

ORDINARY MEETING  5 MAY 2015	6.1
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## NOTICE OF MOTION – CR MELCHERT

### MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL PARKS INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING TOILETS NORTH OF THE DAINTREE RIVER

#### **NOTICE OF MOTION**

I hereby give Notice of my intention to move the following motion at Council's Ordinary Meeting to be held on 5 May 2015:-

*“That Council resolves to make arrangements, as a matter of urgency, for Council as a whole to meet with the Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef the Hon Steven Miles and the Regional Director National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)/(DEH) to discuss the need for the State Government to commit to proper maintenance of tourism infrastructure north of the Daintree River, including boardwalks and toilets.”*

#### **BACKGROUND**

As I have advised previously I have been receiving reports from tourism operators who utilise facilities north of the Daintree River that there has been a decline in NPWS commitment to the maintenance of tourism infrastructure North of the Daintree River.

The recent demolition of a toilet block which apparently had been allowed to deteriorate to a point where it was unsafe, and the non- replacement of a damaged toilet block validates these concerns.

In my opinion given the significant reliance of business in the Shire on tourism, all Councillors should be enabled to attend the proposed discussions and represent a commitment from the Shire for the Minister to act urgently to ensure proper maintenance of facilities is fully funded and implemented.

In my opinion this motion is entirely consistent with the resolution passed at the last Council meeting regarding this issue

#### **CEO'S COMMENT:**

Council considered a report on an almost identical matter at its Ordinary Meeting of 14 April, 2015. At that meeting Council resolved *“to advocate on behalf of the community for adequate and well maintained public toilets in the National Park north of the River”*. At that meeting Cr Melchert unsuccessfully moved an amendment to the motion in similar terms to the above Notice of Motion.

At the time of writing there is little new information with the exception of some data on toilet facilities from the Daintree Ferry to Cape Tribulation.

Council staff are continuing to meet and liaise with staff from Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (QPWS) to ensure that adequate and well-maintained visitor toilet facilities and other infrastructure is provided for the area.

As explained in the earlier report, public toilets at Cow Bay, owned and maintained by the State Government, were demolished by the State Government. Over a period of years the toilets had deteriorated to the extent that their use constituted a risk of injury to the public. Holding tanks for the facility were also compromised and could not be replaced due to the design of the facility. The QPWS took action for reasons of public safety and protection of the environment in demolishing the toilets.

As previously advised, Council has no responsibility or arrangement to manage the toilet facilities at Cow Bay, nor had there been any discussion with QPWS to take over the management of these toilets.

Council has put in new amenities facilities in the car park on the southern side of the Daintree Gateway this year. Officers have also undertaken an investigation of the ability to upgrade the temporary toilets placed at Thornton Beach by Council more than a decade ago and are also in discussions to assume responsibility for the amenities facilities in the vicinity of the Cape Tribulation playground in Avalon St, which Council opened last year. Council also maintains toilet facilities in Diwan.

Council maintains toilet facilities between the Daintree Ferry and Cape Tribulation as shown below:

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Daintree Ferry       | 3 Toilets, 1 Accessible ( Gateway unisex toilets)                 |
| 2. Daintree Ferry       | 2 Ladies, 1 Male & Urinal   |
| 3. Daintree River       | Ticket Office -1 Porta-loo, North Side – 2 Porta-loos             |
| 4. Tea Tree Road, Diwan | 2 ladies, 1 male & Urinal   |
| 5. Thornton Beach       | 2 porta-loos (Toilet block off-line – 3 ladies, 2 male & Urinal). |

**Current total: 15 toilets**

QPWS remaining facilities are:

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Kulki Day Use Area -  | 9 toilets (when the female block is rebuilt) |
| 2. Avalon St             | 5 toilets                                    |
| 3. Dubuji Day Use Area   | 5 toilets                                    |
| 4. Noah Campground       | 4 toilets                                    |
| 5. Jindalba Day Use Area | 5 toilets                                    |

**Current total (Kulki repaired): 28 toilets**

There are a total of **43 pedestal-type toilets** available for public use between the Daintree Ferry and Cape Tribulation.

Capital works projects north of the Daintree River will be provided to Council as part of its budget deliberations.