

5.3. LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

REPORT AUTHOR	People and Community Services
MANAGER	Terry Farrelly, Manager People and Community Services
DEPARTMENT	People and Community Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to:

1. Endorse the following projects and funds under Phase Two of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program

A - Macrossan and Owen Street Intersection Upgrade	\$140,000.00 (GST Exc)
B - Beach Access upgrades to Four Mile Beach	\$170,000.00 (GST Exc)
C - Mossman Pool Shade Sails	\$90,000.00 (GST Exc)
D - Pop up Engagement container/trailer	\$80,000.00 (GST Exc)
E - Bump Track Access parking	\$27,981.00 (GST Exc)

2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer under Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to administer the above matters.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) program supports local councils to create jobs by delivering priority local road and community infrastructure projects across Australia.

The objective of the Program is to protect and create jobs by stimulating additional infrastructure construction activity in communities across Australia.

The intended outcomes of the Program are to:

- provide stimulus to protect and create local short-term employment opportunities through funding construction projects following the impacts of COVID-19; and
- deliver benefits to communities, such as improved road safety, accessibility and visual amenity.

As with the first funding round for the LRCI Program, Eligible Funding Recipients can select a broad range of projects to fund so that communities can continue to be provided with the infrastructure they require. It is expected that Eligible Funding Recipients will use local businesses and workforces to deliver projects wherever possible to ensure stimulus funding flows into local communities.

This report is to note the funding allocation and endorse the projects proposed under the funding allocation.

BACKGROUND

Council was allocated \$274,337.00 (GST Exc) under Phase One and \$507,981.00 (GST Exc) under Phase Two of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

Funding can be used on projects involving construction or maintenance of roads managed by local governments that support improved road safety outcomes and/or projects that construct, maintain and/or improve council-owned assets (including natural assets) generally accessible to the public.

COMMENT

Council received letters of offer to participate in Phases One and Two of the LRCI Program and Grant Agreements.

In addition to signing agreements, applicants are required to provide a draft Work Schedule nominating the projects intended to be funded by the program.

In order to receive the full Phase 2 Allocation (\$507,981.00), Council must have submitted a draft Work Schedule for the total amount of the Phase 2 Allocation by 31 July 2021.

Council's future Capital Works Program was reviewed to identify projects aligning with the funding program. Council Officers, Management Team and Councillors discussed shortlisted projects.

PROPOSAL

The proposal is for Council to:

1. Endorse the following projects and funds under Phase Two of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program

A - Macrossan and Owen Street Intersection Upgrade	\$140,000.00 (GST Exc)
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FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Co-contributions are not required under the LRCI Program, but projects can be funded by a combination of LRCI, Council funds, and other government programs (including state government programs), provided combined funding does not exceed the estimated cost of a project and conditions of other funding are met.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Project risks will be mitigated through the systematic application of internal project management systems.

Project management will be the responsibility of Council Officers, supported by officers from finance, procurement and corporate communications. The project managers will be responsible for ensuring all conditions of the funding agreement are met.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- Economic:** An intended outcome of this program is to provide stimulus to protect and create local short-term employment opportunities following the impacts of COVID-19.
- Environmental:** All works will be undertaken within environmental regulations.
- Social:** An intended outcome of this program is to deliver benefits to communities, such as improved road safety, accessibility and visual amenity.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2019-2024 Initiatives:

Theme 1 - Celebrating Our Communities

Douglas Shire Council embraces the diversity of our communities and values the contribution that all people make to the Shire. We recognise that it is a core strength of the region. We acknowledge our past so that it may guide us in the future. We recognise the wrongs done to our Indigenous community and we actively seek to reconcile so that we may all benefit from and enjoy our Shire. We acknowledge early European settlers who forged an agricultural base for our economy and we welcome all new arrivals as part of our broader community.

Goal 1 - *We will celebrate the diversity of our community and ensure that all infrastructure, programs, and services are underpinned with inclusiveness and accessibility.*

Goal 2 - *We will deliver programs and services that protect and enhance the liveability of our beautiful Shire.*

Goal 3 - *We will develop programs that promote health, well-being and safety in the community.*

Theme 2 - Fostering Sustainable Economic Growth

A robust economy is at the heart of a thriving community and enables investment in environmental protection. While our remoteness is a key attribute, it also presents challenges for attracting new business and investment. We must also meet the challenges of fierce competition in the tourism sector. Council will partner with industry to build, diversify and promote the Douglas economy. Council will design and deliver infrastructure, strategies and services that support the local economy and businesses.

Goal 1 - *We will build appropriate infrastructure and deliver services that connect and support businesses.*

Theme 4 - Inclusive Engagement, Planning and Partnerships

In delivering for our communities, economy and environment, Douglas Shire will ensure open and transparent engagement and communication. We will develop robust strategic plans and we will partner with our community and key stakeholders.

Goal 3 - *We will recognise the critical role that our partners play in planning and delivering vital programs and services.*

Theme 5 - Robust Governance and Efficient Service Delivery

Strong governance and financial management are the foundations of the way in which Council will conduct its business and implement the initiatives of the Corporate Plan.

Goal 1 - *We will conduct Council business in an open and transparent manner with strong oversight and open reporting.*

Goal 2 - *We will put the customer at the centre of our service delivery and process improvement as we deliver efficient and appropriate services based on community expectations.*

Goal 3 - *We will make sound financial decisions by ensuring robust strategic planning, financial management and reporting.*

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:

Builder/Owner	Council makes a significant investment every year in the infrastructure that underpins the Shire through its capital works program. Council will manage its assets with appropriate frameworks and deliver its projects through robust project management.
Custodian	Council owns and manages infrastructure, facilities, reserves, resources and natural areas. In fulfilling its role as custodian, Council will be mindful of the community, the economy, the environment, and good governance.
Information Provider	Council provides the community with important information on services, events, policies, rules, strategies, and any other relevant data that helps the community to stay informed. In performing this role, Council seeks to be open and transparent.
Service Provider	Council provides many services to the community from roads and waste services to libraries and recreational facilities. Services evolve over time and it is the Council's mission to ensure that these services are appropriate, delivered efficiently, and designed with the customer at the centre.

CONSULTATION

Internal: Management Team; Project Managers and Officers; Councillors.

External: Australian Government - Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Projects align with key themes and goals from Council's Corporate Plan. In preparing this key document, business, industry and community attended workshops and answered a survey with over 800 ratepayers responding.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil