

7.19. DAINTREE FERRY UPDATE MAY AND JUNE 2026

REPORT AUTHOR	Contract Manager
EXECUTIVE	General Manager Infrastructure
DEPARTMENT	Infrastructure
TEAM	Infrastructure Planning and Delivery
DATE	27 July 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the Daintree Ferry operational report for May and June 2026.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Brief outline of report intent

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONS / RESOLUTIONS

At the Ordinary Meeting dated 10 December 2024, it was resolved that Councillors would be provided with monthly financial details relating to the Daintree Ferry.

REPORT/BACKGROUND

The graphs attached represent the financial performance and operating statistics of the Daintree Ferry Operations for the current period. It should be noted that this is not a comprehensive assessment of the financial performance as Council's corporate and administrative costs that support the ferry operation have not been included. These costs include but are not limited to ticket and ferry card sales administration, contract invoicing, accounts payable and receivable, budgeting and financial reporting, payroll and human resources, auditing, enquiry and complaints management and administrative costs and overheads.

For the months of May and June 2026, the 'Douglas Card' was reinstated as a temporary measure to boost economic activity north of the Daintree River following the ferry outage because of Tropical Low 29U. Douglas Card utilisation was:

May 2026: 603 Trips
June 2026: 588 Trips

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Reporting on the Daintree Ferry does not have any material resource impact on the delivery of service.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Monthly reporting keeps Council informed of the progress in relation to the Daintree Ferry operation and allows for timely corrective action if required.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

NIL

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

NIL

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.

1.5 - Keep the community informed.

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.

Operational Plan 2026-2027 Actions:

2.1.1 - 100% design of new Daintree Ferry including AMSA approvals.

2.1.2 - Commence construction of the new Daintree Ferry.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY

Not applicable

CONSULTATION

Councillor Workshop 21 July 2026

CONCLUSION

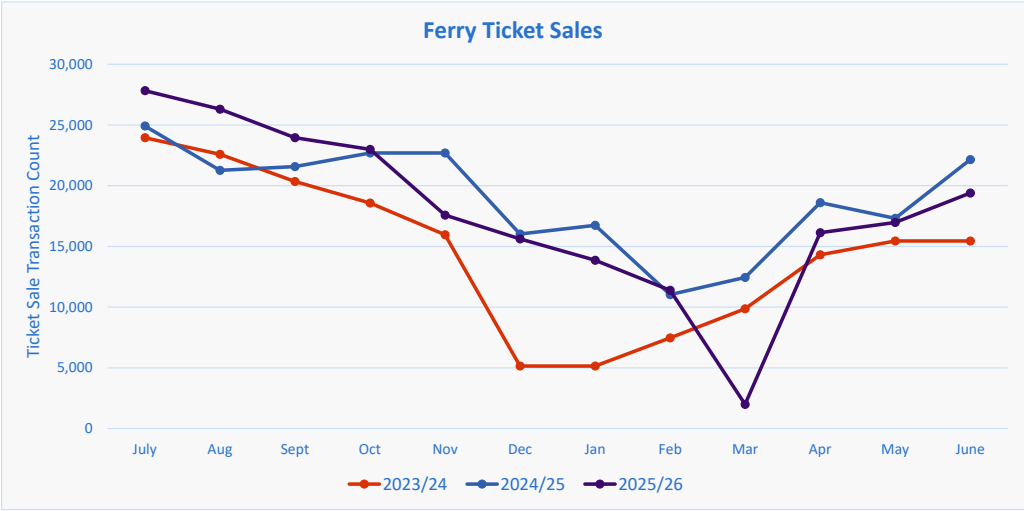
That Council notes the Daintree River Ferry operational report for May and June 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Daintree Ferry Monthly Report - Operations Statistics May June 2026 [7.19.1 - 2 pages]

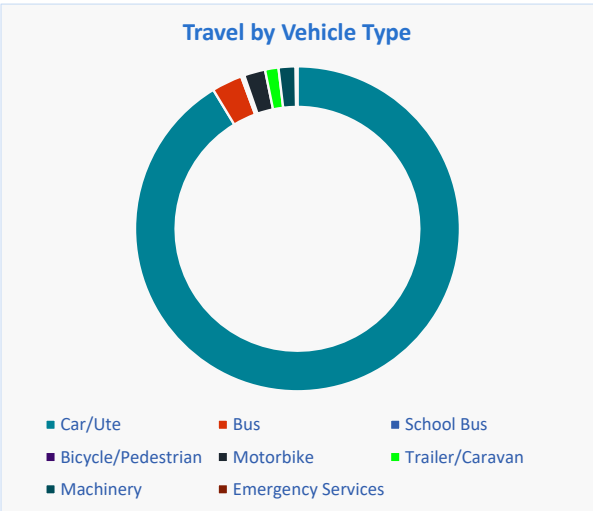
Daintree Ferry Monthly Report
May to June 2026

OPERATING STATISTICS



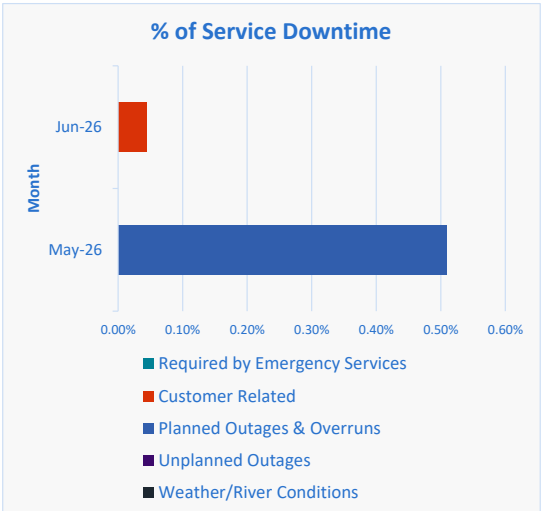
The line chart shows the number of ferry ticket sales purchased each month over the last three (3) financial years. It includes both actual travel and pre-purchased tickets for future travel months. As expected, ticket sales are lower during the wet season, particularly between December and March. In May to June 2026, ticket sales increased following the significantly lower sales recorded in March 2026 due to the 29U weather-related event.

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
2023/24	23,949	22,586	20,341	18,566	15,959	5,146	5,146	7,465	9,862	14,312	15,440	15,440
2024/25	24,915	21,267	21,572	22,698	22,698	16,021	16,737	11,030	12,436	18,602	17,307	22,148
2025/26	27,824	26,298	23,957	22,987	17,584	15,619	13,862	11,380	1,995	16,135	16,973	19,397



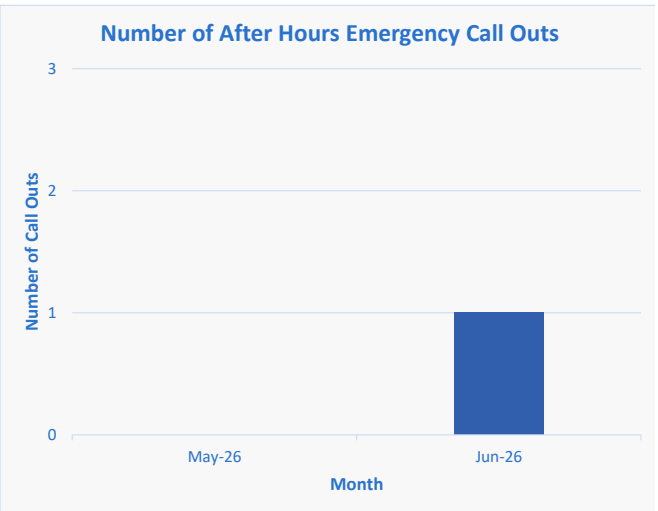
The pie chart shows the breakdown of vehicle types which used the Daintree Ferry in June 2026. Car and ute travel makes up the majority of travel (91.3%), followed by buses (3.0%) and machinery (1.7%).

Travel by Vehicle Type	Jun-26
Car/ute	91.3%
Bus	3.0%
School Bus	0.2%
Bicycle/Pedestrian	0.1%
Motorbike	2.1%
Trailer/Caravan	1.3%
Machinery	1.7%
Emergency Services	0.2%
	100.0%



The Daintree Ferry's operational hours are 19 hours per day, 365 days a year. In May 2026 there was a planned 3 hour early closure to accommodate hydraulics works. In June 2026 a truck dropped it's load on the ramp, which caused a short 15 minute closure whilst the material was cleaned up.

