

Meeting #5

Date: Thursday 2 May 2024
Venue: Via Teams
Time: 9am – 9:22am

Attendees:

Abi Ralph, Chair also Manager Daintree Discovery Centre
Robyn Guedes, Bloomfield
Claudia Brassard, Principal Engineer, Douglas Shire Council
Gaye Scott, Recovery Communications Douglas Shire Council & DMC
Jacklyn Kiernan – Cape Trib Camping
Andrew Heweston – Noah Creek
Chris Jones – Reef Unlimited & Treetops Adventures

Apologies

Lawrence Mason, Cape Tribulation
Cole Claxton and Brett Grainger

Minutes

Cape Trib Bloomfield Road

- Map showing sites has been prepared. It is a preliminary map as it needs to be rebranded. Copy of the preliminary map was shared with members of the reference group.
- Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road Update: Repairs through to Emmagen Creek are progressing well. Roadtek has advised it is still on track to complete repairs and reopen the road on or before 30 June 2024.

Noah Range

Update on monitoring equipment:

- The SSR-XT 3D Real Aperture Radar has been packaged up and is enroute. It is due on site next week. Once in place and calibrated, staff will be trained on how to operate.
- The radar monitors slope movements in high risk areas and can detect changes and set off alarms before any major failure. It will therefore allow extended road opening hours and support safety measures for road users.
- FNQ Traffic Control has already confirmed it has secured sufficient traffic control personnel to enable the additional hours of Noah Range to be extended until midnight 7 days a week.

Update on Removal of the Mass:

- Engineers are assessing the best option for the track considering many factors such as safety of workers and road users, environmental disturbance, cultural heritage, program, etc.
- Three options are being considered. One south of the slip, another only slightly south which is steeper, and another coming from north of the slip.

Noah Dip

- Contractors were scheduled to clear pipes Wednesday 1 May.

Noah Creek Crossing

Heavy Vehicle Causeway

- Causeway should only be used by vehicles over the 16 tonnes weight limit for Noah's bridge. Currently being used by a lot more vehicles. This is causing safety concerns with vehicle interactions at the entrance of Noah Eco Huts and Cape Tribulation Road. Additional traffic control measures to be implemented.
- Causeway design is being reviewed by various gov dept for compliance. No new works will commence in Noah Creek until design is finalised and approved and all statutory requirements are addressed.

Alexandra Range

12.5 metre length restriction

- 12.5 metre length restriction was detailed further. Sites 1 and 3 require benching on the downside and this requires wider equipment, requiring the barriers to be moved to allow for the wider machine.
- The lane width at these two sites will be reduced to 2.7 metres during the construction of the works.
- The ferry traffic controllers provide information, but do not prevent vehicles towing caravans from travelling.
- The length restrictions are checked by the traffic controllers at the southern side of the Alexandra Range and the traffic control company is aware of the requirements. The only time vehicles should be turned around is when they exceed the limits. Length suitability is determined by referring to standard configurations for vehicles and caravan trailers and typically the number of axles on a caravan enables a quick determination. If there is ever a concern a vehicle length is close to the restriction, the vehicle can be measured using a measuring wheel.
- DSC is reviewing this restriction with the contractor and engineers

Tulip Oak Road Intersection Still an Issue

- This intersection is dangerous for vehicles turning right onto Cape Tribulation Road. And traffic controllers are not calling through vehicles indicating to turn left into Tulip Oak Road. CB advised line marking was scheduled for Friday 3 May subject to weather. Additional traffic control will be implemented.

Daintree Ferry

- Query as to why two lanes remain on the ferry even after repairs. Since the meeting, the temporary fix equipment has been taken away and the coolant system has been permanently fixed. All lanes are now available.

Road Verges

- The road verges between the ferry and Cape Tribulation are unkempt. Council has previously advised it was unable to increase the service levels due to lack of budget. Can 2024/2025 budget accommodate increased service levels. This will be a council budget decision in June 2024.

Wildlife Deaths

- A reference group member said there had been an increase in wildlife deaths on the road, and it was thought speeding trucks could be the cause. Claudia confirmed no trucks should be speeding and will follow this up.

Next Meeting

- Friday 9 Thursday 9am