

7.13. RESOURCE AND PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT - RUN PORT DOUGLAS

REPORT AUTHOR	Sport and Recreation Officer
MANAGER	Manager Community Services
DEPARTMENT	Community Services
DATE	31 March 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Enters into a three-year (FY2026/27, FY2027/28, FY2028/29) Resource and Performance Agreement, providing funding of \$75,000 (incl. GST) and \$5,000 in-kind support per annum with Connect Sport Australia to deliver RUN Port Douglas.
2. Delegates authority under s257 of the Local Government Act 2009 to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise all matters associated with the Agreement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Connect Sport Australia, (CSA) presented a formal request to Council seeking funding support to present the Run Port Douglas event, by way of a three-year resource and performance agreement. The deputation, made on January 27, 2026, sought funding of \$75,000 (inc GST) cash and \$5,000 In-kind Support per annum over (2025–2028) to present the festival annually in September, with this year's event scheduled for September 5.

Council officers have liaised with organisers to establish key performance indicators (KPI's) that reflect economic impact and benefits for the region, foster community pride and provide health and participation outcomes.

The event promotes our region and showcases Port Douglas along a course that transitions across iconic locations of the township and beach, with distances for all fitness levels. The organisers have a proven track record of delivering mass participation, active lifestyle events to a high level, with proven outcomes. Based on these assessment criteria, it is recommended that Council enters into a Three-Year agreement to support the event, as proposed, from 2026/27/28.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONS / RESOLUTIONS

At the Ordinary Meeting held 27 August 2024 it was resolved that Council:

1. Enters into a three-year Resource and Performance Agreement with event organisers of the Port Douglas Gran Fondo Festival with funding of \$75,000 (incl. GST) and \$5,000 in-kind support per annum, for a period of three years (FY2024/25, FY2025/26, FY2026/27) under the terms set out in the Resource and Performance Agreement.
2. Delegates authority under s257 of the Local Government Act 2009 to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise all matters associated with the Agreement.

REPORT/BACKGROUND

RUN Port Douglas is a mass participation running event managed and presented by Connect Sport Australia, first held in September 2025, as part of the former Gran Fondo Festival, a cycling event that featured access to the Cook Hwy as part of the experience. The RUN Port Douglas event was added to the program to provide an extra activity to the program after organisers noted an increase in demand for running related events. Attendance figures were strong for the inaugural event with a total of 1,512 runners participating across four distance categories.

The RUN Port Douglas program included:

Friday

Sponsor expo and event registration

Saturday

- Official Opening
- 21km Run
- 10km Run
- 5km Run
- 2km Run
- Post Race Presentations
- RUN Port Douglas EXPO

Sunday

Recovery activities

The above program of events will be the framework for the festival during the term of the agreement.

RUN Port Douglas is supported by key corporate and destination partners, strengthening the event's sustainability and long-term delivery.

Entering into this agreement would:

- Provide certainty for future event planning and delivery
- Retain a professionally delivered endurance event within the Shire
- Ensure Council investment is directed towards a proven and scalable event model
- Secures a significant destination marketing event to compliment our regional events calendar

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Funding under the Resource and Performance Agreement will be met out of Council's annual sponsorship budget.

The organiser will be required to provide an economic impact post event report for each year of Council funding as part of the overall acquittal report.

The total economic impact of the RUN Port Douglas Festival, total participants, and total visitor numbers were taken into consideration when writing this report with the projected totals to be referenced as KPI's in the Resource and Performance agreement.

The RUN Port Douglas Festival contributes to the regional event calendar and actively promotes the region through various tourism agencies via annual destination marketing activities.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

As part of the Resource and Performance Agreement, an overall Management Plan for the event will be required, as well as appropriate permits.

A comprehensive Risk Management Plan for the event will be required in consultation with Queensland Police, Queensland Ambulance, Mossman Hospital, Cairns Base Hospital, professional event medical support company and Douglas Shire Council.

The three-year agreement will be disbursed in instalments. At the conclusion of each event, a financial acquittal is to be provided to Council for assessment. Funds will only be disbursed on the successful acquittal of the previous year's funding.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Event organisers will be required to undertake a consultation with Councils Resource Recovery Officer and practice sustainable waste management at all related events.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The RUN Port Douglas Festival encourages a healthy and social lifestyle in the Douglas Shire, contributing to the health and wellbeing of the community. The event aligns closely with many local, state and federal government initiatives that address issues such as physical activity, mental health, and inclusion.

CORPORATE AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2025-2030 Initiatives:

Theme 1 - Liveability

To deliver community activities to promote safe, healthy, inclusive and socially engaged communities with an environmental conscious.

1.1 - Deliver community initiatives that support healthy, inclusive and socially engaged communities.

1.4 - Promote inclusivity, connection and accessibility for individuals/people of all abilities.

Operational Plan 2025-2026 Actions:

New project arisen during the financial year.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY

Not applicable

CONSULTATION

Internal: Events Officer, Sports and Rec Officer, Tourism and Economic Development Officer, Manager Community Services.
Councillor Workshop 24 February 2026.

External: The funding request was developed by the applicant with the support of various local government, tourism and business groups.

Connect Sport Australia have a successful record of actively engaging with the community when presenting its events and dealing with local concerns. Through the events volunteer program, the organiser has actively engaged significant groups of volunteers and donates to participating groups. Organisers intend to grow their volunteer program to build capacity at a local level.

The RUN Port Douglas Festival provides feedback via surveys and data collection as part of their post event report and acquittal requirements.

CONCLUSION

The objective of this type of funding support is to attract and partner with events that provide strategic outcomes and benefits for the Douglas Shire.

The inaugural event demonstrated strong participation, positive community feedback, efficient event delivery and clear alignment with Council priorities, including:

- Attract external visitation and increase overnight visitor expenditure
- Position Port Douglas, Daintree as a leading event destination
- Foster local community happiness, cohesion and participation.
- Develop a year-round calendar of events.
- Active and healthy Communities.
- Destination marketing and branding.
- Build an event friendly reputation.
- Increase event return on investment and conversion.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil