

DAINTREE COAST

UPDATE

DOUGLAS
SHIRE COUNCIL

FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2026

UPDATES ON ROADS, DAINTREE FERRY AND DISASTER/RECOVERY PROJECTS

Reference Group Update

The Daintree Coast Community Reference Group met on Tuesday 10 February to discuss updates on roads, the Daintree Ferry projects and disaster recovery works. This newsletter provides a snapshot of the key updates.

ROAD UPDATES

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.

Idriess Close

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

ROAD CONDITIONS

Cape Tribulation Road is open to all vehicles through to just past Cape Trib Beach House. There are some weight restrictions.

- **Alexandra Range** – Maximum weight of vehicles 25 tonnes.
- **Noah Creek Bridge** has a 16 tonne load limit. Vehicles over 16 tonnes may use causeway.
- **Noah Creek Heavy Vehicle Causeway** Crossing is being maintained daily but is subject to tides greater than 2.5 metres and flooding. Load Limit is 25 tonnes.
- **Noah Range** – Open 24/7 under traffic control.

Cape Trib Bloomfield Rd – 4WD Only.

There are no weight or time restrictions, however the road is unsuitable for towing trailers, campervans or caravans.

China Camp Road open to 4WD vehicles only.

There is a detour in place for all vehicles to avoid the concrete paved section.

Ten Mile Road is open to 4WD vehicles only.

CREB Track – Closed. Check local weather conditions.

Zig Zag Road open to 4WD vehicles no weight limit.

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.

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 resealing sections of the CTBR.

Unsealed

- expected completion end February 2026 (weather permitting)

Landslips

- practical completion for all landslip work (except Noah Range0 – 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.
- A new bypass will be built after Easter for all vehicle access during the build of the bridge.

Approved Betterment Projects

- CTBR: Donovan's section: joining the two concrete sections at the top.
- Noah's Bridge approaches.
- Collins Creek: concreting section impacted by the creek to provide additional resilience during wet weather.
- Lee's Bridge approaches.
- Forest Creek Road: 2 coat seal of the sections of road.
- Whyanbeel: 2 coat seal of the sections of road.



Cape Trib Bloomfield Road - Photos: HEH Civil

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

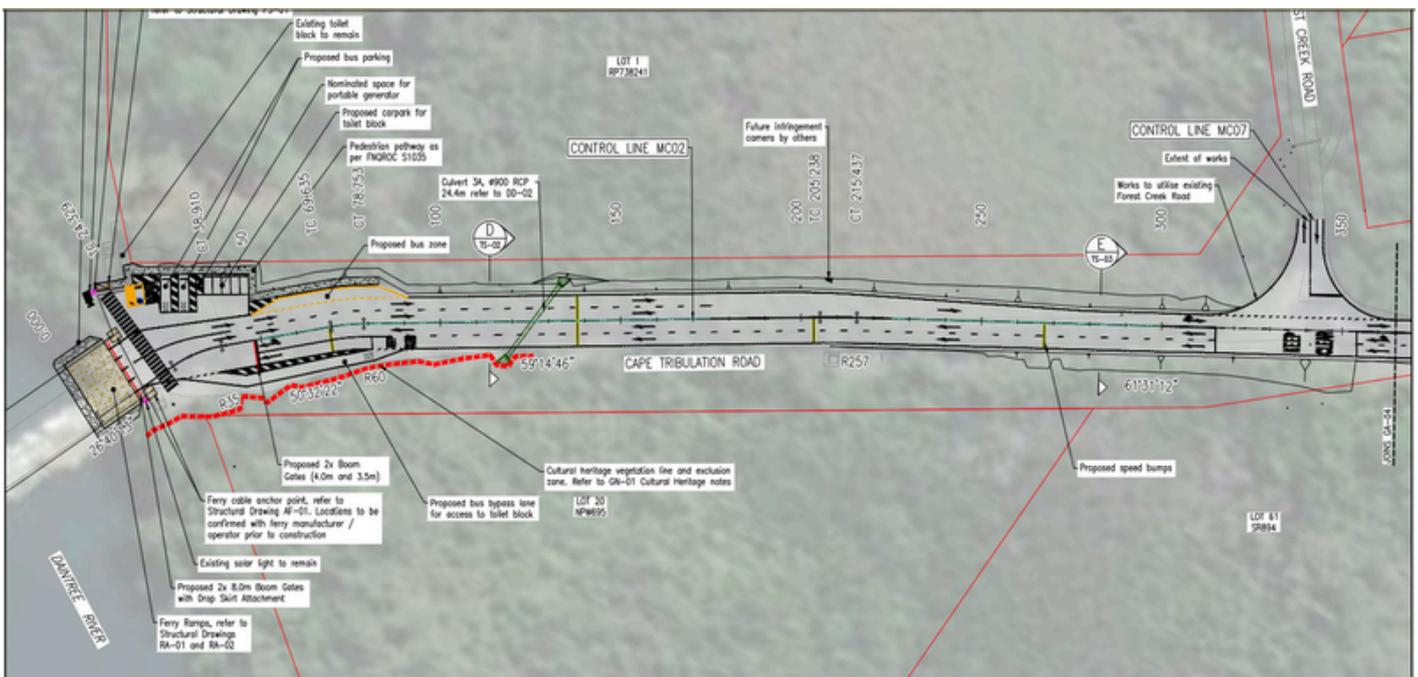
- Council working with Indigenous groups on Native Title Cultural Heritage Agreements
- Civil design drawings approved

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



Plan excerpt showing northern works area (clearer images will be placed on website project page when available)

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 for up to 14 days in December 2027 for the installation of ramps, cables and the new ferry.
- Shuttles will be provided from 6am – 6pm as part of the contract with Durack and Birdon
- Council will talk with the community before going out to tender for a potential bus shuttle service, to make sure any service reflects local needs.



DISASTER RECOVERY UPDATES

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 the Daintree River. Expect draft survey footprint soon.
- Boat Ramp Improvement & Access (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 flood mitigation and 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.