

**AND THE
SURVEY
SAYS...**

Corporate Plan Survey Results

Douglas Shire Council

May 2019

| Introduction

We invited residents to complete a survey to provide their thoughts on the Shire's challenges and what they thought should be Council's top priorities for the coming five years.

Postcards were letterbox dropped to most households in the shire in March and April 2019. Just over 5,000 ratepayers received an email in March, inviting them to look out for the post card in the post, as well as giving them a link to do the survey online.

The intention was to seek comment from ratepayers as well as those living and renting in the community.

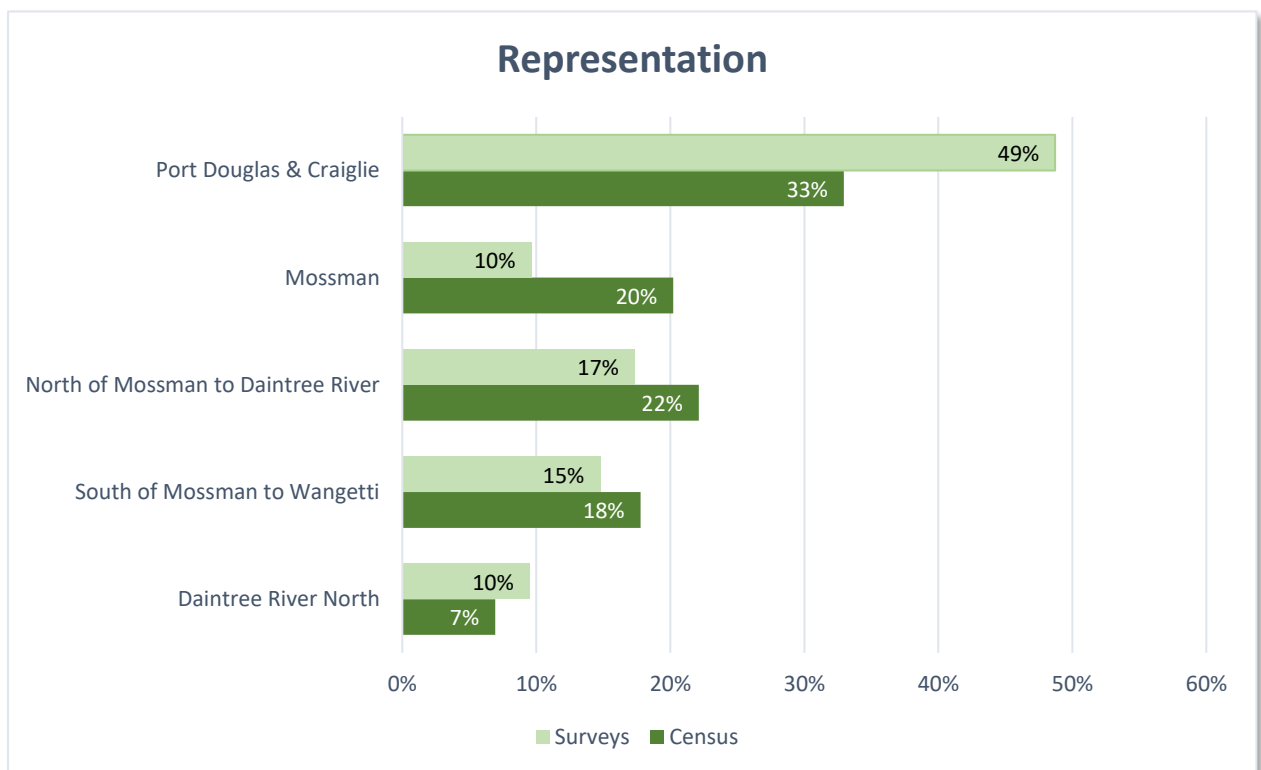
| Response Rate

We received 813 responses. Just over half the surveys—446 were completed online and 367 people completed the survey post card and mailed it back.

Douglas Shire has a population of 11,700 with 9,200 aged 18 years or over, representing a response rate of 8.7%. By research standards, this is a robust sample.

Respondents came from across the shire, from Wangetti to China Camp and [Appendix One](#) has a full list of responses by locality. Figure one below compares the proportion of population as per 2016 census and with proportion of survey respondents.

Figure One – Geographical spread of Respondents vs Census Population.



| \$100 Question

Roads emerged as the most important area for expenditure across the shire tallying \$14.65 out of \$100.

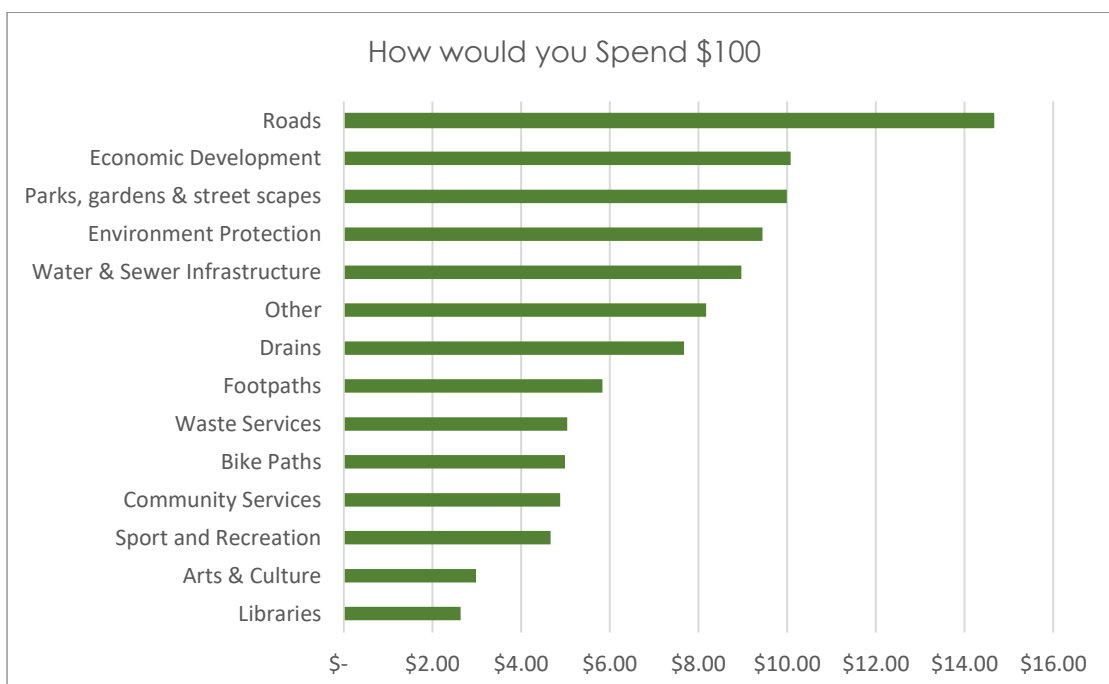
The next three areas were economic development, parks, gardens & streetscapes, and environment protection.

