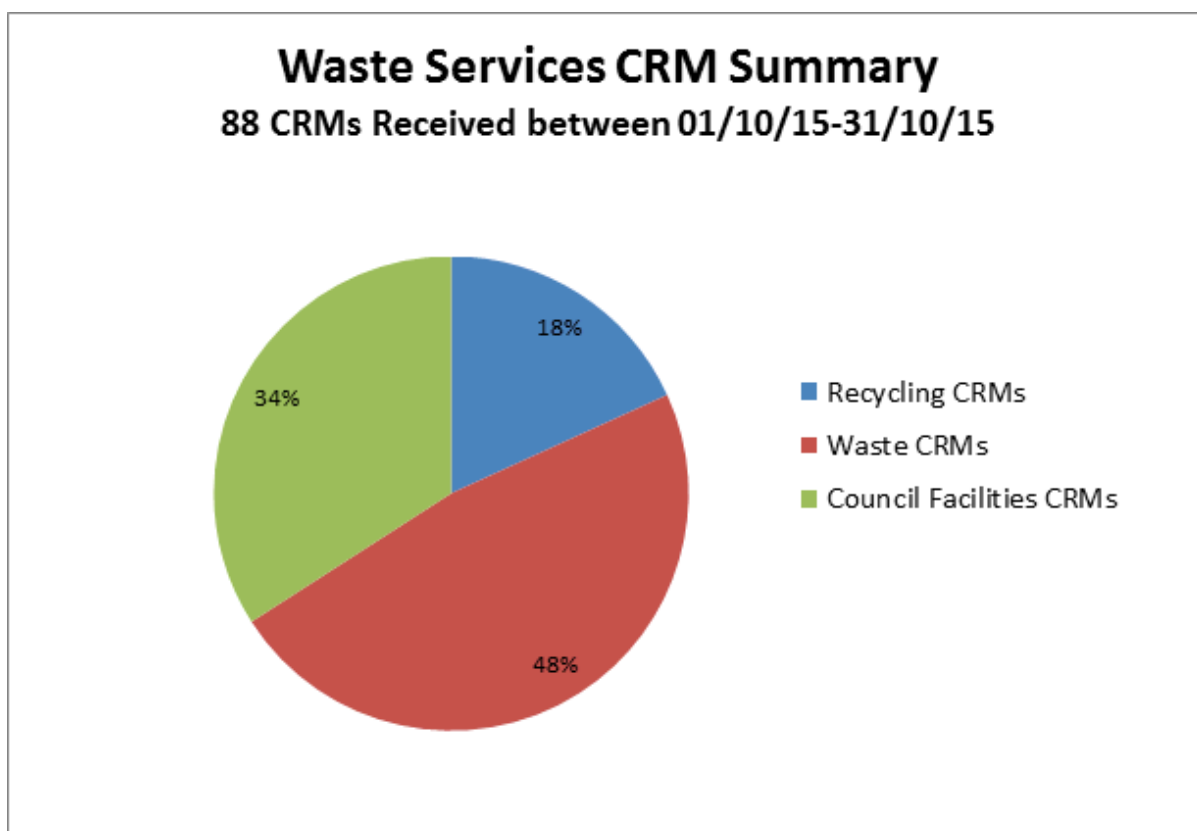
Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) Issued

PINs issued during Sept/Oct period -

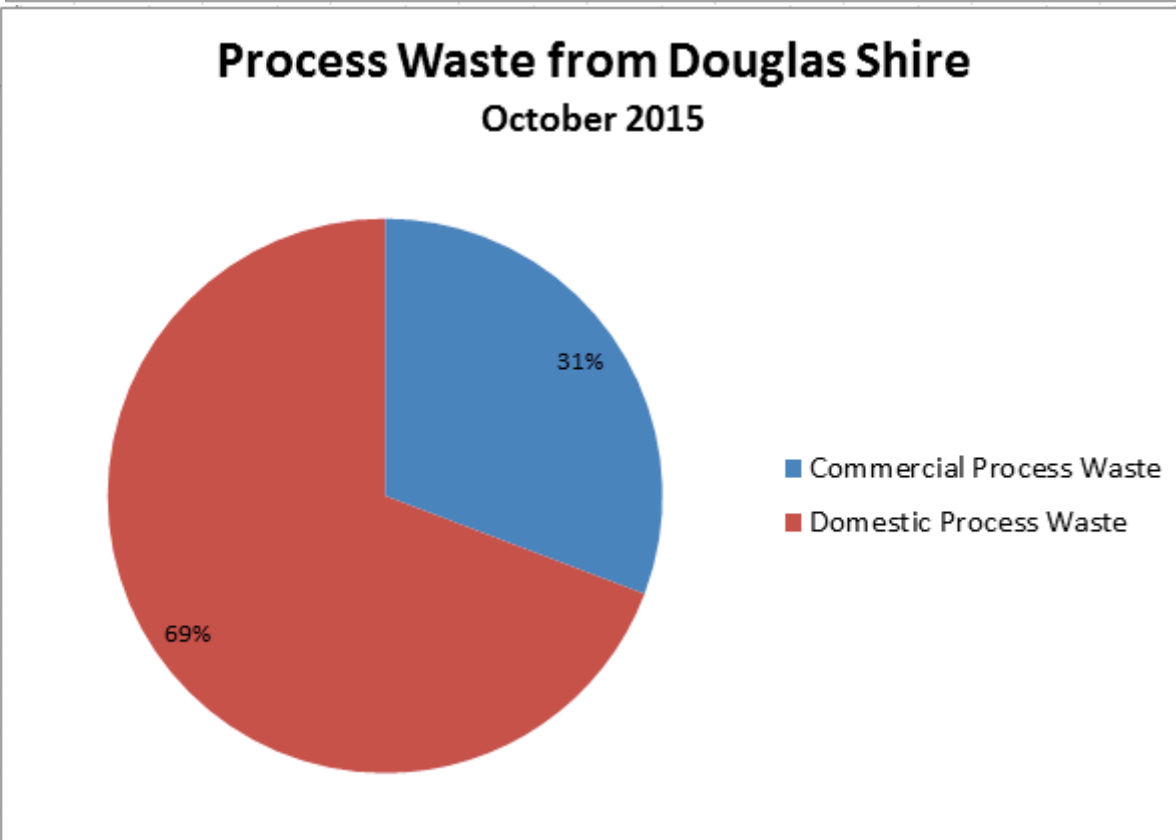
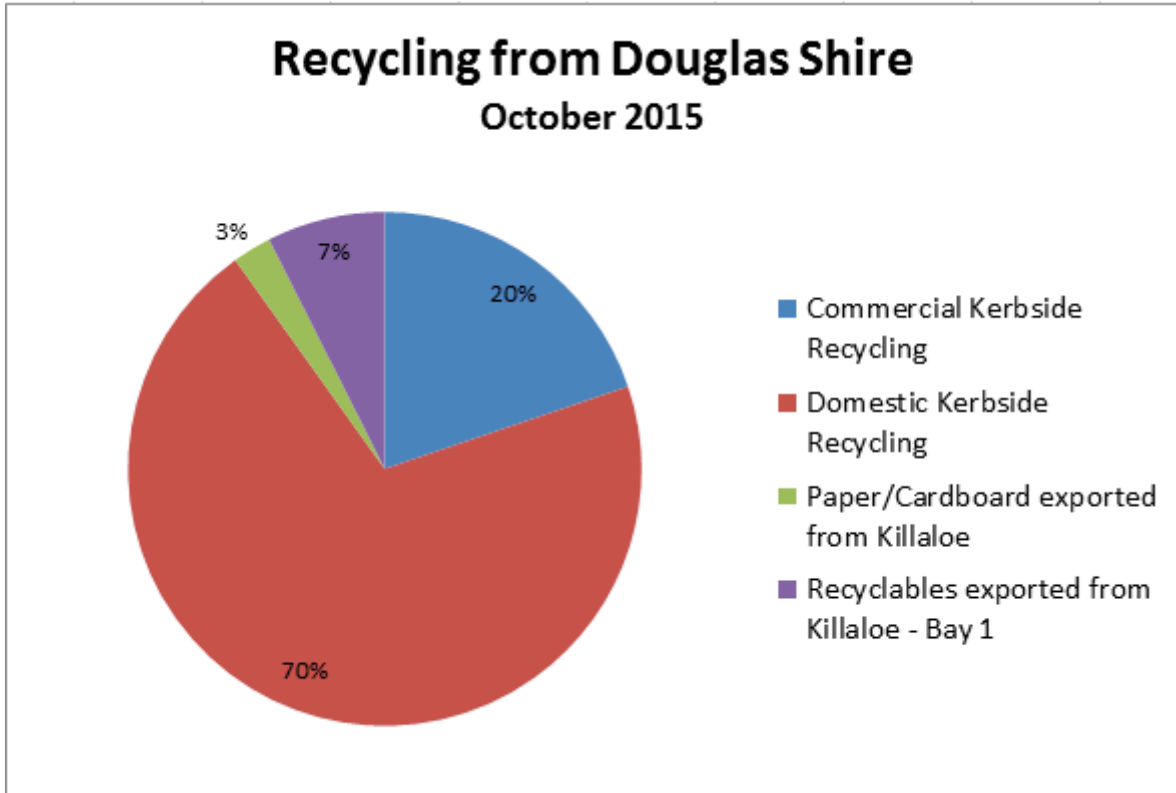
Infringement Name	Number Issued
Illegal camping	7
Breeding without a permit	1
Removal of rocks from Pebbly beach	2
Prescribed Activities	2
Regulated Pool	1
Illegal Dumping	1
Food	1

Waste

Waste services received 88 CRMs in October 2015.



A total of 143.31 tonnes of recycling was sent to the Materials Recovery Facility in October 2015 and 487.88 tonnes of waste was sent to the Bedminster Facility for processing.



The fertiliser bag collection trial also continued throughout October, with 161 bags collected for reprocessing.

Investigations are continuing into a leachate management solution at Killaloe landfill, with a hydrogeologist recently engaged to provide expert assistance.

INFRASTRUCTURE

During the past 2 months, Infrastructure Group members have undertaken the following training:

Two (2) Civil Works employees worked with contractors and have achieved the required 20 hours for Stop/Slow/Bat - Traffic control, have received their Statement of attainment.

Five (5) other civil works employees refreshed their Stop/Slow/Bat - Traffic control and have received their Statement of attainment.

Several employees have had training in MapInfo.

Disaster Management

Guardian Disaster Management Software has been installed for use in Council's Local Disaster Management Centre (LDCC). The core purpose of the system is managing the coordination of task and information during and post disaster. The system also is integrated with the State system allowing information flow and can be pre-populated e.g. for Request for Assistance. Guardian Roads is also installed allowing an interface to show road conditions to the general public.

Customisation on the Guardian functionality for use for on Council's Website is also occurring so that Animal Impoundments, events and road closures can be provided to the public. A three (3) day training program for Guardian will commence on December 1, 2015. Members of the Council's Incident Management Team (IMT) and staff volunteers will receive the training. The Guardian training is based on the Australian Incident Management System (AIMS). It is proposed to role out training in AIMS to key staff in this financial year, however timing and training availability is still being determined.

An Expression of Interest was called recently for positions within the IMT. Ten (10) staff have expressed interest in establishing a dedicated resource for managing disasters. In addition an update on general volunteers as per the volunteers list to carry out tasks such as set up of the LDCC, catering and resourcing is in progress.

Four (4) staff recently completed training in the Management of Cyclone Shelters in Cairns. This training will be followed up by a half day hands on session in the Port Douglas Storm Tide Cyclone shelter in the near future. Recent improvements have been made to the cyclone shelter as a result of feedback from staff and a review undertaken of the Operational Guidelines for the shelter. Whilst some improvements were structural there is also now a commitment of other (State) agency staff for the formation of cyclone shelter management teams. Fly-in Teams have also been trained for forward deployment to areas where staffing is required.

The updating of Business Continuity Plans throughout the organisation has commenced. This work will take place over the next few months to ensure plans are relevant, up to date and useable.

An online review of the current Disaster Management Plan was completed with the District Disaster Coordinator in October. The results show that in all areas Douglas is committed to doing well.

Disaster management plans and sub-plans are being progressively updated. Particular focus is being given to identifying residual risks, trigger points and the appropriate time frames required for any pre-deployment that is required to provide human and physical resources.

A project has commenced to undertake an inspection and digitally record details, including photographs, of all buildings to be used to accommodate people in disaster or post disaster situations. The completed record of the Port Douglas Storm Tide Cyclone Shelter was provided to the District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) recently. The inspection pro-forma was developed by staff for tablet use and the DDC has requested permission to provide it to other Council's to assist in their audit and data capture of buildings.

Three (3) capital works projects are in progress, the main one being around communication, including radio. Some SPOT messengers have been ordered which will assist in disaster communication and investigation is progressing into an alternate satellite phone system. A text satellite phone system is to be trialled by Council's Open Spaces area.

Get Ready Day was recently held in Cairns and the focus was on an extremely strong El Nino. We were advised that in north Queensland this will likely result in an end of January start to the monsoon, less than average cyclone activity and a breakdown in the El Nino at the end of the summer which may result in flooding rainfall in some areas. Heatwave warnings will form part of the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) service this year and heatwave conditions are expected to occur at higher than average rates over the rest of Australia. BOM have better satellite intelligence this season which will assist in accuracy and better path predictability for cyclones. The important message to take home from all this information is that it only takes one event for a disaster to occur.

A Qld cyclone shelter readiness meeting and a cyclone shelter workshop were attended by relevant staff. Lessons learned from Cyclone Marcia were discussed and scenarios workshopped. An issue arising from the Marcia response was inability to get data relating to SES tasking in the LDCC and other SES tasking issues in the LDCC. This is being addressed through a SES TAMS (Task and Management System) dashboard which Council now has access to and is being learnt through a training mode.

The Disaster Management Learning Management System (LMS) is a web based learning and student management system that supports training delivered under the Queensland Disaster Management Training Framework. This training is now being provided to relevant staff who will have current and future roles in assisting Council in its disaster management actions.

Civil Works

The maintenance grading of 18 kilometres of the Bloomfield Road, from the Cowrie Range south to the Cape Tribulation area has been completed. Crews have moved to the Diwan area and will work south to Forest Creek.

The reconstruction of Fischer's Bridge on the CREB Track is progressing well and the bridge crew will return to site to complete the installation of the decking timbers on 23 November. Work will also include concreting some relieving slabs leading up to the bridge abutments. The photo below shows the concrete abutments and steel beams in place ready for the decking.



(Above) China Camp Fischer's Bridge (first Log Bridge)

Diggers Bridge refurbishment is underway with girder, corbels and transoms being completed. Crews will be return on 30 November to complete the maintenance work on the distributor planks. During the maintenance work, Mowbray River Road will have a full road closure and detours will be in place.

Warners Bridge Maintenance works have been completed with new running planks being installed on 3 and 4 November.



(Above) Kingfisher Lane concrete road capital works project

The Kingfisher Lane concrete road capital works project started on the 9th November and is expected to be completed by 16 November.

Road maintenance crews have completed the Syndicate Road area and now are working in the Whyanbeel and Bamboo areas cleaning unlined drains and undertaking roadside vegetation maintenance prior to the upcoming wet season.

The Patching Crew has been inspecting and capturing existing pipes and culverts on the State Controlled Road network in accordance with the Road Maintenance Performance Contract (RMPC) and attending to adhoc patching of the road network.

The slasher / herbicide tractor operators have started a new round and are currently working on Main Roads areas.

Public and Natural Areas

The Port Douglas team had a very busy period completing numerous maintenance activities including:

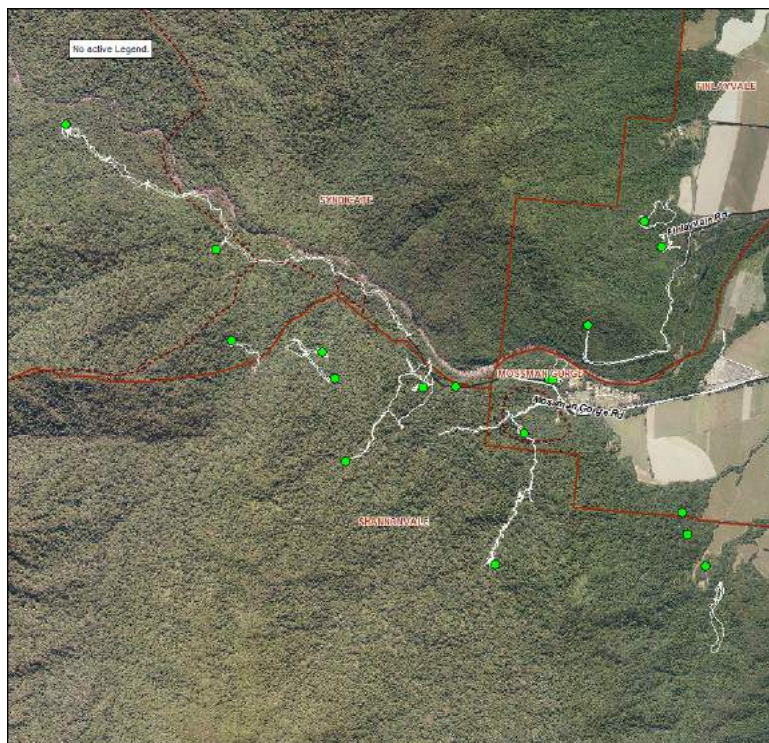
- Mulching gardens on the Esplanade and waterfront;
- Repairing shelters at Wangetti including the removal of rust and applying anti-rust paint); and
- Edging and spraying of various paths in Port Douglas.

The Mossman team also had a busy period completing the following maintenance activities:

- Revegetation works to stabilize the creek bank at Cassowary Valley in conjunction with the Green Army.
- The Green Army CVA project finished in October. The team treated nine (9) hectares of Hiptage and planted over 1,000 trees in the six (6) month project period; and
- Parks crews installed bollards at Rocky Point and Wonga Beach to prevent vehicles entering the beach foreshore.

The Pest Management team completed a total of 472 man hours treating two (2) hectares of declared weeds last month including the following:

- The majority of time was spent ground truthing and treating Hiptage vine located in recent aerial survey operations in the Mossman Gorge area. This is a joint agency operation conducted in conjunction with QPWS;
- The team conducted a controlled burn of the Cassowary Range to destroy the seed bank of Siam weed infesting the area. This was a joint operation with QRFS and QPWS where council was the lead agent; and
- Our Pest animal controllers destroyed a total of 33 feral pigs this month.



Map shows tracks to infestations waypoints for control works in very difficult terrain.



(Above) Donny gives the thumbs up after locating the large parent vine after a tough walk in.



(Above) Douglas staff and Green Army CVA plant 628 trees on Cassowary Creek



(Above) Controlled burn of Cassowary Range for Siam weed control

Fleet

Fleet Services have been busy undertaking routine maintenance of Council plant and equipment and has begun the procurement process for a new street sweeper. Council has taken delivery of a new six (6) seater All-Terrain Vehicle, which will be used by the Pest Management Team in transporting team member and equipment to remote sites.

Facilities Management

Capital Works projects are well under way this financial year with twelve Requests for Quote (RFQ) documents being sent out through LG Tender. Works on the new restaurant at the Mossman Shire Hall are well underway with the exemption certificates from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) being approved. Contractors have been selected and works are due to be completed by the end of the month.

Work is progressing in the preparation of reports for the Local Disaster Management Group which will provide an overview of the various buildings available in our community that could be used after a Natural Disaster.



(Above) Port Douglas Cyclone Shelter

The SES building in Diwan has been fitted with a new Solar Power System to assist in charging two way radios and other equipment required by the SES. Plans are also under way for the design and installation of a new Toilet Block at Cow Bay.



(Above) Diwan SES New Solar inverter

WATER AND WASTEWATER

Progress on the capital works program

Installation of the 550 meters 150mm blue brute at the Newell Beach Rd turn off to Scomazzon Road has commenced with 220 meters installed to date. This project should be completed during the last week of November.

The capital project to improve interconnection between Mossman and Whyanbeel schemes has also commenced as materials arrived and site preparation was completed. This improvement will assist in water security during extreme weather events.

Materials have arrived for the Daintree Intake main upgrade and on ground works will commence during December.

Douglas Water and Wastewater is currently waiting for the report by the contractor on the capital project to vermin proof and seal water storages and reservoirs. Indications are that most work will continue into the last quarter of the financial year.

At Mossman Water Treatment Plant the installation of new turbidity meters to all Ultra-filtration (UF) racks is well under way with the majority of the work completed. Finalisation of site work and commissioning should occur in the next few months. This project will rectify the inadequacies in monitoring Ultra-filtration membrane efficiencies, identified during an internal audit earlier this year.

Wastewater Maintenance

A tanker company recently cleaned all pump stations in Port Douglas and Mossman. They also cleaned the Equalisation Basin and removed accumulated duckweed and rag from the selectors at the sequential batch reactor in Port Douglas.

Water Restrictions

Level 2 water restrictions were implemented on Wednesday, November 4, 2015. After the implementation of Level 1 Water Restrictions in Mossman, Newell, Cooya Beach and Port Douglas on 11 September water consumption figures have increased steadily as was expected during this time of the year.

During the recent weeks no significant rainfall was recorded and specifically in the Rex Creek catchment. The dry conditions are expected to continue and demand is expected to remain consistent with dry period trends. Consequently, the level in the Rex Creek has dropped significantly since the introduction of Level 1 Water Restrictions. We are now limited on the extraction rate from the Creek according to the current licence conditions. To meet licence requirements water consumption should be reduced by 20-30% based on the current level of Rex Creek.

DSC Drinking Water Quality Management Plan

The amended DSC Drinking Water Quality Management Plan (DWQMP) has been submitted to Council for endorsement. This amended DWQMP is a fresh approach and resulted in a more user friendly DWQMP that will provide regulatory and operational guidance to water operators on a daily basis. The draft DWQMP will be finalised during November and submitted to the Regulator in December 2015.

Water and Wastewater Compliance

Drinking water is sampled at intakes, reservoirs, treatment plants and in the reticulation network to ensure compliance with the Australian Drinking Water Guideline (ADWG). Water samples were taken from the 4 water supply schemes and tested at a NATA accredited laboratory and at the Douglas Water Laboratory for physical, chemical and microbiological parameters. All tested parameters in drinking water samples were compliant with the ADWG. Douglas Shire Council received 1 water quality complaint (Cooya Beach) during the October/November reporting period. Ten new service connections were installed and the water reticulation team repaired 36 water services.

Wastewater compliance samples are taken from bio-solids, final effluent, receiving waters and bores. All wastewater parameters tested were compliant with licence conditions. There has been no odour complaints during the reporting period.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council's operations are conducted in accordance with the 2015-2016 Budget adopted 24 June 2015.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The new Council's operations have been subjected to an early risk assessment process.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: The twin pillars of financial and economic sustainability underpin all Council's operations.

Environmental: Environmental management is a priority consideration in the delivery of all Council operations and services

Social: The diverse communities of Douglas are Council's clients. Council's operations, services and programs are designed and delivered to support the people of Douglas.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

Council's operations are conducted as required by the Local Government Act 2009, and in accordance with all applicable policies and the Douglas Shire Council Operational Plan 2015 -2016 adopted 24 June 2015.

CONSULTATION

Internal: Council's General Managers, Branch Managers, Team Leaders and staff have been consulted and have contributed to the preparation of this report.

External: Nil.