

FACT SHEET, ISSUED 25/3/2024

FROM 27 MARCH 2024

# Cape Tribulation Road Conditions

Douglas Shire Council wishes to thank the residents, businesses, and communities impacted by Tropical Cyclone Jasper for their patience, cooperation, and resilience while lengthy works were undertaken to restore safe access. The entire region is delighted to welcome visitors back to our beautiful world heritage listed and eco-destination certified slice of paradise.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

- Access to Cape Tribulation will open from 27 March 2024, between the hours of 6am - 7:30pm daily. The road at Noah Range will open as one lane under traffic management. See further restrictions on page 2.
- With the safety of all travellers a priority Council continues to work with contractors to minimise the impact of further landslides and is following advice to maintain one lane only access for some sections of the road north of the Daintree River.
- Noah Range (from 6am - 7:30pm) and sections of Alexandra Range (from 5.00am-midnight) will be actively managed by traffic controllers, and travellers should expect some delays (min. 20 minutes), especially during peak times. Your patience is appreciated.
- Contingency plans are in place for alternative transport from Cape Tribulation in the unlikely event of new landslips closing the road. Should this occur, details about these arrangements will be shared.
- Due to the complex restoration works required, the initial program of work is expected to take until the end of 2024 at least (full restoration will take much longer), with sections of the road remaining under traffic management with one lane for the longer term.

Crossing the Daintree River ferry provides a moment to pause. Please slow down your driving, don't rush. Enjoy the beauty and the smells of the forest. Perhaps you'll catch a glimpse of a cassowary!



## FURTHER ADVICE FOR VISITORS

- Visitors are strongly encouraged to check the Douglas Shire Council Facebook page for ferry and road updates and the Destination Daintree Facebook page.
- Drive carefully to the road conditions, adhere to the speed limit and take note of traffic management signs.
- We encourage visitors to prepare for unlikely potential unplanned road closures by having sufficient supplies (water, food and fuel), travel insurance, flexible travel plans, and advise their provider where they are travelling within the Daintree.
- Be aware that some areas of the Daintree have limited or no mobile reception.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [DOUGLAS.QLD.GOV.AU](http://DOUGLAS.QLD.GOV.AU) & DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL FACEBOOK PAGE

*Douglas Shire Council acknowledges the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people, the Traditional Owners of Daintree National Park, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.*

# RESTRICTIONS

- Max vehicle length - 12.5 metres in length, whether towing a trailer, campervan or caravan.
- Noah Bridge weight restriction - 16 Tonnes.
- Noah Range hours of access - 6am to 7:30pm.
- Rykers Road - same access as Noah Range.
- Bloomfield - remains closed.
- Vehicle types permitted on Cape Trib Road - all vehicle access (exception of length restrictions up to 12.5 metres in length and 25 tonne).

# FAQS

## Why are there access issues with Noah and Alexandra Ranges?

In December 2023, Tropical Cyclone Jasper caused severe damage to the region with 3.2 metres of rain recorded in less than a week and a total of 4.2 metres in the space of two months (equivalent to 2 years of standard rainfall). This contributed to more than 100 landslips across roads, and serious impacts to critical infrastructure across the Douglas Shire.