Table One – Allocation of \$100

AREA OF SPEND	ALLOCATION FROM \$100
Roads	\$ 14.65
Economic Development	\$ 10.08
Parks, gardens & street scapes	\$ 9.99
Environment Protection	\$ 9.44
Water & Sewer Infrastructure	\$ 8.97
Other*	\$ 8.17
Drains	\$ 7.68
Footpaths	\$ 5.83
Waste Services	\$ 5.04
Bike Paths	\$ 4.99
Community Services	\$ 4.88
Sport and Recreation	\$ 4.66
Arts & Culture	\$ 2.98
Libraries	\$ 2.63
Total	\$ 100.00

*Refer to [Appendix Eight](#) for list of Other areas to spend rates.

Figure Two – Graph of Allocation of \$100



Apart from Port Douglas with 379 responses, it is not statistically accurate to breakdown responses by individual locations, but it is possible to group locations to discover if there are any significant variations in priorities in different areas across the shire.

- In Port Douglas, parks, gardens and streetscapes were the top priority, followed by economic development and then roads.
- In Mossman, it was roads, followed by environment protection, water & sewer infrastructure and economic development.
- For respondents living south of Mossman to Wangetti, after roads, their priority was environment protection, then water and sewer infrastructure.
- For respondents living north of Mossman through to Daintree Village, their three top priorities were roads, environment protection, followed by parks, gardens and streets.
- Roads was the undisputed priority for residents living north of the Daintree River. Economic development and environment protection were a distant second and third respectively.
- For Cooya respondents, footpaths emerged as a much high priority (second to roads) compared to residents elsewhere

Table Two – Allocation of \$100 by locality

AREA OF SPEND	ALL [813]	PORT DOUGLAS [379]	SOUTH [115]	NORTH [135]	MOSSMAN [75]	NORTH OF DAINTREE RIVER [74]	COOYA [47]
Roads	\$ 16.14	\$ 10.45	\$ 17.58	\$ 19.45	\$ 14.85	\$ 37.33	\$ 14.65
Parks, gardens & street scapes	\$ 10.87	\$ 13.23	\$ 10.03	\$ 10.86	\$ 7.38	\$ 4.58	\$ 10.71
Economic Development	\$ 10.70	\$ 11.39	\$ 9.78	\$ 9.12	\$ 12.44	\$ 12.52	\$ 9.97
Environment Protection	\$ 10.35	\$ 9.67	\$ 10.36	\$ 13.26	\$ 8.13	\$ 11.34	\$ 5.74
Water & Sewer Infrastructure	\$ 9.78	\$ 9.87	\$ 10.26	\$ 8.51	\$ 13.70	\$ 5.45	\$ 9.31
Drains	\$ 8.45	\$ 10.32	\$ 6.15	\$ 6.01	\$ 5.49	\$ 6.31	\$ 6.08
Footpaths	\$ 6.39	\$ 7.69	\$ 8.55	\$ 4.50	\$ 5.08	\$ 1.95	\$ 13.79
Bike Paths	\$ 5.50	\$ 6.40	\$ 5.46	\$ 5.39	\$ 5.74	\$ 1.41	\$ 9.02
Community Services	\$ 5.34	\$ 4.72	\$ 4.78	\$ 5.92	\$ 7.16	\$ 6.01	\$ 3.03
Waste Services	\$ 5.30	\$ 5.64	\$ 5.10	\$ 5.66	\$ 4.93	\$ 4.66	\$ 4.48
Sport and Recreation	\$ 5.05	\$ 4.74	\$ 6.36	\$ 5.52	\$ 6.23	\$ 2.63	\$ 9.51
Arts & Culture	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.50	\$ 3.00	\$ 2.27	\$ 4.82	\$ 2.39	\$ 2.08
Libraries	\$ 2.88	\$ 2.37	\$ 2.59	\$ 3.55	\$ 4.05	\$ 3.43	\$ 1.63

Challenges and Priorities

The first survey question asked people what they believed were Douglas Shire's top three challenges and there were 2,135 responses from the 813 respondents. The second survey question asked people what they thought Council's top three priorities should be and there were 2,007 responses.

The 4,142 responses were categorised and the top 20 most frequently mentioned topics are listed in Table Two.

After categorising all responses, it is clear that tourism is the top priority for residents. It was mentioned by 271 people. Many in the community recognise tourism drives the economy – which was mentioned by 210 respondents. Many mentioned that the Great Barrier Reef and Daintree Rainforest underpin tourism, hence the importance of environmental protection mentioned by 189 people.

Roads, road maintenance was mentioned by 237 respondents – making it the second most frequently mentioned by respondents.

What 155 respondents told us is that Council needs to work harder on the presentation of our shire, for the benefit of both visitors and residents. They want better maintenance of garden beds and more colourful tropical plants – to reflect our tropical environment. They want tidy towns, clean streets and beaches, our roads sides mowed and our parks mowed and cared for.

Table Three – Challenges & Priorities

	Challenges & Priorities	No.	%
1	Tourism	271	33.4%
2	Roads	237	29.2%
3	Economy	210	25.9%
4	Environmental Protection	189	23.3%
5	Presentation of the Shire	155	19.1%
6	Water	149	18.4%
7	Rates	140	17.3%
8	Infrastructure	116	14.3%
9	Daintree Topics	96	11.8%
10	Development	84	10.4%
11	Lagoon/Water Park	76	9.4%
12	Community Infrastructure	75	9.2%
13	Drains	67	8.3%
14	Waste	64	7.9%
15	Marina/Crystal brook	54	6.7%
16	Community Engagement	54	6.7%
17	Weather	53	6.5%
18	Efficiency of Council	52	6.4%
19	Crocodiles	45	5.5%
20	Community Services	43	5.3%

1 Tourism – 33.4%

Douglas Shire's reliance on tourism was emphasised by the community with one third of respondents listing it as being one of their top three challenges for the Shire and/or one of the top three priorities for Council. Almost half the respondents (47%) in Port Douglas mentioned tourism.

"The whole area is alive because of tourism - support it - improve maintenance of Four Mile Beach and nearby infrastructure/amenities."

Challenges

Challenges facing the tourism industry mentioned by respondents included:

- Crocodile management which was mentioned by around 6% of respondents. Some suggesting a crocodile management plan, others the removal of crocodiles from beaches, others suggested culling and a few wanted crocodiles eliminated.
- Bad press - respondents mentioned adverse publicity, primarily around inaccurate weather reports down south, but also around crocodiles *"stop crocodile scaremongering"* and stingers.
- Seasonality of the tourism trade was seen as a challenge. is- wet season; selling the area to the visitors during cyclone season; year round business sustainability
- Keeping the shire relevant in a demanding tourism environment

Priorities

Respondents wanted Council to prioritise destination marketing to either maintain tourism numbers, or grow the sector. Many also felt the Shire needed new infrastructure or better maintenance of existing infrastructure, to make the Shire more attractive to support world class eco-tourism growth opportunities.

The Crystalbrook Marina development was mentioned by 7% of respondents who viewed this project as a key economic driver. Most urged Council to approve the development and "make it happen" as it means jobs and new tourists. There were a handful of respondents who urged careful management of the project to ensure compliance with height limitations and environmental aspects, as well minimising inconvenience to existing businesses.

"The Marina and surrounds development & improvement needs to happen be approved by Council. New development means jobs & new tourists."

"Do everything possible to secure the new development at the Marina. Port Douglas is getting old and dated. We need to attract more tourism to Port Douglas."

While most comments focussed on the importance of approving the Crystalbrook Marina development, there were a few voices urging careful management to ensure compliance with height limitations and environmental aspects.

Full comments are shown in [Appendix Two](#).

2 Roads – 29.2%

Around 29% of respondents said roads should be a priority for Council.

As was reflected in the allocation of funds, respondents outside the Port Douglas area saw this as a higher priority. Just 19% of people in Port Douglas mentioned roads, compared to 52% of those living north of the Daintree River.

Generally respondents called for better maintenance, more timely repairs and the management of roadside vegetation to trim or remove trees likely to fall and either block roads or cause injury. Others called for upgrades, primarily the sealing of dirt roads and flood proofing of roads, bridges and causeways. A sample of comments is shown below.

Maintenance

- The roads in Port are terrible
- Damaged roads
- Fix pot holes
- Fixing roads
- Fixing roads, pavements, etc. (e.g. Warner St)
- Improve Footpaths and Roads
- Good Road service
- Maintaining roads, parks etc.
- Road condition
- Road maintenance and repairs

Bloomfield Track

- Improving safety on the Bloomfield Track.
- Many accidents occur on the Bloomfield Track due to loose gravel and slippery clay causing vehicles to slip and slide. Sealing would decrease these accidents.
- Sealing the Bloomfield Track to stop mud and dust polluting world heritage environments.

Flooding

- Roads and Bridges during wet weather
- Sorting out roads for easy access especially during wet
- Improve access on major and minor roads during periods of flooding
- Improving our road network so floods don't cut the shire every wet season
- Improving the safety and resilience of roads and roadways in flood prone areas

Sealing Roads

- Sealing roads / Sealing gravel roads in the Daintree
- Road sealing & maintenance
- Preventing run off of soil and dust onto inshore reefs north of Cape Tribulation.

Other

- Main roads upgrading to meet Australian safety standards (if insisting in not passing them to Main Roads)
- Safety in terms of roads
- Road network improvement
- Road system – Main Roads should have the maintenance of main roads so shire can focus on the other ones - e.g. Mossman to Cape Trib and Mossman to Daintree should be Main Roads responsibility
- Road to Cairns
- Roads being safe and maintained
- Roads, rates, rubbish

Specific Requests

- Install Speed bumps in Wharf Street hill area
- Repair road in Wharf Street where seven residents pay approx. \$300,000 in rates
- Mowbray Street road and gutters
- Fixing roads, pavements etc. (e.g. Warner Street)
- Repair Wharf Street

3 Economy/Jobs – 25.9%

The survey results indicated the economy is top of mind for around one in four people living in the shire.

“Ensuring opportunities and prosperity in line with the rest of the country. Businesses should not be closing unnecessarily. Our property is worth less than when we purchased 11 years ago and yet outgoings have increased astronomically.”

A number of themes emerged from the comments.

- Attract more investment into the area
- Communications - High speed internet throughout region
- Develop and implement strategies to encourage growth of businesses not dependent of sugar or tourism
- Development – perceived lack of development approvals; allow development to create jobs
- Economic indicators cited included business closures, empty shops, no increase in property value
- Projects which create employment/jobs
- Support Locals and Local Businesses
- Talking to/work with business sector to improve economy

As mentioned in the previous section, Crystalbrook Marina is viewed by many as an important development for the Shire and so too is the continued operation of the Mossman Mill which was mentioned by 4% of respondents. Comments in the main fully supported Council working with, and advocating for the retention of, and further examination of diversification of the mill to focus on more renewable and sustainable products.

There were a few dissenting voices. Two people mentioned mill pollution [airborne particulates] and one person said that sugar cane and milling are unprofitable industries and cannot contribute to future growth and did not want money spent on “follies like the mill”.

Extended sample of comments is in [Appendix Three](#).

4 Environment – 23.3%

Protection of the Great Barrier Reef and Daintree Rainforest was top of mind for many, some mentioned the reef, others the rainforest, many both.

“How the environment not being protected and cared for properly is affecting tourism.”

“Protection of Reef and Daintree Rainforest”

The Great Barrier Reef is recognised as the Shire's greatest asset and its protection is paramount.

Apart from general comments, other environmental priorities specifically mentioned were:

- Feral animals with respondents calling for better control of feral pigs, minor birds and wild dogs.
- Weed treatment and control comments included using weed steaming to reduce use of chemicals, no toxic pesticides,
- Moving towards a carbon neutral existence,
- Reduction of run-off ;dust from unsealed roads damaging rainforest, birdlife and water quality; run-off into the GBR lagoon, sediment runoff
- Protection of foreshore vegetation
- Recycling and waste management initiatives
- Response to Climate Change and/or Global Warning was mentioned by 6% of respondents.

Extended sample of comments is in [Appendix Seven](#).

5 Presentation of the Shire – 19%

Respondents mentioned the poor appearance of garden beds, nature strips, street scapes, and parks. Many wanted Council to prioritise maintenance of gardens, roadside vegetation, and the planting of more trees and colourful shrubs – to reflect our tropical environment, and keep the area attractive for both residents and visitors.

Respondents wanted Council to work harder on improving visual presentation of the Shire generally. Beautification of the shire, and Port Douglas in particular emerged as a common themes. Cleanliness and tidiness were also words written frequently.

Macrossan Street was mentioned by 27 people (3%). A sample of comments:

- Smarten Macrossan Street
- Maintaining and advancing the greening of the shire, particularly Macrossan Street.
- Macrossan Street needs to be improved and made more appealing like the main street at Noosa which has improved out of sight in the last years.
- Clean up Macrossan Street, it's a total disgrace
- Re-invigorate Macrossan Street - solar lights
- Improve visual appeal of Port Douglas - common sense items - signage, pedestrian walkways, streets around Macrossan St are in shocking condition

Freshen Up/Rejuvenate

- Get everyone on board freshen up the place. Mossman looks so tired and worn out as I am sure most of the other areas are also.
- Make residents responsible for their unkempt properties
- All businesses to have appropriate presentation
- Improving look of Douglas shire

Extended sample of comments is in [Appendix Six](#).

6 Water – 18.4%

Comments about water covered quality, purity, restrictions, certainty of supply, storage and pressure.

“Bring back some free water allowance to ensure our green shire stays green all year and does not look like some old deserted place.”

Quality

- Water - clean and pure
- Water quality
- Clean water
- Improving clean water supply

Purity

- Too much chlorine in tap water
- Reinstate microfiltration system electronic water main
- Not paying a one off fee again – didn't work for filtrated water DID IT

Water Restrictions

- Water restrictions
- Provide water supply year round with no restrictions

Water Supply

- Water supply
- Constant water supply
- Reliable supply of quality water to all the shire
- Drought proofing
- Storm water retention/ harvesting
- Water security
- Water storage and constant supply
- Water supply
- Increased water sources and storage

Water Storage

- Improve infrastructure including water storage
- Increased fresh water storage
- Increase water storage capacity instead of it going to sea

Pressure

- Water Storage and Pressure

7 Rates 17.3%

Rates were mentioned by 17.3% of respondents, unsurprisingly most respondents calling for a reduction in rates, keeping rates as low as possible, capping rate increases or keeping rate rises as low as possible.

A handful of people mentioned an equitable rating formula, and similar number stressed the importance of providing ratepayers with value for money.

A few respondents commented on how rates were spent throughout the region. Some felt they were missing out or not getting their fair share but there was no clear pattern.

Port Douglas is favoured

- Rate revenue spent rurally not just town projects
- Update/maintain all roads (not just Port Douglas)
- Help surrounding areas not just Port Douglas

Port Douglas is missing out

- Port Douglas is the Gateway (and major rates contributor) to the region it receives only token beautification; funding while Mossman seems to get priority
- Lack of spending in Port Douglas

Spend Fairly Across the Shire

- Being seen to be fair across the whole Shire
- To spend our rates fairly across the shire
- But not just being "seen" to be fair across the Shire, being sure to actually be as fair as possible.
- Look after regular people, not just the rich
- Equality for rate payers across the whole shire
- Geographically balanced budget

8 Infrastructure 14.3%

As a general rule, respondents simply wrote infrastructure as a Council priority – without specifying an area such as roads, drainage, sewerage, footpaths, community, sport and recreation, etc.

A sample of comments are shown below:

- Lack of maintenance/development of infrastructure - roads, walkways, signs, parks, beach amenities
- Aging amenities / Ageing Infrastructure
- Suitable infrastructure - updated
- Raise more state & federal funding for infrastructure
- Maintaining physical assets
- Improve footpaths and roads
- Footpath creations, not huge concrete slabs, just good solid pathways that enable wheel chairs and the elderly to get around feeling safe and secure
- Upgrading/cleaning cycle pathways
- Strategically planning and delivering future proof infrastructure
- More infrastructure i.e. work in the Douglas shire
- Asset management
- Building facilities for locals
- Create better and attractive infrastructure
- Maintaining Infrastructure (Road, Drainage, Sewerage)

9 Daintree 11.8%

Around 11.8% of respondents – 97, mentioned aspects related to the Daintree. And it was not just those living in the Daintree region – 40 resided elsewhere in the shire.

Improving ferry services and a bridge over the river were mentioned by a few. This was covered thoroughly by dedicated consultation in October 2018 which found very few people [5%] proposed the ferry be replaced with a bridge and half of these said a bridge should only be an option if the ferry operations could not be improved.

Power in the Daintree was mentioned by around 10 respondents, requesting support and/or advocacy for power. A few respondents wanted Council to advocate for better mobile phone coverage and rubbish removal north of Daintree River.

Power in Daintree

- Proactive in facilitating community Daintree power
- Power over the Daintree River
- Power over the river and a bridge will save lives
- Provide support for grid power,
- Mains power north of the river

Advocacy Role

- Advocating electricity and communications north Daintree
- Becoming advocates for key issues north of the River
- Understanding and advocating for major issues north of the River-- Tech Communications, visitor access (ferry) and lack of sustainable mini-grid power
- Looking into supporting locals north of the river (helping to form rebate scheme for alternative power)

Development in Daintree

- Community development north of the river
- Community facilities north of the river
- A non-DSSG (*Douglas Shire Sustainability Group*) non Berwick Community Plan for Daintree
- Daintree infrastructure
- Services north of the river

No Development in Daintree

- Daintree protection, NO BRIDGE
- No power/bridge to the Daintree - Save the Daintree
- No Daintree Development

Other

- Prevention of landslides on Cape Tribulation Road
- Daintree Gateway / Gateway to the Daintree is embarrassing
- Management of Daintree coast

10 Development – 10.4%

- Containing development
- Development of new buildings
- Development north of Port Douglas
- Sustainable growth, limit population explosions
- Planning for population growth
- Stop further developments if possible

Appendix One – Place of Residents of Respondents

Locality	%	No.
Port Douglas	39.61%	322
Mossman	8.98%	73
Craiglie	7.01%	57
Cooya Beach	5.78%	47
Wonga	5.04%	41
Newell	2.95%	24
Forest Creek	2.34%	19
Miallo	2.21%	18
Diwan	2.21%	18
Cow Bay	1.97%	16
Shannonvale	1.97%	16
Mowbray	1.85%	15
Whyanbeel	1.72%	14
Cape Tribulation	1.72%	14
Bonnie Doon	1.60%	13
Rocky Point	1.23%	10
Oak Beach	1.23%	10
Daintree Village	1.11%	9
Bamboo	1.11%	9
Killaloe	1.11%	9
Lower Daintree	0.62%	5
Finlayvale	0.37%	3
Kimberley	0.37%	3
Cassowary	0.37%	3
Mossman Gorge	0.25%	2
Degarra	0.25%	2
Wangetti	0.25%	2
Stewart Creek Valley	0.12%	1
Upper Daintree	0.12%	1
China Camp	0.12%	1
Thornton Beach	0.12%	1
No Response	4.31%	35
Total	100%	813

Locality - Grouped	No.	%
Port Douglas & Craiglie	379	47%
North of Mossman to Daintree River	135	17%
South of Mossman to Wangetti	115	14%
Mossman	75	9%
Daintree River North	74	9%
No Response	35	4%
Total	813	100%

| Appendix Two – Tourism Comments

Comments are divided into two broad areas:

1. Actions (what needs to be done)
2. Challenges

Actions

Destination Promotion / Marketing

- Acquiring tourism dollars for marketing
- Adequately funding tourism promotion
- Focus more on Cairns market to come to Port Douglas instead of just interstate and international i.e. transport options between Cairns and Port Douglas.
- Huge tourism campaign
- International marketing of destination
- Marketing the region / Port Douglas
- Marketing the region to boost tourism both domestic and international
- Marketing to get tourists to the area
- More intense tourism promotion
- Promote and support expansion of lifestyle and tourism options
- Promote the area
- Promoting and facilitating Tourism
- Promoting the region
- Promoting Tourism - it provides employment for the majority of our residents
- Promotion of the region
- Providing a tourism marketing fund of \$2 Million for 2019/20 budget year
- Providing a tourism marketing fund of \$2.5 Million for 2020/21 budget year
- Providing a tourism marketing fund of \$3 Million for 2021/22 budget year
- Re-Organise Tourism Organisation & Management as Commercially driven Operation
- Tourism - needs more advertising
- Tourism Marketing

Growing Tourism

- Boost tourism
- Keeping; growing visitors
- Increasing tourism
- Tourism growth
- Attracting more tourists
- Sustainable tourism growth
- Increase tourism
- Attracting more tourists to our shire - where is the Welcome to Port Douglas sign - every other tourist town in Queensland has one.
- Increasing Tourism
- To work with the state government to increase tourism to the area
- To attract more tourism interest
- Stimulating visitor numbers
- Target GDP growth for the Shire of 3% pa over the coming 5 Years

Maintaining / Supporting Tourism

- Bringing tourists to the area
- Bringing tourists to the area to keep small business going
- Business and tourism development
- Continuing to entice tourists & prospective residents up here.
- Driving tourism dollars and guests to our region
- Encourage domestic and international tourist visits
- Encouraging visitors
- How the environment not being protected and cared for properly is affecting tourism
- Improved access e.g. increase flights in and out of Cairns
- Increase local long-term resident numbers to support tourism and general business activity
- Keeping tourism (Port), agriculture (Mossman) and greens (over the river) (all happy (impossible))
- Maintain and expand tourism
- Maintaining tourism
- Maintaining tourism
- Maintaining tourism numbers / Maintaining tourism
- Successful sustainable tourism
- Support tourism and agriculture
- Supporting farming and tourism industries
- Supporting tourism (sensitively)
- Supporting TPDD
- Sustaining high quality tourism
- Tourism - we are stuck in the 80s - we will be left behind
- Tourism (more tourists more money)
- Tourism and the wet season.
- Tourism development
- Tourism industry
- Tourism/attracting visitors
- Welcome tourists

Eco-Tourism

- Prosperous eco-tourism
- Eco tourism, sustainable green
- Eco-friendly tourism practices
- Focus on improved infrastructure spending to support world class eco-tourism growth opportunities
- Eco tourism

Tourism Infrastructure

- Corporate event capacity in Port Douglas
- Expanding industries - more to do facilities/families/holiday makers
- Keeping the shire looking inviting - playgrounds, roads, footpaths, bike paths
Make Port Douglas the tourist town it deserves to be
- More tourist attractions
- New infrastructure to attract tourists and keep locals in the area
- Promote development ventures that create more diversity and options within the shire, e.g. tourism activities, small/boutique farms, more varied land size subdivisions etc.
- Sorting out the foreshore plan and providing a safe swim option i.e. a year-round netted area.

- The lack of development in the town is the major challenge and Council should encourage appropriate development to ensure that Port Douglas remains a top Australian tourist destination
- The whole area is alive because of tourism - support it - improve maintenance of Four Mile Beach and nearby infrastructure/amenities
- Tourism Infrastructure support
- Upgrade Macrossan Street; it brings a lot of \$s into the shire
- Upgrade shire tourist hot spots particular focus should be on Port Douglas Macrossan Street to marina connectivity
- Water front lagoon for tourists & locals. We spend a lot of time at the Lagoon in Cairns & I believe it's a tourist magnet.
- We need more drawcards, instagrammable locations and structures

Challenges

Year-Round Tourism

- Economy through low season
- Encourage tourism for entire year not just winter months
- Getting more tourists here in summer
- Improve year-round tourism
- Increase of population in winter
- Maintaining tourism year round
- Marketing the region all year
- Port Douglas Tourism and encouraging all year-round visitors
- Promoting and attracting tourists all year
- Promoting the area all year round
- Promoting tourism in our wet season
- Seasonal attraction
- Selling the area to tourists especially in cyclone season
- Tourism (Wet Season)
- Tourism all year round
- Tourism in the low season
- Try to advertise the Shire as a year round attraction
- Year round business sustainability

Fake News – how weather portrayed in Southern Media

- Adverse publicity (crocs and things)
- Bad media after North Queensland storms reducing tourist numbers
- Bad publicity - weather, crocs, stingers
- Combating fake news - media negativity
- Correct info to Australia about weather
- Correcting tainted media coverage from interstate outlets
- Educating media that FNQ does not get affected by the same weather as Townsville / Central QLD.
- False media reports
- Getting stories about Port Douglas down south without the only stories being about crocs, cyclones and the reef is dying.
- Negative weather reports
- Perception of FNQ Weather as publicised by media in southern states, detrimental to visitor numbers
- Tourism - Southern Media
- Tourism in the wet season, we need to bring tourists - not scare them off with cyclones.
- Weather bad media

Holiday Lets in Residential Areas

- Charge levy for holiday lets in residential areas
- Uphold town plan-no short lets Airbnb in residential areas / stop holiday letting in residential areas

Crocodile Management

- Appropriate crocodile management plan
- Croc free beaches and creeks
- Croc removal from beach
- Crocodile management
- Crocodiles have become abundant in the Port Douglas area and this is a huge off putting concern for tourists. Having been up there when a 1.5m one was pulled out of the stinger net enclosure 2 years ago I am really reluctant to swim at the beach.
- Deal with the crocodile population
- Eliminate crocodiles
- Ensuring safety for swimmers at Port Douglas beach, instead of fear of being taken by a crocodile
- Reduce crocs / Culling the crocodiles
- Thin out crocodiles

Falling Tourism

- Decrease in tourists is a challenge
- Poor tourism / Falling Tourism

Competition

- Being relevant in a demanding tourism environment
- Competing with cheaper markets
- Competition from other centres
- Ensuring we stay as a priority destination
- Keep Port Douglas relevant as an attractive tourism destination
- Maintaining our status as a top International destination
- Tourism in an increasingly competitive market

| Appendix Three – The Economy

Support Locals and Local Businesses

- Council projects should employ locals
- Work for trades in the Douglas shire
- Small business support and development
- Support and promotion for local business
- Development of local business
- Encourage all business to support each other. Buy locally!
- Council concessions for family owned businesses
- Give more opportunities for small local businesses
- Employ local contractors only
- Local jobs should be given to locals born and bred in the shire
- Employment for local indigenous staff in the DSC
- Keeping local indigenous staff employed in the DSC
- Promotion of local business
- Supporting small business and keeping locations occupied
- Support for small business
- Taking care of people in business
- Promotion small business

Mossman Mill

- Support the local mill
- Assisting the sugar cane industry, especially the Mill, where possible
- Keeping the mill viable
- Support the mill
- Mossman Mill viability
- Mossman industry. Converting the mill to renewables/sustainable
- Mossman Mill continued operation
- Further examination of diversification of the mill
- Better use of mill
- Mill survival
- Assistance in keeping the sugar mill running
- Future of Mossman Mill
- Mill survival

While most respondents wanted Council to support Mossman Mill in its endeavours to improve sustainability and diversify one or two people did not agree.

- Recognising that sugar cane and milling are unprofitable industries and cannot contribute to future growth
- Do not spend it on follies like the Mill!!!

Employment/Jobs

- Assisting employment growth in region
- More jobs
- Employment for residents
- Creating more jobs
- Projects which encourage employment
- Expanding employment opportunities
- job creation / create job opportunities
- Attracting a range of qualified trades people and professionals to live in Douglas Shire
- Boosting employment opportunities between the Daintree River and Bloomfield River.
- Foster employment opportunities for indigenous and youth

Investment

- Attract more investment into the area
- Getting private enterprise to invest in PD to create employment and rejuvenate the area
- Encourage the younger business owners out there to come to PD.
- Make it as easy as possible to attract foreign investment into the region
- Encouraging productive investment opportunities in the Shire
- Attracting people, \$\$\$ development and events

Talking to Business Sector

- Spending time talking to business owners
- Work with Business and Investors
- Understanding and dealing with needs of business generally
- Ask the businesses to guide you
- Working with Business to achieve longevity
- Working with local businesses to promote the town and improve foot traffic in the main streets of both port Douglas and Mossman

Communications

- High speed internet throughout region

Development / Growth

- Lack of development approvals
- Allow development of the region to create jobs
- Create growth thereby more jobs
- Need progress to keep up
- Council-imposed barriers to development
- Economic development opportunities, particularly the development of plans and policies for the use of Parks and Reserves
- Enabling careful, sustainable job-creating development
- Increasing sustainable economic development through green industries e.g. Eco tourism
- Facilitate commercial expansion
- Commercial/retail development
- Restoring economic growth to the Shire

Economic Indicators

- Business closures
- Less empty shops

Mossman Botanic Gardens

- Getting Botanic Gardens underway

Capital Works Projects

- Money for capital works

Diversification

- Diversifying the economy in a sustainable way.
- Business/economic diversity
- Diversify and expand industry in the Shire (mill, reef, rainforest, health, aged care)
- Lack of economic diversity/reliance on tourism industry
- Create and support new industry
- Diversification of farmland - no mill/no sugar cane
- Diversification in employment opportunities, there is very little outside of tourism and the cane industry
- Economic diversity
- Ensuring non tourist industry support is not ignored. Local industry sustainable growth

