7.7. QUARTERLY REPORT INFRASTRUCURE RECOVERY Q4

REPORT AUTHOR Manager Infrastructure Recovery

EXECUTIVE General Manager Infrastructure

DEPARTMENT Infrastructure

TEAM Infrastructure Recovery

DATE 25 August 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the progress of the DRFA and Water Program for the period April to June 2026.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides Council with an update on the Infrastructure Recovery Unit's progress for Quarter 4 (Q4) of the 2025/2026 financial year.

The Unit continues to oversee two significant recovery programs: the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) Civil Infrastructure Program and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) and Water Infrastructure for Sustainable and Efficient Regions (WISER) Water Infrastructure Program.

Throughout Q4, the Civil Infrastructure Program maintained delivery of key road, bridge, landslip and associated recovery works, while also responding to asset damage arising from the 2026 activation event. Asset identification activities have commenced and will inform future funding submissions and delivery planning. The approved Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (REPA) scope remains broadly on track, supported by approved extensions where required.

The Water Infrastructure Program continued to progress from planning into design, procurement and construction readiness. Funding approvals have been secured through QRA and WISER, with current activities focused on confirming project scopes, advancing design development, progressing tender processes, and establishing delivery strategies across the approved program.

AECOM has been appointed as Delivery Partner to assist Council with the delivery of the 2025 and 2026 DRFA events, the 2023 Betterment program, and the Water Program.

Key program risks continue to include adverse weather conditions, delivery timeframe constraints, market pricing volatility, cultural heritage requirements and project-specific challenges.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONS / RESOLUTIONS

At the Ordinary Meeting held 26 May 2026, it was resolved that Council note the Infrastructure Recovery Report Quarter 3 2025/2026 Financial Year.

REPORT/BACKGROUND

The fourth quarter of the financial year saw the Infrastructure Recovery team continue to support the community through the delivery of 2026 Counter Disaster Operations (CDO) and emergent works, maintaining safe community access and undertaking damage pick-up activities associated with new wet season events.

These CDO and emergent work arrangements concluded on 30 June 2026, with finalisation, reconciliation and cost recovery activities to continue into the new financial year.

Quarter 4 also represented a significant period of progress for the QRA/WISER Water Infrastructure Program, with scope development and prioritisation activities focused on supporting value-for-money outcomes and improved infrastructure resilience. Several projects have now commenced design review and procurement planning, with these activities continuing into the 2026/2027 financial year.

The DRFA Civil Infrastructure Program also achieved strong progress during the quarter. However, ongoing and unseasonal wet weather has affected the delivery of several projects. While the broader program remains within approved funding timeframes, individual project programs are being actively reviewed and sequenced to recover lost time where practicable and manage emerging delivery risks.

The Civil Infrastructure Program also continues to respond to additional damage associated with the 2026 activation event, with new asset pick-ups underway and further funding submissions to be progressed in the new financial year.

DRFA Civil Infrastructure Program

The Civil Infrastructure Program encompasses Council's road, bridge, landslip, culvert and associated civil infrastructure restoration works arising from disaster events.

The program continued to progress during Q4, while the delivery team also responded to new damage associated with the 2026 activation event. Asset pick-ups for the new event are underway and will form the basis of future funding submissions.

The current DRFA civil program includes remaining Tropical Cyclone Jasper works, January 2025 Monsoon works, 2026 Monsoon activities, and approved betterment projects.

Key activities and developments during the quarter are outlined below.

1. **Noah Creek Bridge and Temporary Bypass**

Construction of the replacement of Noah Creek Bridge and temporary bypass progressed during the quarter following receipt of the required legislative and regulatory approvals.

The temporary bypass has been designed to maintain legal vehicular access during construction, including heavy vehicles, and incorporates 10 × 1800 mm diameter corrugated steel pipes, scour protection and associated embankment works.

Works during the quarter included installation and backfilling of the pipes, preparation of rock bags for scour protection, delivery of quarry material for backfill and cover, and commencement of preparatory works on the replacement of bridge components.
Progress was affected by periods of wet weather; however, works continued to advance as conditions allowed.

The bridge and bypass have been developed following hydraulic, structural, geotechnical, and constructability assessments. Additional independent engineering and scenario-based assessments are also proposed to provide further assurance around wet-season operation, extreme weather, and contingency arrangements.

Overall, the project continues to progress, with the temporary bypass remaining in the immediate construction priority to maintain safe community access while enabling delivery of the permanent replacement bridge.

