

## 7.12. CONTRACT 2889.1 DAINTREE RIVER DREDGING

<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Contract Manager
<b>MANAGER</b>	Manager Infrastructure Planning and Delivery
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	Infrastructure Planning and Delivery
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	

### That Council:

- 1. Award Contract 2889.1 Daintree River Dredging to Marrin Pty Ltd based on a schedule of rates commencing on 14 December 2025, for a period of two years; and**
- 2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 to enter into contracts, negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to the contract/s subject to Council's normal procurement policies and practices.**

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Douglas Shire Council's existing Daintree River dredging contract for the Daintree Ferry crossing is due to expire on 13 December 2025 and there are no further extension options available. A new contractual arrangement is required to ensure that the ferry crossing remains navigable.

It is recommended that Council awards Contract 2889.1 Daintree River Dredging to Marrin Pty Ltd on a schedule of rates commencing 14 December 2025, for a period of two years with no extension options.

### BACKGROUND

The Daintree River channel is required to be dredged on average two to three times per year to ensure the continuous operation of the Daintree Ferry. Council holds an Environmental Authority to undertake dredging activities. The current permit allows Council to remove up to 10,000 cubic meters per calendar year and outlines environmental conditions that need to be adhered to.

Dredging is undertaken with a barge-mounted long reach excavator positioned on the Council owned ferry. Dredging occurs during the hours of 22:00 to 05:00 to minimise the impact on Daintree Ferry customers. On occasion a 'mini dredge' may be scheduled during daylight hours for a small defined area, for example around the southern concrete ramp. Contractors were asked to price a separate fee for day and night works in the schedule of rates.

Dredge material is transported to a temporary stockpile site located approximately 600 meters west of the dredge site on Cape Tribulation Road. Material is sorted, treated with lime and tested, once cleared clean material is used for sand nourishment projects.

### COMMENTS

Council issued an open tender invitation through Vendor Panel (Reference: VP483656) for Contract 2889.1 Daintree River Dredging. The tender was open for 21 calendar days and published on Council's website in line with Council's Procurement Policy.

Council received six (6) responses from dredge and earthmoving companies across Queensland and NSW. A tender panel consisting of three (3) Council officers evaluated the responses, which included undertaking a detailed pricing review of a one, four, eight and ten night dredge campaign. Two of the six responses were deemed to have a non-conforming methodology as their approach was not consistent with Council's current permits.

The responses were scored based on the following criteria:

- Price – hourly rate, taking into account mobilisation and demobilisation rates.
- Resource – staffing and ability to respond within the required timeframes.
- Capability – experience and ability to do the job.
- Business Profile – local, social and sustainability.

The recommended contractor, Marrin Pty Ltd scored the highest in all criteria. They offer the best value for money, have the required equipment and experience, and are local to the area. They have also held the dredge contract for the last three (3) years and have a track record of responding quickly to unplanned dredges following weather events; and successfully operating within Council's permit requirements.

## PROPOSAL

That Council:

1. Award Contract 2889.1 Daintree River Dredging to Marrin Pty Ltd based on a schedule of rates commencing on 14 December 2025, for a period of two years; and
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 to enter into contracts, negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to the contract/s subject to Council's normal procurement policies and practices.

## FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The allocated budget for Daintree River dredging for the Daintree Ferry crossing is \$473,000. The recommended contract value is within this budget.

The operational need for dredging is based on rainfall, tides and weather events, this varies from year to year.

## RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Daintree Ferry is a critical transport link providing access to the area north of the Daintree River. The risk of not awarding this contract is that the Daintree Ferry would not be able to operate during periods of low tide or following a weather event. This would impact residents, visitors, commercial entities, emergency service vehicles and cause significant reputational damage to Council.

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

### Economic:

The reliable operation of the Daintree Ferry supports commercial entities and the communities located north of the Daintree River.

Tourism market research suggests that Cape Tribulation and the Daintree play a significant role in the reason why people travel to the Douglas Shire.

**Environmental:**

Operating within Council's Environmental Authority will enable the Daintree Ferry to operate during low tide and following a weather event. Environmental testing will be undertaken to monitor the impact to the environment from the dredging activities, this includes water testing in the Daintree River and temporary stockpile site.

**Social:**

The reliable operation of the Daintree Ferry will positively impact the communities north of the Daintree River by providing an important transport link. It also provides important access to emergency service vehicles.

## **CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

### **Corporate Plan 2025-2030 Initiatives:**

#### **Theme 3 - Service Delivery**

We deliver Council services effectively and efficiently to meet community expectations, focusing on the wellbeing of both the community and our employees.

**3.6 - Deliver Council services to meet community expectations.**

**3.7 - Identify and manage risk.**

## **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.

## **CONSULTATION**

**Internal:**

Operations & Maintenance Team; Council Workshop on 25/11/2025

**External:**

Nil

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil