

7.11. COASTAL RECOVERY WORKS POST 2023 TC JASPER DISASTER FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the Coastal Recovery Works Post 2023 Tropical Cyclone Jasper Disaster Event tender submitted to the State Government Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation for funding under the Category D Exceptional Circumstances – Environmental Recovery Package.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tropical Cyclone (TC) Jasper and associated flood event resulted in the activation of recovery assistance through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Government. The DRFA activation included the Environmental Recovery Package under Category D Exceptional Circumstances. The Coastal Recovery Works Post TC Jasper Disaster Event tender was released under the Environmental Recovery Package by The Queensland State Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) requesting coastal projects with a maximum contract value of \$2,750,000 (inclusive of GST).

The scope of the tender cover's nature-based solutions that increase the erosion buffering capacity of the coast including:

- sand pushing and beach nourishment to reinstate eroded beach and dunes, including importation of clean sand to replace sand permanently lost from the beach system, transfer of sand from lower to upper beach, local redistribution or infilling of over wash or runoff gullies;
- sand pushing around exposed tree roots on erosion scarps to bury roots;
- revegetating and stabilisation of degraded and eroded foreshores and beaches, including reinstatement of natural dune-building processes to restore critical erosion buffers, and
- clean-up and removal of debris.

Three projects at two coastal localities have been identified and included in the submission, targeting locations that experienced coastal erosion as a result of TC Jasper and the associated flood event.

Total value of the submission is \$2,708,531 (inclusive of GST) with no expectation of a co-contribution. Council has included internal Council Officer labour costs as its partner in-kind contribution.

BACKGROUND

In March 2025, The Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI)

released a tender for Coastal Recovery Works Post 2023 TC Jasper Disaster Event for coastal projects with a maximum contract value of \$660,000 (inclusive of GST). Council put forward two projects in two coastal localities in the original submission.

On June 9, 2025, DETSI re-released the Coastal Recovery Works post TC Jasper tender with an increase of contract value up to \$2,750,000 (inclusive of GST). With the increase in contract value, Council put forward three projects at two coastal localities that experienced coastal erosion as a result of Tropical Cyclone Jasper and the associated flood event.

The tender submission was workshopped with Councillors on 13 May 2025 and again on 24 June 2025 after it was re-released with an increase in contract value.

COMMENTS

Council put forward the following three projects:

- Newell Beach - beach nourishment and revegetation using sand dredged from the Dickson Inlet by Marine Safety Queensland;
- Newell Beach – Dredging of the Mossman River mouth and sandbar with the direct land application of the dredge material as beach nourishment along Newell Beach; and
- Oak Beach (Thala Beach Nature Reserve) - Sand pushing and revegetation using existing sand located along the beach.

for submission under the Coastal Recovery Works Post 2023 TC Jasper Disaster Event Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

PROPOSAL

That Council endorses the Coastal Recovery Works Post 2023 TC Jasper Disaster Event tender submitted to the State Government Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation for funding under the Category D Exceptional Circumstances – Environmental Recovery Package.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The tender submission is for \$2,708,531 (inclusive of GST). There is no co-contribution expectation from the funding body, however, Council has included internal Council Officer labour costs as its partner in-kind contribution. Council included a 20% contingency on project costs

Individual project costs are broken down below:

Project Location	Project Description	Project Cost (\$)
Newell Beach	Beach nourishment and revegetation	\$656,605
Newell Beach	Dredging of Mossman River mouth and sandbar	\$1,969,039
Oak Beach	Sand pushing and revegetation	\$82,887
Total Project Costs		\$2,708,531

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are significant risks of slowing down the recovery process after ex-TC Jasper. Without securing funding Council will not be in a financial position to deliver these projects. The projects will support Council in managing its climate-related risks.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic:	The Cyclone Jasper Disaster Event may have a negative impact on the economic sustainability of Douglas Shire Council.
Environmental:	The tender called for nature-based solutions that increase the erosion buffering capacity of the coast. The projects will increase resilience of the coast against future coastal hazards. Approvals and permit will need to be sought from State and Federal Government Agencies to undertake proposed works.
Social:	The projects will provide social and human benefits by improving accessibility, reducing public safety risks and protect property against coastal hazards.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2025-2030 Initiatives:

Theme 3 – Service Delivery

We deliver Council services effectively and efficiently to meet community expectations, focusing on the wellbeing of both the community and our employees.

3.9 - Preserve, protect and improve our unique environment.

Theme 4 - Recovery and Resilience

To partner with community to build resilience against natural disasters creating a strong sense of social capital.

4.1 - Support our community's journey of recovery and rebuilding after natural disasters.

4.5 - Undertake effective disaster management (planning, preparedness, response, recovery).

Operational Plan 2024-2025 Actions:

TC Jasper Environmental Waste Removal - Continue damage assessments and address environmental waste and damage.

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.

CONSULTATION

Internal: Infrastructure, Community Engagement Officer, Disaster Manager, Executive Team, Grants and Finance.

External: State Government Agencies, Federal Government Agencies, Thala Beach Lodge and Residents.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Should the tender submission be successful, community and stakeholder engagement will form an important part of all projects.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil