

## 7.4. REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT

<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Executive Assistant
<b>MANAGER</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	Office of the Chief Executive Officer
<b>DATE</b>	16 June 2026

### RECOMMENDATION

**That Council:**

- 1. Acknowledge the Rotary Club of Douglas FNQ's grant application to the Queensland Government to fund a proof-of-concept feasibility study for a potential Port Douglas Lagoon; and**
  - 2. Provide a letter of support for the proof-of-concept feasibility study.**
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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rotary Club of Douglas FNQ is seeking Douglas Shire Council's support to progress the proposed Port Douglas Lagoon. The Club requests Council's assistance by providing a letter of support for a grant application to the Queensland State Government to fund a proof-of-concept feasibility study.

The proposed letter of support is attached to the report.

### PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONS / RESOLUTIONS

Not applicable

### REPORT/BACKGROUND

The Rotary Club of Douglas FNQ has been championing the concept of a Port Douglas Lagoon, recognising the success of similar facilities across Queensland in driving visitation, supporting local business, and providing safe, year-round swimming options for residents and visitors. The club is exploring a range of potential funding streams to avoid any impact on ratepayers.

The Club is now seeking Council's assistance in the form of a letter of support in principle. The Club is preparing a Queensland State Government grant application to fund a proof-of-concept feasibility study. A formal letter of support from Council would strengthen the application and demonstrate unified local backing.

The Rotary Club emphasises that the Lagoon would provide significant social and economic benefits, enhance the region's competitive tourism offering, and create a landmark community asset.

## FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council is asked to provide a letter of support for grant funding of the feasibility study only, therefore there are no financial and resource implications.

## RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Nil

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

A swimming lagoon can carry environmental implications, making careful planning and management essential. Without proper oversight, projects of this type can contribute to habitat disruption, increased greenhouse gas emissions, and soil contamination.

## SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A swimming lagoon could have strong social and community benefits by enhancing the region's tourism offering and creating a landmark community asset.

## 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.**

### Operational Plan 2025-2026 Actions:

New project arisen during the financial year.

## LEGISLATION AND POLICY

- Planning Act 2016
- Water Conservation General Policy

## CONSULTATION

External:

- Presentation from the Rotary Club of Douglas FNQ to Councillors held on 19 May 2026

## CONCLUSION

The proposed Port Douglas Lagoon represents a high-value opportunity for the Douglas Shire. The Rotary Club of Douglas FNQ is seeking Council's partnership at this early stage to help secure feasibility study funding.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Letter of Support - Proposed Port Douglas Lagoon ( Proof of Concept Feasibility Study) [7.4.1 - 2 pages]

**OUR REF: TBA**

TBA 2026

Queensland Government  
33 Charlotte Street  
Brisbane  
Queensland 4000

Dear Sir/ Madam

**Letter of Support – Proposed Port Douglas Lagoon (Proof of Concept Feasibility Study)**

Douglas Shire Council (Council) is pleased to provide this letter of support in principle for the Rotary Club of Douglas FNQ's proposal to progress the concept of a Port Douglas Lagoon.

Council acknowledges the Rotary Club's leadership and ongoing commitment to advancing this initiative, which has the potential to deliver meaningful social, recreational, and economic benefits to the Douglas Shire and Far North Queensland communities.

The success of similar lagoon-style facilities across Queensland demonstrates their capacity to enhance destination appeal, increase visitation, support local businesses, and provide safe, accessible, year-round swimming opportunities for both residents, visitors and tourists.

Council understands that the Rotary Club is seeking Queensland State Government funding to undertake a proof-of-concept feasibility study, which represents an important step in evaluating the viability, design considerations, and broader impacts of the proposed facility, noting that Council has multiple locations that would suit a lagoon-style pool facility.

We also note the Rotary Club's commitment to exploring a range of funding options for the project, including external funding streams, with the intent of minimising any financial impact on local ratepayers. This approach aligns with Council's principles of responsible financial management and community benefit.

While this letter does not constitute a formal commitment to the construction or operation of the facility, Douglas Shire Council supports, in principle, the progression

of the feasibility study and the Rotary Club's efforts to secure funding for this important preliminary stage.

Council recognises the potential for the Port Douglas Lagoon to become a landmark community asset that strengthens the region's competitive tourism offering and enhances community wellbeing.

We wish the Rotary Club of Douglas FNQ success in its grant application and look forward to continuing engagement as the project develops.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Osman  
Chief Executive Officer  
Douglas Shire Council



A certified ECO Destination by Ecotourism Australia.