

7.1. NOTICE OF MOTION - RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT NIKKI BOYD MP SEND URGENT ASSISTANCE TO REPAIR AND REOPEN THE ROAD BETWEEN DAINTREE FERRY AND CAPE TRIBULATION

COUNCILLOR Cr Abigail Noli

NOTICE OF MOTION

I hereby give Notice of my intention to move the following Motion at the Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday 27 February 2024:

"Douglas Shire Councillors respectfully request that Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services, Nikki Boyd MP, send urgent assistance to repair and reopen as soon as possible the road between the Daintree ferry and Cape Tribulation paying particular attention to the section in Noah's range."

BACKGROUND

To date Douglas Shire Council has been unable to safely reopen the Noah range part of Cape Tribulation Road for any length of time. The geotechnical aspects required are beyond our capacities and specialist expertise and equipment are required.

An essential road for both residents and tourism alike, this road is a jewel for Douglas that needs and deserves specialised help to be utilised unfettered once again.

Douglas has been part of an unprecedented natural disaster and an enormous recovery effort. We have weary staff and diminished resources, as Councillors we acknowledge efforts to date but now bigger and more exertions that are beyond our capabilities are required.

OFFICER'S COMMENT

Thank you Cr Noli for the Notice of Motion. As CEO, I can confirm that myself and staff at Douglas Shire Council have a strong working relationship with many departments and agencies from the State Government.

This includes:

- Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water
- Queensland Reconstruction Authority
- Department of Tourism and Sport
- Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works

The CEO and LDC raised 13 requests for assistance from Douglas Shire Council via the QDMA RFA process commencing 12th December 2023.

The CEO has been in contact with the Hon Nikki Boyd MP, Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery since 21st December 2023 and worked closely with the Minister's office and the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works in mid January 2024 to coordinate temporary caravan accommodation for displaced residents in Degarra. The

Hon Steven Miles, Premier and Minister visited the Degarra community on 23 January 2024. The CEO is providing a further update to Minister Boyd on Friday 1 March 2024.

Additionally, Douglas Shire Council staff, including the CEO have been in regular contact with the CEO and Deputy State Recovery Coordinator of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) since 22 December 2023 and the Director General of the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water since 23 December 2023. The QRA regional liaison officer is also a member of the Douglas Shire Council LDMG and has attended meetings since 1 December 2023. A formal request for support from Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) was raised via the LDMG meeting, week commencing 22 January 2024.

Douglas Shire Council has received a positive response from TMR with their staff working onsite on both the Bloomfield Tracks and Cape Tribulation Road. A subsequent request for additional support was discussed by the CEO with the Director General of TMR on Friday 23 February and this has also received a positive response.

The CEO and staff of Douglas Shire Council look forward to a continued strong working relationship with all levels of government as the rebuilding of the community continues.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil