

7.11. DAINTREE RIVER FERRY UPDATE JULY 2025

REPORT AUTHOR	Chief Engineer
MANAGER	Chief Executive Officer
DEPARTMENT	Infrastructure and Recovery

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Daintree River Ferry financial information and tender progress for July 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, Councillor's 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.

Project Progress

Two key projects are underway which are essential to maintaining access across the Daintree River for the community:

Landside Infrastructure

A contract has been awarded and signed for the landside infrastructure. Detailed design has commenced on the project with various review points across the coming months in preparation for construction in mid 2026. This project is on schedule.

New Ferry

The request for tender (RFT) closed on 9 April 2025. Council officers have worked through offers with marine lawyers, accountants and subject matter experts. A recommendation was made to Council in August with a decision made to award contract to Birdon Pty Ltd.

Final contract negotiations are occurring with signing expected shortly. At this stage there are no risks to this process which would result in delays.

PROPOSAL

That Council receives and notes the Daintree River Ferry financial information and tender progress for July 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 2025-2030 Initiatives:

Theme 2 - Prosperity

Council plans, builds and maintains the infrastructure required to improve our lifestyle and promote economic growth, working actively to support local businesses.

2.1 - Deliver a new Daintree ferry.

Operational Plan 2025-2026 Actions:

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

2.1.2 - Upgrade landside infrastructure to meet the requirements of the new ferry and reduce waiting times.

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: Leadership Team, Finance Team

External: Nil

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

NIL

ATTACHMENTS

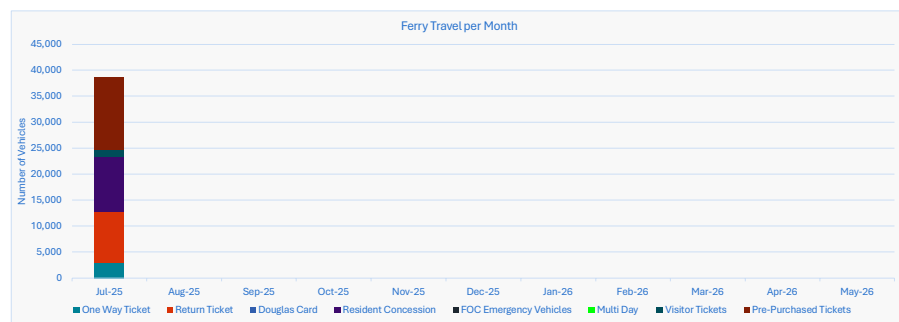
Daintree River Ferry Financial Statistics for July 2025

Attachment 7.11.1

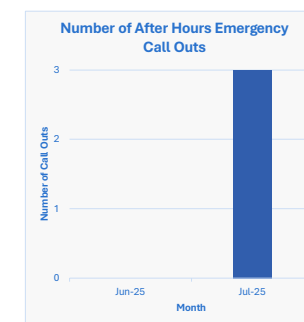
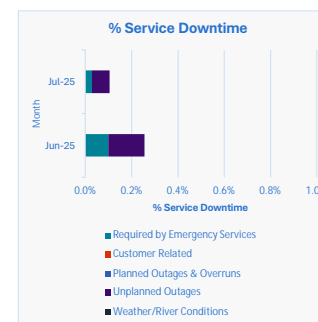
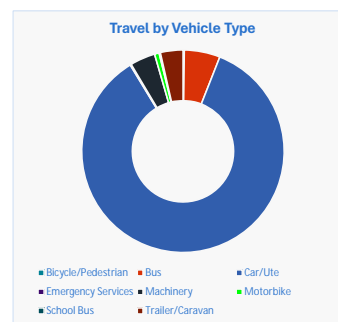
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Daintree Ferry Monthly Report
July 2025

OPERATING STATISTICS



Vehicles by Ticket Type	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
One Way Ticket	2,846										
Return Ticket	9,939										
Douglas Card	15										
Resident Concession	10,430										
FOC Emergency Vehicles	43										
Multi Day	14										
Visitor Tickets	1,291										
Pre-Purchased Tickets	14,014										
	38,592	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Travel by Vehicle Type	Jul-25	%
Bicycle/Pedestrian	60	0.2%
Bus	1,509	5.7%
Car/UTE	22,591	85.4%
Emergency Services	43	0.2%
Machinery	1,063	4.0%
Motorbike	200	0.8%
School Bus	52	0.2%
Trailer/Caravan	947	3.6%
	26,465	100.0%

% Service Downtime	Jun-25	Jul-25
Required by Emergency Services	0.10%	0.03%
Customer Related	0.00%	0.00%
Planned Outages & Overruns	0.00%	0.00%
Unplanned Outages	0.16%	0.08%
Weather/River Conditions	0.00%	0.00%
	0.25%	0.10%

Number of After Hours Emergency Call Outs	Jun-25	Jul-25
After Hours Emergency Call Outs	0	3

