

Meeting #14

Date: Thursday 25 July 2024
Venue: Via Teams
Time: 10:15am – 10:45am

Attendees

- Abi Ralph (intermittent)
- Gaye Scott
- Jacklyn Kiernan
- Lawrence Mason
- Stephen Sponberg
- Robyn Guedes

Apologies

- Andy Hewetson
- Brett Grainger
- Claudia Brassard
- Chris Jones
- Cole Claxton

Road Update – North to South

Gaye presented updates compiled by Claudia Brassard

Banabilla Road and Idriess Close; Zig Zag; China Camp Road and 10 Mile.

- Damage assessments have been completed on Banabilla Road and Idriess Close in Degarra as well as China Camp Road, Zig Zag and 10 Mile.
- A submission has been lodged with Queensland Recovery Authority seeking \$5.5 million in funds under Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (REPA) program to complete repairs to these road.

Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road

- A damage assessment to identify permanent repairs required for Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road is still underway. Thus far ten additional landslips have been earmarked for attention.

Noah Range Landslip

- The design of the solution to remove the unstable land mass on Noah Range has been completed.
- Contract documents have been finalised and a tender will be released this week.
- The REPA submission has been lodged with Queensland Reconstruction Authority.
- The assessment by QRA and call for tenders is being done concurrently to expedite progress.
- Members asked where tenders would be released – e.g. via Vender panel. **GS/CB to report back**
- Negotiations on-going for the disposal of spoil from the landslip.

Noah Creek Crossing

- Parts of the temporary causeway upstream of the bridge were washed out due to heavy rain on 7 July.
- Repairs commenced 23 July and are expected to take 1½ weeks.
- Work involves pulling larger rocks back to the down stream face of the causeway and levelling the top.
- Six pipes will be installed to allow the movement of fish.
- Until such time as repairs are completed, the causeway will be closed to all traffic.
- An Operational Works (Temporary Culver Crossing) has been submitted to Council for the construction of a temporary sidetrack crossing of Noah Creek to allow all vehicles to access Cape Tribulation while a new bridge is constructed where the current bridge is located. The “temporary” crossing will need to remain in place for up to two years while the existing bridge is replaced.
- Tender documentation and funding submissions for the new bridge and the more robust causeway are underway.

Alexandra Range

- Soil nailing complete
- Benching and concreting occurring now. Occasionally, when pouring concrete, traffic is delayed over and above the usual wait times.
- Contractors are still on track to complete repairs at the three sites by the end of August.
- Testing at sites 4, 5 and 6 is underway. Council was unable to find anyone locally to deliver the testing reports before end of September. The search was extended and a rig has been brought up from Mackay to complete work by early August.
- Member asked about the option to do night works under lights to expedite the repairs. **CB to report back**

Unsealed Roads Contract

- Douglas Shire Council released two tenders 22 May, to repair sections of unsealed roads which were damaged.
- One package covers damaged areas of gravel roads south of the Daintree River and the other covers damaged areas of gravel road between the Daintree River and Cape Tribulation.
- The tenders closes 12 June 2024 and Council is hoping to award them this week.
- The value of the tenders is \$11.4 million and the repairs will be funded under the Commonwealth and State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Ferry Update

- Seven nights of dredging was done in July. The last dredge planned for 10 July was cancelled due to broken drive chain.
- The dredge material stockpile is very big, there was room for one more night which would have allowed dredge contractors to do another sweep and take out any lumps.
- This contributed to restricted loads during the low tides.
- Once the stockpile is cleared to move, it will be relocated to make way for another round of dredging.
- There are more low tides coming up in mid-August, and further dredging is scheduled prior to 17 August.
- The low tides impacted all big commercial boats in Port Douglas which were on tide restrictions.
- Lawrence asked if there was anything to report about a standardized approach when there is an unplanned ferry outage. With the last unplanned outage, a bus should have been sent to the river for schoolkids combined with calls to parents to bring students to the river and a passenger boat. The school bus company did not even know that the ferry was down. It is really quite concerning that there is no emergency plan.
- Gaye advised there was nothing to report. **CB to report back to the group.**

Signs on Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road

- Can we get an update on Give Way signs on Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road? **CB to report back**
- Can we arrange for a sign to be installed, on the south side of the Bloomfield River Bridge telling travellers the name of the road Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road, with Bloomfield Track in smaller letters underneath. The reasoning is that Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road is the correct name of the road, but the more recognisable name is Bloomfield Track. Residents of Degarra would not support a sign just with Bloomfield Track. **Gaye to report back to the group.**
- Can Council arrange for a welcome to Degarra sign, similar to welcome signs to Cow Bay, Diwan, and Cape Tribulation. The location would be in the vicinity of the Kuku Yalanji sign Dikarrba. **Gaye to report back to the group.**

Lees Bridge

- Lees Bridge, at the end of Douglas Creek Road, was washed away in February 2023. Funding for a replacement bridge has been approved.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 8 August 9am.