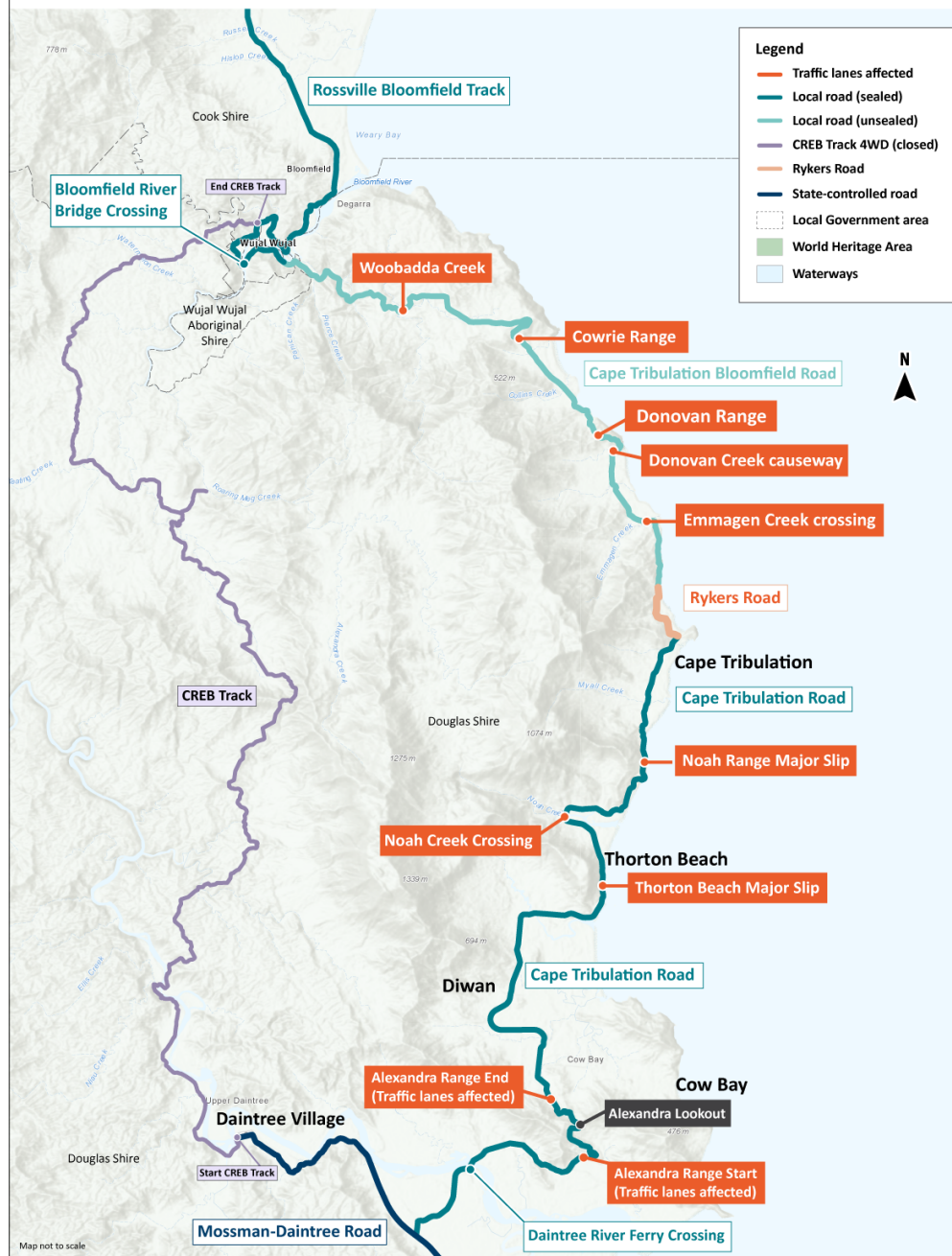
## How long have the roads been impacted for?

While Tropical Cyclone Jasper has come and gone, its impact has created unprecedented scars on our landscape, causing multiple serious landslides and undermining the foundations of the only access route into our most remote communities. Restricted access to the roads north of the Daintree River has been ongoing since mid-December. Roads have been opened in stages.

## Why are the hours we can access Noah Range restricted?

It is a safety issue. The road is under traffic management during the hours of 6am - 7:30pm. Much of the rainfall occurs at night and it is difficult to see and/or monitor any movement of material.

# Major roads Daintree River to Bloomfield River



## Why has it taken so long for the roads to be fixed?

Significant damage has been sustained from multiple landslips. The road is remote and bordered by a heritage listed national park and steep cliffs into the Coral Sea. The management of the landslips and other damage is complex, with tension fractures and wet season conditions causing further instability and the need for intensive monitoring. Ongoing heavy rain over the wet season also delayed necessary repair works.

## Are these roads safe for travellers now?

Yes. The safety of all travellers is a priority and leading geotechnical and road engineers have been engaged to provide ongoing inspections and advice regarding the placement of safety barriers and dedicated single lane sections.

Please drive carefully to the road conditions, adhere to the speed limit and take note of traffic management signs.

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