

Meeting Notes

Date: Thursday 27 August 2026

Time: 10:30am – 11:30am

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

1. Attendees

Deb Ruddell
Erin Simpson
Hari Boppudi
John Gray
Liza Dowling
Michael Hohoi-Graham
Nicola Learmond
Paul Hoyer
Peter Tonkes
Rob Latham

Apologies

Abi Ralph
Ashley Holliday
Andy Heweston
Bell Faber
Chris Jones
Cole Claxton
Deb Henderson-Ruddock
Denis Verri
Emily Baltrunas
Emma Tunnock
Gabriel Nucifora
Jackie Kiernan
Jason Heffernan
Merren Blockey
Owen Sellwood
Rhys Hughes
Steve Sponberg

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. DRFA Road Network Update

1. Road Updates

- Alexandra Range
 - The works on the two remaining landslip sites are anticipated to be completed by June 2027.
 - Tenders to be released in September as we are still waiting on survey and geotechnical testing.
- Cape Tribulation Road
 - Council's Civil team have advised that the potholes near Coconut Beach junction is being programmed for replacement
 - Timing TBA
- Cape Trib Bloomfield Road
 - Contractors will be onsite from Monday 31/08/2026 for safety related holding works from Rykers Rd to Degarra
 - Two teams will work simultaneously, one from the north and one from the south
- Noah Land Slip

- The preliminary design for additional stabilisation works after discovering the crack is complete; weather permitting, the specialised equipment will be mobilised, and works are scheduled to commence in late August.
- Contractors aim to have major work completed prior to the wet season.
- Revised completion is intended for June 2027.
- Spurwood Road
 - Works progressing well, estimated completion – mid September.
- China Camp Road
 - Works progressing well, estimated completion is March 2027.
- Degarra Roads
 - Submission was lodged with QRA in August for the additional damage to roads incurred from 2026 activation.

4. Noah Creek Bridge & Causeway

a. Project Update

- The temporary bypass opened on Monday 10 August 2026.
- Demolition of the bridge commenced on Friday 14 August and has now been removed entirely.
- The bypass is working well with no additional disruptions reported.
- Bridge opening for vehicles is planned for December 2026 and the project is expected to be completed before June 2027, including removal of the bypass and restoration of the area.
- Oversized pile-driving equipment is expected to be transported to Noah Creek
- TMR has approved transport along the Captain Cook Hwy, requiring an overnight closure of approximately two hours
- Approval to transport the equipment over the Alexandra Range is still being arranged
- The proposed transport window will need to align with suitable tide levels, daylight hours and generally lower ferry traffic.
- Residents will be notified once arrangements are confirmed

5. Other DRFA Projects

a. Lees Bridge

- Will be completed by mid-September.

b. Taylor's Bridge

- Due for completion in March 2027

6. Daintree Ferry Replacement Project Update

a. Project Update

- Construction of the new Daintree River ferry is progressing well and remains on schedule for delivery at the end of 2027.
- Updates on the build progress can be followed on Birdon's website: [Daintree River Ferry | Design, Build and Operate | Birdon](#)
- A new manager will start in 2 weeks.

b. Pre-lodged Question:

- Will concessional ferry cards be available to purchase from Birdon in 2027?
At this stage concession cards will not be available direct from Birdon. It would involve providing names and addresses of eligible people to a 3rd party which is not consistent with Council's privacy policy.
- What criteria will be used to close the ferry before a forecast flood? Can the closure criteria be shared publicly to help residents prepare, noting that conditions can change?
- *Birdon are currently developing a flood preparedness plan, drawing on experience from their other marine operations. Once the plan is finalised, Birdon and Council will discuss how key trigger points can be shared with the community to help people make more informed travel decisions.*

7. Daintree Ferry Landside Infrastructure Project

a. Completed this swing – last day today

- Earthworks completed on the Southern Side
- Approximately 7,480 tonnes of rock imported to date
- Drainage structures and associated drains nearing completion
- Unsuitable material removed from the northern side and replaced with rock to create a stable foundation
- Southern road surface built and strengthened in preparation for prime sealing, scheduled to begin on 29 August

b. Coming up next swing – from Tuesday 1 September:

- Continue rock placement on the northern side
- Complete the northern carpark area
- Increased machinery and crews will be working on the northern side, requiring additional traffic control – causing minor delays
- Install underground power and communications for the new ticket booths and boom gates on the southern side
- Prepare the sites for relocation of the ticket booths
- Traffic management will move to past Forest Creek Road next week for up to a month. Travellers are advised that this adds just over 70 seconds to the time to get to the ferry.

c. Revegetation and Landscaping:

- Project Manager is meeting with the Rainforest Foundation to discuss the revegetation of the sites with 1600 trees to replace the 200 trees that were taken for the project.

d. Traffic management compliance

- The traffic management company and Durack reported that some community members and tourism operators have not been following traffic management directions. This behaviour is unlawful and has created dangerous situations for workers and other road users.
- Reference group members were asked to share with family, friends, neighbours and staff that this behaviour is unacceptable. Any concerns or complaints should be directed to Council and not taken out on staff working onsite.

e. MSQ – Replacement of boat ramp floating walkway

- Maritime Safety Queensland will soon begin rebuilding the floating walkway at the Lower Daintree Public Boat Ramp.
- Works are expected to begin in late August and be completed by December 2026.
- Durack will relocate the rock stockpile to the area beyond the new footpath, allowing it to be accessed without vehicles travelling through the carpark. This will improve safety for boat ramp users and tourists. Protective boards will be placed over the footpath to prevent damage.

8. Disaster Management & Recovery Updatea. Crucial Links

- Bathymetry survey completed
- Consultant engaged for preliminary review and advice on sea resupply points including Kulki Beach, Noah Creek river mouth area and Cow Bay.

b. Environmental & Clean-Up Works

- Bloomfield River and Daintree River rubbish survey completed. Contractor engaged to remove the surveyed rubbish and Debris and expected to mobilise in October.
- River rubbish removal works in the Daintree River: large items removal (boats, pontoons, tanks etc) has been completed.
- Dead tree removal in Degarra has been completed.
- Ground-based rubbish removal works in Degarra planned to commence in October/November.

c. Cow Bay Boat Launch Access

- Long-term access improvements may be considered through the Crucial Access Links project. This is also being investigated as part of the current assessment.

d. Degarra Meeting Hub

- Community meeting is taking place on Saturday 29 August 10:30am Ayton Tin Shed.

9. Other Business

10. Next Meeting

Thursday 27 August 2026 at 10:00am (tentative).