

**DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS – VARIOUS EVENTS
FUNDING SUBMISSIONS AND PROJECT LAUNCH APPROVALS**

CIA | 7827780

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Approves the Project Launch Approval for project 601509 Tropical Cyclones Koji and Narelle – Restoration of Essential Public Assets with a Project Launch Budget (PLB) of \$16.3M and an Approved End Date (AED) of 30 June 2028; and
2. Notes the pending grant funding submission and estimates for the balance of works for project 601509 Tropical Cyclones Koji and Narelle – Restoration of Essential Public Assets totalling \$6.4M and ongoing preliminary works for these projects;
3. Approves the Project Launch Approval for project 600969 North & Far North Tropical Low 29 Jan-28 Feb 2025 - Restoration of Essential Public Assets with a Project Launch Budget (PLB) of \$18.1M and an Approved End Date (AED) of 30 June 2027
4. Notes operational project 200675 North & Far North Tropical Low 29 Jan-28 Feb 2025 – Coastal Recovery Program with a grant funding of \$1.66M and an estimated completion date of 30 June 2027
5. Notes operational project 200683 Tropical Cyclone Jasper 13-28 December 2023 - Riverine Recovery Program with a grant funding of \$754,468 and an estimated completion date of 31 December 2027.
6. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 to enter into contracts, finalise and negotiate any and all matters relating to these projects subject to normal procurement practices and policies.

INTERESTED PARTIES:

Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) is a joint Commonwealth and State Government funding stream, providing financial assistance to help communities recover from eligible disasters.

Cairns Regional Council was activated and has commenced funding applications totalling approximately \$43.2M for various recent events including:

Funding Source	Event	Cost Estimate \$	Funding Approved \$	Pending Approval \$
Reconstruction of Public Assets (REPA)	Queensland Monsoon Trough, Cyclone Koji, Cyclone Narelle and Severe Weather 24 December 2025 - 24 April 2026	22,689,716	16,265,732	6,423,984
Reconstruction of Public Assets (REPA)	North & Far North Tropical Low 29 Jan-28 Feb 2025	18,108,759	18,108,759	-
DRFA/DETSI CAT D - Riverine Recovery Program	Tropical Cyclone Jasper, associated rainfall and flooding, 13-28 December 2023	754,468	754,468	-
DRFA/DETSI CAT D – Environmental Recovery Program (Coastline Rehabilitation Grant)	North & Far North Tropical Low 29 Jan-28 Feb 2025	1,658,000	-	-
Total		43,210,943	35,128,958	6,423,984

This report seeks Project Launch Approval for the approved funding component of the above capital works and notes the approval and commencement of operational works.

Proposed works include the Lower Kamerunga Pedestrian/Cycleway Bridge which was originally damaged and approved for replacement under Tropical Cyclone Jasper, and repairs or remediation to various other landslips, drainage structures, beaches and waterways throughout the region.

BACKGROUND:

The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) is a joint Commonwealth and State government funding stream, providing financial assistance to help communities recover from eligible disasters. The DRFA is administered by the Queensland Government via the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA).

Activation of the DRFA for an event may occur when:

- the local government area/s has been impacted by an eligible disaster (e.g., flood), and
- the event has required a coordinated multi-agency response, and
- local governments and/or state agencies require financial assistance to respond to and recover from the event, and
- the combined estimated total expenditure in responding to the event exceeds \$240,000 across the state.

Whilst formal grant approval has not yet been received for all sites, it is proposed that works commence as soon as possible due to the following reasons:

- to reduce the impact to the public
- to reduce the risk of further site deterioration, particularly with the impending wet season
- to secure the supply of materials and contractors while they are available
- the works are similar in nature to several sites recently approved under the 23-24 Tropical Cyclone Jasper event & 24-25 Tropical Low event and this provides confidence that these new sites will also be approved
- formal approvals may take several months and delaying commencement will impede Council's ability to deliver the extensive DRFA program prior to the grant deadline of June 2028.

Works to be commenced before formal grant approval will be limited to essential preliminary works and emergency works to ensure safety is maintained. These sites include:

- \$110K for various minor works to clean up and make safe following the immediate aftermath of the events. E.g. removal of sand and debris from the northern beaches roads and foreshore paths following the TC Narelle Storm Surge.
- \$576K for the Welcome Bay Esplanade (Fitzroy Island) Seawall Repair will require some preliminary works and considerable planning due to the availability of specialist resources including a landing barge to transport materials and equipment to the island.

