

5.2. DISCUSSION PAPER - CONSIDERATIONS FOR DEVELOPING A DOUGLAS RV FRIENDLY STRATEGY

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Note the 'Discussion Paper – Considerations for developing a Douglas Recreational Vehicle (RV) Friendly Strategy';**
- 2. Resolve that the Discussion Paper forms the general foundation and framework for developing a Draft Douglas RV Friendly Strategy.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the 2015/16 Operational Plan the CEO Unit was to investigate at least three Recreational Vehicles (RV) Strategies developed by other Local Governments to gain a greater understanding of some of the best practice models that may be applicable or suited to the Douglas region.

Council has undertaken a literature review of RV Strategies produced by Local Governments in Australia and New Zealand; and guidelines relating to developing camping options and rest stop design. This literature review has assisted in the development of a discussion paper to help guide Council in developing a future Draft Douglas RV Friendly Strategy. The discussion paper provides Council with guidance and direction to accommodate and cater to the needs and expectations demanded by the RV traveller market.

Many local Government areas in Australia and New Zealand, as part of tourism and economic strategies have identified the need to support and enhance facilities to attract and grow their share of the Recreational Vehicle (RV) traveller market.

BACKGROUND

The Queensland Government launched the *Queensland drive tourism strategy 2013–2015* to encourage more travellers to take a driving holiday in Queensland. The strategy contributes to the State Government's overall goal of doubling the overnight visitor expenditure in Queensland from \$15billion to \$30billion per annum by 2020.

In Australia the popularity of RVs continues to grow. In December 2015 it was reported by the Caravan Industry Association of Australia that caravan and campervans remain the fastest growing vehicle type in Australia by registration for the sixth year running. Accounting for an approximate total of 586 585 vehicles nationally.

The drive tourism market plays a significant role for tourism in the Douglas region with RV tourists/travellers making an important contribution to the local economy. The Douglas region currently has 15 commercial caravan / tourist park operators which have a combined total of approximately 890 RV / caravan camp sites (powered and unpowered).

There are also two (2) proposed tourist parks which would provide an additional 77 camp sites in the future. Research suggests that for every \$1.00 spent at a commercial caravan / tourist park approximately \$1.38 of local economic activity is generated.

COMMENT

Council has not yet developed a formal position or strategy in relation to RVs and the provision of infrastructure which supports this market, including:

- access to information, directional signage;
- provision and access to suitable parking which supports access to shopping in commercial areas;
- upgrades to Council assets and key rest areas;
- provision of adequate rubbish, recycle and black water dump facilities.

The development of a Douglas RV Friendly Strategy by Council will assist the Douglas Shire in attracting, maintaining and increasing its market share of RV travellers to the region.

RV travellers have preferences for a range of different camping options. Some choose to always stay in commercial venues such as caravan and holiday parks. While other RV travellers use both commercial and non-commercial alternatives, a certain percentage prefer to stay only at non-commercial locations. Non-commercial camping can be camping overnight on public land including showgrounds, roadside reserves and roadside rest areas (regardless of whether a nominal fee is charged) or in non-defined areas such as street, parking areas and bush sites. Council does not provide nor allow for any non-commercial camping within the Douglas region and invests time and resources to best manage illegal camping. Council seeks to best manage and balance the expectations of RV travellers and local community, and minimise impacts on the local environment.

In Australia, local governments seeking to attract and meet the expectations and best practice standards for the RV traveller have developed RV Strategies which consider improvements and provision of infrastructure and policy to achieve this. In attracting and growing the share of the RV tourism market within the Douglas region there will be benefits from having a coordinated and strategic implementation plan that will provide a clear pathway in delivering the facilities and access to services required and expected by this sector of the self-drive market.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the discussion paper will form the framework for the development of a Douglas RV Friendly Strategy which will focus on Goals that include:

Goal 1: Access to information - RV travellers will have relevant and up to date information to assist with planning their visit to the Douglas region, including an understanding of where and where not to camp.

Goal 2: Signage – Provide appropriate signage which will assist RV travellers in accessing and locating parking, services and amenities.

Goal 3: Protecting the Environment – RV travellers have access to information and facilities that are easy to locate and help protect the environment.

Goal 4: Provision of facilities, initiatives and implementation of policies which support and encourage RV travellers.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications of developing a Draft Douglas RV Friendly Strategy should be minimal and contained within regular departmental budget allocations.

The Draft Douglas RV Friendly Strategy would identify associated costs and resources which specific areas of Council will be required to identify, budget and plan as part of their operations linked to identified actions and initiatives.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

No risk management implications.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: The Queensland Government via the Queensland Drive Tourism Strategy 2013 - 2015 aims to double the overnight visitor expenditure in Queensland from \$15billion to \$30billion per annum by 2020. In developing a future Douglas RV Friendly Strategy will help ensure that the Shire is prepared and competitive to maintain and increase its potential share of the growing RV traveller market.

Environmental: The development of a Douglas RV Friendly Strategy will have an emphasis on RV travellers having access to information and facilities which will reduce the impact by RV travellers on the natural and built environments. Access to information and facilities such as rubbish and recycle bin facilities as well as black water dump points are key to allowing the RV travellers to dispose of their litter and waste responsibly.

Social: The development of a Douglas RV Friendly Strategy will help support the perception and expectations of RV travellers that the Douglas region is a destination that is welcoming, and seeks to cater to this market's needs. A strategic and coordinated approach to RVs within the region will help establish a positive reputation which potentially has the ability to increase returning visitor number; and to encourage new visitors to spend longer periods within the region.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2014-2019 Initiatives:

Theme 2 - Building a Sustainable Economic Base

2.1.1 - Develop management plans for all Council assets and adequately resource their implementation.

2.1.4 - Identify, resource and implement opportunities for engagement in the digital economy.

2.2.1 - Develop business initiatives to support commercial development and investment within the Shire.

2.2.5 - Expand tourism and agricultural business opportunities and benefits through collaborative planning and promotion.

2.3.3 - Support and explore appropriate commercial uses of Council - controlled land, adding to the visitor experience and supporting the local economy.

Theme 3 - Improve Environmental Performance

3.1.4 - Promote a culture within our communities of “zero tolerance to littering” and introduce an educational, regulatory and enforcement regime to underpin it.

3.1.5 - Investigate opportunities for improved recycling and re-use of waste deposited at landfill sites.

Theme 4 - Engage, Plan, Partner

4.1.1 - Explore and utilise a comprehensive variety of media, including digital, to inform, engage and educate.

4.1.2 - Undertake community engagement activities that are clearly identified and are appropriate in relation to the project.

4.2.2 - Provide leadership to secure beneficial social, environmental and economic outcomes for the Shire.

Theme 5 - Governance

5.1.1 - Establish and develop long term financial, resource and infrastructure planning to ensure ongoing capacity to fund operations and capital works programs.

5.2.2 - Implement adopted policies and guidelines to ensure consistency in administrative management which also encourages innovation in Council operations.

Operational Plan 2015-2016 Actions:

CEO2 - Investigate best practice Recreational Vehicle (RV) Strategy models that may be applicable for Douglas Shire.

COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

Asset-Owner	Meeting the responsibilities associated with owning or being the custodian of assets such as infrastructure.
Information Provider	Bringing people together to develop solutions to problems.

CONSULTATION

Internal: Broad consultation was undertaken in the development of the discussion paper with:

- Sustainable Communities - Resource Management
- Environmental Health & Regulatory Services
- Governance - Property
- Manager Infrastructure
- Councillors at a workshop conducted on the 13 May 2016 with feedback provided.

External:

- Cook Shire Council
- Cassowary Coast Shire Council
- Tableland Regional Council
- FNQROC – Economic Development Officer network
- Caravanning Queensland
- Caravan and Motorhome Club of Australia

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Specific elements of a Draft Douglas RV Friendly Strategy will require engagement with key stakeholders such as commercial caravan and tourist park operators; and/or camping ground operators. Community engagement would be undertaken at the level of 'consult' on issues which require input and feedback from this key stakeholder group.

Certain aspects of a Draft RV Friendly Strategy will be operational in nature and would therefore not require consultation with the broader community. However key stakeholders will be 'informed' of Council's commitment to best cater to the needs of RV travellers, with the opportunity for feedback.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Discussion Paper – Considerations for developing a Douglas RV Friendly Strategy

Discussion Paper

Considerations for developing a Douglas RV Friendly Strategy

Contents

Purpose 3

Background 3

Commercial Operators in Douglas 5

 Future Commercial Operations..... 6

 Council Commercial Facilities 6

 Port Douglas – Tropic Breeze & Mossman Riverside Caravan Park Facilities 7

 Wonga Beach Caravan Park 7

Future Camping Options – Douglas Planning Scheme..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Promotion 8

Non-Commercial Camping..... 10

 Illegal Camping..... 10

 Non-Commercial Camping Considerations..... 10

 Kirribee Park Rodeo Grounds..... 11

 Rifle Creek -Mount Molloy..... 11

 Rocky Creek War Memorial Park 12

 Archer Creek 12

 Ravenshoe..... 12

RV Programs..... 15

 Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia..... 15

 ‘Community Welcomes Recreational Vehicles’ Signage Program 16

Signage..... 17

Roadside Rest Areas in Douglas 18

RV/ Long Vehicle Parking 21

Establishments of an Overflow Policy, Protocol and Facilities 21

Black and Grey Water Dump Points..... 22

Proposed Goals and Actions for consideration when developing a Douglas RV Friendly Strategy..... 23

Reference Information:..... 31

“Excluding accommodation commercial campers directly spend \$2billion in Australia each year, with 90% of this spent in regional areas and create \$5.4billion of economic activity. On Average commercial campers create \$26million of economic activity in each statistical subdivision of Australia per annum...”

Caravan, RV and Accommodation Industry of Australia – Economic Benefit Report – Spending Patterns of Commercial Campers and Non-Commercial Campers – March 2013

In December 2015 the Caravan Industry Association of Australia reported that:

Caravan and campervan registrations have increased by 5.34 percent, with a total of 586,585 registered, according to the 2015 Caravan and Campervan Data Report released today (12 Dec 2015).

Caravan and campervans remain the fastest growing vehicle type in Australia by registration for the sixth year running.

This new registration data comes as no shock, as Caravan Industry Association of Australia has seen RV production in Australia soar over the past decade.....

“Yearly production for 2014 was one of the highest in over two decades,” said Stuart Lamont, CEO, Caravan Industry Association of Australia. “So with 2015 set to outperform on last year is a great sign, and this new data bodes well for our industry into the future.”

“Our research shows that more and more, families are turning to caravanning and camping for leisure in Australia.”

Caravan Industry Association of Australia research shows the largest domestic user group in the sector is 30-54 year olds, making up 50 percent of the market (followed by 55-70 year olds who make up 25 percent.)

Of all States and Territories, Queensland has the largest fleet of Caravans and campervans in Australia, accounting for approximately 151 765 registered vehicles. This equates to 25.9% of the total national fleet (586 585).

RV travellers have preferences for a range of different camping options. Some choose to always stay in commercial venues such a caravan and holiday parks. While other RV travellers use both commercial and non-commercial alternatives; while a certain percentage only prefer to stay at non-commercial locations. Non-commercial camping can be camping overnight on public land including showgrounds, roadside reserves and roadside rest areas (regardless of whether a nominal fee is charged) or in non-defined areas such as street, parking areas and bush sites. Council does not provide nor allow for any non-commercial camping within the Douglas region and invests time and resources to best manage illegal camping. Council seeks to best manage and balance the expectations of RV travellers and local community, and minimise impacts on the local environment.

In Australia local governments in seeking to attract and meet the expectations and best practice standards for the RV traveller have developed RV Strategies which consider improvements and

Promotion

Presently Council or the Wonga Beach Caravan Park currently has no affiliation or membership with any relevant associations or organisations representing Caravan Parks or that conduct direct marketing to the Caravan/ RV travellers. Caravanning Queensland is the peak organisation for the State representing Caravan Parks and the Caravan and RV industry and manufacturers. A number of Local Governments in Queensland are taking advantage of being an associate member of Caravanning Queensland such as Cassowary Coast Council and Barcoo Shire Council. Local Governments and other organisations under the associate membership receive benefits which could include:

- promoting the Local Government Area region on their website under the Holiday destinations
- Promoting attractions/ events via brochures distribution at all trade shows
- TV appearances via national television shows endorsing drive tourism e.g. Creek to Coast
- A linked listing in both digital formats of their *Queensland Caravan Parks and Touring Accommodation Directory (250 000 copies)*
- A quarterly newsletter (March, June September, December) in which Council would be listed
- Communication via a monthly eNews Blast
- The opportunity to advertised in the *Queensland Caravan Parks and Touring Accommodation Directory* at a discounted rate
- Regular divisional meetings to network and develop business partnerships
- There is the opportunity to promote the region by providing prizes and promotional activities for park members and delegates attending the State Conference

Associate Membership with Caravanning Queensland is currently \$550 per annum.

