

Meeting #2

Date: 11 April 2024
Venue: Mason's Café
Time: 9am

Attendees:

Abi Ralph, Daintree Discovery Centre, Cow Bay; TPDD; DMC
Chris Jones, Experience Co, Experience Daintree; Treetops Adventure; Day tours; TPDD
Robyn Guedes, Bloomfield
Gaye Scott, Recovery Communications Douglas Shire Council & DMC
Lawrence Mason, Café Cape Trib; Grocery Store, DMC & TPDD, Primary Producer
Claudia Brassard, Principal Engineer, Douglas Shire Council

Apologies:

Cole Claxton, Ocean Safari, major accommodation, restaurant, campground, TPDD
Brett Grainger, Daintree Ferry

Minutes:

Carried over from previous meeting

- Moving the checkpoint at Tulip Oak Road: The requirement to comply with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) meant moving the checkpoint was too complicated. Council will aim to improve safety by briefing the traffic controllers to ensure the intersection is kept clear, and to assist vehicles turning left into Tulip Oak Road.
- Council looked at spacing Portaloos along the Cape Tribulation Road where cars queue. It was determined it was not practical as there is insufficient room on roadsides. Will look at communications at the ferry to remind people use the amenities at the ferry.
- Council looked day tour companies contacting traffic controllers via radio to minimize wait times. Answer is No. It is a potential distraction to traffic controllers.
- Can Council make it clearer at the checkpoints there is no stopping on the range. Yes, signs will be more prominent at the checkpoints.
- Members would like a program of works for Noah Range. The project team has produced a program of works but it is still in draft. It will be supplied once finalised, but it may be a few weeks. [Will carry this over to next meeting.](#)
- It was confirmed Rykers Bridge is 2WD.
- Work has started on the northern end of Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road, and this was confirmed by Robyn.

New items

- The road verges between the ferry and Cape Tribulation are unkempt. Navua Sedge is out of control, guideposts and signs are overgrown and drivers cannot see wildlife entering roads. Council has previously advised it was unable to increase the service levels due to lack of budget. The budgets for 2024/2025 are current being prepared. [CB will ascertain if budget can be increased and will report back.](#)
- Request made to repair potholes. Between now and 30 June, under emergency arrangements with QRA, Council can keep filling potholes. The crews working north of the river will remain for several weeks.
- Request to get the pipes cleaned out upstream of Noah Dip to alleviate water going over the road Also, have been trying to get this widened since 1995. Could it be done given equipment in the vicinity? [Will report back – carry over to next meeting.](#)
- Ironbark Road dip – rough on one side, makes people cross to wrong side. Can this be this fixed? [Will report back – carry over to next meeting.](#)
- Noah Range is opening at 5am, earlier than the 6am publicised opening time. The Traffic Controller says the light is sufficient to see. The community still feels like it is under a curfew, which in fact it is. It would be good to have the road open until 8:30/9pm if at all possible. Council has looked at this. As long as the slope is unstable, current opening times need to remain for safety reasons as it is simply not possible to monitor the slope at night.
- TPDD has been talking to rental car companies to explain that the gravel road section across Noah Range is temporary road works. This argument may start to wear thin after six months and this was noted.
- Noah Creek Causeway – if the causeway is upgraded, will the entrance be widened as with the current configuration, some trucks will not be able to turn to access the crossing. Yes
- Roadtek is working 10 days on 4 days off on Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road repairs. This is a standard five-day week. We work in the tourism industry which is a 7 day a week job. Is there any possibility this can be sped up? Claudia said it would depend on the availability of resources but would ask the question. [Will report back – carry over to next meeting.](#)
- The question was asked as to whether the community could get updates on the Daintree Ferry via this reference group. The ferry leg is part of Cape Tribulation Road and we do want to cover the entire length of the road from the Mossman Daintree Road turn off through to the Bloomfield River. The group agreed yes, and this aligns with Brett Grainger from Entrada joining as a member.

Next Meeting:

- Daintree Discovery Centre 9am to 10am. Thursday 18 April 2024.