

Dive into the latest edition of the Magnetic Island Community Update for your local snapshot of Council works projects, environmental and sustainability initiatives, and community programs and collaborations.

Works Projects

A New Chapter for Henry Lawson Bridge

Following the completion of site investigations, planning and design for the new Henry Lawson Pedestrian Bridge are progressing.

Construction is expected to commence later this year, and Council is continuing to work with the State Assessment and Referral Agency to obtain the necessary approvals. As part of this process, detailed reports are being prepared outlining the construction methodology and measures to manage environmental impacts within the surrounding area.

Once built, the new aluminium bridge will span approximately 30 metres and be 1.8 metres wide, delivering a safer, more accessible and durable connection for pedestrians.

LEARN MORE ► townsville.qld.gov.au 🔍 Henry Lawson Pedestrian Bridge

Nelly Bay Road Safety Improvements

Council is renewing the Nelly Bay Boardwalk with new materials that will better withstand the coastal environment, providing a safer and more durable boardwalk.

The Nelly Bay Road Guardrail Renewal Project is also nearing completion. The short remaining section of guardrail is due to be installed in October. Council is currently finalising a tailored foundation design to suit existing road shoulder conditions.

Once complete, the boardwalk renewal and upgraded guardrail will improve safety for residents and visitors travelling along this important Island road.



LEARN MORE ► townsville.qld.gov.au 🔍 Nelly Bay Boardwalk Renewal

Progress Continues for Nelly Bay Harbour Dredging

Council is continuing to progress the approvals needed to support future maintenance dredging at Nelly Bay Harbour.

Earlier this year, Council received a Request for Further Information from the National Environmental Protection Agency, as part of the application for a multi-year offshore (sea) placement permit. Council submitted its response in August and the application is now under assessment. Any future updates will be subject to the agency's assessment process and timeframes.

Following all approvals, Council will move to tender for the dredging works.

LEARN MORE ► townsville.qld.gov.au

🔍 Nelly Bay Harbour Dredging



Sooning Street Bridge Officially Open

Residents, businesses and visitors are now enjoying easier access across Magnetic Island following completed works on the Sooning Street bridge.

The project involved more than 1,400 tonnes of concrete, 100 tonnes of reinforcing steel and 360 tonnes of asphalt, delivering a stronger and more resilient crossing for the community.

A community celebration held to mark the reopening was well supported, and an official bridge opening was held in September. Council thanks everyone for their patience, understanding and support throughout the works. ¹

Works Projects

Recycled Water Upgrade Progress Continues

The Magnetic Island Recycled Water Irrigation Upgrade is continuing, with site preparations underway for the new recycled water storage tank.

Recent activity has focused on earthworks and investigations at the Magnetic Island Country Club and Picnic Bay Transfer Station. These investigations are helping confirm infrastructure requirements and prepare for upcoming construction phases.

Once complete, the upgrade will improve the storage, management and distribution of recycled water across key sites. Council will continue working closely with stakeholders and keep the community informed as the project moves into the next stage.

Bolger Bay Pump Station Upgrade Set to Begin

Works commence soon at the Bolger Bay Pump Station to upgrade the existing pump station, balancing tank and associated infrastructure. Council is investing in these improvements to strengthen the reliability of Magnetic Island's water network and support future demand.

Reservoirs will be topped up before critical works take place, and the community may be asked to conserve water during future project activities to reduce the need for water interruptions.

Investing in Island Life

Council's Back to Basics program continues to deliver practical improvements across Magnetic Island, helping keep local roads, parks and public spaces safe, accessible and enjoyable for everyone.

In preparation for the September school holidays, street sweeping was carried out across the Island, with asphalt repairs also scheduled to help maintain local roads.

At Yule Street Park in Picnic Bay, a new wheelchair-accessible picnic table has been installed in a shaded location with ocean views and easy access to the playground and nearby amenities. New turf has also been laid at Alma Bay Park in Arcadia, refreshing a popular community space enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.



New turf at Alma Bay Park, Arcadia.



Wheelchair-accessible picnic table installed at Yule Street Park, Picnic Bay

Natural Environment

Yellow Crazy Ants Look. Identify. Report.

We need your help to keep Magnetic Island free of yellow crazy ants. Residents are encouraged to keep an eye out and report any suspected sightings online via Snap Send Solve or by calling Council on **13 48 10**. If you see a suspicious ant, report it early to help prevent the spread of this destructive species.



Working Together to Care for Magnetic Island's Coast and Natural Environment

Council is collaborating with local partners and community to protect and enhance Magnetic Island's unique natural environment.

Council, alongside other stakeholders, is participating in The Magnetic Island Nature Care Association (MINCA) Horseshoe Bay Wetland Project.

MINCA is also assisting in the removal of Indian Myna birds. Trapping and monitoring activities are ongoing, with new signage recently installed to improve community awareness and reduce trap vandalism. A new large-scale, trailer-mounted trapping unit will soon arrive on the Island, with local MINCA volunteers receiving training to support the program.

Residents and visitors can now learn more about the endangered vine thicket ecosystem and its role in supporting local wildlife, with a new information sign to be installed at Geoffrey Bay.

Beach nourishment works at Horseshoe Bay are scheduled to commence in early October, ahead of the annual stinger net installation in early November. Once these works are complete, the team will move to Geoffrey Bay to deliver additional coastal management activities. Works across both locations are expected to be completed by the end of October.

Geoffrey Bay has benefited from a range of coastal and environmental initiatives over many years, including dune protection, turtle nesting management, weed control and native revegetation. These efforts, supported by community groups, volunteers and Council, have helped protect and enhance this valued coastal environment. To help inform future management decisions, Council is currently undertaking a targeted investigation to better understand coastal processes within Geoffrey Bay, including sand movement, coastal risks and the availability of sand within the local beach system.

Help Spot H5 Bird Flu

With flocks of migratory birds arriving in our region during September and October, it's important to be on the lookout for signs of H5 bird flu.

This strain of bird flu has killed millions of birds and thousands of mammals worldwide. Together we can help protect our people, wildlife and farms.

If you spot dead or sick birds showing signs of bird flu:

- Don't touch them and keep pets away.
- Record what you've seen by taking a photo or video and note the date, time and location.
- Report the sighting to the 24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on **1800 675 888**.

LEARN MORE ► birdflu.gov.au

Natural Environment

Coastal Recovery Funding for Horseshoe and Nelly Bay

Horseshoe Bay and Nelly Bay are set to benefit from coastal rehabilitation works following Council's successful funding application through the Coastline Rehabilitation Grant Program.

The funding will support works to repair erosion impacts from the 2025 North Queensland Tropical Low, including sand nourishment, dune restoration and revegetation. These projects will help strengthen natural coastal buffers, support local wildlife habitats and improve the resilience of popular beachfront areas.

Planning and investigations are now underway to ensure the most suitable solutions are delivered at each location.²

Looking Ahead for the Nelly Bay Groyne

Council is investigating opportunities to improve the Nelly Bay groyne and further support the long-term resilience of the foreshore.

Constructed in 2019, the groyne helps reduce sand movement into Nelly Bay Harbour and supports the adjacent beach. Council is currently exploring potential enhancements to the structure, including options to increase its height and length, as well as opportunities to combine any future upgrades with targeted beach nourishment works.

The project remains in the investigation and approvals phase, with an application currently under assessment by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and other relevant State and Commonwealth agencies. Should the necessary approvals be obtained, Council will provide further information to the community before considering future funding and delivery pathways for the project.

Bushfire Planning for a Safer Magnetic Island

Magnetic Island's natural environment is one of its greatest strengths, which is why bushfire preparedness is an important part of future planning.

Council is proposing the Bushfire Resilience Amendment to the City Plan, which will update how bushfire risk is identified, mapped and managed across the city, including Magnetic Island. The changes aim to better safeguard people, property and the environment while supporting future development in bushfire-prone areas. The amendment is currently being considered by the State and will undergo public consultation in due course.

Council would also like to thank the community for playing their part, noting a significant reduction in overgrown properties, as well as the implementation of fire breaks on private land. These actions go a long way to protect neighbouring homes and improve community safety.

LEARN MORE ► townsville.qld.gov.au

🔍 Bushfire Resilience Amendment

Community Connections

Recover Better Together

Council's Recovery Roadshow was held at the Horseshoe Bay Community Centre on Saturday 12 September.

The free event provided an opportunity to connect with local support services, learn about disaster preparedness and resilience resources, and strengthen the networks that help communities withstand and recover from natural hazards. Attendees spoke with support organisations, accessed practical information, and explored ways to build household and community resilience before, during and after disaster events.

Council thanks everyone who attended and contributed to making the event a valuable opportunity to connect, share knowledge, strengthen resilience and prepare for the future.¹



Community Connections

Connecting Women Across Magnetic Island

Building friendships, learning new skills, and supporting mental health and wellbeing are at the heart of the Magnetic Island Women's Shed.

The group welcomes women of all ages to weekly Tuesday morning gatherings, where members come together for arts and crafts, guest speakers, wellbeing activities, a cuppa and plenty of conversation.

The Women's Shed recently received Council support through in-kind hire of the Horseshoe Bay Community Centre, helping the group continue to provide a welcoming space for connection.

If you're looking to meet new people, share skills or simply enjoy a relaxed morning, check the Magnetic Island Women's Shed Facebook page for the latest meeting updates.



Magnetic Island Women's Shed members taking part in the Magnetic Island Bridge Bash Parade to celebrate the reopening of Sooning Street.

Island Voices Matter

Council wants to know how you prefer to communicate with us, so we can make sure you're getting relevant messages and can reach out to us in the ways that you prefer.

Interacting with our residents and community is vital to understanding your needs and delivering on the services that matter most to you.

The Communicating with Council Survey is now open. If you'd like to help shape how Council connects with the community, take a few minutes to complete the survey.

LEARN MORE ► townsville.qld.gov.au

🔍 Communicating with Council

MARKYT

CATALYSE
FUTYR | MARKYT | CULTYR

Your voice shapes Townsville.

Council's Community Sentiment Survey is open 6 – 30 October.

Tell us what's working and
what needs attention.



HAVE YOUR SAY ► catalyse.com.au/studies

Library Services at Your Fingertips

The Citylibraries Mobile Library brings the world of reading directly to Magnetic Island. The Mobile Library welcomed 3,511 visitors in the 2025/26 financial year. This figure surpassed the 2,733 visits recorded during 2024/25 and highlights the community's strong love of reading and learning.

The Mobile Library can be found at Lions Park most Tuesdays from 10.15am – 3.15pm.

Residents can also access eBooks, eAudio titles and other convenient services through the Townsville Citylibraries App.

Find the **Mobile Library calendar** and information about the **Townsville Citylibraries App** on Council's website.

LEARN MORE ► townsville.qld.gov.au

🔍 Citylibraries

CONTACT US

📍 103 Walker Street, Townsville City
📬 PO Box 1268, Townsville QLD 4810
☎ 13 48 10
✉ enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au
💻 townsville.qld.gov.au

SIGN UP TO E-NEWS

SUBSCRIBE TO E-NEWS TO STAY UP-TO-DATE
WITH MAGNETIC ISLAND PROJECTS