Other Promotional Opportunities:

There are several mediums available for advertising and promoting facilities and attractions to entice RV travellers who are researching potential holiday destinations:

Print: There are a number of caravanning publications and e-magazines available in Australia. Foremost amongst these are the Caravanning Australia Magazine which is published on a quarterly basis; and the annual *Queensland Caravan Parks and Touring Accommodation Directory* which is produced by Caravanning Queensland and has a print run of 250 000 copies and reaches in excess of 500 000 travellers. As an Associate Member of Caravanning Queensland the ability to be listed their publication would be included; and to advertise at a special members rate.

Web: It is widely recognised that the internet is the most utilised method of researching and booking holidays, followed by tour agencies and word of mouth.

The following is an example of one such popular website:

Caravan Parks Online – www.caravanparksonline.com.au

“a fast, simple, easy way to search online for a Caravan Park / Tourist Park, Camping Site, Tent and Cabin Accommodation, Australia wide.”

This site boasts:

- Over 2500 Caravan Parks listed
- Facilities-based searching with over 25 different facility types to refine your search
- Links to local attractions and discounts in the Town you are visiting
- Book sites directly from the website (participating parks only)
- Park Specials

Caravan Parks Online offers three types of advertising packages available to Park operators:

- Bronze membership is free for any period of time
- Silver membership which is a yearly fee of \$349
- Gold membership which is a yearly fee of \$649

TV / Radio: The fees for advertising through this medium are cost prohibitive and would not reach the majority of the target audience.

Website: Presently the Wonga Beach Caravan Park does not have its own dedicated website for travellers to obtain up to date and relevant information on the facility or the ability to conduct online bookings. A dedicated webpage on the Wonga Beach Caravan Park is provided via <http://www.daintree.info/wongabeachcaravanpark.html>.

The Gold Coast City Council, Sunshine Coast Regional Council and Fraser Coast Regional Council have dedicated Caravan and Camping accommodation websites which are easy to locate and read. These websites provide a one-stop-shop for finding and booking your caravan or camping holiday in these regions. It should be noted that each of these Councils has several parks operating within their regions:

- Gold Coast: www.goldcoasttouristparks.com.au
- Sunshine Coast: www.sunshinecoastholidayparks.com.au
- Fraser Coast: www.beachfronttouristparks.com.au

“The Internet is the core starting point for consumers when researching holidays. 69% expect online booking facilities...”

Consumer Research Report 2011 – Caravanning and Holiday Parks Industry



Rocky Creek War Memorial Park

- 72hr stay
- Park is managed by a community group/ committee
- Donation honesty box
- Funds raised go back into maintaining the park – Mowing, repairs to infrastructure
- Rubbish bins
- Council also maintain infrastructure/ and services
- Receipt Collection to gauge how much is spent and what the expenses include.
- Census once a year to collect numbers staying in park.
- Toilet facilities
- BBQ Facilities
- Pets are permitted
- No Fires or Generators
- Wheelchair Accessible
- No access to drinking water
- Access for caravans and large rigs
- Picnic tables
- Mobile phone coverage/reception
- Caters for:
 - Tents
 - Caravans
 - Camper Van
 - Self-contained

Archer Creek

- Council controlled and maintained rest stop facility – 20 hour stop over time limit
- No Cost
- Unpowered
- Toilet - Accessible Toilet
- Rubbish bins
- Mobile phone coverage
- Access for caravans and large rigs
- Mobile phone coverage
- Toilet Block (Shower?) provided by Council
- Council also maintain infrastructure/ and services
- Pets are permitted
- Free Dump Point in Ravenshoe - Ascham Street
- Picnic Tables

Ravenshoe

- Managed by the Ravenshoe Railway Company
- 7 day stay
- Powered \$15/ Unpowered \$10
- Toilet - Accessible Toilet & Hot Showers

But Cooktown Caravan Park manager John Noonan fumed: "It's totally disgusting. How can our caravan parks compete against \$5 a night?"

"Councils are supposed to support local businesses ... not compete against them."

Mr Noonan lashed the council for going ahead with the budget camp without first consulting the local caravan park operators.

"They did not talk to us at all," he complained. "They just went ahead and did it. Who's going to pay to run this camp?"

Tammy Martland, manager of the BIG4 Cooktown Holiday Park, said the town's caravan park operators had met to discuss their concerns and would be "pursuing the matter".

"All four caravan parks in town can easily accommodate RVers ... if there had been an overflow situation then it would be a different story. But there has never been a time when they could not cope with the influx of tourists, even when the southern grey nomads descend on us."

Nb. The Cooktown Shire Council low cost camping facility is no longer operational.

Noosa Council – Press release 10 December 2015

Noosa Council will open a trial RV stop in Cooroy from 12 December (2015) to support hinterland tourism. The Cooroy RV Stop, at 17 Mary River Road, offers motorhome travellers easy access to Cooroy from the highway and serves as a gateway to Noosa's hinterland, complementing Tourism Noosa's new Noosa Country Drive initiative.

The facility caters for up to 40 fully self-contained recreational vehicles (RVs), and includes a chemical toilet dump point. Noosa Council Executive Officer Narelle Reid said Council saw the project as an economic development opportunity for the town.

"The local chamber of commerce, community groups and residents called for an RV stop in Cooroy to encourage the growing motorhome tourist market to stop in and explore Noosa's hinterland," she says. "Council is pleased to be able to support economic development in Cooroy and surrounding towns with this initiative, which we hope fulfils a need for a low-cost no-frills option for self-drive visitors to explore Cooroy and other towns."

Council chose the Mary River Road site, behind the Combined Coastal Car Club premises, for its location, which is within walking distance of Cooroy's main street.

Council will assess the RV Stop's success in 12 months. The RV Stop, which a caretaker will manage, offers fully self-contained RVs a maximum four-night stay at \$10 per vehicle per night.

To book, visit Council's website at www.noosa.qld.gov.au/cooroy-rv-stopover

Conditions of use for Cooroy RV Stop:

- \$10 per vehicle per night
- Fully self-contained motorhomes and caravans are permitted to use the site for a maximum of four nights.
- SELF-CONTAINED MEANS: all the resources needed to live must be on board and contained within the vehicle. This includes sleeping, cooking, refrigeration, power supplies (gas/solar/batteries), fresh water supplies, toilet/shower, and holding tanks for both black and grey water. Grey water or "sullage" is not to be captured in buckets or disposed to the ground.
- Registration numbers of all vehicles must be provided
- There are no amenities or power.
- A dump point facility available.
- LEAVE NO TRACE MEANS: don't leave any rubbish, or impact to the surrounding area.

Roadside Rest Areas in Douglas

Safety and driver fatigue management

The provision of rest areas for motorists is recognised as an integral part of a holistic approach to the management of driver fatigue on Queensland roads. Fatigue is recognised as one of the major contributors to the road toll across the country. The Douglas Shire already provides a number of rest areas which provides motorists with varying levels of facilities and amenities.

What are roadside rest areas?

Roadside rest areas are designated spaces on highways and roads where drivers and passengers can take breaks to reduce driver fatigue. When suitably located, they can also play an important role in maximizing the drive tourism experience and the economic benefit to surrounding towns.

Best Practice Guide for Roadside Rest Areas in Queensland – Queensland Government - 2014

The *Best Practice Guide for Roadside Rest Areas in Queensland* provide local governments with a matrix of desired standards and facilities for rest areas based on the average annual daily traffic (AADT).

Table 1: Matrix of user requirements to maximise the attraction of roadside rest areas:

User groups	Rest facilities	Amenity facilities	Tourist information and signage	Social connectedness
Drive tourists (fatigue management and drive tourism focus)	Seating, tables, shade, shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hand washing facilities ▪ Toilets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Locational and geographic information ▪ Information on local and 'must see' regional tourism attractions ▪ Information on distances to major destinations ▪ Information on roadside rest areas at least every two hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mobile phone coverage
Long distance motorists (fatigue management)	Seating, tables, shade, shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hand washing facilities ▪ Toilets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Locational information ▪ Information on roadside rest areas at least every two hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mobile phone coverage
RV and motorhome travellers (fatigue management and drive tourism focus)	Seating, tables, shade, shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proximity to fuel and food outlets ▪ Hand washing facilities ▪ Toilets ▪ Dump points for waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information on local and regional tourism attractions ▪ Information on roadside rest areas at least every two hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wireless internet access (for travel blogs, phone apps and information)
Caravanners (fatigue management and drive tourism focus)	Seating, tables, shade, shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proximity to fuel and food outlets ▪ Hand washing facilities ▪ Toilets ▪ Dump points (for waste) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information on local and regional tourism attractions ▪ Information on roadside rest areas at least every two hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wireless internet access (for travel blogs, phone apps and information)
Campers (fatigue management and drive tourism focus)	Generally, camping is prohibited or restricted in any area that is not a designated camping area, truck stop or public area, or an area that does not permit overnight camping. Local government authorities will be able to advise whether there are local laws limiting the length of stay. DTMR will be able to advise on any limitations to length of stay for any roadside rest area it controls. Signage at the roadside rest area may specify a limit on the length of stay.			

In assessing the rest areas across the Douglas region the most significant or prominent rest areas in the Douglas Shire could include:

- Teamsters Park, Craiglie – Captain Cook Highway
- Bubu Kinkani/ George Davis Park, Foxtton Avenue – Mossman
- Daintree Gateway, Cape Tribulation Road – Lower Daintree (Daintree Ferry)
- and suitable locations north of the Daintree River

Secondary rest areas in the Douglas Shire could include:

- Wangetti Beach Reserve, Wangetti (southern end) – Captain Cook Highway
- Wonga Beach Park, Mossman – Daintree Road – Wonga Beach
- Rotary Park, Captain Cook Highway – Mossman

It should be noted that no overnight camping is permitted in any rest areas within the region.

Table 2 provides standards which can best assist Local Governments in providing appropriate facilities at rest areas.

Table 2: Standards for heavy vehicle and regular motorist’s roadside rest area facilities:

	Heavy vehicle			Motorist		
	Type A	Type B	Type C	Type A	Type B	Type C
Capacity (for largest vehicle permitted on route)	Large: 15+ bays (>2000 HV AADT) Medium: 10–15 bays (500–2000 HV AADT) Small: 5–10 bays (<500 HV AADT)			Large: 20+ bays (>10 000 AADT) Medium: 10–20 bays (1000–10 000 AADT) Small: 5–10 bays (<1000 AADT)		
All-weather seal	Yes	Yes	Gravel	Yes	Yes	Gravel
Separation for vehicle types	Yes	Desirable	Where possible	Yes	Desirable	Where possible
Separation for long term/short term visitors	Yes	Desirable	No	Yes	Desirable	No
Bins	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Natural shade/trees (where available)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tables/chairs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shelters/artificial shade	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Toilets	Yes	Desirable	No	Yes	Desirable	No
Lighting	Yes	Desirable	No	Yes	Desirable	No
Separation from road	Well separated and screened with vegetation, mounding, barrier, etc.	Separated and screened where possible	Separated (as a minimum by line marking)	Well separated and screened with vegetation, mounding, barrier, etc.	Separated and screened where possible	Separated (as a minimum by line marking)
On-road signage	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
BBQ	No	No	No	Yes	Where possible	No
Playground	No	No	No	Yes	Where possible	No
Private camping allowed (20 hr max)	No	No	No	Yes	As appropriate	No
Caravan dump point provided	No	No	No	Yes	Where possible	No

Source: Rest Areas and Stopping Places—Location, Design and Facilities (March 2014)

Table 3: Overview of important Douglas rest area facilities:

	Teamsters Park	Bubu Kinkari/ George Davis park	Daintree Gateway
Numbers of parking bays	Undefined – no line marking		Undefined– no line marking
All weather seal	No/ Gravel road way	Yes	No/ Gravel road way
Separation for vehicles	Undefined Parking	Yes	Undefined Parking – consideration for future stages of development
Separation for short or longer term visitors	To be considered	Not applicable	No applicable
Bins		Yes	Yes
Natural Shade/ Trees	Yes - limited	Yes	Yes - limited
Shelters/ artificial shade	Yes	Yes	Only under the Interpretative signage area
Tables/ chairs	Yes	Yes	
Toilets	Yes – no Accessible toilet	Yes – including Accessible Toilet	Yes – including Accessible Toilet
Lighting	Yes/ limited	Yes	
Separation from road	Yes	Yes	Yes
On road signage	No RV Parking Signage No Rest Area Signage	No RV Parking Signage No Rest Area Signage No Dump Point Signage	No RV Parking Signage No Rest Area Signage No Dump Point Signage
BBQ	No	Yes – electric	No
Playground		Yes – All Abilities Playground	No
Overnight camping allowed – 20hrs max	No	No	No
Dump Point	No	No – one located close-by. No Dump Point Signage	No
Wifi Hotspot	No	No	No (proposed for future)

*Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)

Teamsters Park - Future Plans

Teamsters Park - Craiglie is a popular rest area for visitors currently arriving in the Douglas region. Council considers this facility important for the self-drive tourist market entering the region. With master planning and investment this facility has the potential to be transformed into a ‘gateway’, which can support RV travellers with information and appropriate facilities. The *Best Practice Guide for Roadside Rest Areas* provides guidance to assist Council in providing a quality and exemplary facility.

many as possible RV tourists are able to experience the unique Douglas area without impacting on the health and safety of the permanent and travelling community; as well as protecting the local environment.

Black and Grey Water Dump Points

In self-contained RVs grey water comes from the kitchen sink, the bathroom and the shower/bath. Black water comes from the toilet and consists of human waste.

Ready access to Dump Points is an essential staple of the RV lifestyle and allows for the responsible disposal and protection of the environment. Currently within the Douglas Shire there are four (4) commercial caravan/ tourist park operators which have a black water dump point for use by paying guests. A free public Council dump point is located in the car park area outside the Mossman Riverside Leisure Park. There are no dump points north of the Daintree River.

Council in relation any future upgrades to facilities such as rest areas may consider identifying suitable locations and budgets for the installation of additional dump points within the Douglas region including north of the Daintree River.

Ref	Action	Who will do this?	Why is it needed?	What will it cost?	Timeline	Measures
	including camping, RV Camper rental and backpacker/ camper websites.					
1.3	<p>Wonga Beach Caravan Park:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In consultation with the Park Manager undertake an investigation into the feasibility of establishing a dedicated website. 	CEO Unit	<p>To assist visitors using RVs in planning their trip and accommodation prior to arriving in the Douglas region.</p> <p>To ensure RV travellers have the best experience while visiting the Douglas region.</p>	No immediate direct cost – obtain quotes.	To be determined	Quotes in relation to setting up a website to specific features
1.4	<p>Printed Materials:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a list of camping options which can be distributed to RV/Campers, RV Camper rental companies. <p>This can also be available as an ibrochure to be promoted online via Council, RV, camping and other relevant websites.</p>	<p>Regulatory Services</p> <p>CEO Unit</p>	<p>Provide access to information for visitors when planning their visit; and for when they arrive within the Douglas Shire.</p> <p>To ensure RV travellers have the best experience while visiting the Douglas region.</p>	<p>No direct cost – existing staff resources</p> <p>Per annum - Print Cost</p>	Ongoing	<p>Number of brochures distributed to RV /camper hire businesses.</p> <p>Number of brochures distributed by Local Laws Officers to illegal campers</p> <p>Number of downloads from website</p>

Ref	Action	Who will do this?	Why is it needed?	What will it cost?	Timeline	Measures
1.5	<p>Associate Membership of Caravanning Queensland:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Become an Associate Member of Caravanning Queensland to take advantage of promoting the Douglas region and Council facilities (Wonga Beach Caravan Park) as a RV friendly destination of choice. 	<p>Manager Governance</p> <p>CEO Unit</p>	<p>Provide access to information for visitors when planning their visit; and for when they arrive within the Douglas Shire.</p> <p>To ensure RV travellers have the best experience while visiting the Douglas region.</p>	<p>\$30.00 Joining Fee \$550.00 annual membership</p>	To be determined	To be determined
1.6	<p>Online Promotion of Wonga Beach Caravan Park:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the Wonga Beach Caravan Park facility on relevant and appropriate RV/ caravan websites. 	<p>CEO Unit</p>	<p>Provide access to information for visitors when planning their visit; and for when they arrive within the Douglas Shire.</p> <p>To ensure RV travellers have the best experience while visiting the Douglas region.</p>	<p>No direct cost – existing staff resources</p>	Ongoing	Number of websites.