- Building resilience in terms of employment opportunities, the sugar industry is dying, climate change may have a significant impact on Tourism so we need to start planning for the future
- reviewing an alternative to income generation for the region that is not tourism focused

Other

- Sustainability in farming
- Cost of living
- Maintaining industry to a reasonable level
- Everything flows when businesses & workers have money
- Supporting work readiness of residents
- Encouraging more development & jobs
- Streamlining the red tape
- Exorbitant rent for shop owners
- Get proper advice on economic development to complement area and environment
- Bringing in more business

| Appendix Four - Lagoon/Waterpark in Port Douglas

- Build a lagoon; user friendly waterfront
- Development of swimming lagoon at Reynolds Park
- Development of a water park in Pt Douglas perfect for families and an activity that can run all year round.
- A beach pool at opposite end to beach
- Port Douglas has no municipal pool. Locals use Oaks Lagoon lap pool and gym for a membership fee. But Oaks is selling. I want Council to buy the gym and pool facility. There is also a large piece of vacant land and tennis court. This could be sports field or sold to developers separately from gym and pool. See ad McGrath The Pink
- Public lagoon
- Location for 24/7 swimming
- Public lagoon area
- Foreshore pool/lagoon
- Providing public water park
- Provide free swimming pool close to Macrossan St to attract visitors
- More options for children's waterpark BBQ area
- Lagoon Tourists
- Developing a lagoon and kids waterpark at the waterfront
- We need a public lagoon and recreational facilities
- Building a lagoon
- Build lagoon area with lighting & BBQs
- Four mile beach lagoon pool
- Development of Reynolds Park as the Swimming lagoon area
- Water park in Port Douglas
- Facilities for the community and tourists alike - water park!
- To develop a water front pool precinct
- Do the water front plan including a pool area
- Lagoon area
 - Swimming and/or waterpark facility for locals and tourists access.
- A lagoon pool, something free for kids
- Aqua centre.
- Lagoon (a must)
- Fund a waterpark or big pool for Port Douglas
- Water park for kids
- Recreational infrastructure - lagoon
- A lagoon for Port Douglas - how does Cooktown have one and we don't.
- Find a way to make a swimming pool for port Douglas residents and tourists
- Getting a swimming pool and parkland for Port Douglas
- Lagoon pool
- Swimming pool for Port Douglas
- Tourism - lagoon water park (not just a splash park)
- Getting a water park / pool for Port- even Cooktown got one, surely Port can get one?

A few respondents

- Finding an appropriate location for a Port Douglas waterpark / swimming pool
- Finding a location for a lagoon or public pool

| Appendix Five - Marina – Crystalbrook

- Allow the development of the marina precinct
- Approve marina development
- Approve new marina
- Approve new marina project
- Capitalising on new marina development
- Crystalbrook Marina
- Do everything possible to secure the new development at the Marina. Port Douglas is getting old and dated. We need to attract more tourism to Port Douglas
- Economic Growth - Marina etc.
- Ensure the marina is built!
- Ensure the new development of the town's Marina is built.
- Ensuring the marina goes ahead
- Finalising a Crystalbrook Marina development plan
- Get the marina redevelopment happening
- Management of development at Marina.
- Managing Marina Project
- Marina development
- New marina approval
- Port Douglas Marina development create jobs
- Support PD Marina Development - proactively engage with parties willing to spend here
- Supporting major tourism developments (e.g. the marina)
- The Marina and surrounds development & improvement needs to happen be approved by council. New development means jobs & new tourists.
- To allow Crystalbrook Development

While most comments focussed on the importance of approving the Crystalbrook Marina development, there were a few voices urging careful management to ensure compliance with height limitations and environmental aspects.

- Marina development at Port Douglas, within the current planning statutes, particularly as regards height limitations
- Appropriate marina development
- Ensure Marina development proceeds according to Town plan regulations
- Marina development - ensuring environmental aspects are ok

| Appendix Six - Presentation

Parks & Gardens

- 65% of tourists are over 50 years old - walking in parks and gardens is a major draw card for them
- Better maintenance of parks, gardens and footpaths
- Clean up the garden, paths and median strips in Port Douglas. Driving into town is a depressing experience with all the overgrown paths and multitude of weeds. The palm trees lining the entrance need maintaining. Groom the beach at the main area visitors walking along that area are not tripping over rubbish.
- Controlling overgrown vegetation in parks;
- Do something about the cemetery. It is not only the residents that are dead in there so are the plants. Could we extend the Ixora hedge to add colour and screen out the cemetery a bit?
- Fixing the parks
- Garden (tree and plant management)
- Gardens need attention
- General upkeep of parks and gardens
- High quality maintenance of streets, parks, and walkways
- Keeping street scape looking vibrant
- Keeping the grass mowed on council land
- Lack of palm tree management
- Maintain the oil palms more than once a year
- Maintain what we have & keep them looking good (roads, gardens)
- Maintenance/mowing in parks and recreation spaces
- More garden maintenance in Port
- More garden maintenance in Port
- Mowing, tree lopping
- Need to maintain areas - grass, trees, & beaches on Cooya Beach esplanade
- Nice decorative tree plants (landscaping) in the beach area to add the beauty of Port Douglas beach
- Park, gardens, street areas around Cooya need to be maintained.
- Plant more trees and colourful tropical shrubs in parks and gardens
- Public garden maintenance
- Put more garden at cemetery & develop gardens along Bally Hooley rail track
- Re-grass Anzac Park
- Stop cutting down trees and shrubs in the parks & streets, plant more flowering vegetation
- Taking care of the trees, especially coconut palms which are a symbol of tropical paradise and one of our greatest tourism assets. Stop cutting them down. Look after them.
- Training the Council gardeners/workers in doing a better job maintaining the gardens, lawns and in particular the beach
- Unkempt roads and vegetation
- Upgrade gardens
- Upgrading/landscaping town centre Port Douglas
- Vegetation sometimes unsightly

Beautification

- Beautification
- Beautification of natural environment
- Beautification of shire - gardens, road edges
- Beautification of tourist areas
- Beautification of town

- Beautify Mossman
- Beautify Port Douglas in a tropical aesthetic
- Beautifying Port Douglas
- Beautifying Port Douglas to international tropical standard
- Maintaining and beautifying stormwater runoff areas. Regular cleaning of gutters and streets.
- Maintaining the beauty and character of the area and town (to keep tourism coming)
- Maintenance and beautification
- Beautification of the Village
- Keeping PD beautiful
- Bring the area up to 5 star condition - beautify, maintain, clean
- Keep tidy
- Clean the shire from trash
- Clean tidy towns
- Clean up Port Douglas asap
- Cleaning up the streets
- cleaning up the town
- Get back to basics - clean streets, neat parks, good roads
- Improving look of Douglas shire
- Keep shire looking clean
- Keep tidy drainage and weeds along Port Douglas Road. Tidy up roadside - make it attractive (more)
- Keeping shire looking good for tourism
- Keeping the region tidy
- Maintaining upkeep and appearance of the Shire
- Maintaining vegetation/cleanliness, drains
- Street scape cleaning
- Town presentation

| Appendix Seven – Environmental Protection

Great Barrier Reef & Daintree Rainforest

- GBR protection from run-off
- Correct effluent disposal on all marine vessels
- GBR Protection and support
- Protecting our greatest assets - reef and environment
- Protection of Reef and Daintree Rainforest
- Reef & rainforest health
- Protect the Daintree from increasing tourism
- Run off from dirty roads to GBR
- Saving the Barrier Reef
- Saving the Reef by stopping overdevelopment
- Sealing all dirt roads to stop sediment to going to reef
- Sealing the Bloomfield Track to stop mud and dust polluting world heritage environments.
- Ensuring longevity and sustainability of the GBR
- Work with government to improve the reef.
- Maintain Shire's reef and rainforest image

General

- be smart and efficient in looking after the environment
- Caring for our environment
- Conservation and protection of environment
- Develop/review environmental protection plan
- Environmental conservation
- Flora and fauna maintenance
- Looking after the environment
- Protect the pristine environment
- Ensuring our environment is protected

Feral Animals

- Better control over the feral pig problem and more stringent measures to halt the spread of introduced plants.
- Controlling feral animals including. minor birds, pigs, wild dogs
- Feral animals
- feral pest control, pigs, restricting dogs & cats in Daintree area
- feral pigs and introduced plants
- pig eradication
- The environment - weeds, feral animals, etc.

Management

- Control of tour operators and their access to fragile environments.
- Control pollution

Council Activities

- Weed steaming
- Weeds and electric ant control
- Environmentally-friendly town planning
- Moving towards a carbon neutral existence
- Environmental issues i.e. rate of development, renewable resources especially in regard to the mill
- More environmental care, seal the roads
- No toxic pesticides, healthy shire
- Protect environment from Wangetti Trail intrusion

- Local renewable energy - solar or wind - to power communities
- Taking the environment seriously - the spin we use at the moment is a con job and we are being left for dead by the ROW [sic] on this front
- Stop local netting of creeks
- Waste reduction strategies

Run-Off

- Dust from unsealed roads damaging rainforest and birdlife and water quality
- Infrastructure; Roads, Water Runoff, Erosion
- Preventing run off of soil and dust onto inshore reefs north of Cape Tribulation.
- Pollution control especially land run off into the ocean
- Sediment runoff

Green Developments

- Encourage other development in the town, sympathetic to the fragile areas.
- Green economic development
- Employment which encourages environmental issues
- Developments which are sympathetic with the natural environment.
- Recycling education
- solar or wind farm to power Port Douglas / Mossman

Beaches & Foreshores

- Stop foreshore & beach destruction

Alternative View

- Eliminate fruit bats
- over coming green tape

Recycling / Waste Management

- Supply green waste bins, recycling bin, rubbish bins
- Recycling and green waste services
- Better recycling facilities
- Developing recycling and sustainable energy
- Waste management, recycling more
- Recycling too frequent, once a month more than enough
- Efficient recycling
- Promote and Ensure recycling is adopted by all short and long term residents
- Recycling and landfill
- Clean and educate recycling/waste management
- Having suitable recycling programs and encouraging sustainable energy
- Weekly recycling days and fortnightly rubbish collection
- Waste management (reduction and recycling, e.g. what to do with all of Port Douglas restaurants food waste)
- Plastic recycling
- Promote recycling (bins in main street)

Other

- Become genuinely green and change the diesel generators north of the Daintree River with a clean green grid

| Appendix Eight – Other \$100

Aged Care Home ; aged care home; retirement village; housing
Beaches
Bridge for the Daintree River
Bus service Mossman to Port Douglas
Campaigning for entire new Council
Capture & distribute rain water where it's needed.
CCTV monitoring and security
Charities
Claws and Paws
Community enterprise support
Corporate Governance
Culling crocodiles; culling the crocodiles BIG PRIORITY
Disabled Parking
Drug education to young people
Effective and transparent Community Consultation
Feral animal control; feral animals including minor birds
Health Services
Heritage
Infrastructure
Law Enforcement
Make Warner St into pedestrian mall/restaurant precinct keeping All rosewood trees
Management consulting for benchmarking other locations and to ensure best practice
Miallo School Car Park
Modern gym to get the lazy fit for any age – climb walls
Mossman Botanic Gardens; Mossman botanical gardens 50% of my money
New Slipway
North of the River
Outdoor exercising areas are almost non-existent
Pebble Beach
Port Douglas Cemetery is a disgrace and badly needs some maintenance
Promoting our region ; promoting of region
Promoting sustainable residential development & infill development
Rake and clean four mile beach
Reduce Rates
Reinstate River Improvement Trust & fund it
Road litter
Solar or wind farm to power Port Douglas / Mossman
Staff development
Staff Training
Street Cleaning
Take \$100 off water bill
Town Entrance signs ; town signage - Port Douglas entrance very unappealing
Town signs Port Douglas
Upgrade roundabout near IGA - get rid of ugly painted concrete - replace with real plants
Walking Trails
Waterpark/Lagoon
Year round safe swimming area 50%
Youth activities; Youth