

Date: Thursday 19 June 2025
Venue: Via Teams
Time: 10:00am

Attendees

- Abi Ralph
- Gaye Scott
- Robyn Guedes
- Lawrence Mason
- Jacklyn Kiernan
- Claudia Brassard
- Owen Sellwood

Welcome

Abi welcomed Owen Sellwood from FNQ Traffic Control.

Road Update

Claudia presented the road update, going from north to south.

Durack Civil – repairs to unsealed sections Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road

- Pre-Start meeting held this week.
- Aiming to commence work early July 2025.
- Material coming from Lakeland quarry
- Five projects:
 1. Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road – Repair of damaged unsealed sections
 2. Banabilla, Evergreen & Idriess
 3. China Camp Road – aiming to open bypass to enable heavy vehicles detour around section limited to 5-tonnes
 4. Zig Zag Road
 5. Ten Mile Road

HEH – repairs to landslips

- 10 landslips on Cape Tribulation Bloomfield
- HEH to commence work end June, early July.
- HEH completing design works now.

NCP Contracting – concrete pavement section

- Repairing the concrete pavement on CTBR at Degarra.
- To commence work early July.
- Completion end August 2025.
- Sufficient room for two lanes of traffic to bypass construction area
- Concrete batching plant in Wujal Wujal
- Emphasised need for dust suppression in pre start meeting.

Noah Creek Bridge

- Temporary causeway and new bridge to be constructed in 2026 dry season.
- Timber Bridge specialists assessing bridge this week, further information required for funding purposes
- Bridge components in storage still fit for purpose.
- RPEQ structural assessment completed and published 5 April 2024.
- At its meeting 17 June 2025, Councillors endorsed the Noah Bridge Replacement project funding application submitted to the Australian Government Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program Tranche 3.
- Council is applying for the maximum available under the grant which is \$5 million. This will contribute towards the estimated cost of \$11.49 million for a replacement bridge.
- The full report is available at this link below – scroll through to page 211.
<https://douglas.qld.gov.au/download/20250617-Ordinary-Council-Meeting-Agenda.pdf>

Alexandra Range

- Alex Range – Sites 3b, 4, 5, 7 & 8 – end July 2025
- Alex Range – Sites 21 and 22 – end July 2025
- For safety reasons, Sites 25 and 6 deferred until after peak tourist season, to cater for the increase in caravan traffic. They are the most constrained sites with very little through lane width.
- Daintree Discovery Centre plan of attack agreed & DSC purchasing materials and Papillon to provide labour quote.

Lees Bridge and Taylor's Crossing

- A Welcome to Country & Smoking Ceremony was held on 16 June
- Traditional Owner Maryanne Port performed Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony.
- Attended by residents, COLPO Construction & North Queensland Civil Constructions.
- Coincided with load testing on Stewart Creeks Bridge.

Caravans on Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road

- The group discussed the option of prohibiting caravans on Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road just for the duration of road works.
- There was no appetite to change the current arrangements primarily as it will significantly impact caravan and camping businesses who are already experiencing very low numbers.
- Tourism Queensland is also promoting Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road as an exceptional 4WD experience.
- The arrangements will remain unchanged.

Noah Range Landslip

- With the increased work on Noah Range Landslip, traffic stoppages will be longer than what they are now.
- The tour operators coordinate closely with restaurant operators in Cape Tribulation, and meals are timed to be ready and served hot.
- Longer stoppages are not an issue, but advance notice will help them adjust their schedules accordingly.
- The DRFA team will liaise with HEH & operators to implement a system to give everyone sufficient notice.

Carried Forward

- Daintree Discovery Centre – covered under Alexandra Range **GS to continue to follow up.**
- Maps and details of the betterment fund application projects has been emailed to Robyn.
- Lawrence suggested Mayor Lisa Scomazzon, and member for Cook, David Kempton to attend Road Reference Group meetings. The Mayor said she received the regular road updates as did David and would attend some meetings if group thought it was warranted. Lawrence said Lachlan in David Kempton office seemed keen to attend and thought it would be very useful for him to attend to glean information. The group agreed to send Lachlan an invitation to become a member of the group. **GS to follow up.**
- Exemption Mass Permit – Noah Bridge. GS said process to apply for Exemption Mass Permit would be provided once the current inspection was completed and findings considered. **Keep on agenda for GS to provide update.**

Lawrence mentioned Noah Creek Heavy Vehicle Bypass had been washed out and was closed.

Subsequent to the meeting Gaye was advised repairs were planned for Friday 20 June.

New Item – Caravans on Alexandra Range

- Some travellers towing caravans through Alexandra Range roadworks are experiencing difficulties starting on inclines, and with the slow speed.
- The 20 kmh speed limit is causing issues for those towing vans.
- It also takes forever to get through the traffic controlled section as even in the 40 km/h sections, the lead car stays at 20km/h.
- Owen from FNQ Traffic Control explained this was at the request of the contractors to keep the cars together in the one group.
- **DRFA team will raise with contractor to ascertain if speed can be increased through non-construction stretches.**

Daintree Ferry Priority Lane

- The Priority Lane at the Daintree Ferry, will open **Wednesday 25 June.**
- The Priority Lane ticket booth opens at 9am and closes at 4.30pm each day.
- The Priority Lane is for the following travellers:
 - Concession Card Holders
 - Commercial Operators - regardless of payment type (E.G. Plumber / Courier/Businesses)
 - Emergency Vehicles
 - Australian Defence Forces (Show Defence Force ID)
 - Council Vehicles (Have a Council fleet card for each vehicle)

Shout out to FNQ Traffic Control

- Lawrence congratulated Owen and his team on the great job they were doing – often under very difficult and challenging circumstances.
- Lovely feedback.

Next Meeting

Thursday 3 July, 10am