

Road Conditions at a Glance – 5 April 2024.

- Alexandra Range – Open to all traffic **5am to Midnight**. Vehicles up to 12.5 metres in length and up to 25 tonnes. If towing a trailer, caravan or campervan, total length must not exceed 12.5 metres.
- Thornton's Beach – Dual lanes open to all traffic.
- Noah Creek Bridge – Open to all vehicles 16 tonnes or under.
- Noah Creek Causeway – Suitable for trucks over 16 tonnes. It is tidal and has been rebuilt several times.
- Noah Range – Open to all vehicles **6am to 7:30pm**.
- Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road – Closed. Aiming to reopen the 4WD track end of June 2024.

Cape Tribulation Road - Alexandra Range

Open to all traffic from 5am to Midnight. Vehicles up to 12.5 metres in length and up to 25 tonnes may travel.

If towing a trailer, caravan or campervan, total length must not exceed 12.5 metres.

As advised in last week's newsletter, the contract for works on Alexandra Range sites AR1, AR2 and AR3 have been awarded to Geo Construct. The company is currently purchasing required materials and is expected to be on site April 15.

Noah Creek Bridge

Noah Creek Bridge is open to all vehicles 16 tonnes or under. The bridge is subject to structural monitoring on an as needed basis.

An RPEQ structural engineering company was commissioned by Douglas Shire Council to conduct an inspection and condition assessment of the Noah Creek Bridge Precast elements currently held in storage in Mossman.

The inspection found the structural bridge components to be in fair condition with no signs of impact to the structural integrity of the bridge components. Minor remedies were proposed and will be actioned. Details are provided below:

- Precast Concrete Bridge Deck Units were inspected in accordance with Technical Specification MRTS74. The Inspection found the bridge decks comply with the requirements of the technical specification. Cleaning of mould growth be removed, noting this is common to the FNQ Region and typical wet seasons that Douglas Shire experiences.
- Kerb Units have reinforcement bars located at top of the units to allow cast insitu kerb to be constructed on top. The reinforcement is not considered to have been compromised and a corrosive treatment will be applied as a minor improvement.
- Precast Concrete Piers were inspected in accordance with Technical Specification MRTS24. The inspection found no verified signs of subsidence.
- Precast Concrete Abutments were inspected in accordance with technical specification MRTS24. There were no signs of subsidence identified. As with the deck units, cleaning of mould will be undertaken.

Cape Trib Road - Noah Range

All vehicles are able to travel under traffic management 6am to 7:30pm.

Crews are continuing to remove the additional debris pile on the upslope batter at the major slip site. Further improvements have been made to current batter shaping. This has improved access so that the debris pile can continue to be safely removed. Given the extent of material saturation from the weather, the crews and consultants are undertaking these activities methodically. In addition, a wider area has been established at the mid level of the upslope batter reducing material falling to base of upslope batter.

The wider area has enabled workers to meet expected milestones and allowed excavation to continue behind the mass blocks to reduce impacts to traffic.



Noah Range

Rykers Road & Rykers Bridge

No update this week, but we can confirm Rykers Bridge is suitable for all vehicles.



Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road – Site 15.

Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road

Handover of works at the northern end of the road by Douglas Shire Council to RoadTek commenced last week but bad weather prevented any significant progress.

RoadTek crew to start works on the Northern End Saturday 6 April.

- Geotechnical advisor attended site last week and provided appropriate repair proposals. While onsite, they inspected slips where clean-up and descaling works have been completed. Geotech was happy with works and advised no further works required at this stage.
- Cultural Heritage assessments have been undertaken on the northern end. Crew made it to Site 36 which is located 2.6km south of Woobadda Creek. Crews are unable to go past this point until works completed at this site.

- Cultural Heritage assessments on the southern end will be done 6/7 April. They will make their way from Rykers Bridge to Site 18, 2.8km north of Rykers Creek.
- Program of works has been changed to front load works at Site 18 as this work will take some time. It is currently impassable to all vehicles due to a severe downhill failure and needs to be completed before construction traffic can travel through this area. Excavator making its way to site 18 doing minor clean up works to the track to allow trucks to get to the site. Oversize rock and 50mm minus material brought in from quarry and stored at Cape Trib Stockpile location. There appears to be lots of progress based on trucks going past Turtle rock Café this morning.
- Completed work on site 6 – pictured below.
- Wet Tropics Management Authority site visits and assessments are ongoing.



Community Reference Group

The group met 5 April 2024 at Turtle Rock Café. Current members:

- Abi Ralph, Chair – also Daintree Discovery Centre, Cow Bay
- Chris Jones, Experience Co
- Claudia Brassaud, Principal Engineer, Douglas Shire Council
- Cole Claxton, Ocean Safari (apology for first meeting)
- Gaye Scott, Recovery Communications; Douglas Shire Council
- Lawrence Mason, Mason's Café
- Robyn Guedes, Bloomfield

Minutes will be published on Council's website early next week and I'll include a link in the daily update, but in the interim, here's a synopsis of topics raised:

- Update on Noah Bridge components – see previous page.
- Upgrade of Noah Creek causeway
- Request to review 6am to 7:30pm open hours for Noah Range
- Request to relax 12.5 metre length restriction – under investigation – will be challenging.
- Location of traffic control point at Tulip Oak Road problematic as queued cars block access into and out of Tulip Oak Road. Request to relocate.
- Daintree Discovery Centre have had engineering advice to close part of walkway if 100mm of rain recorded. DSC's Principal Engineer to drop into the centre to under the impact.
- Waiting times on Alexandra Range up to one hour. Discussion around advising travellers to have a toilet stop at the ferry and/or consider placement of Portaloos along the route.
- Looking at an option for day tour guides to talk to traffic controllers via UHF radio at south and north to coordinate movements to minimise wait times.
- Vehicles still stopping on Alexandra Range – can signage be improved, leaflets distributed at ferry.
- Confirmation given that there is plan in place for emergency services.
- Request for program or works for Noah Range. Council to report back at future meeting.
- Rykers Bridge – query raised as to whether it was suitable for all vehicles, not just 4WD. It has since been confirmed it is suitable for all vehicles.
- Roadtek was scheduled to take over work on the northern end of Cape Trib Bloomfield Road 2 April. This has been revised and work will commence Saturday 6 April 2024.

Members discussed preferred day for meetings and settled on Thursday mornings. The next meeting has therefore, been scheduled for Thursday 11 April 2024 – 9am to 10am.

If you have any topics you would like raised at the meetings, please contact a reference group member, or email gaye.scott@douglas.qld.gov.au or call or text Gaye on 0418 793 009.