

## **5.8. WAIVE DAINTREE FERRY BUS FEES AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2020**

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**MANAGER** Mark Stoermer, Chief Executive Officer

**DEPARTMENT** Finance and Corporate Services

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1. Council resolve to endorse the proposed waiver of Daintree Ferry charges for buses for the period 1 August 2020 – 30 September 2020; and**
  - 2. Council delegates authority under section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to administer the above relief provisions.**
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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council wishes to propose the waiver of Daintree Ferry charges for buses from 1 August 2020 to 30 September 2020.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on many businesses and individuals in the Douglas Shire. Council wishes to offer various measures of relief to assist in supporting affected community members.

### **COMMENT**

The economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Operating Result for 30 June 2021 is being tracked and forecast. This includes proposed relief measures and the impact on revenue and expenditure due to lockdown measures.

### **PROPOSAL**

That Council agree to:

1. Waive the Daintree Ferry charges for buses from 1 August – 30 September 2020; and
2. Delegate authority under section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to implement these relief provisions

### **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The estimated lost revenue from 1 August 2020 to 30 September 2020, attributable to the waiving of Ferry charges for buses is \$38,901.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The Covid-19 pandemic has and will continue to have a negative impact on Council Operating Results. The Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer and Management Team will continue to monitor and manage financial and other risks as they are identified.

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

**Economic:** The Covid-19 pandemic will have a negative impact on the economic sustainability of Douglas Shire Council and may impact sustainability ratios. This will be closely managed by Council and mitigated where possible.

**Environmental:** Nil

**Social:** Nil

## CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

### Corporate Plan 2019-2024 Initiatives:

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

**Goal 4** - *We will work with our communities to ensure they are informed, empowered and supported so that they are resilient to the impacts of disaster events. Through our leadership and capabilities we will plan, prepare, respond and recover from events so as to minimise the impact on people, property, the environment, and our economic stability.*

## 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:

**Advocate** Council makes representation on behalf of the community on important issues, funding opportunities, projects and programs. Council will use its influence to seek the best outcomes for the community.

**Funder** Council often partly funds services, events or community organisations through grants, donations, subsidies and in-kind support. Council will apply robust governance to ensure that such funding is fair and appropriate.

**Regulator**

Council has a number of statutory obligations detailed in numerous regulations and legislative Acts. Council also makes local laws to ensure that the Shire is well governed. In fulfilling its role as regulator, Council will utilise an outcomes based approach that balances the needs of the community with social and natural justice.

**CONSULTATION**

**Internal:**

Chief Executive Officer, Management Team, Finance & Corporate Services Team.

**External:**

Tourism operators via Councillor feedback, Tourism Port Douglas Daintree, Douglas Chamber of Commerce.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil