ORDINARY MEETING 28 OCTOBER 2026	5.11

PETITION REQUESTING CONSTRUCTION OF MISSING FOOTPATH ALONG PART OF PARADISE PALMS DRIVE – DIVISION 9

L&C | 52/9/4| #7958543

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the petition and requests a response to the principal petitioner by an Officer in line with the information outlined in this report.

INTERESTED PARTIES:

- Residents and ratepayers of Kewarra Beach and surrounding areas.
- Signatories of the petition.

Note: The identification of interested parties is provided on a best endeavours basis by Council Officers and may not be exhaustive.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Council is in receipt of a petition requesting the delivery of several missing footpath links within 'Paradise Palms,' Kewarra Beach citing safety, amenity and lifestyle benefits. An image depicting the subject area and existing footpath arrangement, is provided in **Attachment 1**.

The prioritisation of new footpaths is undertaken annually by Council according to budget parameters and its Active Transport Strategy (adopted March 2020). This enables projects to be prioritised in a consistent manner and at a regional level to achieve best network outcomes.

It is noted that the missing links requested by the petition are not identified as priorities in the 2026/27 Active Transport Program which was endorsed at the 14 October 2026 Ordinary Meeting. In addition, these sections are not considered as high priorities within the current network implementation plan of the Active Transport Strategy. Given current development in the area however this position may be revisited as part of the planned review of the Strategy in 2027/28.

With consideration to above, officers recommend noting the petition and advising the principal petitioner that the missing links are not an immediate priority for Council and will be considered as part of future program prioritisation process and strategic review.

BACKGROUND:

On 10 September 2026, a petition with 133 signatures was received:

"To: Chief Executive Officer, Cairns Regional Council

We, the undersigned residents and community members, respectfully request that Cairns Regional Council prioritise the construction of a footpath along that section of Paradise Palms Drive where there is no footpath and pedestrians are currently required to walk on a grass verge.

Most of the Drive has pedestrian infrastructure, however there is a distance of approximately 500 metres that has not been provided with a footpath.

The lack of a footpath creates difficulties and safety concerns for many members of our community, including:

- *Parents and carers pushing prams.*
- *Elderly residents and individuals with mobility limitations.*
- *People walking their dogs.*
- *Children travelling to and from local schools, parks, and community facilities.*
- *Residents exercising or walking within the neighbourhood.*

During dry conditions, pedestrians must navigate overgrown grass and large palm leaves that frequently fall from the avenue of palms that line the roadway.

During periods of rain, the verge often becomes wet, muddy, and unsuitable for walking. As a result, many pedestrians are forced to walk on the roadway itself, placing them in close proximity to passing vehicles and creating an unnecessary safety hazard.

The construction of a footpath would:

- *Improve pedestrian safety.*
- *Encourage healthy and active lifestyles.*
- *Enhance accessibility for families, older residents, and people with disabilities.*
- *Reduce the likelihood of accidents involving pedestrians and vehicles.*
- *Improve connectivity within the local community*

We believe that providing safe pedestrian infrastructure is an important investment in the wellbeing of all residents and visitors who use this section of road and we are more than happy to meet with our local councillor on site to discuss this issue.

We therefore respectfully request that Cairns Regional Council investigate, fund, and construct a suitable footpath along Paradise Palms Drive as a matter of priority.

Thank you for your consideration of this petition."

COMMENT:

In Australia, walking for exercise or recreation is consistently the most popular physical activity, with cycling also in the top 5 of preferences. Locally, the Cairns community continue to tell Council that safe shared paths are a priority through the Our Cairns Survey.

Whilst Council recognises this through its significant annual investment in footpath

infrastructure and via its Active Trasport Strategy, the sheer number of competing priorities warrant prioritisation of projects and requests. Accordingly, the Strategy outlines a robust assessment criterion as follows:

1. Hierarchy (25%)
2. Safety (15%)
3. Complexity (5%)
4. Community Need (20%)
5. Connectivity (30%)
6. Strategic Alignment (5%)

By adopting a strategic assessment approach, Council ensures consistent decision making and best network outcomes.

The missing links detailed in the petition, have been considered as part of the assessment of projects for the 2026/27 Active Transport Program and are not considered immediate priorities.

It is noted that some of the missing links specifically those on Moore Road and Discovery Drive form part of development conditions and will be delivered very soon. The residual sections will be considered by future program assessments and the planned review of the Active Transport Strategy in 2027/28.

OPTIONS:

Option 1 (Recommended)

That Council receives the petition and requests a response to the principal petitioner by an Officer in line with the information outlined in this report.

Option 2

That Council does not support the recommendation and adopts an alternate course of action.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

The total missing links as shown in **Attachment 1** are estimated to measure approximately 650 meters. Using current market pricing, these sections are indicatively costed at $325k.

Council's 2026/27 New Footpaths (Active Travel) Capital Works Program Budget is $1.5M.

CONSULTATION:

The development of the Active Transport Strategy included significant public consultation.

Feedback from the community is captured and considered on a recurrent basis using its customer response management system and program engagement such as that undertaken during the Neighbourhood Pathways project.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Subject area and current footpath provision



Tim Dendle
Acting Director Lifestyle and Community

Attachment 1 – Subject area and current footpath provision



Key

Red	missing links &
Blue	existing footpath
Orange	condition Development Approval for The Palms (either under construction or already completed)