

Date: Thursday 19 December 2024
Venue: Via Teams
Time: 10am

Attendees

- Abi Ralph – Chair
- Claudia Brassard
- Gaye Scott
- Merran Blockey
- Robyn Guedes

Apologies

- Andy Hewetson
- Brett Grainger
- Chris Jones
- Cole Claxton
- Emma Tunnock
- Steven Sponberg

Road Update

Claudia presented the road update. No PowerPoint presentation was available this week.

Disaster Preparation

- Most construction sites will finish work Saturday 21 December.
- Council did a run through inspection this week to make sure all construction sites were tidy and ready for adverse weather during the shutdown period.

Northern Roads - China Camp Road

- Douglas Shire Council and Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding on December 6, 2024, with DSC taking on the repairs for the section of China Camp Road in Wujal Wujal. These works will be funded by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA).
- One of Douglas Shire Council's first priorities is to determine whether access to the temporary bypass track can be opened up to enable vehicles over 5-tonne to use the track. Track conditions are highly impacted by the weather.
- Douglas Shire Council will complete geotechnical assessments to scope out the repair work required.
- Once completed, a submission will be lodged with QRA to fund the repairs under the Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (REPA) program.
- Tenders for all the roads up north closed this week so we are in a position to hit the ground running after the wet season for repairs.

Noah Range Slip

- HEH will have a 24-tonne excavator, and a tandem axle tip truck positioned on either side of the landslip.
- Merran confirmed HEH had started installing the second layer of shipping containers today.
- HEH has done a good amount of work descaling and getting rid of some of the larger debris.
- HEH will have 18,000 litres of fuel stored on the north side of the landslip for the shutdown period.
- They will also have staff located on the north side.
- If there is a big weather event, we can go at it from both sides to the road open as quickly as possible.
- The radar will remain operating, and we have other triggers in place which will allow us to know if something is coming down.

Noah Creek

- The causeway was repaired and reopened Friday 13 December.
- The pipes have now been removed, the causeway lowered and secured with concrete blocks.
- New signs have been installed to advise the causeway is for heavy vehicles only.

Alexandra Range

- Four sites are almost complete – just awaiting installation of guide railing.
- The road management plan will remain in place with routine inspections for rainfalls over 150mm.



Camera at Degarra

- Council is hoping to install a portable camera at the recently fixed Woobadda Creek Causeway on Banabilla Road.
- Once installed, access to the flood camera will be sent to Degarra residents so they can monitor the Creek levels as will Council officers. It is an experiment so Council will be assessing how it goes and how useful it is.
- Council is also working on a new river level gauge for the Woobadda Bridge. This is a bit more complicated, but officers will keep pursuing.

Other Business

- Query raised about ferry times on Christmas Day. The ferry will operate from 5am to midnight. No change from any other day of the year.
- Query raised by RG about being more proactive with tree clearing on Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road. Civil Operations advised weekly safety runs were done all the way to Wujal Wujal. The intention is that during these safety runs, dangerous vegetation and fallen trees are identified and remedial works are undertaken immediately, or if the job is too big, it is programmed in to be rectified at a later date. Civil operators also advised that over the last month a contractor has been operating in the area, mulching along the road to improve sight lines and keep vegetation back from the road edge.

RG said there were old trees almost horizontal to the road and felt it was up to the motorists themselves to clear it. "I understand the Council can't clear every tree that's beside the road or even leaning into the road, but there are a lot of trees that are very obviously about to fall and block the road." [GS to pass on this feedback to the civil team.](#)

- MB asked for update on pedestrian line marking at Cape Tribulation – GS raised a Customer Request but is yet to get a response and will follow up. MB said similar line marking was required near the horse rides and there's a little bit of a white line there that's no longer a line anymore - where the pedestrian walkway goes onto the road over Dead Horse Creek and then from Ocean Safari. The pedestrian walk finishes, and it goes over onto the opposite side of the road at PKs. [GS to follow up and report back at next meeting.](#)
- MB asked about the clearing of drains done along Avalon Street. [GS followed this up. Council engaged a contractor to work with the open spaces vegetation crew to clear the drain down to the board walk. This area was quite overgrown and was required to help drain away water through the wet season. It was in response to a number of customer requests.](#)

- RG – Asked whether the \$130 million Betterment Package to covered water. GS noted there was a separate \$61 million for water and sewerage. Further query was raised that now the funding had been announced, what is the process for now on. How does Council go about applying for Betterment Funds and is there a cut-off date for submissions? [CB to advise at next meeting.](#)
- GS Clarified that Betterment Fund is only available for projects which have been approved for REPA funding. So items like Avalon Boardwalk which needs repair, and a new ferry, are not eligible for Betterment Funds.
- MB Boardwalk to beach needs repair. [GS to log a customer request.](#)

Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 16 January 10am.