

6.5. NOTICE OF MOTION - ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS NORTH OF THE DAINTREE RIVER

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 require that the following Road Maintenance works be carried out as soon as possible:-

- i. Repair to pavement deformation in one lane of the Daintree-Cape Tribulation Road in the vicinity of the “Fan Palm” café.**
- ii. Repair or removal of damaged/rusted steel bridge girders on the bike/pedestrian crossing over Hutchison Creek. Further until the removal/repairs are done a proper security/exclusion fence be erected at each end of the structure to physically prevent access by people and in particular children. This is really important because the site is very close to the Alexander Bay School.”**

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.

The above issues were raised during the visit. The main concern is that the dip in the road near the Fan Palm café is so big cars tend to move to the wrong side of the road to avoid it, creating a traffic hazard.

We inspected the site of the pedestrian walkway over Hutchinson Creek and it is very clear why the Works program have closed down the path because the bridge girders are very rusted and rusted through in some places. The concern raised is structure not locked off and children have been seen climbing and walking on the narrow girders which are fair height above the river bed.

OFFICER'S COMMENT:

It is assumed the reference to the pavement deformation relates to the north bound lane of the concrete causeway located between Pandanus Road and the Fan Palm Café.

This pavement deformation is in fact a dip in the road alignment to cater for creek overflows that on occasions inundate the road. This dip is located on a sweeping bend with double centerlines and is signposted with a dip sign on the approaches.

Whilst not ideal, this dip is considered to be of minor inconvenience when compared to other similar dips along Cape Tribulation Road. Council officers recommend that more unsatisfactory dips be attended to before this dip in accordance with budgetary and maintenance constraints.

The only long term feasible rectification of this dip is the removal and replacement of the concrete slab at some cost and inconvenience to the community.

Council removed the deck of the bike/pedestrian crossing over the creek in early December as the deteriorating deck was making access unsafe. Two separate layers of barriers and signage were installed to secure the area accordingly.

Following the advice of this notice of motion, an additional review of the barriers was conducted and subsequently further augmentation to the existing barriers was implemented. Exclusionary fencing is not considered practical in this instance as it cannot fully encapsulate the area and hence can still be bypassed by members of the public.

A letter requesting that students at the nearby school should keep away from the area has been sent to the Principal of the Alexander Bay School.

A decision on the removal of the existing girders is pending the final rectification proposal for the bridge.