

5.5. CYCLE NETWORK LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS PROGRAM 2020-21 - COOYA TO MOSSMAN STAGE 2 CONSTRUCTION

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to:

1. Enter into a funding agreement with the State of Queensland (represented by the Department of Transport and Main Roads) under the Cycle Network Local Government Grants Program for the Cooya to Mossman Stage 2 construction;
2. Contribute 50% towards the total project cost for the project, to be allocated in the 2021-2022 Budget; and
3. Delegate authority under Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to administer the above matters.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under the Cycle Network Local Government Grants Program (CNLGGP) the Queensland Government and Councils work together to deliver and improve principal cycle networks across the State to achieve the Queensland Cycling Strategy 2017-2027 vision of 'more cycling, more often'.

The CNLGGP provides funding for Councils to deliver cycling infrastructure projects that meet the program's objectives.

In December 2019 Council submitted a funding application for Stage Two of the route to construct 2.6 kilometres of 3 metre wide, off-road shared path from Junction Bridge, along Bonnie Doon Road to the Cooya Beach Road intersection and finishing at the intersection of Bonnie Doon Road and Melaleuca Drive.

Council has been offered funding for \$1.25 million for this Stage Two project.

This report seeks Council's acceptance of the funding offer and approval of the required 50% contribution.

BACKGROUND

At the 18 December 2018 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved to support a submission to the State Government's Cycle Network Local Government Grants Program 2019/2020 for \$400,000.00 for the Junction Creek Pedestrian Bridge Project and contribute \$400,000.00 towards the project, if the grant was successful.

The grant for Stage One of the route was successful.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 1 October 2019, Council resolved to enter into a funding agreement with the State of Queensland (represented by the Department of Transport and Main Roads) under the Cycle Network Local Government Grants Program for the construction of Junction Creek Cycleway Bridge construction and contribution 50% towards the total project cost, to be allocated in the 2020-2021 Budget.

At the Ordinary meeting on 24 November 2020 Council resolved to enter into a contract for the Junction Creek Cycleway Bridge Construction Project.

In December 2019 Council submitted a funding application to construct 2.6 kilometres of 3 metre wide, off-road shared path from Junction Bridge, along Bonnie Doon Road to the Cooya Beach Road intersection and finishing at the intersection of Bonnie Doon Road and Melaleuca Drive.

The grant for Stage Two of the route was successful, with Council offered \$1.25 million towards the \$2.5 million project.

COMMENT

Before a funding agreement can be executed by the Chief Executive Officer the required 50% contribution must be approved by Council.

PROPOSAL

The proposal is for Council to resolve to:

1. Enter into a funding agreement with the State of Queensland (represented by the Department of Transport and Main Roads) under the Cycle Network Local Government Grants Program for the Cooya to Mossman Stage 2 construction;
2. Contribute 50% towards the total project cost for the project, to be allocated in the 2021-2022 Budget; and
3. Delegate authority under Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to administer the above matters.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The estimated construction cost for Stage Two is \$2,500,000.00 (GST Exc). Grant funding offered will contribute 50% towards the project. If Council accepts the funding offer, \$1,250,000.00 (GST Exc) will need to be allocated in the 2021-2022 Capital Works Budget as Council's co-contribution.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Project risks will be mitigated through the systematic application of internal project management systems. Project management will be the responsibility of a Council Officer, supported by officers from finance, procurement and corporate communications. The project manager will be responsible for ensuring all conditions of the funding agreement are met.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- Economic:** Benefits of cycling outlined in the Queensland Cycling Strategy 2017-2027 include reducing the risk of serious illnesses and improving mental wellbeing which potentially reduce impact on health care systems and associated costs. Increased cycling contributes to economic savings through reduced running costs of motorised transport.
- Environmental:** Providing infrastructure for cycling enables more people to ride bikes to work, school, socialise rather than using cars or buses; reducing traffic and emissions while incorporating regular exercise.
- Social:** Riding is a fun, social activity for people of all ages and the project aligns with the Queensland Cycling Strategy 2017-2027 by encouraging high levels of cycling, contributing to the vitality of the Shire, helping encourage a sense of community and connectedness.

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 3 - Leading Environmental Stewardship

Our visitors and residents deeply value the unparalleled environment in which we live. We recognise our responsibility in protecting and preserving our natural world for generations to come. We understand the strong link between the environment and the economy: they are interdependent. Douglas Shire will be at the forefront of environmental protection by developing strategies, setting policies, and working with all stakeholders to become the envy of and to inspire locations across Australia and the World.

Goal 2 - *We will implement programs that reduce and offset our environmental footprint.*

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.*

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.
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CONSULTATION

Internal: Management Team; Finance

External: In developing the project and funding application for Stage One of the route the following were consulted:

- Department of Transport and Main Roads,
- Mossman Multi-Purpose Health Service and
- Members of the Community Agency Network (CAN Meeting
18 October 2018)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In developing the Queensland Cycling Strategy 2017-2027 the State Government consulted Queenslanders.

Consultation carried out during the development of the Regional Cycling & Walking Strategy 2010-2030 identified Junction Bridge as an important link in the Douglas Shire. One of the public submissions in creating this Strategy was a petition from Cooya Beach residents, with over 400 signatures, requesting a bikeway from Mossman to Cooya Beach be completed.

In developing the original funding application for Stage One of the route, a Council Officer consulted members of the local Community Agency Network comprising various community organisations and government agencies. Council staff also consulted staff at Mossman Multipurpose Health Service, which followed with a letter of support.

The community is also informed of the Principal Cycle Network on Council's website, with further details and project updates available at [Douglas Shire Principal Cycle Network | Douglas Shire Council](#).

ATTACHMENTS

Nil