

Meeting #1

Date: 5 April 2024
Venue: Turtle Rock Café
Time: 9am – 10:06am

Attendees:

Abi Ralph, Daintree Discovery Centre, Cow Bay; TPDD; DMC
Chris Jones, Experience Co, Experience Daintree; Treetops Adventure; Day tours; TPDD
Robyn Guedes, Bloomfield
Gaye Scott, Recovery Communications Douglas Shire Council & DMC
Lawrence Mason, Café Cape Trib; Grocery Store, DMC & TPDD, Primary Producer
Claudia Brassard, Principal Engineer, Douglas Shire Council

Apologies:

Cole Claxton, Ocean Safari, major accommodation, restaurant, campground, TPDD

Minutes:

- Abi Ralph agreed to be Chair.
- Noah Bridge components in storage have been inspected by an RPEQ Engineer who confirmed they are suitable for their intended purpose. Further details published in Daintree Coast Road Weekly Update 5 April 2024.
- Noah's bridge will likely be on the same alignment as existing bridge. Before construction commences, an upstream crossing needs to be built. Design is almost completed. It involves 26 pipes, strapped in, concrete surface and robust enough to survive two wet seasons. It will be suitable for 2WDs, but we need clarification of whether it will be dry, or whether water may overtop. Private residents need access to carry out repair works on their own properties which include carting gravel.
- Cape Tribulation residents feel like they are under a curfew. It is not possible to have dinner with friends in Cow Bay, or to get to Cairns by 9am. Why is the road open only between 6am to 7:30pm? With the instability in the upside slope at Noah's, this section needs to be closed outside of daylight hours to ensure everyone's safety. At night with no visibility, it is currently too unsafe. Council is investigating several other monitoring options.
- Query raised about extending the 12.5 metre length restriction. One campground operator reported the length restriction is precluding potential customers from booking. Also at least one resident has a boat which when towed, is longer than 12.5 metres. There is no public boat ramp north of Daintree River. Initial investigation indicates relaxing this restriction would be problematic. With works commencing on Alexandra Range, space will be very constrained for both road users and workers. The contractor on site will minimize their work area, but they need to establish a work site with machinery and materials and maintain safe workspaces for their workers. We have reviewed the traffic management plans and safety management plans and in the short term we cannot extend past the 12.5m length. This will be systematically reviewed.
- The location of the traffic control point at Tulip Oak Road is causing issues as vehicles do not leave a gap to enable vehicles to exit and enter Cape Tribulation Road Tulip Oak Road. Suggest it be moved to the northern side of Tulip Oak Road intersection. [Will report back next meeting.](#)

- If Daintree Discovery Centre records 100mm of rainfall or more, engineering advice is they must close a section of their walkway. [The Principal Engineer will pop into the Centre to have a look.](#)
- Waiting times on Alexandra Range – one resident reported one hour. Feedback from others was it was ½ hour at most. Travellers are being advised there will be delays. Suggestion made consideration be given to having Portaloos spaced along the route. Waiting times are an issue for driver fatigue for tour buses from Cairns. [Will report back.](#)
- Request received from one of the day tour companies to be able to contact traffic controller via radio to minimize wait times. Bus stops for toilet break at the ferry and the guide hurries guests into the bus only to wait 15 mins at the traffic lights. Same on north side where there is a stop for ice cream. If a call can be made to the traffic controller, it means they will have time to eat them on site, or take their time at the toilets, or if it's clear guests can enjoy ice creams on the bus or hold it in until next break! [Will report back next meeting.](#)
- Vehicles are still stopping on Alexandra Range. Can we make it clearer at the checkpoints that there is no stopping on the range. [Will report back next meeting.](#)
- Is there an Emergency Services Plan in place? Yes. In the event of emergency services needing to get vehicles through, traffic control would stop all other vehicles and enable priority travel by emergency services. During road closure – midnight to 5am Alexandra Range, and 7:30pm to 6am Noah Range, helicopter would be required.
- Request for program of works for Noah Range. [Will report back.](#)
- Rykers Bridge. Confirm whether this is 4WD only, or open to all vehicles. Will impact three businesses beyond the bridge is restricted to 4WD. [Will report back next meeting.](#)
- Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road – Roadtek was scheduled to take over work from Council. Work was rained out before Easter but was due to commence 2 April. There's been no activity to date. Mark Cassar has been redeployed to China Camp Road. [Will report back next meeting.](#)

Next Meeting:

Date: Thursday 11 April 2024
Venue: Mason's Café & via Teams
Time: 9am – 10:00am

Agenda Items - Future Meetings

You are welcome to raise topics for discussion via any of the reference group members. Or you may send through to Gaye on gaye.scott@douglas.qld.gov.au or call or text Gaye on 0418 793 009.