

MAGNETIC ISLAND: INVESTING IN A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Issue 7, March 2026



Welcome to the March edition of the Magnetic Island Project Update. Published every other month, this update provides the latest information on the projects Council is delivering to maintain and improve facilities across the Island. Council is continuing work to support safety, connectivity and community wellbeing. Thank you to residents and visitors for your patience and ongoing support as we progress several important projects this month.

Upcoming DRFA Road Repair Works

Weather permitting, repair works on West Point Road, Cockle Bay Road and Parker Street are planned to begin in March. These repairs will improve road safety, enhance resilience, and deliver a smoother, more reliable driving experience for the community. Minor traffic disruptions are expected during this period; however, our crews will make every effort to minimise inconvenience for road users and ensure access is maintained throughout the works.¹



Building Resilience Together on Magnetic Island

In the wake of Tropical Cyclone Koji and with disaster season still in full swing, Council recently spent the morning with the members of the Magnetic Island Women's Shed.



The Women's Shed is a vibrant, supportive hub where women come together to connect, learn, and look out for one another, so it was the perfect place for an open discussion around disaster preparedness.

Collaborating with the Horseshoe Bay Rural Fire Brigade and local Police, Council delivered practical, easy to understand tips to help the community stay safe before, during and after high-risk weather events. From knowing your risks, to making a household emergency plan, to packing an emergency kit, the session focused on building knowledge and confidence and strengthening community resilience.

With great attendance, enthusiastic participation, and plenty of thoughtful discussion, the workshop was a real success. Council is excited to continue working closely with the Island community throughout the year to keep building strength, preparedness, resilience and connection.

To learn more visit disaster.townsville.qld.gov.au.

Reminder: Magnetic Island Project Update is Going Digital

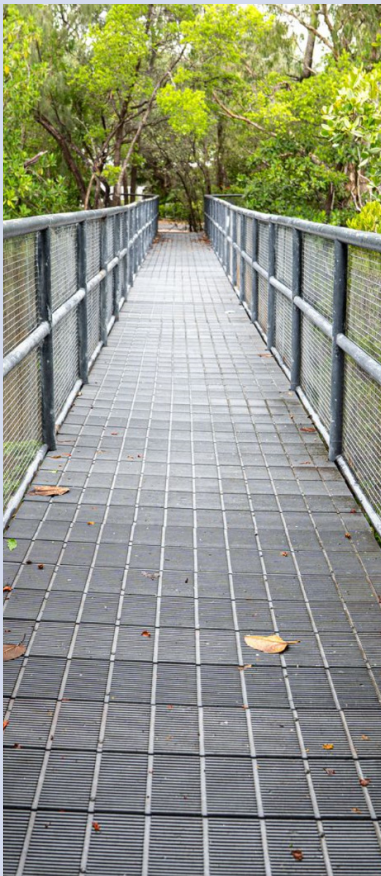
Thank you to the residents who have already switched to digital! To help reduce the environmental impact of printed newsletters, we encourage everyone to take a digital-first approach in 2026. You can scan the QR code to join our email list. If you would prefer to continue receiving printed copies, please email us at cityprojects@townsville.qld.gov.au to let us know.



Henry Lawson Pedestrian Bridge Replacement Highlighted in Mid-Year Review

As part of its 2025 Mid-Year Review, Council is fast-tracking the replacement of the bridge, with tenders for its design and construction to go out in the coming months. Constructed in the 1950s, the bridge has now reached the end of its service life. The project will deliver a safer, more reliable connection between Pacific Drive and Henry Lawson Street, and save nearly \$50,000 each year in inspection and maintenance costs. An investment of \$750,000.00 is allocated for the 2025/26 financial year, with additional funds to be allocated in the 2026/27 financial year to complete the project. Construction is scheduled to begin later this year. The project team is currently preparing design and construction tender documents. Further updates will be shared with residents as more information becomes available.

To learn more visit townsville.qld.gov.au and search '[Henry Lawson Bridge Replacement](#)'.



Sooning Street Piling Works Near Completion

As pile installation has progressed on the Sooning Street bridge works, Council has needed to intermittently close the pedestrian footpath to ensure public safety, particularly when cranes and heavy equipment are operating near the existing pedestrian bridge. These closures are currently occurring between 7am and 4pm, Monday to Saturday, and may change depending on weather conditions or other unforeseen factors.

To minimise impacts on families attending Magnetic Island State School, the pedestrian bridge will remain open for a short window before and after school. It will be accessible from 8am to 8.30am in the morning and again from 2.15pm to 2.45pm in the afternoon. Outside of these times, temporary closures may be in place while construction activity continues. Piling works are expected to be completed by Thursday 12 March 2026, with the pedestrian footpath scheduled to reopen on Friday 13 March 2026. Council apologises for any inconvenience and thanks the community for its patience as these important works are carried out.

To learn more visit townsville.qld.gov.au and search '[Gustav Creek Structure Restoration Works](#)'.¹

Nelly Bay Boardwalk Renewal

Tenders have been invited for the replacement and repair of sections of the Nelly Bay Boardwalk. The tender period closed in February, with a contract to be awarded by mid-March. Scheduling and construction planning is anticipated to begin shortly thereafter. Keep an eye on our website for more information as it becomes available.

Nelly Bay Road Guardrail Renewal

Design work for the new guardrail along Nelly Bay Road has now been completed. The project team is currently preparing the tender documents for the construction phase, which is expected to go to market in early March. Council expects to award the contract by the end of April, allowing works to commence soon after. We will provide more information in the next issue of this newsletter.

Magnetic Island Slope Remediation Works

Council has identified four key slopes along the Island's road network that require remediation to ensure ongoing safety and long-term stability. Detailed slope risk assessments will be carried out along Arcadia Road, Magnetic Island Road and Horseshoe Bay Road from Tuesday 10 March to Sunday 15 March 2026, weather and site conditions permitting. Council thanks residents for their patience and understanding as these important works progress.

To learn more visit townsville.qld.gov.au and search '[Magnetic Island Slope Remediation Works](#)'.

Enhancing the Longevity of Magnetic Island's Water Infrastructure

The Horseshoe Bay Balancing Tank Replacement project has shifted focus following new findings in the design phase. While the original plan was to replace the balance tank at the summit of the Island, investigations have confirmed that several cost effective alternatives can both remove the need for a tank replacement and extend the service life of the stainless steel water main that supplies the reservoir.

The existing water main has experienced stability issues due to the steep terrain and extreme temperature fluctuations. Although an operational balance tank would help manage these thermal stresses, Council has identified that targeted structural improvements offer a more efficient solution. Strengthening approximately 6–10 pipe supports is expected to significantly improve pipeline durability without the high cost of installing and maintaining a new balance tank and associated electrical systems.

By pursuing these enhancements, the project aims to increase the pipeline's lifespan and ensure a reliable water supply for the Island community, now and well into the future.

As we continue to develop, refine, and finalise our plans, Council will keep Island residents up to date on our progress.



Lease Extension Futureproofs Island Brigade

Council has officially turned the soil on a 250m² expansion of the Horseshoe Bay Rural Fire Brigade's leased land, helping secure the future of the volunteer service that first formed in 1959. Mayor Nick Dametto said the additional space will help the brigade continue its vital community work, while Brigade Secretary Julie Carmody noted the upgrade will support its 30 dedicated volunteers as they plan for future growth. Divisional Councillor Ann Maree Greaney welcomed the expansion, praising the brigade's long standing contribution to the tight knit Magnetic Island community and looking forward to seeing the service continue to strengthen in the years ahead.

To learn more visit townsville.qld.gov.au and search 'Lease extension futureproofs Island brigade'.



Cr Ann-maree Greaney, Mayor Nick Dametto, Brigade Secretary Julie Carmody and First Officer Ian Priestly.

Island Petition Outcomes

Request for Kayak Storage

Council has received requests for additional kayak storage racks on the Island. After carefully considering a range of options - including the feasibility of a user pay permit system, the costs of installing and maintaining new racks on rates, and the requirement for ongoing management, it was determined that additional racks will not be introduced. As kayak storage is not a core Council service, residents are kindly encouraged to take their equipment home rather than leaving it in public areas.

Request for Appointment of a Ranger

Council currently has two Local Laws Officers who attend Magnetic Island several times each week. Their responsibilities cover a broad range of tasks, including camping compliance, animal management, parking, and responding to concerns such as overgrown properties and abandoned vehicles. Council will continue to maintain a regular presence on the Island to protect public health and safety.

To learn more visit townsville.qld.gov.au and search 'Petitions'.

Magnetic Island Recycled Water Irrigation Upgrade

Council continues to progress the Magnetic Island Recycled Water Irrigation Upgrade. While construction works have not yet started, Council received the final decision notice from the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA). Council is currently undertaking tender evaluations for future construction. We will provide further updates as timelines are confirmed.



Back to Basics

Council has been busy continuing regular maintenance across the Island, with a focus on high profile parks in the bays as we prepare for upcoming weddings and community events. We also sent a street sweeper over for the week to give key areas a fresh tidy up and ensure everything is looking its best for residents and visitors alike.

Thank You Magnetic Island Dog Owners

A huge thank you to the Island community for keeping dogs secure and on leads while out in public. Your efforts have made a real difference over 2025 with Picnic Bay seeing a 33% reduction in off-leash incidents, and Nelly Bay an impressive 66%. This improvement has also contributed to a noticeable decrease in dog attacks across the Island. We'd also like to gently remind everyone that walking a dog off-leash in a public area can result in an \$834.00 fine. By continuing to do the right thing, we can keep the Island a safe and enjoyable place for all.

To learn more visit townsville.qld.gov.au and search '[Be a Responsible Pet Owner](#)'.



Maintenance Dredging at Nelly Bay Harbour

In 2025, Council postponed maintenance dredging in Nelly Bay Harbour to prioritise major road and bridge repairs after the damaging 2025 wet season. Since then, Council has been exploring sea placement as a potential alternative for managing the dredged material. Following completion of the Have Your Say survey in December 2025, where community feedback on the potential alternative was invited, Council has recently submitted a permit application to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for sea placement. The application was for a multi-year permit (10-year period) to support ongoing maintenance dredging in Nelly Bay Harbour. We will keep the community informed as to the progress of this permit application. The use of Council's site at Kelly Street in Nelly Bay remains the current approved option with the required permits and approvals in place.

To learn more visit townsville.qld.gov.au and search '[Maintenance Dredging at Nelly Bay Harbour](#)'.

GIVE US SPACE

A LITTLE SPACE MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE.

- ✓ Keep bins 50cm apart
- ✓ Place bins 1m away from parked cars and other objects
- ✓ Avoid overhead obstacles



CONTACT US

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