

**PROJECT LAUNCH APPROVAL – DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING  
ARRANGEMENTS WORKS – TROPICAL CYCLONE JASPER,  
ASSOCIATED RAINFALL AND FLOODING 13 – 28 DECEMBER 2023**

50/5/96-01 | #7440790

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

- 1 Approves the Project Launch Approval for project TCJ99003 Lake Morris Road Landslip Remediation with a Project Launch Budget (PLB) of \$4,350,000 and an Approved End Date (AED) of 30 June 2026; and**
- 2 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.**

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**INTERESTED PARTIES:**

GEO Design Pty Ltd  
GEO Construct Pty Ltd  
Saxon Drilling Pty Ltd  
Rix Ground Engineering Pty Ltd  
Australian Ground Engineering Pty Ltd

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

**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 for the DRFA event Tropical Cyclone Jasper, associated rainfall and flooding, 13 – 28 December 2023.

Cairns Regional Council has recently applied for \$4.35M for landslip remediation works on Lake Morris Road under the Restoration of Essential Public Assets (REPA) funding stream.

This report seeks Project Launch Approval for the landslip remediation works to be undertaken. Proposed works include the construction of retaining structures at five locations where the road embankment has failed.

## **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.

Council was activated for the DRFA event Tropical Cyclone Jasper, associated rainfall and flooding, 13 – 28 December 2023.

Council approved a DRFA REPA grant application for \$4.35M for landslip remediation works on Lake Morris Road at the Ordinary Meeting of 19 June 2024. Whilst formal grant approval has not yet been received, 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
- 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 March 2023 monsoon 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 2026.

The risk of early commencement has been mitigated with a preliminary confirmation from QRA that the sites and proposed treatments are eligible for DRFA funding.

## **COMMENT:**

The REPA works include the construction of retaining structures at five locations where the road embankment has failed:

- Ch 0.7km
- Ch 5.1km
- Ch 5.6km
- Ch 8.5km
- Ch 11.0km

**OPTIONS:**

Option 1

- 1 Approves the Project Launch Approval for project TCJ99003 Lake Morris Road Landslip Remediation with a Project Launch Budget (PLB) of \$4,350,000 and an Approved End Date (AED) of 30 June 2026; and
- 2 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.

Option 2

That Council does not progress with the works.

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

Risk Management:

<b>Description of Risk</b>	<b>Impact of Risk</b>	<b>Proposed Solution</b>
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	Preliminary confirmation that works are eligible has received.
Additional costs not covered by DRFA funding	Additional time and cost	Additional Council contribution

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

Council recently submitted a DRFA REPA grant application for \$4.35M for these works.

This value is approximate only. Final costs will be governed by many factors including the final designs. The project will be entirely grant funded on a reimbursement of actual cost basis.

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.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

The proposal aligns with Focus 3 of the Corporate Plan.

Statutory:

All relevant statutory requirements have been satisfied.

**CONSULTATION:**

Standard public consultation procedures shall apply.



Gary Everson  
Associate Director Service Delivery



Mark Wuth  
Director Cairns Infrastructure & Assets