

7.13. QUARTERLY UPDATE DRFA PROGRAM - Q1 25/26FY

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DEPARTMENT	DRFA Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements – Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets Report Quarter 1 2025/2026 Financial Year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the progress of projects under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) - Restoration of Essential Public Assets (REPA) program for quarter 1 (Q1) 2025/2026 financial year (FY). Significant activities during this period included advancing the restoration of critical infrastructure, assessments of tender submissions to ensure project risks are addressed, value for money and quality outcomes, and the submission of detailed funding requests under both REPA and Betterment.

ISSUES

For Q1 there have been two primary areas of focus for Council.

Firstly, the upcoming works on Alexandra Range required traffic management planning to ensure minimal disruption during the construction period. The delivery team commenced traffic management preparations ahead of the October 2025 works, designing a smaller work zone with guided traffic control. The planned approach is expected to result in shorter waiting times and improved traffic flow during the construction period, supporting safer and more efficient project delivery.

Secondly, last quarter, Noah Creek Bridge was derated from 16 tonnes to 8 tonnes, significantly limiting access and requiring a solution to restore its original load capacity. Council undertook detailed planning with subject matter experts and consultants from Transport and Main Roads to develop a methodology that would allow the bridge to be stripped and returned to functionality daily. The work is scheduled to be carried out at night to maintain daytime access, ensuring critical connectivity was preserved. A viable scope was confirmed, enabling the work to commence in mid-October ahead of any potential early wet season. This approach ensures essential access is maintained while progressing the necessary upgrades.

COMMENTS

The first quarter of the 2025-2026 financial year has proven a critical timeline outside of the wet season. With various active contracts and multiple contractors working across the shire, significant program milestones were reached. As of 30 September, the overall program for the infrastructure recovery works achieved 64 percent completion, positioning the overall delivery program ahead of schedule. This outcome was crucial due to the potential for an earlier wet season that may impact on the program in the second and third quarters. The delivery team continues to monitor critical milestones and mitigate risk as practically as possible.

Key focus areas for the quarter

Noah Creek Bridge:

Council received funding approval to complete the necessary critical activities on Noah Creek Bridge thus allowing confirmation for a solution to return to the 16 tonne load limit.

Lee's Bridge and Taylors Crossing:

Councils delivery team and Principal Contractor for Lee's Bridge have had a productive quarter completing all piling activities in September. Following this achievement, the Principal Contractor deployed a separate crew to conduct bridge works, maximising efficiency and allowing the piling crew to mobilise at Taylors Crossing.

Alexandra Range Landslips:

Council finalised submissions for two additional sites on Alexandra Range Slip Repairs. While one of the two sites has been approved, the remaining approval is expected to be received in quarter 2. This outcome represents a great opportunity to ensure the additional sites are incorporated into the program, following an ongoing monitoring process.

Alexandra Range was opened to full width. This action allowed Council to progress mobilisation of heavy equipment and materials for other sites. Furthermore, the full width of access provided opportunity for tourism operators to achieve some normality. Works for the AR6 site are set to commence in October 2025 when traffic will return for a period of 6 weeks. The work will be under traffic control. More on this will be covered in the next quarterly update.

Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road Landslips:

Works are underway across multiple sites on the Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Road Slips.

Unsealed Roads Packages:

Work has now commenced across all five unsealed road packages under REPA. Three packages have been completed, marking significant progress in the delivery schedule. In total, the five contracts cover approximately 100 roads. The remaining works will be delivered under Packages 3 and 4, which include Ten-mile, Zig Zag, Banabila, Evergreen, Idriess, and China Camp Road.

Water Resilience Funding:

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority has confirmed that, due to an inundation of works programs, there have been delays in processing the Water Resilience Funding submissions. The submissions, valued at \$50.9 million, remain unamended at this stage. However, it is expected that the approved amount will be approximately \$48 million. Further updates are anticipated in the October–December quarter. At a program level, resourcing and delivery strategy have been considered, and Council is confident in delivering this critical infrastructure once formal approvals are received.

Following from the previous quarterly report, Council has continued to work on numerous risk mitigation measures around construction resourcing to make good use of the dry season window. This has proved effective during the July–September quarter. Ongoing monitoring of potential wet weather, critical activities continue to be reviewed with necessary actions occurring accordingly.

PROPOSAL

That council notes the Q1 FY25/26 Infrastructure Recovery (DRFA) Quarterly report.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Funding for the projects is fully recoverable under the DRFA arrangements. As a result, there are no financial implications for Council.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The purpose of this report is to report on the progress of the DRFA-REPA program in accordance with legislation and Council Policy. Failure to report may result in a breach of Council Policy.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic:	The Cyclone Jasper Disaster Event may 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 impact from the approvals in this report as works have already occurred.
Social:	Nil impact from the approvals in this report as works have already occurred.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2025-2030 Initiatives:

Theme 4 - Recovery and Resilience

To partner with community to build resilience against natural disasters creating a strong sense of social capital.

4.1 - Support our community's journey of recovery and rebuilding after natural disasters.

4.2 - Deliver infrastructure asset restoration and betterment.

4.3 - Foster collaboration, sustainability, and a strong sense of belonging.

Operational Plan 2025-2026 Actions:

New project arisen during the financial year.

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.
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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.
Service Provider	Council provides many services to the community from roads and waste services to libraries and recreational facilities. Services evolve over time and it is the Council's mission to ensure that these services are appropriate, delivered efficiently, and designed with the customer at the centre.

CONSULTATION

Internal:	Infrastructure Recovery, Finance, Senior Leadership team
External:	Queensland Reconstruction Authority, Community Road Reference Group

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements update will fall within the “inform” category of Council’s Community Engagement Framework.

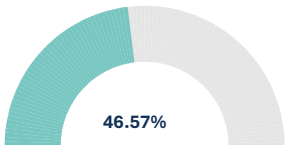
ATTACHMENTS

1. DRFA Q 1 F Y 25-26 Report [7.13.1 - 1 page]

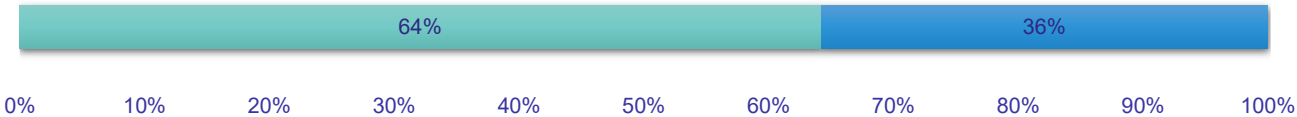


EST Total Funding	Total Committed	Remaining Uncommitted
\$ 162,573,520.57	\$ 104,342,145.63	\$ 58,231,374.94

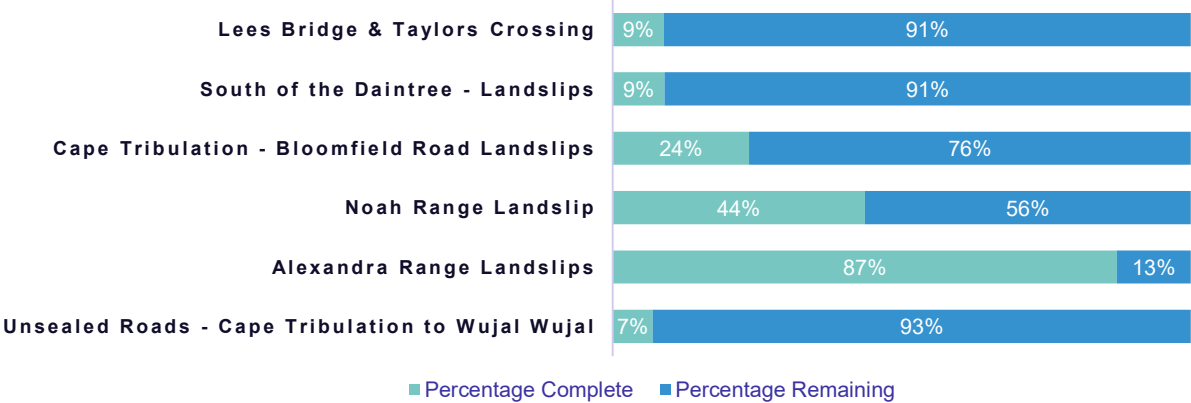
Percentage of Funding Received to Date



Program Percentage Complete



Main Contract Completion



Recent Contracts Awarded

Contract Name	Company	Amount	Estimated Completion
Noah Creek Bridge	HEH Civil	\$ 8,485,689.63	Sep-26