COMMENT:

The works are expected to total approximately \$43.2M, however this value is conservative and may change depending on the outcomes of the final designs and ongoing negotiations with QRA.

The following tables provide a summary of the projects for each of the activation events and their funding approval status.

Queensland Monsoon Trough, Cyclone Koji, Cyclone Narelle and Severe Weather 24 December 2025 - 24 April 2026 - DRFA - Reconstruction of Public Assets (REPA)

Site Location	Work Description	Cost Estimate \$	Funding Approved \$	Pending Approval \$
Lower Kamerunga Bridge	Reconstruction of flood damage to Barron River Pedestrian/Cycleway Bridge. Re-submission from December 2023 TC Jasper event.	11,115,195	7,382,845	3,732,350
Woopan Creek Road	Woopan Creek Road CH0100 (Downslope)	4,329,682	4,329,682	-
Vasey Esplanade	Stabilisation of Vasey Esplanade, Trinity Beach	4,553,205	4,553,205	-
Welcome Bay Esplanade	Welcome Bay Esplanade, Seawall Repair	576,365	-	576,365

Site Location	Work Description	Cost Estimate \$	Funding Approved \$	Pending Approval \$
Lower Freshwater Road & Freshwater Creek Bridge	Lower Freshwater Road & Freshwater Creek Bridge	288,182	-	288,182
Barron Gorge Road	Barron Gorge Road CH0550 Embankment Failure	240,152	-	240,152
Stevens Street Culvert	Stevens Street Culvert Reconstruction	180,114	-	180,114
Hardwick Street	Embankment Stabilisation	288,182	-	288,182
Timberlea Drive Road	Embankment Stabilisation	576,365	-	576,365
Williams Esplanade	Esplanade Path Stabilisation	72,046	-	72,046
Hardy Road Culvert	Hardy Road Culvert End Structure Reconstruction	360,228	-	360,228
Various sites (IRW)	Immediate Reconstruction Works	110,000	-	110,000
Total		22,689,716	16,265,732	6,423,984

North & Far North Tropical Low 29 Jan-28 Feb 2025 DRFA - Reconstruction of Public Assets (REPA)

Site Location	Work Description	Cost Estimate \$	Funding Approved \$	Pending Approval \$
Fig Tree Drive	Embankment Stabilisation	1,886,315	1,886,315	-
Janett Street	Embankment Stabilisation	586,633	586,633	-
Dalton Road	Embankment Stabilisation	2,871,274	2,871,274	-
Ross Road	Embankment Scours	251,739	251,739	-
Gundy Anton Bridge (Redden Creek)	Restoration of scour protection	4,819,798	4,819,798	-
Woopen Creek Road	Embankment and Shoulder Failure (CH3500)	869,111	869,111	-
Ross Road Rollover	Stabilisation of Ross Road	2,508,785	2,508,785	-
Cottone Road	Landslip Remediation Rollover	3,908,337	3,908,337	-
Seascape Close	Restoration works (<i>Actuals</i>)	91,887	91,887	-
Various Sites	Restoration works (<i>Actuals</i>)	314,879	314,879	-
Total		18,108,759	18,108,759	-

Tropical Cyclone Jasper, associated rainfall and flooding, 13-28 December 2023 DRFA/DETSI CAT D - Riverine Recovery Program

Site Location	Work Description	Cost Estimate \$	Funding Approved \$	Pending Approval \$
Goomboora Park, Brinsmead	Creek bank restoration & revegetation	143,000	143,000	-
Beachside Close Park, Palm Cove	Construction of a wetland habitat/revegetation	88,000	88,000	-
Wirrah Close, Bayview Heights	Creek bank restoration & revegetation	110,000	110,000	-
McCoombe Street	Creek bank restoration & revegetation	348,810	348,810	-
Deadmans Gully, Clifton Beach	Removal of fallen trees in waterway	31,658	31,658	-
Blue Lagoon Drainage Path	Removal of obstructions within flowpath	33,000	33,000	-
Total		754,468	754,468	-

North & Far North Tropical Low 29 Jan-28 Feb 2025
DRFA/DETSI CAT D – Environmental Recovery Program (Coastline Rehabilitation Grant)

Site Location	Work Description	Cost Estimate \$	Funding Approved \$	Pending Approval \$
Holloways Beach	Holloways Beach South	1,395,000	1,395,000	-
Second Beach	Second Beach, East Trinity	263,000	263,000	-
Total		1,658,000	1,658,000	-

Major works include the reconstruction of the Lower Kamerunga Pedestrian/Cycleway Bridge across the Barron River. The bridge was originally damaged during Tropical Cyclone Jasper and approved for replacement under DRFA funding. During Tropical Cyclone Koji, the structure sustained further damage, with the northern approach and abutment significantly undermined. As a result, the project will be resubmitted to QRA to incorporate the additional damage and provide for extra bridge spans.

It should also be noted that the Lower Kamerunga Bridge is expected to become redundant in the future, as the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is planning the construction of a new Cairns Western Arterial Road (CWAR) bridge approximately 200 metres downstream. The proposed TMR bridge will include on-road cycling lanes and a barrier-separated off-road shared pathway.

Given the anticipated redundancy of this crossing by the future CWAR bridge, it is proposed that Council's replacement bridge foundations be designed to a temporary standard. Constructing the foundations to the full permanent design standard would require concrete foundations to be formed below the riverbed level, necessitating extensive cofferdam works. The cost of these works would significantly exceed the currently approved project budget and is not considered justified given the bridge's likely limited-service life following completion of the CWAR crossing. The proposed bridge superstructure is a propriety modular steel system, which can be removed and reused in the manufacturer under the Tender Consideration Plan for Specialist Suppliers and Contractors.

Other REPA/IRW works include repairs to numerous other landslips and drainage structures throughout the region. CAT D works include sand nourishment of southern Holloways Beach and Second Beach, and waterway restoration and revegetation of various sites.

Regular progress reporting shall occur via the Council Capex Workshops.

Final details of all submissions, including QRA approved values, will be reported to Council via the Quarterly Grants Inwards Status Update Report.

OPTIONS:

Option 1 (Recommended)

That Council:

1. Approves the Project Launch Approval for project 601509 Tropical Cyclones Koji and Narelle – Restoration of Essential Public Assets with a Project Launch Budget (PLB) of \$16.3M and an Approved End Date (AED) of 30 June 2028; and
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Option 2

That Council does not progress with the works.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Risk Management:

Description of Risk	Impact of Risk	Proposed Solution
Delays due to wet weather, design consultant, contractor, or materials availability	Loss of grant funding	Apply for extension
Flooding while works are being undertaken	Loss or damage to works	Undertake works in dry season
Latent conditions	Additional time and cost	Contingency included in budget
Disruption to public	Complaints	Undertake public consultation
Commencement prior to formal grant approval	Grant not approved	Projects started before formal grant approval will be kept to a minimum, limited to those that

Description of Risk	Impact of Risk	Proposed Solution
		are urgent and have a high confidence of eligibility.
Additional costs not covered by DRFA funding	Additional time and cost	Project to be reassessed against current priorities, resourcing and financial constraints

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

Council has submitted, or intends to submit, grant applications for capital works totalling approximately \$40.8M for DRFA REPA/IRW works and \$2.4M in DRFA/DETSI CAT D Coastal Recovery and Riverine Recovery Funding which are operational works.

This value is approximate only. Final costs will be governed by many factors including the final designs. The projects will be entirely grant funded on a reimbursement of actual cost basis. For this reason, DRFA works are generally not accounted for in Council's 10-year capital works budget, however in the instance of Lower Kamerunga Bridge there is an allowance of \$5M in 2026/27 and \$1M in 2027/28.

Should funding not be approved for specific projects, those projects will be reassessed against Council's budget and priority constraints.

The project will benefit the local economy by providing employment for local subcontractors and suppliers.

Community and Cultural Heritage:

The works will benefit the local community by providing improved transport infrastructure, enabling safer active travel opportunities.

Natural Environment:

The works will have minimal impact on the natural environment as they are predominantly contained within the existing road corridor. The riverine and coastal rehabilitation works will comply with state environmental guidelines.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

The proposal aligns with Focus 3 of the Corporate Plan.

Statutory:

All relevant statutory requirements will be satisfied.

Policy:

Local Government Act 2009

Tender Consideration Plan under procurement exemption, section 230 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*

CONSULTATION:

Stakeholder and community engagement, where required, will be undertaken as part of the planning and delivery of specific projects in accordance with Council's standard practices.



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