

7.15. QUARTERLY UPDATE DRFA PROGRAM - Q4 24/25FY

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| REPORT AUTHOR | Construction & Commercial Manager |
| MANAGER | Chief Engineer TC Jasper Infrastructure and Recovery |
| DEPARTMENT | Infrastructure Recovery |

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements – Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets Report Quarter 4 2024/2025 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 Q4 2025. 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. A large volume of procurement activities were completed within this quarter, ensuring that the program is poised to proceed immediately after the wet season. The reporting period experienced rainfall events, all projects' sites held up exceptionally well.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

For this quarter there are three primary areas of focus that Council has been working on. Firstly, the process of environmental permits and approvals remains ongoing with external parties. Noah Creek is subject to a unique location of significance and works undertaken require negotiation on design and constructability to ensure no impact occurs to surrounding environment. This site is unique due to several environmental bodies having influence in the decision-making process with different legislative outcomes needing to align. Council has been working closely with all environmental bodies involved to reach an outcome that meets the requirements necessary to complete the temporary bypass and bridge replacement.

Noah Bridge Replacement has been challenging to progress, with two primary scope objectives in the submission to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA). The first objective is the replacement of the existing timber bridge, that was significantly damaged in Cyclone Jasper. In the process of working through the environmental approvals, the replacement of the existing bridge required that the new bridge be constructed within the existing alignment. The outcome of this necessitates demolition of the old bridge and in turn requires a temporary bypass. The bypass also requires funding and was subject to meeting the environmental conditions of being a temporary structure so that no long-term ecological impacts would occur to the natural environment. The challenge of environmental approvals, subsequent design parameters and stringent evidence-based submissions has proven challenging for the team.

Council's Infrastructure Recovery team have worked closely with our Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (REPA) program to ensure suitable sites eligible for Betterment programs were identified. Upon review Council submitted a Betterment program of eligible sites worth approximately \$29 million. The betterment program put forth to QRA represents a significant program for consideration. Council received feedback from QRA that budget caps

will apply and that the full submission value cannot be awarded. Betterment will therefore be a wait and see dependent on assessment of submissions.

COMMENTS:

The end of the previous quarter was the deadline for all REPA submissions relating to Tropical Cyclone Jasper. Council received a total of \$168 million in funding through these submissions enabling Council to proceed with the next stages of delivery and to finalise the tendering process for the balance of REPA submissions

Betterment Submissions: a balance of approval outcomes remains outstanding with the QRA with further updates expected at the latter end of Q1 of Financial Year 2025/2026. This is primarily due to several natural disaster events that have occurred across Queensland that QRA are working through.

Noah Creek Bridge: Has been de-rated to 8 tonne load limit while Council is working on a solution to return to the 16-tonne load limit. Council is currently pending formal approval from the funding body, with a resolution anticipated in the July-September quarter.

Alexandra Range Slip Repairs: Four slips remaining as of June 30; this includes the two of the three newly identified slips to be completed.

Water Resilience Funding: Council has completed the water resilience funding submissions to the value of \$50.9 million. Council envisages hearing updates on this program by the end of the July-Sept quarter.

The Cape Tribulation and Bloomfield Road Slips are in the final stages of contract award, with work commencing in the coming quarter.

With the level of procurement activities completed, there will be a significant number of deliverables to occur in the new financial year. Council has worked on numerous risk mitigation measures around construction resourcing to make good use of the dry season window. There is continual monitoring of potential wet weather, with critical activities being reviewed ahead of the wet season. Council's approach to forecast these scenarios will provide some comfort managing unforeseen circumstances. The local community remains well-informed and supportive, and local contractors have consistently performed at a high standard.

PROPOSAL

That Council note the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements – Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets Report Quarter 4 2024/2025 Financial Year.

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:

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|-------------------------|--|
| 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. |
| 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.

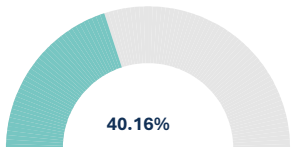
ATTACHMENTS

1. DRFA Q 4 2024 Report [7.15.1 - 1 page]

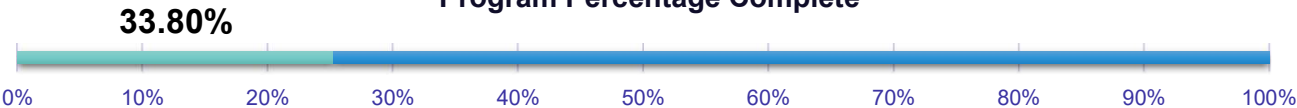


| EST Total Funding | Total Committed | Remaining Uncommitted |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| \$ 179,038,945.99 | \$ 54,790,096.73 | \$ 124,248,849.26 |

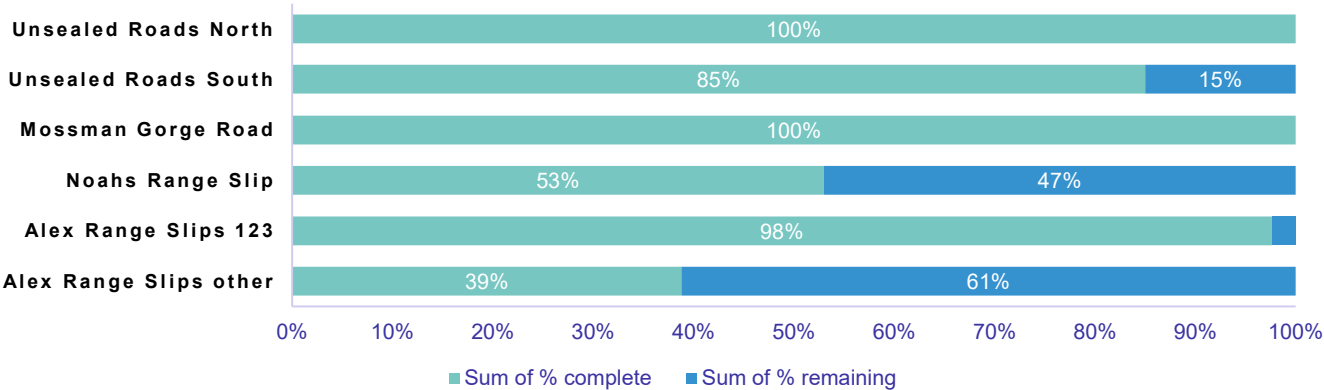
Percentage of Funding Received to Date



Program Percentage Complete



Main Contract Completion



Recent Contracts Awarded

| Contract Name | Company | Amount | Estimated Completion |
|---|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Unsealed Road - CTBR | Durack Civil | \$ 675,087.85 | Dec-25 |
| Unsealed Road- 10 Mile/Zig Zag/China Camp | Durack Civil | \$ 5,227,108.71 | Dec-25 |
| Unsealed Road - Banabilla/Idriess/Evergreen | Durack Civil | \$ 675,087.85 | Dec-25 |
| Taylors Crossing and Lee's Bridge | NQ Civil Contractors | \$ 6,688,966.74 | Dec-25 |
| Concrete Pavements CTBR | NCP Contracting | \$ 872,828.93 | Dec-25 |
| Landslips CTBR | HEH Civil | \$ 13,766,985.10 | Jun-26 |
| South of the Daintree Landslips | Colpo | \$ 10,812,768.80 | Dec-25 |