

7.14. DAINTREE RIVER FERRY UPDATE JUNE 2025

REPORT AUTHOR	Acting Manager Infrastructure Planning and Delivery
MANAGER	Chief Engineer TC Jasper Infrastructure and Recovery
DEPARTMENT	Infrastructure Planning and Delivery

RECOMMENDATION

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

Tender Progress

Landside Infrastructure – Contractor has been engaged and will commence the detailed design of landside infrastructure in July in line with schedule.

Ferry - The request for tender (RFT) closed on 9 April 2025. Council officers have worked through offers with marine lawyers, accountants and subject matter expert. A recommendation will be provided at the July 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting through a separate report.

PROPOSAL

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

CONSULTATION

Internal: Leadership Team, Finance Team.

External: Nil

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

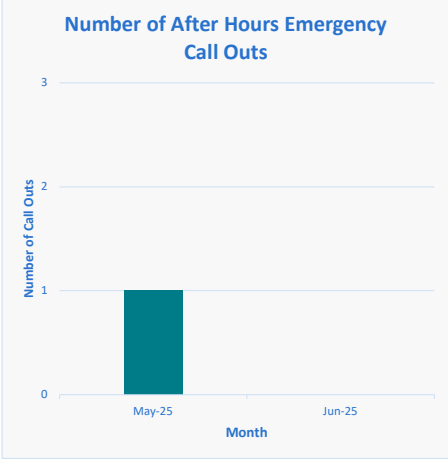
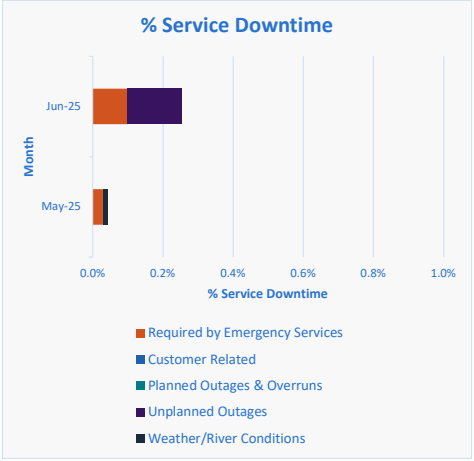
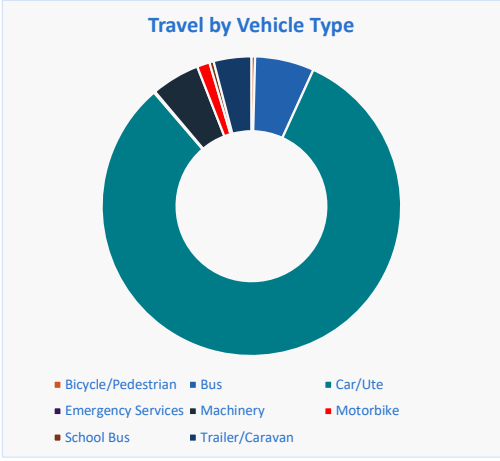
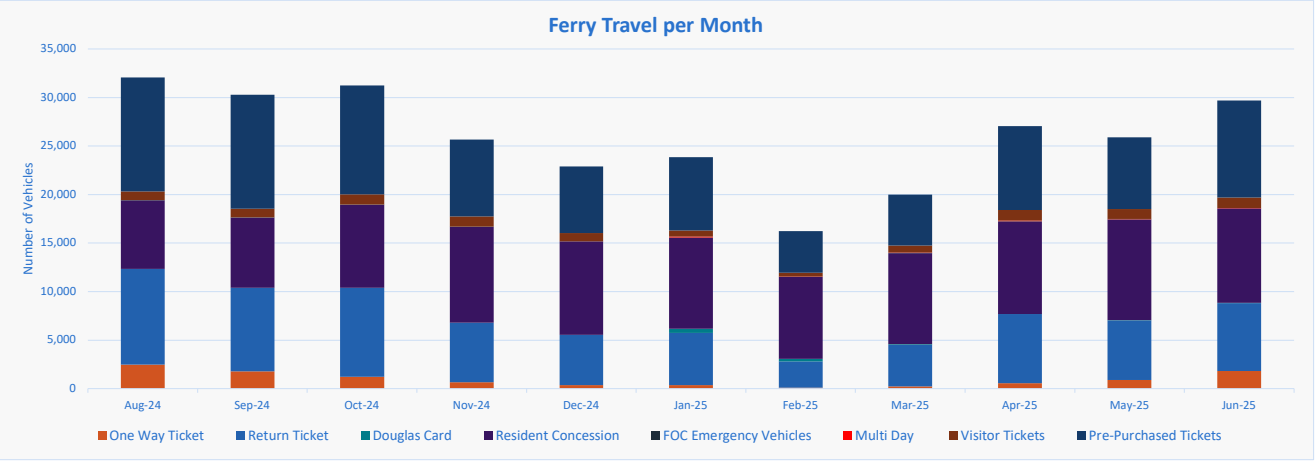
Nil

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ferry Stats June 25 [7.14.1 - 1 page]

Daintree Ferry Monthly Report
June 2025

OPERATING STATISTICS



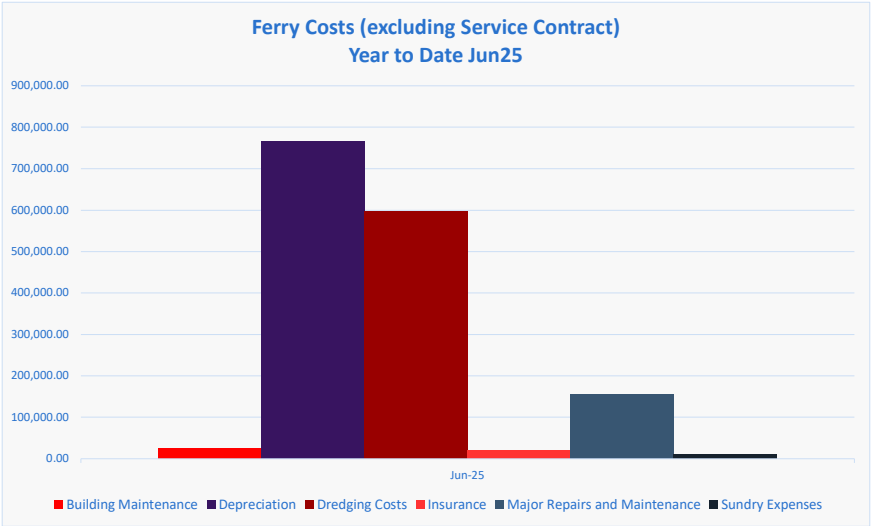
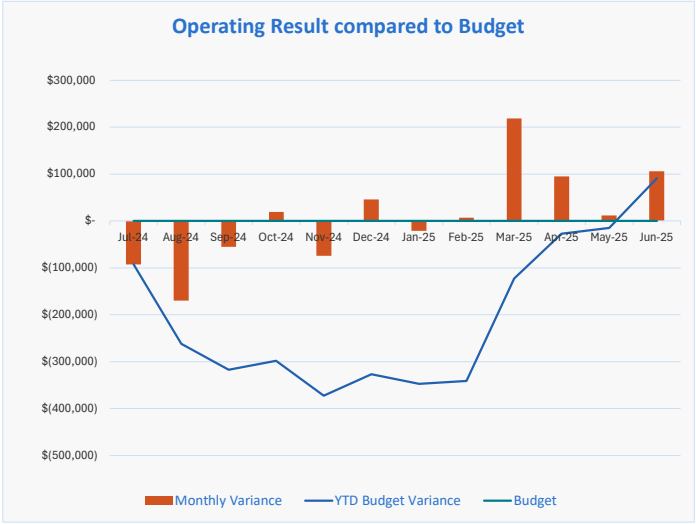
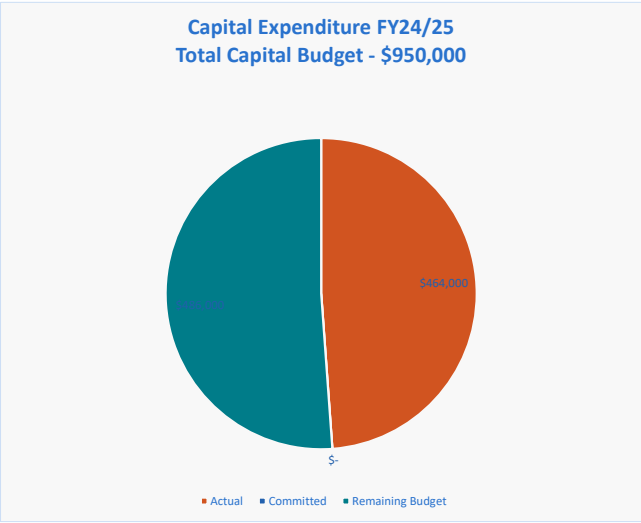
Vehicles by Ticket Type	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25
One Way Ticket	2,496	1,807	1,243	674	369	367	118	241	559	910	1,823
Return Ticket	9,826	8,604	9,141	6,136	5,176	5,377	2,688	4,294	7,134	6,147	6,990
Douglas Card						432	274	59	2	6	23
Resident Concession	7,083	7,213	8,550	9,857	9,625	9,374	8,427	9,368	9,536	10,349	9,726
FOC Emergency Vehicles	23	24	28	26	33	29	15	21	29	36	31
Multi Day						102	25	65	47	51	24
Visitor Tickets	897	882	1,058	1,047	833	639	400	693	1,101	993	1,084
Pre-Purchased Tickets	11,747	11,747	11,217	7,920	6,842	7,550	4,291	5,253	8,642	7,407	9,995
	32,072	30,277	31,237	25,660	22,878	23,870	16,238	16,238	27,050	25,899	29,696

Travel by Vehicle Type	Jun-25	%
Bicycle/Pedestrian	76	0.4%
Bus	1,195	6.4%
Car/Ute	15,293	81.9%
Emergency Services	31	0.2%
Machinery	976	5.2%
Motorbike	258	1.4%
School Bus	80	0.4%
Trailer/Caravan	763	4.1%
	18,672	100.0%

% Service Downtime	May-25	Jun-25
Required by Emergency Services	0.03%	0.10%
Customer Related	0.00%	0.00%
Planned Outages & Overruns	0.00%	0.00%
Unplanned Outages	0.00%	0.16%
Weather/River Conditions	0.01%	0.00%
	0.04%	0.25%

Number of After Hours Emergency Call Outs	May-25	Jun-25
After Hours Emergency Call Outs	1	0

FINANCIAL STATISTICS



8. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

9. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

10. PETITIONS

Nil

11. CLOSED SESSION

Nil

12. MEETING CLOSURE