Goal 4: Provision of facilities, initiatives and implementation of policies which support and encourage RV travellers.

Ref	Action	Who will do this?	Why is it needed?	What will it cost?	Timeline	Measurable Target
4.1	<p>Develop an Camping Overflow Policy, Protocol and facility:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage with commercial operators for their feedback and perspectives on the establishment of a camping overflow facility. 2. Identify an appropriate location for the purpose of a camping overflow facility. 3. Develop a policy and protocol to help manage the facility. 	<p>Manager, Governance</p> <p>CEO Unit</p>	<p>To ensure the wellbeing and safety of RV visitors to the region.</p> <p>As a risk management strategy to ensure an overflow facility and process is in place should all commercial operators of caravan and tourist parks be at peak capacity and require overflow facilities.</p> <p>To ensure RV visitors have the best experience while visiting the Douglas region.</p>	To be determined	To be determined	<p>Feedback and responses from commercial operators.</p> <p>A Camping Overflow Policy and Protocol.</p> <p>An identified and appropriately approved camping overflow facility.</p>
4.2	<p>Teamsters Park – Rest Stop, Craiglie:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a Master Plan for Teamsters Park – Rest Stop. 	<p>Manager Sustainable Communities</p> <p>Manager Infrastructure</p>	<p>To ensure the wellbeing and safety of RV visitors to the region.</p> <p>To ensure RV visitors have the best experience while visiting the Douglas region.</p> <p>To ensure the natural environment is not adversely impacted by RV visitors to the Douglas region</p>	To be determined	To be determined	

Ref	Action	Who will do this?	Why is it needed?	What will it cost?	Timeline	Measurable Target
4.3	<p>Improve Rest Stop facilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and conduct an audit of rest stop facilities for maintenance and upgrading that can best cater to the needs of RV travellers to the Douglas region (including consideration/ provision of rubbish and recycle bins and other waste disposal facilities). 	Manager Infrastructure	<p>To ensure the wellbeing and safety of RV visitors to the region.</p> <p>To ensure RV visitors have the best experience while visiting the Douglas region.</p> <p>To ensure the natural environment is not adversely impacted by RV visitors to the Douglas region</p>	To be determined	To be determined	Asset Management Plans developed for specific rest stops catering to the needs of RV Travellers
4.4	<p>Wonga Beach Caravan Park:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Actively manage park facilities (through asset maintenance and capital investment) to improve business. 2. Continue to investigate capital improvements which provide improved service outcomes and value for money for Council. 	Manager Infrastructure	<p>To ensure the wellbeing and safety of RV visitors while staying in a Council facility.</p> <p>To ensure RV visitors/ customers have the best experience while visiting the Wonga Beach Caravan Park and Douglas region.</p>	No direct cost – existing staff resources	To be determined	Asset Management Plan developed for Wonga Beach Caravan Park
4.5	<p>RV/ Long Vehicle Parking:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council undertake an audit of RV and long vehicle parking bays throughout the region and identify suitable locations for their designation and installation. 	Manager Infrastructure	<p>To ensure townships within Douglas gain an economic return from the RV market.</p> <p>To ensure RV visitors have the best experience while visiting the Douglas region.</p>	<p>No direct cost – existing staff resources</p> <p>Installation costs</p>	To be determined	<p>Listing of current and proposed RV and long vehicle parking bays.</p> <p>Installation of long vehicle parking bays.</p>

Reference Information:

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[Cooktown Shire Council - RV Rest Area Trial April – November 2013 – Prezi \(Presentation\)](#)

Freedom Camping in the Queenstown Lakes District – Queenstown Lakes District Council, New Zealand

Queensland Camping Options Tool Kit: A Guide for Local Government in Developing Camping Options-2014

Queensland Drive Tourism Strategy 2013–2015

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Recreational Vehicle Strategy Friendly Strategy – December 2015 (DRAFT) – Moira Shire Council

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Rest Areas and Stopping Places – Location, Design and Facilities - Queensland Government, Department of Transport and Main Roads – March 2014

The Provision of Council Recreational Vehicle Camping Services – Fact Sheet – May 2012 – Tasmanian Government, Division of Local Government, Security and Emergency Management Department of Premier and Cabinet