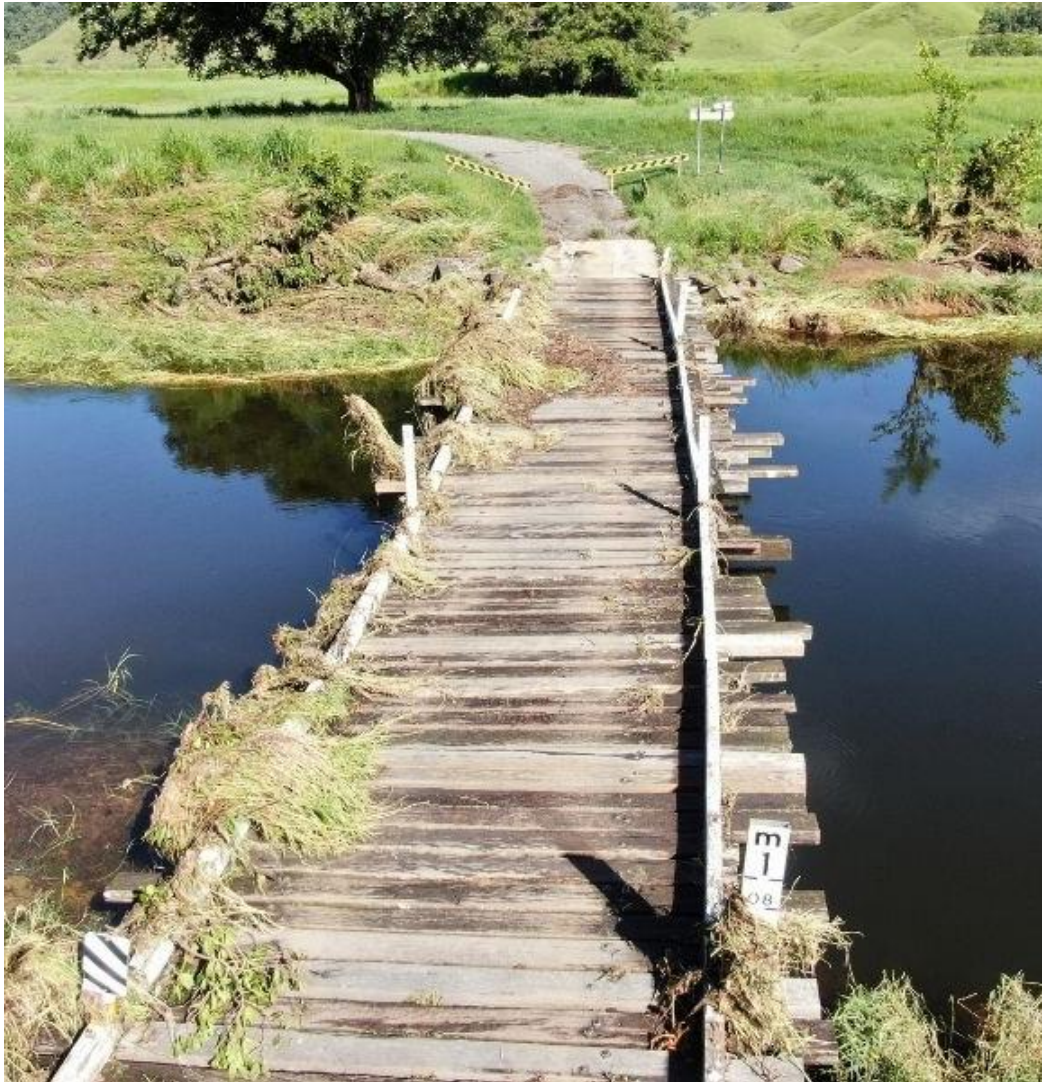
Noah Causeway



Alexandra Range



Now You See It!



Now You Don't