2. Noah Range Slip Restoration

During the final stages of the Noah Range restoration works, a significant tension crack was identified within the existing roadway following removal of landslip material.

Specialist geotechnical assessment identified a failed slip plane beneath the carriageway associated with Cyclone Jasper.

The current approved construction contract value as at Q4 is approximately $17.301 million, with the preferred additional remediation solution estimated at approximately $6.974 million, subject to design, funding and variation and contingency approvals.

The project remains a key program risk in relation to both budget and delivery timeframe. The revised completion date for this project is June 2027.

3. Taylors Crossing

Taylors Crossing continues to progress following resolution of site conditions and allocation of additional funding from QRA.

The project has also received an extension of time to 30 June 2027.

Current construction completion remains forecast for the end of 2026.

4. Lees Bridge

Lees Bridge progress has been impacted by wet weather with completion now forecast for approximately the end of September 2026.

5. Alexandra Range Landslips

Planning and procurement activities continue for the remaining Alexandra Range works.

The current indicative program identifies construction extending into 2027, with approval received for the relevant package.

6. Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road Landslips

Of the 11 sites included within this package, works have been completed at approximately 90% of the works program. This project is scheduled to be completed by the end of August 2026.

China Camp Road Slips (Wujal Wujal)

Council appointed HEH Civil as Principal Contractor to deliver the works for this project. Works will commence in July 2026.

7. Unsealed Roads Packages

Following the significant damage sustained during the 2026 weather event, additional asset pick-ups were required. Existing unsealed road package programs have been finalised, with future work to be addressed through a new program. Funding submissions will be lodged in the new financial year, with approval outcomes anticipated later in the year.

8. January 2025 Monsoon Event Funding

The activation of DRFA Funding for the monsoon event in January 2025 now sees that all four (4) submissions have been approved. The delivery team commenced planning so that the works are tender-ready in the next financial year.

9. QRA/WISER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

The Water Infrastructure Program is being delivered through a combination of QRA-funded recovery works and WISER-funded infrastructure projects.

The approved QRA Water Program comprises 16 projects with approximately $46.73 million in approved funding, while the WISER program includes approved funding of approximately $16.358 million.

During Q4, activities focused on finalising project plans, confirming scopes, progressing design, and preparing projects for procurement and construction.

Program Delivery and Timeframes

The current QRA-funded water program has a funding deadline of 30 June 2027. Council has formally submitted an extension of time request to 30 June 2028.

Until formal approval is received, the current timeframe presents a significant delivery risk, particularly given the reduced construction opportunities during the wet season.

The delivery team is also developing alternative delivery strategies should the extension not be approved, including prioritisation of critical projects, accelerated procurement and consideration of Design and Construct delivery where appropriate

1.2 Mossman River Intake and Raw Water Storage

Tenders for the Mossman River Intake Project and Mossman Raw Water Storage Project were in the market during the quarter.

Following an earlier Expression of Interest (EOI) process, shortlisted tenderers were invited to submit tenders for the respective projects.
Council and the project team have undertaken workshops with the shortlisted tenderers to clarify project requirements, confirm their understanding of the scope, identify key delivery risks and explore opportunities to improve constructability and value for money.

Tender evaluation and commercial assessment will continue into the next reporting period.

2.2 Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Projects

Planning, investigation, design and procurement activities are progressing across the broader QRA and WISER-funded water and wastewater infrastructure program, with scope development and prioritisation activities focused on supporting value-for-money outcomes and improved infrastructure resilience.

Several projects have now commenced design review, technical investigations and procurement planning, with these activities continuing into the 2026/2027 financial year. The program is progressing through scope of firming, design development, procurement and construction planning, supported by approved QRA and WISER funding.

Current projects include:

1. Whyanbeel Water Main
2. Wonga Reservoir Refurbishment and Recommissioning
3. Daintree Village Water Supply Upgrade – Contingency Bore
4. Whyanbeel Treatment Plant – Reliability Improvements
5. Whyanbeel Water Supply – Contingency Bore
6. Mossman WTP – Installation of Ultraspin Solids Separator
7. Mossman WTP – Reliability Improvement Works
8. Replacement of Aerial Crossings with Underbores
9. Rex Creek Intake and Marr Creek
10. Little Falls Creek Slip Stabilisation
11. Water and Wastewater Condition Assessment Program
12. Cooya Beach Reservoir Refurbishment
13. Water and Sewerage – Actual Costs
14. Watermains – District Metering and Pressure Management
15. Critical Watermain Replacements
16. Water Supply and Sewerage Infrastructure Planning

The final scope and delivery pathway for the projects listed above will be determined through Council's value-for-money and prioritisation process. Depending on technical feasibility, project benefits, risk, cost estimates and available funding, some projects may progress through to full delivery, while others may be limited to investigation, design and cost estimation where further delivery is not considered viable or cannot be accommodated within the approved funding allocation.

