

Disaster Recovery Funding Update

Following TC Jasper in December 2023, the cost of repairing essential public infrastructure may be covered under the Commonwealth and State Governments' Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

At this week's Council meeting, an update was provided on the progress of DRFA-related repairs.

Since Tropical Cyclone Jasper, Council has submitted 24 funding applications valued at \$198 million. Of these, 19 have been approved, securing \$168 million for repair works. The remaining five applications, worth \$30 million, are still under assessment.

Typically, DRFA funding covers the cost of restoring assets to their original condition. However, there is an opportunity to apply for additional funding to upgrade roads and bridges to a more resilient standard.

Council has identified 12 such projects where upgrades could significantly reduce future cyclone damage. An application for an additional \$28.6 million has been submitted under the Betterment Fund program and we are awaiting the outcome.

In total, Douglas Shire could secure up to \$226 million in funding—more than four times the Council's total expenditure in 2022–23.

What Does It Mean for Daintree Village?

Several of these projects are in and around Daintree Village which means there will be increased truck and machinery movements for the next few months—but in the end, an improvement to the standard of our roads.

Landslip Repairs

There were over 100 landslips across the shire. The bulk were north of the Daintree River on Alexandra Range, Noah Range and Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road, however five are here in the valley.

Three are on Stewarts Creek Road and two are on Upper Daintree Road.

COLPO Constructions has been awarded the contract for repairs and will be commencing work shortly.

As soon as a program of works becomes available, it will be distributed to the community.

Two New Bridges

There are two new bridges which will be built in the Daintree Valley, with the contract for both awarded to NQ Civil Constructions.

Lees Bridge was a single lane timber bridge on Douglas Creek Road, which was severely impacted by Cyclone Tiffany in January 2022. Council successfully sought funding through DRFA for a replacement concrete bridge however Cyclone Jasper further hampered efforts to build a replacement bridge.

The alignment of the new bridge will be between the temporary causeway and where the old Lees Bridge was. The causeway will remain in place until the new bridge is finished.

A new bridge is also planned for **Taylor's Crossing** to replace the concrete causeway which was partially washed away during the cyclone.

It will be installed upstream of the causeway which will remain until the new bridge is completed.

NQ Civil Contractors is expected to be onsite mid-June, and a program of works will be provided when it becomes available.

Mossman Daintree Road

You may be curious about the repairs to the landslip on Mossman Daintree Road.

This is a state-owned road, so repairs to the landslip at Humbug Reach are being managed by Queensland Department of Transport (TMR), not Council.

According to the latest information from TMR, repairs are expected to be completed by the end of June 2025.

CREB Track

In news unrelated to DRFA, Council is aiming to inspect the CREB track soon, with the aim opening it by the end of May 2025.

Daintree Village is planning a season opening event over the weekend of 7th & 8th June.

Enquiries

If you would like more information or any issues arise, please email gaye.scott@douglas.qld.gov.au or call Gaye on 0418 793 009.