

Meeting Notes

Date: Thursday 25 June 2026

Time: 11:30am – 12:45pm

Location: Microsoft Teams and Mackay Room (Council Administrative Offices)

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Welcome and apologies
 - Members acknowledged Robyn Geddes' resignation from the Community Reference Group and thanked her for her valuable contribution and commitment since joining the group.
 - Group agreed that we should send an invitation to the Degarra residents to gauge interest in filling the vacancy.
- Follow Up:
 - Send invitation to Degarra residents.

2. DRFA Road Network Update

2. Road Updates

- Alexandra Range
 - Tenders for the remaining two landslip sites are expected to be released at the end of July.
 - Both projects are relatively small and are expected to have minimal traffic impacts.
 - Works are anticipated to be completed by June 2027.
- Noah Land Slip
 - Overall progress is going well.
 - Following the removal of approximately four metres of material to expose the original road surface, a crack was identified in the roadway. Additional stabilisation works are required to ensure the long-term safety and stability of the site.
 - The area is currently undergoing geotechnical assessment and monitoring to determine the most appropriate treatment.
 - Revised completion is intended for December 2026.
 - In response to a pre-lodged question, members were advised that an additional lookout lane may be considered in the future, subject to funding availability, and relevant approvals.
- Cape Tribulation Road (including Rykers Road & Spurwood Road)
 - Spurwood Road landslip works are scheduled to commence in July.
 - Tenders for repairs to Rykers Road are expected to be released in July.
- Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road
 - Members were advised that the project remains on track for practical completion in July 2026.
 - Tenders for Woobadda Bridge repairs are expected to be released in July.

- Repairs to all remaining landslips are scheduled for completion in July 2026.
- Sites CB01, CB02, CB04, CB05, CB06, CB08, CB09 and CB10 have been completed.
- Degarra Roads
 - Banabilla, Idriess and Evergreen Roads have been awarded Practical Completion under the unsealed roads package.
 - Further damage incurred from 2026 activation is currently being picked up under a new submission
 - Members were advised that the road off Evergreen Road and the Esplanade in Degarra have been added to Council's mapping systems. Council's road dataset is submitted annually to the Queensland State Roads Department, with the next update scheduled for November 2026.
- China Camp Road
 - The contract for this section of road just past Wujal Wujal has been awarded.
 - Survey works have commenced.
 - Post meeting additional information: Traditional Owners are working with the contractor and a smoking ceremony was held prior to construction.
- Zig Zag
 - Contract has been awarded. Wet weather has held up works.
- CREB Track Update
 - Road has been cleared but it remains closed due to wet weather.
- Follow-up (Taken on Notice)
 - Confirm whether Rykers Bridge is included in the repair design and tender.
 - Investigate ongoing water flow into the Daintree Discovery Centre.
 - Members raised concerns that the clay/mud surface on recently graded roads (Cape Kimberly Road, Forest Creek Road and others) becomes slippery, unstable and potentially hazardous.
- 3. Noah Creek Bridge & Causeway**
 - Project Update
 - Public access remains prohibited during bridge construction for safety reasons.
 - The temporary bypass is expected to be completed by mid-July 2026.
 - Overall project completion remains on track for December 2026.
 - Causeway
 - Nine of the ten large CSP pipes have been installed and backfilled at the time of the meeting.
 - Approximately 75% of the rock bags have been prepared for installation (at the time of the meeting).
 - Bridge
 - Bridge component assembly has commenced in Mossman.

- Pressure cleaning identified minor cracks and previous repairs requiring further engineering assessment.
- Questions & Responses
 - Members asked about insurance implications for rental vehicles and buses using the bypass. It was confirmed that no access issues are anticipated, with the bypass designed for all vehicle types.
 - Members asked about recent high tides reaching the bypass. Members were advised the bypass has been constructed above Highest Astronomical Tide (HAT) level and overtopping during extreme events has been allowed for in the design.
- Follow-up (Taken on Notice)
 - Provide information on contingency arrangements should the bypass become impassable during flooding.

