

3.2. SHOW HOLIDAY 2026

REPORT AUTHOR	Executive Assistant
MANAGER	Chief Executive Officer
DEPARTMENT	Office of the Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to nominate Monday 20 July 2026 as a public holiday for the Douglas Shire Region.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 11 June 2025, the Chief Executive Officer received correspondence from the Office of Industrial Relations, inviting Council to consider requesting a special or show holiday for 2026.

A copy of that correspondence is attached (attachment 1).

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the *Holidays Act 1983*, each year local governments are invited to request special and show holidays to be observed during the following year for districts in their area.

A council requested special holiday is a public holiday only if it is in respect of an agricultural, horticultural or industrial show. Under federal industrial relations legislation, on a public holiday employees are, without loss of ordinary pay, entitled to be absent from work or refuse to work in reasonable circumstances. Employees who work on a public holiday are entitled to penalty rates in accordance with their award or agreement.

A special holiday for any other reason is not a public holiday but is a bank holiday only and under the *Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990*, is only a holiday for banks and insurance offices and under a directive of the *Public Sector Act 2022*, a holiday for public service employees unless otherwise determined by a Chief Executive.

Upon receiving Ministerial approval, Queensland councils that have requested special and show holidays will receive written advice and the holidays will be published in the Queensland Government Gazette.

COMMENTS

The 2026 Mossman Show is tentatively scheduled for 19 and 20 July 2026. The proposed show day in recognition of the Mossman Show is Monday 20 July 2026.

PROPOSAL

That Council resolve to nominate Monday 20 July 2026 as a public holiday for the Douglas Shire Region.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Reputation, Community and Civic Leadership – Adverse impact on Council's reputation due to inattention to statutory obligations and responsibilities.

Timely responses to State Government correspondence ensures that Council meets its statutory obligations and responsibilities. In keeping with long-standing tradition, it is the community's expectation that Council will request that an annual show holiday be gazetted for the shire.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: Nil

Environmental: Nil

Social: Nil

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2019-2024 Initiatives:

Theme 1 - Celebrating Our Communities

Douglas Shire Council embraces the diversity of our communities and values the contribution that all people make to the Shire. We recognise that it is a core strength of the region. We acknowledge our past so that it may guide us in the future. We recognise the wrongs done to our Indigenous community and we actively seek to reconcile so that we may all benefit from and enjoy our Shire. We acknowledge early European settlers who forged an agricultural base for our economy and we welcome all new arrivals as part of our broader community.

Goal 4 - We will promote arts and cultural programs and events that bring vibrancy to the community and compliment the tourist experience.

Operational Plan 2024-2025 Actions:

Community Strategic Plans - Create a timeline for the for the development of Community Strategic Plans for Port Douglas, Mossman and the Daintree Community

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:

Service Provider Council provides many services to the community from roads and waste services to libraries and recreational facilities. Services evolve over time and it is the Council's mission to ensure that these

services are appropriate, delivered efficiently, and designed with the customer at the centre.

CONSULTATION

Internal: Office of the Chief Executive and Manager Community Services

External: Mossman and District Show Society

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS

Nil