

6.2. NOTICE OF MOTION - LINE MARKING DAINTREE ROAD

COUNCILLOR: Cr Terry Melchert

NOTICE OF MOTION:

I hereby give Notice of my intention to move the following Motion at the Council meeting scheduled for Thursday 28th January 2016:-

“That Council instruct the Chief Executive Officer to arrange, as soon as possible, and by not later than 28th February 2016, the complete restoration/repainting of line marking on the Daintree to Cape Tribulation Road. If the usual Council contractor cannot carry out the work within the prescribed time frame then an alternate contractor is to be engaged via separate quotation.”

BACKGROUND:

On 11th January 2016 I visited the area North of the Daintree with Councillor Clarke to meet with residents, ratepayers and small business owners, and while visiting Mr Lawrence Mason he raised the issue of Council's inattention to the maintenance of Line Marking on the Daintree River to Cape Tribulation Road especially given he raised the issue with Council on a number of occasions.

Our inspection certainly revealed that the line marking is either almost totally worn off or barely visible which absolutely confirms Mr Mason's comments.

OFFICER'S COMMENT:

Infrastructure Services acknowledges the need to re-do the linemarking on Cape Tribulation Road north of the Daintree River and has scheduled this work to accommodate a range of capital works, maintenance and budgetary considerations as part of a structured, rather than ad hoc, plan.

An operational decision was made by the relevant Council officers not to proceed with linemarking in the 2015 calendar year because of the significant NDRRA works that were occurring north of the Daintree River. Considerations such as worker safety due to increased trucks, the impact of significant truck movements would have on newly painted lines, and changing of scope of NDRRA works on Cape Tribulation Road, resulted in a decision to defer any linemarking. In addition, significant portions of the road seal needs replacement which is being considered for the 2016 calendar year and bearing this in mind it does not make sense to install linemarking until the reseal program is finalised.

In addition to the reasons presented above Council officers strongly disagree with the request to have line marking completed by 28th February as it puts the Council at significant risk of causing environmental harm and is poor value for money. Linemarking paint is a water solvent paint that requires a dry substrate and drying time after placement. These requirements are difficult to achieve in a World Heritage listed rainforest environment during the wettest month of the year. The potential impact to receiving water would be significant and could expose Council to action from Wet Tropics Management Authority and other agencies. A competent linemarking company will also be aware of these difficulties and should they be convinced to commence, it is expected that their price would reflect the risk and consequently not provide value for money.

For these reasons linemarking is not expected to occur until the later part of 2016. The scope will be dependent on the budget available and the entire Infrastructure Services works program priorities.

It would also be noted that all speed humps north of the Daintree River have been repainted in December 2015 and that reseals and linemarking to Cape Tribulation Road south of the Daintree River have been mostly completed.