

Date: Thursday 6 February 2025  
Venue: Via Teams  
Time: 10:30am

### **Attendees**

- Abi Ralph – Chair
- Claudia Brassard
- Gaye Scott
- Merran Blockey
- Robyn Guedes
- Lawrence Mason

### **Apologies**

- Steven Sponberg

### **Road Update**

Claudia presented the road update going from south to north.

### **Alexandra Range**

- Traffic Control will remain from 5am to 12am
- Load and vehicle length restriction will remain
  - 15.1m vehicle and caravan length
  - 12.5m rigid vehicles
  - 25 tonnes load capacity
- 5 sites remain – these are the most complex ones
- Final seal and guardrails will be done in batches which is more economical than installing in short sections at different times.

### **Noah Creek Heavy Vehicle Bypass**

- Bypass pipes removed to reduce risk to bridge. Concrete blocks placed to assist in maintaining rocks.
- Excavator on site to speed up repairs

### **Noah Creek 2WD Vehicle Bypass and New Bridge**

- Final detailed design by Friday 14 February 2025
- Tender documents are prepared.
- Tender is for a contractor to build both temporary bypass and the bridge
- The temporary bypass will be constructed and once checked/approved by Douglas Shire Council, the old bridge will be removed to make way for the new bridge.
- The temporary bypass will be suitable for all vehicles, including 2WD. It will not be as high as the current bridge; however, it will be above high tide so vehicle will not have to pass through salt water.
- Travellers reminded there is a 5km/hr speed limit on the current bridge.

### Noah Range Landslip

- No major issues over Christmas/New Year closure and recent heavy rainfall.
- Significant rainfall in the last week of January caused two landslips in the area.
- There were outside the HEH construction zone.
- Cape Tribulation Road was blocked from ~ 8pm Thursday 30<sup>st</sup> January until ~11:30am Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January.
- Douglas Shire Council was well-prepared and completed rectification works quickly.
- LM remarked 4WD vehicles were getting through and asked if in future, it was possible for the parents of three school children could be allowed through, if safe and if in an appropriate vehicle.
- The supplier of gabions sent the wrong size to the site. This error will delay work, and arrival of the correct sized gabions may be delayed by floods closing roads south of Cairns.
- Traffic Control will remain from 5am to 12am
- Monitoring radar to remain in place
- Vehicle protection in place

### Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road

- The road was closed Tuesday 4 February. ([Reopened 11:30am Monday 10 February.](#))
- Holding Works on Collins Creek have been completed
- Improvements to Collins Creek have been identified by Douglas shire Council as a Betterment Project
- Tender has closed for the road repairs and evaluation is underway.
- Contracts for geotechnical evaluation and aerial surveying for landslip repairs have been awarded.
- Tender for design and construction to repair the slips has been released and closes 23 February.
- There is an uphill section between Cape Trib Beach House and Emmagen Creek which is very slippery.
- From Cowie to Luana water has been running down the middle of the road creating erosion ruts. Request has been lodged for holding works to prevent worsening. Ref: CRM: 148324/2025
- RG concern CTBR not being maintained at same level as other roads in the Shire.
- Claudia confirmed not all roads were equal as there is a hierarchy of roads – local roads, collector & distributor etc.
- MB requested the level of traffic on CTBR be measured. Gaye to ask Civil team if traffic counters can be installed.
- RG mentioned Emmagen Creek was where travellers got stuck. Just as there are flood cameras at other bridges in the shire, cameras at Emmagen Creek would be most useful. [Gaye to pass onto Disaster Management team for response.](#)

### Other

#### Daintree Ferry Tie Up Arrangements

- New heavy duty mooring rope has been purchased to tie up the ferry to the mooring poles prior to a major flood or weather event. The mooring rope is kept undercover out of the weather. This option can be deployed efficiently without the use of heavy machinery and has a higher breaking capacity than the previous chain solution.
- Removal of chain from riverbed – [GS still awaiting advice](#)

### Cape Tribulation Road

- Just north of Mason Creek, on Cape Tribulation Road, there is a walkway along the road. There are white road markers in place to designate where people can walk, but it needs a white line. This is the way people walk to the beach and line marking is required to better designate where pedestrians may walk safely. Request has been lodged for Civil Team. Ref: CRM: 148327/2025

### Daintree Ferry Fees

- LM requested a moratorium on ferry prices, saying it costs \$70 for a car and caravan and \$50 for a single vehicle.
- This was discussed and responded to 17 November 2024.

- Input into ferry fares – **Gaye advised Council will consider any information which is provided by community peak bodies – e.g. the bus information sent by TPDD a few years ago. So, the relevant parties are welcome to put together evidence regarding Ferry prices impacting tourist numbers and email it to enquiries for consideration. Council don't intend to 'arbitrarily' increase prices. Price increases are based on CPI increases and cost recovery, including any Ferry contractor costs.**

### Betterment Funds

- Queensland Reconstruction Authority has announced a \$130 million Betterment Package to rebuild infrastructure to a more resilient standard.
- The guidelines have not yet been released.
- Once released, the guidelines will provide information on eligibility criteria, application requirements and project approval processes.
- Only REPA approved projects can be funded for Betterment Funding and Douglas Shire Council is proactively preparing scopes for potential projects.
- Further information is shown in Appendix One.

### Shipping Containers

- Many visitors and locals comment on the ugly shipping containers.
- One suggestion was to cover the containers with printed temporary fencing.
- Wynta from Dragon Fly Cape Trib would like to do a mural. Artist's free just need paint donated.
- There was no consensus from the meeting attendees
- While repairs are expected to be completed in September 2025, the containers are likely to be removed before this to repair the road surface.

### Claudia Brassard

- A new Chief Engineer, Derek Andrews has commenced at Douglas Shire Council.
- Good news is Claudia is staying on to drive the DRFA and Betterment projects. 😊

### Next Meeting

- Friday 21 February 2025 10am

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## Appendix One - Betterment Funding

### About

The Queensland Government has established a \$130 million Betterment Fund available to the nine eligible local government areas in Queensland impacted by the Tropical Cyclone Jasper, associated rainfall and flooding, 13 - 28 December 2023. It is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments.

Event damaged assets in local government areas activated under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) for Category B assistance Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (REPA) may be eligible under this fund.

The objectives of the Betterment Fund are to restore essential public assets damaged in events to a more resilient standard:

- so infrastructure and communities are more resilient to future disasters
- so future costs associated with disasters are reduced
- to address Queensland's assessed natural hazard risks
- in alignment with the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience and the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience objectives of strengthened disaster risk management and investment in disaster risk reduction

Upfront investment in stronger infrastructure and more resilient communities saves money for all levels of government in the long-term, and the undertaking of essential public asset restoration provides an opportune time for additional investment to achieve resilient outcomes.

Betterment applications will be prioritised based on a cost benefit analysis and the demonstration of resilience outcomes. This will include the additional cost of increasing resilience and the qualitative and quantitative benefits of the improvements.

### Eligibility

The assistance measures will be made available in the following impacted council areas:

- **Tropical Cyclone Jasper:**
  - Aurukun Aboriginal Shire Council
  - Cairns Regional Council
  - Carpentaria Shire Council
  - Cassowary Coast Regional Council
  - Cook Shire Council
  - Douglas Shire Council
  - Hinchinbrook Shire Council
  - Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
  - Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council
  - Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
  - Mareeba Shire Council
  - Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
  - Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
  - Tablelands Regional Council
  - Torres Shire Council
  - Torres Strait Island Regional Council
  - Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
  - Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council