

## Meeting #20

Date: Thursday 17 October 2024  
Venue: Via Teams  
Time: 10:00am – 10:20am

### Attendees

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

### Apologies

- Andy Hewetson
- Brett Grainger
- Chris Jones
- Cole Claxton
- Emma Tunnock
- Steven Sponberg

### Road Update

Claudia Brassard presented the road update.

### Alexandra Range Landslip Sites

Site 1 – completed

Site 2 – completed

Site 3 – aiming to be trafficable by the end of October, allowing for the northern point of the single lane section to be moved to south of the lookout. Images below of Site 3.

Contractors are aiming to close out the contract by 31 October 2024.



Sites 3b, 4,5,6,7,8 and Sites 8a,9,10,11

- Both these tenders have been awarded to COLPO Civil Construction & Project Management.
- Contractors have done an inspection of all repair sites accompanied by Jabalbina and Wet Tropics Management Authority and the pre-start meeting was held Thursday 16 October 2024.
- The starting date is programmed for Monday 28 October 2024.



### Widening of Alexandra Range at Fern Gully



There is a section of rock bank protruding at the southern approach to Fern Gully.

The rock has been painted bright orange to alert larger trucks and those towing large caravans to take care negotiating this section of road.

At this stage, the length restrictions applied to Alexandra Range will not change and Council is working with contractors to avoid having to make any changes.

There is an additional King Fern to be relocated prior to work commencing. The fern pictured below, will be craned out this week ahead of clearing and excavation due to start next week.

Contractors are aiming to finish December 13, 2024.

### Unsealed Roads North of Cape Tribulation

The tender package to repair 10 Mile, Zig Zag and China Camp Roads has been released and will close November 1, 2024.

The tender package to repair Degarra's internal roads, Banabilla, Idriess and Evergreen Roads has also been released and will close November 1, 2024.

Both tenders were due to close mid-October however three contractors requested an extension which Council has granted.



### Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road

- Tender has been released for approved repairs and is closing early November.
- The scope of works approved includes 'heavy formation' which means the road will be ripped, graded and material brought in for gravel re-sheeting.
- Road narrowing signs have been installed at Luana Hairpin Bend (the switchback). To recap, Give Way signs were considered as was a mirror. The Give Way signs are not practical as travellers cannot see oncoming traffic and the mirror was ineffective because by the time you could see, it was too late.
- Additional Geotech advice is being sourced for the landslips along the road.
- Robyn reported the two Give Way signs at either end Woobadda Bridge had washed away. Note, the Give Way signs are at both ends for safety reasons. [CB to follow up to get them replaced.](#)
- Robyn asked about the regular maintenance done by Council aside from Holding Works funded by QRA.

- CB explained Council was hoping to get this funded by QRA under Holding Works, however, [CB will check and advise on any planned maintenance to be completed by Council.](#)
- Robyn asked about improvements to the road, in particular securing funds to improve the resilience of the road by installing more concrete and/or bitumen sealed sections. The concrete sections have held up extremely well.
- CB advised funds for improvements could be sought under the Betterment Program.
- The Queensland Government typically releases Betterment packages after natural disasters and funds are designed to help communities rebuild public assets to a more resilient standard. Enhancements proposed by Robyn to Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road would improve resilience hence fit nicely in this program.
- The timing of these releases can vary depending on the specific disaster and the assessment of the damage, but generally the funding is made available once the immediate response phase is over and the focus shifts to recovery and rebuilding. CB advised QRA had yet to release the Betterment Packages for TC Jasper. [CB to follow up with the QRA at the next monthly meeting and report back.](#)
- Robyn asked about Building Better Regions. Subsequent to the meeting, GS found the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) has been discontinued in October 2022. [GS to check with Grants Officer to ascertain if there's a replacement program.](#)

### **Noah Landslip**

- HEH will be starting next week. Wet Tropics Management Authority pleased with the new methodology which reduces the number of trees to be removed.
- Additional barriers will be installed to provide more protection for the road and additional monitoring of the slope will be employed.

### **Noah Creek Crossing**

- Council will commence stabilisation works on the temporary causeway (heavy vehicle) at the end of October.

### **Unsealed Road Contracts**

- Contractors for both unsealed road contracts—south of Daintree River, north of Daintree River to Cape Tribulation—have started work.
- Smoking ceremony for north of Daintree River was held Wednesday 16 October, and smoking ceremony for south of Daintree River is schedule for Wednesday 23 October in Daintree Village.

### **Sites to Stockpile Landslip Material**

- Council is in the process of confirming arrangements with landowners willing to take material removed from landslip sites.
- LM reported the rocky material stockpiled on his property was being taken away by locals who appreciated being able to source material to repair driveways.

### **Slashing**

- 2024 Slashing Run No.2 - Contractor commenced slashing this week north of the river.
- 2024 Slashing Run No. 3 - Scheduled for early/mid-December before the Christmas break.

### **Ferry**

- At its meeting on 8 October, Douglas Shire Council resolved to seek tenders for a contractor to design, construct, and operate a new, larger ferry for the Daintree River crossing.
- CB reported Council was aware of current customer service issues and is in the process of working with Entrada to resolve and improve the service level.
- In the longer term, the new ferry contract will include key performance indicators around the quality and level of customer service.
- Council is working towards a deadline of March 2028 when the existing ferry will need to be taken to Cairns Australian Maritime Safety Authority inspection.
- LM asked whether there would be an opportunity to provide input into ferry fares before Council simply raised the price next year. [GS to follow up.](#)

### **Next Meeting**

- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 31 October 10am. Abi will be away. GS will Chair in her absence.