% Service Downtime	May-26	Jun-26
Required by Emergency Services	0.00%	0.00%
Customer Related	0.00%	0.04%
Planned Outages & Overruns	0.51%	0.00%
Unplanned Outages	0.00%	0.00%
Weather/River Conditions	0.00%	0.00%
	0.01	0.0004

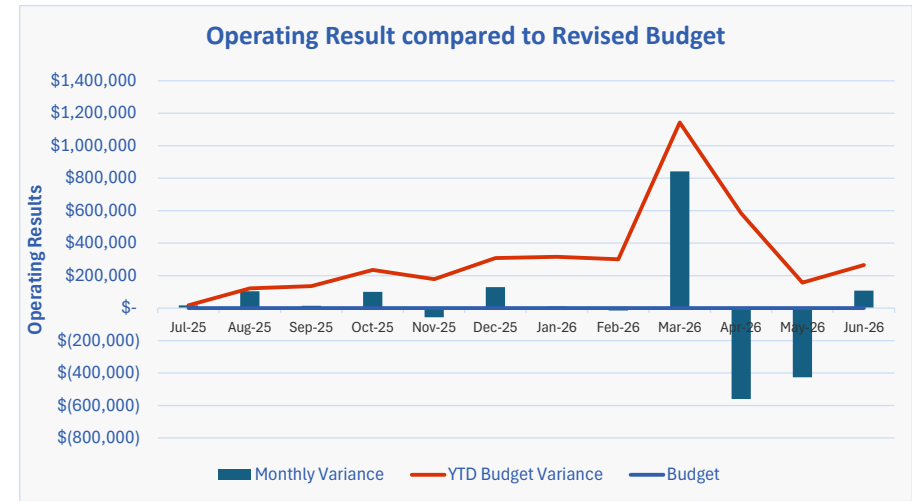


In addition to operating 19 hours per day, the Daintree Ferry operates an on-call service for emergency services between midnight and 5am. There was 1 emergency call out between May and June 2026 for an ambulance.

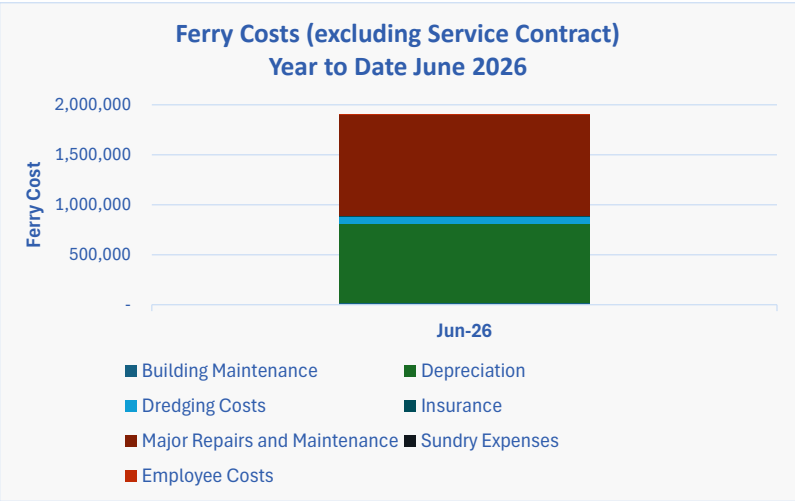
Number of After Hours Emergency Call Outs	May-26	Jun-26
After Hours Emergency Call Outs	0	1

Daintree Ferry Monthly Report
May to June 2026

OPERATING STATISTICS - PART B



The June 2026 results are affected by year-end accounting processes. All outstanding commitments at 30 June 2026 have been carried forward into the 2026/27 financial year. As these commitments are reviewed, any costs that relate to the 2025/26 financial year will be recorded against that year. This means the year-to-date actual costs reported here are expected to increase. Despite this, net ferry income after contractor costs was in line with budget, and dredging costs were below budget contributing to an overall favourable variance for the year.



The stacked bar chart shows the operational spend by type, excluding the service contract. In June 2026, depreciation and major repairs and maintenance made up the largest proportion, followed by dredging expenditure.