High-priority projects that demonstrate strong value for money and provide the greatest community benefit; improved infrastructure resilience and continuity of essential services will take precedence within the available funding envelope.
Lower-priority projects will be progressed to an appropriate level of investigation and design, subject to available funding and the outcomes of the prioritisation process.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Funding for the projects is fully recoverable under the DRFA & WSIP arrangements.

Any new capital construction activities impact Councils operating budget through depreciation on completion of construction. These impacts are continually evaluated and budgeted through Councils budget process.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The key risks currently being actively managed across the two programs include:

- adverse weather and limited dry-season construction windows;
- project and funding delivery deadlines;
- budget escalation and market pricing;
- approval requirements;
- procurement timeframes;
- construction and public safety;
- additional damage from subsequent disaster events; and
- project-specific technical and contractual matters.

Within the Civil Infrastructure Program, Noah Range remains the principal project-level risk, with both budget and program impacts arising from the newly identified failure zone.

Within the Water Infrastructure Program, the principal program risk is the current 30 June 2027 QRA funding deadline, pending determination of Council's requested extension.

Risk mitigation strategies are being actively implemented and escalated through the appropriate governance arrangements where required.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental requirements are being managed on a project-by-project basis through existing approvals, project environmental management requirements and relevant regulatory processes.

No material environmental compliance issues were reported for either program during the reporting period.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The programs are focused on restoring and improving critical community infrastructure and maintaining safe and reliable access and essential services.

Temporary traffic restrictions and extended construction periods, particularly at Noah Range and Noah Creek, may continue to affect the community. Council will continue providing appropriate project and traffic management communications.

CORPORATE AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2025-2030 Initiatives:

Theme 4 - Recovery and Resilience
To partner with community to build resilience against natural disasters creating a strong sense of social capital.

4.2 - *Deliver infrastructure asset restoration and betterment.*

Operational Plan 2026-2027 Actions:

4.2.1 - Completion of 2023 Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) Activations/Works – TC Jasper.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY

Local Government Act 2009
Local Government Regulation 2012
Procurement Policy

CONSULTATION

The Infrastructure Recovery update falls within the “Inform” category of Council's Community Engagement Framework.

Internal: Infrastructure Recovery, Water and Wastewater, Infrastructure, Finance and Senior Leadership Team.

External: Queensland Reconstruction Authority, relevant State funding agencies, WISER program representatives, contractors, consultants, Cultural Heritage stakeholders and affected communities.

Ongoing community engagement also includes the Daintree Coast Community Reference Group meetings and regular community newsletters, which provide updates on project progress, access arrangements, emerging issues and upcoming works across the Infrastructure Recovery Program.

CONCLUSION

The Infrastructure Recovery Department continues to progress two substantial infrastructure programs across civil recovery and water infrastructure.

The DRFA Civil Infrastructure Program continues to advance major road, bridge and landslip restoration projects while responding to additional damage associated with the 2026 event. The principal delivery challenges remain Noah Range, adverse weather and management of project-specific time and cost risks.

The QRA/WISER Water Infrastructure Program has progressed from planning and assessment into design, procurement and construction-readiness across a broad portfolio of water infrastructure projects. The principal program risks relate to funding timeframes and current market pricing.

Overall, both programs remain actively managed, with delivery strategies, risk mitigation and funding engagement continuing to support Council's objective of restoring and improving resilient infrastructure for the community.

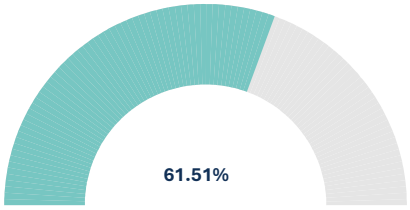
ATTACHMENTS

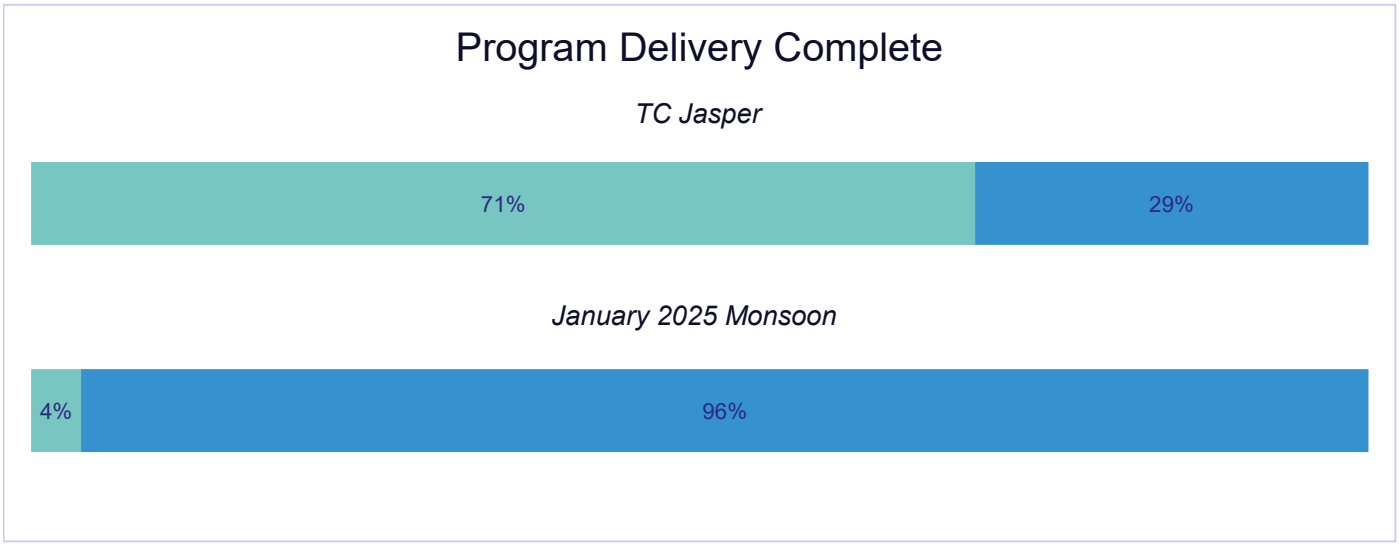
1. DRFA Quarterly Report Q 4 [**7.7.1** - 1 page]
2. Water Quarterly Report Q 4 [**7.7.2** - 1 page]
3. DRFA REPA Contracts June 26 [**7.7.3** - 1 page]

DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL

Event	EST Total Funding	Total Committed	Remaining Budget
TC Jasper	$ 162,573,520.57	$ 104,690,161.46	$ 57,883,359.11
January 2025 Monsoon	$ 2,187,486.11	$ 141,065.71	$ 2,046,420.40

Percentage of Funding Received to Date





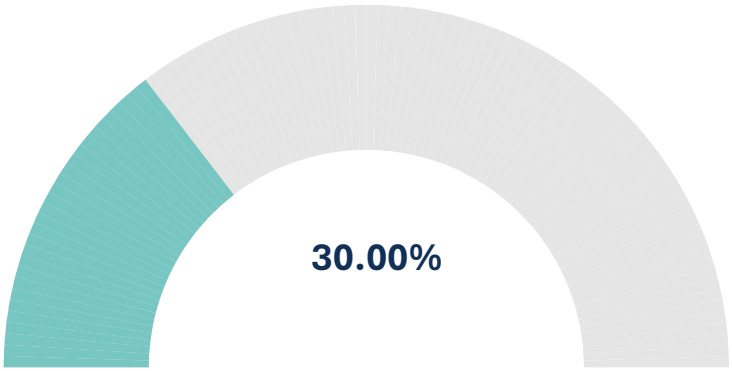
Note:

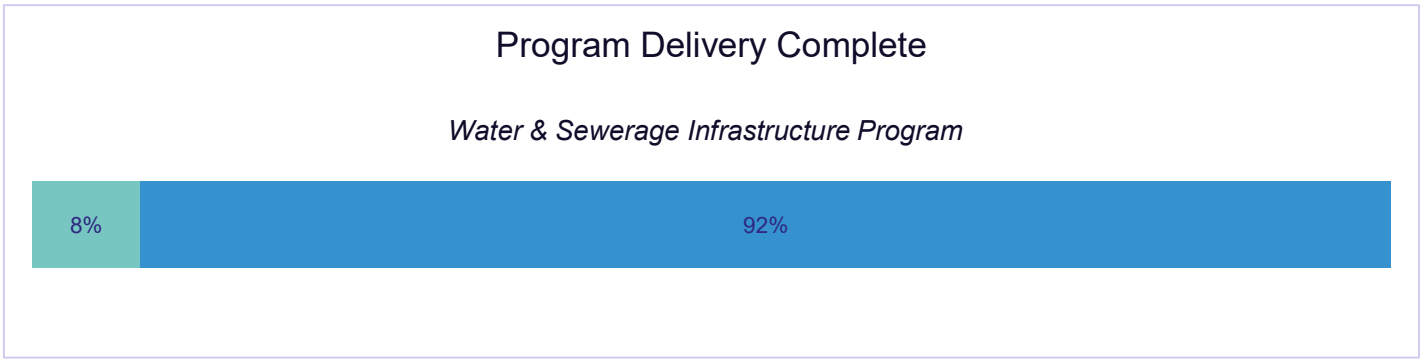
1. The 'Percentage of Funding Received to Date' incorporates all funding related to both events.
2. The funding received will lag behind the program delivery as funding can only be claimed after works are completed once the initial 30% of project payment is exhausted.

DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL

Water & Sewerage Infrastructure Program	EST Total Funding	Total Committed	Remaining Budget
	$ 46,730,198.90	$ 1,348,101.06	$ 45,382,097.84

Percentage of Funding Received to Date





Note:

The funding received will lag behind the program delivery as funding can only be claimed after works are completed once the initial 30% of project payment is exhausted.

DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL

DRFA REPA Contracts (Jasper)

Contract No	Description	Contract Value	Award Date	Construction Start	Construction Complete (%)
2024-6372	Unsealed Roads - South of Daintree	$ 2,950,619.78	13/08/2024	30/09/2024	100%
2024-6371	Unsealed Roads - Daintree to Cape Tribulation	$ 4,325,344.84	9/08/2024	25/10/2024	100%
2024-087	Unsealed Roads - 10 Mile/ ZigZag /China Camp	$ 5,227,108.71	15/04/2025	28/07/2025	100%
2024-088	Unsealed Roads - Banabilla, Idriess, Evergreen	$ 675,087.85	15/04/2025	28/07/2025	100%
2024-6544	Unsealed Roads - CTBR	$ 3,556,943.32	10/04/2025	28/07/2025	100%
2024-6344...	Landslips - Alexandra Range 1, 2, 3	$ 3,872,418.00	5/04/2024	19/04/2024	100%
2024-089	Landslips - Alexandra Range 8a, 9, 10, 11	$ 2,028,139.00	23/09/2024	26/11/2024	100%
2024-090	Landslips - Alexandra Range 3b, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 21, 22	$ 6,280,875.90	11/10/2024	26/11/2024	100%
2024-081	Landslips - Noah Range Slip Descaling	$ 16,383,375.00	18/09/2024	24/09/2024	75%
2024-091	Landslips - South of Daintree	$ 10,812,768.80	10/04/2025	18/08/2025	100%
2024-6558	Landslips - Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road	$ 13,776,985.10	10/04/2025	16/06/2025	90%
2025-020	Landslips - China Camp Road	In Procurement	-	-	20%
2025-018	Noah Creek Bridge	$ 8,485,689.63	19/08/2025	TBC	30%
2024-094	Lees Bridge & Taylors Crossing	$ 6,688,996.74	12/05/2025	30/06/2025	57%
2024-108	Concrete Roads - Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road	$ 872,828.93	10/04/2025	25/07/2025	100%
2024-6542	Mossman Gorge Road	$ 796,447.00	7/11/2024	19/11/2024	100%
	Betterment - Donovans to Bloomfield River	In Development	-	-	10%
	Betterment - Collins Creek	In Development	-	-	10%
	Betterment - Forest Creek Road	In Development	-	-	10%
	Betterment -Whyanbeel	In Development	-	-	10%

DRFA REPA Contracts (2025 Monsoon)

Contract No	Description	Contract Value	Award Date	Construction Start	Project Complete (%)
2025-019	Douglas Shire Area Sealed Roads	Awaiting Funding Approval	-	-	0%
2025-021	Woobadda Bridge	In Development	-	-	10%
	Unsealed Roads - Creb Track and CTBR	In Development	-	-	0%
	Landslips - Cape Tribulation Road - AR26	In Development	-	-	5%