

Meeting Notes:

Date: Tuesday 10 February 2026
Venue: Via Teams
Time: 10:00am – 10.50am

1. Welcome and Intros

Attendees

Robyn Guedes
Merran Blockey
Jason Heffernan
Erin Simpson
Peter Tonkes
Owen Sellwood

Deb Henderson
Claudia Brassard
Robert Latham
Liza Dowling
Marcus Wilson

Apologies

Abi Ralph
Rhys Hughes
Deby Ruddell

2. Overview of meeting purpose

- Merged **Roads Reference Group** and the **Daintree Ferry Reference Group**.
- With so many access-related projects happening at the same time, it made sense to bring everyone together and trial a more joined-up way of keeping the community informed.
- Members of both groups agreed that merging is a good idea.

3. Meeting frequency

- The group decided to set monthly meetings with additional meetings scheduled during construction or major disruptions if required.
- Thursdays preferred.
- The aim is to keep meetings concise, and worth everyone's time.

4. Road Update

Claudia presented the road update.

China Camp Road

- unsealed section has been completed
- some minor damage to be rectified.
- Wujal Wujal section contract expected to be awarded in February with works commencing in May 2026 – weather permitting.

Zig Zag Road

- expected completion – end February 2026 (weather permitting).

Degarra Roads

Grading for Degarra roads will commence after Easter, weather dependant.

Concrete Roads

- all works completed and 12 months defects liability period has commenced.

Evergreen Road (access road)

- not under the current DRFA Program –will be included in routine maintenance - grading will commence after Easter
- the access road has been added to Council’s internal road network; data scheduled to be submitted to QRA/QRT (state network) in Nov 2026

Idriess Close

- unsealed road works substantially completed
- completion expected end Feb 2026.

Cape Trib Bloomfield Road

Sealed Road Package

- QRA Submission Assessment received, approving works near Woobadda and Rykers Creek, to be delivered this dry season, as well as a reseal of sections of the CTBR.

Unsealed

- expected completion end February 2026 (weather permitting)

Landslips

- practical completion for all landslip work (except Noah Range[⊕] – April 2026.
- one overnight closure (4/02/2026)

Noah Range Landslip

- No changes to report. Completion - June 2026 – dry weather

Noah Bridge and Bypass

- Recently inspected with no structural issues identified; the causeway is currently holding up well.
- The temporary crossing has experienced damage on several occasions due to heavy rain and high flows.
- Open and closed notifications are sent to businesses and individuals who access the bypass. Contact Council to be added to the distribution list.
- The new bypass will be built after Easter for all vehicle access during the build of the bridge.

Betterment approved projects

- CTBR: Donovans section (joining the two concrete sections at the top).
- Noah’s Bridge approaches
- Collins Creek: Concreting of section impacted by the creek to provide additional resilience during wet weather.
- Lees Bridge Approaches
- Forest Creek Road: 2 coat seal of the sections of road
- Whyanbeel: 2 coat seal of the sections of road

- Betterment funding is a capped funding; therefore project scopes may be reduced if market pricing is over current budget estimates. Unlike REPA funding which is not capped.

Actions:

- Claudia to:
 - confirm chainages for Collins Creek
 - confirm section of Forest Creek to be sealed
 - bring causeway drawing to next meeting.

Works South of Daintree

Landslips

- Old Forest Road is completed.
- Chooks Ridge substantially completed.

Lees Bridge

- Completion date estimated to be May 2026

Taylor's Bridge

- Alignment has been amended to avoid damage to trees.
 - New design underway to suit new alignment.
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5. Daintree Ferry Projects

Ferry Replacement Project

- Birdon have provided Council with a "Transition-in Plan" in readiness for commencement on 1 July 2026.
- Concept design underway with the Naval Architect.
- Engagement with all current Entrada staff has been completed to support a smooth transition.

Landside Infrastructure Project

Indicative Timeline

February – March 2026

- Council working with Indigenous groups on Native Title Cultural Heritage Agreements
- Civil design drawings approved

April – May 2026

- Durack Civil (contractor) mobilisation on both the north and south side (site offices and laydown areas established)
- North-side traffic flow changes (staged and managed). Traffic management plans will be shared when available.
- Vegetation removal on the south & north side (May/June)

June – July 2026

- Early works commence
- Traffic Management setup

July – August 2026

- Subgrade excavations – preparation of the new road sub-surface
- Installation of larger culverts
- Embankment fill and ground treatments

September - October 2026

- Electrical conduits and underground services
- Road primer and sealing works
- Reseal of existing road
- Line marking, speed humps and signage
- Installation of boom gates and curtain gates

Mid-October 2026 – June 2027

- Demobilisation
- Works pause until maritime civil works commence mid-2027

Closures

- There will be a full closure in December 2027 for the installation of ramps, cables and the new ferry.
- Boat shuttle services (6am to 6pm) will be operated during this time and is the responsibility of Durack and Birdon as part of their contracts with Council.

Action:

- Council to undertake community engagement before going out to tender for a possible bus shuttle service.

6. Disaster Recovery Update

Crucial Links

- Undertake a bathymetry survey to determine access points north of the Daintree River for Resupply via sea routes. DETSI are surveying areas up to Wonga Beach and DSC is planning to extend this further north to of Daintree River.
- Boat Ramp Improvement & Access Investigation (Cooper Creek; Cow Bay; Cape Tribulation (Myall Creek) & Degarra.

North Queensland Resilience Program

- Bloomfield Valley Plan – a joint project between Douglas, Cook and Wujal Wujal Councils focused on coordinated disaster response planning for the Degarra/Bloomfield area.
- QRA – Far North Qld Flood Risk Management Program. 3 councils participating (Douglas, Cook and Wujal). Understand the flood risk & implement improvements to the way the floodplain is managed.
- Construction of a Resilience Meeting Hub in Degarra is progressing well, with investigations underway to secure an appropriate site.
- Retrofitting a Community Resilience Hub north of the Daintree – the old Diwan Medical Centre has been identified for repurposing. We're seeking community ideas on how the space could be used and what features would be most valuable to the community to increase disaster resilience.

Category D – Extraordinary Clean Up Funding

- Funding has been secured for Degarra, Upper Daintree, China Camp and Rivers–Bloomfield River, with project planning and implementation scoping now in progress.

Action:

- Provide further information on boat launching access on the northern side of the Daintree River crossing area for locals.
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7. Communication and Engagement

- The group was happy with the newsletter updates being emailed to the Daintree Mailing List and posted to Council's website.
- The group agreed that all updates and information relating to the Daintree Coast should be added to the newsletter including Roads, Ferry Projects and Disaster/Recovery info.

Action:

Reformat Daintree Coast Update (newsletter) to include all updates relating to that area.

8. Next Meeting

- Thursday 12 March 2026 (TBC)