

Date: Thursday 18 July 2025
Venue: Via Teams
Time: 10:00am

Attendees

- Abi Ralph
- Derek Andrews
- Gabriel Nucifora
- Gaye Scott
- Lawrence Mason
- Liza Dowling
- Owen Sellwood
- Robyn Guedes

Apologies

- Steve Sponberg

Road Update

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

China Camp Road

- China Camp Road extends across two shires, Douglas Shire & Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire.
- DSC has awarded the contract to repair the section within the Douglas Shire to Durack Civil.
- Repairs to the section within Wujal Wujal's area are being managed by Douglas Shire Council under a Memorandum of Understanding between the two shires.

China Camp Road – DSC – Durack Civil

- ⇒ Stockpile areas have been agreed with Burunga Aboriginal Corporation.
- ⇒ Start date for repairs to be advised.

China Camp Road – Wujal Wujal

- ⇒ Tenders are currently open and are scheduled to close on 15 August 2025.
- ⇒ The bypass road to detour around the 5-tonne limited concrete section is now open.

Durack Civil – Northern Roads

- Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road – work to start week commencing 28 July
- DSC's grading crew will commence grading 22 July – areas outside REPA sections.
- Banabilla, Evergreen & Idriess – work to start week commencing 11 August
- Zig Zag Road - work to commence after Banabilla, Evergreen & Idriess
- Ten Mile Road - work to commence after Banabilla, Evergreen & Idriess

Cape Tribulation Road Landslips

- HEH has started work on the repair of 10 landslips on Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road.
- Site office has been established behind Ferntree Lodge
- Accommodation for 16 workers has been established in demountable buildings at Cape Trib Camping.
- Call Points are along Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road – operating on channel 6.
- All works scheduled for completion by mid December 2025.

Cape Tribulation Road – concrete section

- The road will be located in the same location as previously.
- The original survey will be used to reinstate the original alignment.
- Rock protection will be installed adjacent to the new concrete pavement, but no works are able to be carried out to further restore the original riverbank as this is not eligible. RG said Gavin from NCP Contracting was unaware of rock protection. [GN to clarify rock protection is included within the scope of works and report back.](#)
- Robyn Guedes observed metres of riverbank had disappeared and raised concerns that future floods may take out the new road.
- Gabriel said the DRFA team had applied for funds to restore the riverbank but thus far had been unable to get it over the line with Queensland Reconstruction Authority. The team will keep trying.

Noah Range Landslip

- Work is progressing as per Red Fox design.
- Expected completion March 2026.
- Lawrence Mason said the video showing the top of the slip was well received as it is impossible to see any activity from the road.
- [GS to arrange for regular images to be available and put online.](#)

Noah Creek Bridge

- The reduction in the bridge's load rating from 16 to 8 tonnes has severely impacted operators.
- Gabriel said Douglas Shire Council was aware the 8-tonne load limit was not a functional load limit for the community and businesses.
- The team was working with consultants and the subject matter expert (SME) on restoring the load limit back to 16 tonne – but this would take time.
- [Gabriel is aiming to provide an indicative timeline for the next meeting in two weeks.](#)
- At least one tour bus—a 28-seater 2WD, got stuck on the bypass and had to work hard for 20 minutes trying to get out and additional time pulling rocks out of the tyres before being able to continue its journey.
- Lawrence towed a trailer over yesterday and got bogged in the loose rocks but was able to slip into 4WD and get across.
- Lawrence suggested that when there were many more river crossings, the Council was able to create riverbed crossings where the rocks were more tightly packed, enabling 2WDs to cross without issue. Lawrence suggested Ron Jack may have relevant knowledge. [GN to investigate whether there is an option to compact the rocks to improve the crossing.](#)
- With increased use of the bypass, rather than wait until the bypass becomes untrafficable, it will be dedicated team will be on site to keep passable.
- Lawrence suggested Call Points would be useful at Noah Creek. [GN will action.](#)
- Gaye S suggested signs needed to be improved. [GN will action.](#)

Alexandra Range

- Alex Range – Sites 3b, 4, 5, 7, 8 21 and 22 will be completed 25 July 2025
- There is one concrete pour to go which may require 7 days to cure before opening the full width of the road, so Gabriel estimates traffic control will be removed entirely from Alexandra Range from 30 July.
- This will mean an end to the 5am to midnight road closure and the 15.1 metre limit for articulated vehicles and 12.5 metre limit for rigid vehicles will be removed.
- There are two remaining sites, 6 and 25, to be repaired.
- These repairs will start at the end of September for completion before Christmas.
- Traffic control will return but will impact a much shorter section of the range.

Carried Forward

- Materials have been delivered to Daintree Discover Centre and DSC has issued a purchase order to a landscaper to provide the labour.
- DSC has been chasing on regular basis but unable to get a response.
- Post the meeting, landscaper advised he was working on Lizard Island where phone reception was intermittent. He's due back mid next week
- [DSC to lock in a date and GS to advise DDC.](#)
- Exemption Mass Permit – Noah Bridge – Gaye was to share the process of applying for a permit. Prior to Jasper, vehicles up to 39 tonnes were able to apply to cross the bridge. Since Jasper, no vehicles over 16 tonne have applied for a permit and with the recent down grading to 8-tonne none are likely to be issued until the new bridge is installed.
- Lawrence raised the option of an exemption for vehicles just over 8 tonnes. [Gabriel confirmed the team had been working with the SME to examine exemptions and would come back to the group.](#)

New Business

- Turpentine Road – two reports of slippery conditions after light rainfall from Turpentine Road residents. Do we have an update on when long term rectification works may occur?
- GN advised funding still not confirmed and in the interim, Council would carry out maintenance to improve drivability.
- [Keep on the agenda until we have a timeframe locked in.](#)

Next Meeting

- Thursday 31 July 2025