3. Daintree Ferry Replacement Project Update

- Project Update
 - Birdon assume responsibility for ferry operations from 1 July.
 - The keel laying ceremony was held on 18 June.
 - Stage 2 design drawings have been reviewed by Council, with only minor comments identified.
 - Birdon has completed a stocktake of spare parts with Entrada and Council to support future maintenance.
- Questions & Responses
 - Members asked what improvements have been made following the previous ferry breakaway incident. Members were advised that new tiger ropes have been installed and an improved securing system will be worked on with the new ferry operator before the next wet season.
 - Members asked whether a date has been confirmed for the planned ferry closure in December 2027. Members were advised that no date has been confirmed. Birdon will provide at least six months' notice before the temporary closure once the delivery schedule is finalised.
- Follow-up (Taken on Notice)
 - What is proposed for the existing ferry once the new vessel is commissioned?
 - What were the root causes of the ferry being dislodged during the 29U event?
 - Consider additional emergency preparedness training for ferry staff.

4. Daintree Ferry Landside Infrastructure Project

- Project Update
 - Vegetation removal on the northern side has been completed.
 - Temporary single-lane traffic management has been removed.
 - Excavation works are nearing completion, with rock placement underway.
 - Culvert replacement works are scheduled between 23 June and 2 July.
 - Existing culverts are being replaced due to the end of their service life.

- Rock and fill placement continue on both approaches.
- The southern priority lane remains temporarily closed for trench works.
- The project remains on track for completion by the end of October.
- Questions & Responses
 - Members suggested installing signage explaining the project and long-term benefits. Members were advised that interpretive signage has been ordered and will be installed on both sides of the river.
- Follow-up (Taken on Notice)
 - Confirm whether the new ferry ramp pylons will include navigation lighting.

5. Disaster Management & Recovery Update

- Crucial Links
 - Bathymetry survey procurement underway this week to assess potential sea resupply access points north of the Daintree River.
 - Site inspections completed at several locations with the Mayor, State Member and Chief Engineer.
 - Feasibility investigations continuing for access improvements at Cooper Creek, Cow Bay, Cape Tribulation (Myall Creek) and Degarra.
- Environmental & Clean-Up Works
 - Bloomfield River rubbish survey completed.
 - Daintree River rubbish survey scheduled within the next two weeks.
 - River rubbish removal works planned for July.
 - Dead tree removal in Degarra scheduled for July.
 - Ground-based rubbish removal works in Degarra planned to commence in August.
- Emergency Boat Ramp at Daintree River Northern Bank
 - Strong support from the community expressed for an all-weather emergency boat ramp north of the Daintree River as a key resilience project.
 - Passenger ferry/tour operator landing area upgrades and emergency boat ramp access are proposed within the Crucial Access Links project scope.
 - Facilities would be for emergency use and resilience purposes, not a public boat ramp.
- Cow Bay Boat Launch Access
 - Members were advised restoration of boat launching through the reserve is not included within the Disaster Recovery program.
 - Council's Public Spaces team is working towards restoring functionality, subject to approvals.
 - Longer-term improvements may be considered under the Crucial Access Links project.
- Questions and Responses
 - Question: Does the Daintree River clean-up include removal of the half-sunken vessel? Response: Yes. The clean-up scope includes the removal of two vessels, an

old pontoon and the remains of the TMR pontoon downstream. These will be managed under a separate removal scope.

- Question: Why isn't the proposed northern ferry terminal ramp intended for public boat launching? Response: A public boat ramp would need to be designed, maintained and funded by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR). The ferry precinct also does not have sufficient parking capacity to safely accommodate public boat launching while the ferry is operating.

6. Other Business

- Daintree Economic Impact Assessment
 - Members were provided with an overview of the economic impact assessment undertaken following the TL29U ferry outage (infographic attached).
 - The assessment supported successful applications for hardship assistance, recovery loans and business recovery grants.
 - Some information remains commercial-in-confidence.
 - Council acknowledged the contribution of residents and businesses who participated.
- Douglas Card Initiative
 - Members requested an update on the Douglas Card campaign.
 - A total of 395 Douglas Cards were issued between 28 April and 31 May 2026, with the cards used 603 times during May.
 - Ferry staff have observed the cards being used by a mixture of residents, contractors, workers and visitors.
 - The initiative provided an additional mechanism to support travel north of the river.

7. Next Meeting

Members agreed to keep the meetings monthly. Date of the next meeting to be confirmed.