

6.24. DAINTREE FERRY REPORT FEBRUARY 2025

REPORT AUTHOR	Acting Manager Project Office
MANAGER	Chief Engineer TC Jasper Infrastructure and Recovery
DEPARTMENT	Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Daintree River Ferry financial information and tender progress for February 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A monthly progress report is supplied to provide Councillors with financial details and tender progress of the Daintree River Ferry.

BACKGROUND

On 8 October 2024, Council resolved to replace the Daintree River Ferry, outsource ownership and operation to a contractor and release a tender to the market for a contractor to design, construct, deliver and operate the ferry service.

On 10 December 2024, a Notice of Motion was carried that at monthly Ordinary Council Meetings, Councillors are provided with monthly financial details relating to the Daintree River Ferry and progress on the Expressions of Interest (request for tender) to supply and operate the ferry.

COMMENTS

Financial Information

The graphs attached represent the financial performance and operational statistics of the Daintree River Ferry Operations for the current financial year. It should be noted that this is not a comprehensive assessment of the financial performance as Council's corporate and administrative costs that support the ferry operation have not been included, these costs include but are not limited to: ticket and ferry card sales administration, contract invoicing, accounts payable and receivable, budgeting and financial reporting, payroll and human resources, auditing, issues, complaints, enquiries, Council staff support, and administrative costs and overheads.

Operational Statistics

Traffic numbers have continued to be low due to the wet season, however, reflect the usual February trend and figures remain aligned with those recorded in February 2023 and approximately double the volume of 2024, which was extremely low due to Cyclone Jasper recovery. 53.58% of the traffic comprises of concession card holders.

Tender Progress

Landside Infrastructure – The tender closed on 22 February 2025. Council Officers have commenced evaluation and expect to move forward toward Council resolution in April 2025.

Ferry - A request for tender (RFT) was issued on 19 December 2024 to the open market through vendor panel and publicly advertised through various media channels for a contractor to design, construct, deliver and operate the ferry service. The RFT closes on 26 March 2025. A mandatory briefing was held for tenderers on 22 January 2025. Attendees had relevant experience and capability and showed good interest in submitting a tender. Some requests for information to support tender development have been answered by Council officers this month.

PROPOSAL

That Council receives and notes the Daintree River Ferry financial information and tender progress for February 2025.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Reporting on Daintree River Ferry does not have any material resource impact on the delivery of the service.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Monthly reporting keeps Council informed of the progress in relation to the Daintree River Ferry operation and allows for timely corrective action if required.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: Monitoring the progress of the replacement of the Daintree River Ferry ensures the project remains on track and allows for timely corrective action if required.

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 2 - Fostering Sustainable Economic Growth

A robust economy is at the heart of a thriving community and enables investment in environmental protection. While our remoteness is a key attribute, it also presents challenges for attracting new business and investment. We must also meet the challenges of fierce competition in the tourism sector. Council will partner with industry to build, diversify and promote the Douglas economy. Council will design and deliver infrastructure, strategies and services that support the local economy and businesses.

Goal 1 - We will build appropriate infrastructure and deliver services that connect and support businesses.

Theme 5 - Robust Governance and Efficient Service Delivery

Strong governance and financial management are the foundations of the way in which Council will conduct its business and implement the initiatives of the Corporate Plan.

Goal 3 - *We will make sound financial decisions by ensuring robust strategic planning, financial management and reporting.*

Operational Plan 2024-2025 Actions:

Daintree Ferry – Replacement – Progress the design and approvals for a new Daintree Ferry.

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:

Custodian	Council owns and manages infrastructure, facilities, reserves, resources and natural areas. In fulfilling its role as custodian, Council will be mindful of the community, the economy, the environment, and good governance.
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CONSULTATION

Internal: Finance, Infrastructure and Projects teams

External: Nil

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Nil

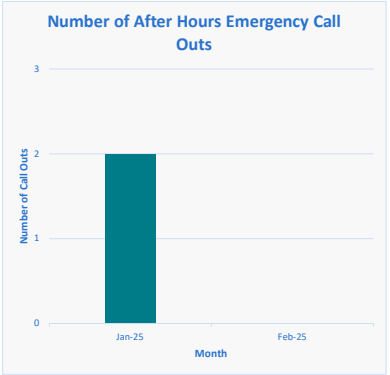
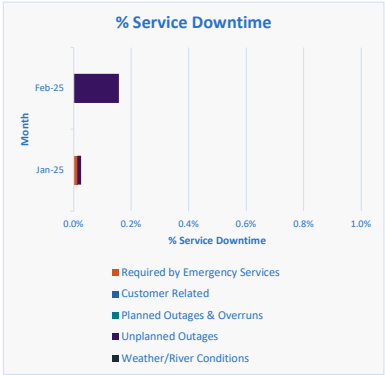
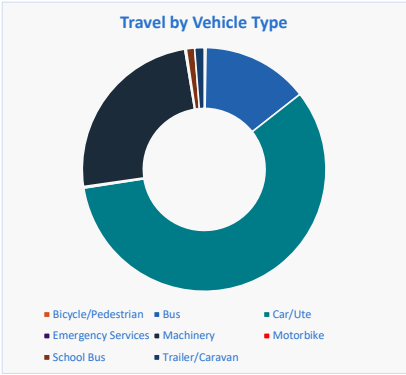
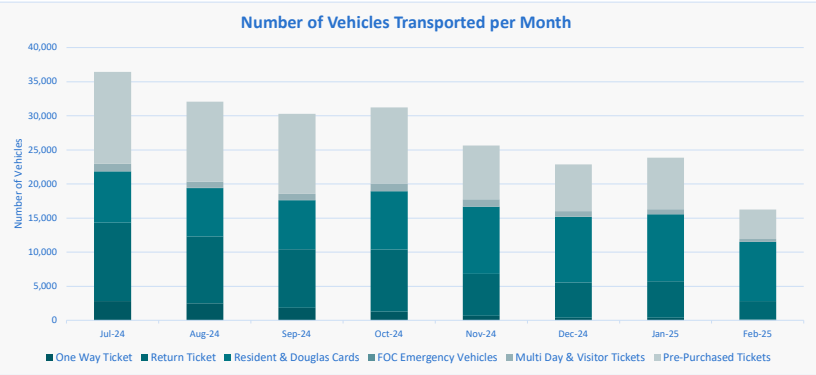
ATTACHMENTS

1. 6.24 March OCM Attachment [6.24.1 - 1 page]

Attachment 6.24.1

Daintree Ferry Monthly Report
February 2025

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS



Vehicles by Ticket Type	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25
One Way Ticket	2,845	2,496	1,807	1,243	674	369	367	118
Return Ticket	11,463	9,826	8,604	9,141	6,136	5,176	5,377	2,688
Resident & Douglas Cards	7,517	7,083	7,213	8,550	9,857	9,625	9,806	8,701
FOC Emergency Vehicles	39	23	24	28	26	33	29	15
Multi Day & Visitor Tickets	1,111	897	882	1,058	1,047	833	741	425
Pre-Purchased Tickets	13,456	11,747	11,747	11,217	7,920	6,842	7,550	4,291
	36,431	32,072	30,277	31,237	25,660	22,878	23,870	16,238

Travel by Vehicle Type	Feb-25	%
Bicycle/Pedestrian	18	0.2%
Bus	1052	14.2%
Car/Ute	4,320	58.2%
Emergency Services	15	0.2%
Machinery	1,833	24.7%
Motorbike	16	0.2%
School Bus	81	1.1%
Trailer/Caravan	94	1.3%
	7,429	100.0%

% Service Downtime	Jan-25	Feb-25
Required by Emergency Services	0.01%	0.00%
Customer Related	0.00%	0.00%
Planned Outages & Overruns	0.00%	0.00%
Unplanned Outages	0.01%	0.16%
Weather/River Conditions	0.00%	0.00%
	0.03%	0.16%

Number of After Hours Emergency Call Outs	Jan-25	Feb-25
After Hours Emergency Call Outs	2	0

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

