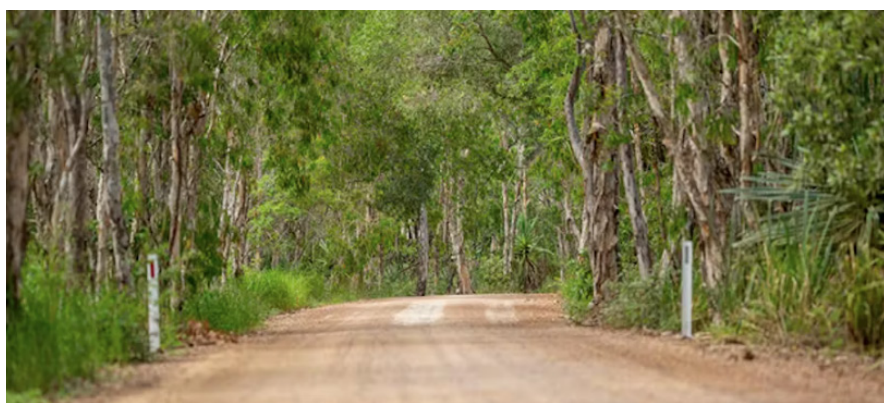


MAGNETIC ISLAND: INVESTING IN A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Issue 4, September 2025



Across the island, progress continues with several key infrastructure and community initiatives underway. Installation of a new traffic calming platform is planned for Sooning Street as part of the Australian Government's Black Spot Program to improve road safety. The Picnic Bay Amenities Renewal is nearing completion, promising upgraded facilities for locals and visitors alike. We're also celebrating record engagement with the mobile library service in 2024/25. Thank you for making it such a success. Read on for more updates.



West Point Road Program of Maintenance Works

In 2022, after consulting with the island community and with a draft strategy taking shape, Council recognised that a strategic document alone would not meet the specific needs for maintaining West Point Road or serving the community.

Acknowledging this, Council developed a practical program of work, focusing on clear tasks and measurable outcomes, which are more effective for both Council and the community and a better way to achieve our objectives.

As West Point Road is affected by coastal change and associated weather events, we are focusing on urgent needs while also considering long-term goals. Precasting of panels to extend five causeways along West Point Road is complete. We expect installation to commence in September 2025.

Council will continue to engage with property owners and the community on the progress of these works and the long-term maintenance strategy for West Point Road.¹



Maintenance Dredging at Nelly Bay Harbour

Earlier this year, Council postponed dredging work in Nelly Bay to prioritise significant repairs to roads and bridges in the area. That repair work is currently in progress.

Dredging remains a key priority for Council, and we intend to carry out the work as soon as it becomes feasible. In the meantime, we are reviewing our plans to assess whether any significant changes have occurred that may impact the feasibility of various options.

As outlined on Council's project page Q&A, we considered a range of options for the dredging and management of materials, including:

- Onshore management back on the mainland
- Disposal sites at Port of Townsville Limited (PoTL)
- Offshore disposal
- Shifting material underwater within the harbour
- Onshore management on Council property on Magnetic Island
- Former Nelly Bay STP (55-77 Kelly Street, Nelly Bay).

As with our original process, Council will re-evaluate these options based on a number of criteria, including sustainability and cost.

We will keep the community informed if any of this work suggests changes to our current proposal.



Library Van Hits High Gear, Sees Record Book Borrowings!

It's official – residents of Magnetic Island are checking out in large numbers. The statistics for Council's mobile library services for the 2024/25 year are in, and the Lions Park location in Nelly Bay recorded the highest figures in the city.

- Total visits: 2,733
- Total loans: 10,468
- 72% of all mobile library visits occurred at our scheduled stops
- 60% of total loans came from the mobile library service.

The Mobile Library on Magnetic Island is a friendly place to borrow books and enjoy reading. It's not just about picking up the latest bestsellers or classic stories; it's a hub for the community. Children can develop a love for reading here, and residents without easy access to a library can benefit from its services.

The Mobile Library serves everyone, from retirees looking for a good holiday read to young families enjoying storytime. It brings people together, sparks conversations, and keeps the joy of reading alive.

Every week, our Mobile Library van arrives on the island, greeted by smiling faces and eager readers. The atmosphere is relaxed yet lively, with regular visitors chatting with staff. Many newcomers are pleasantly surprised to find such an active library service on the island.

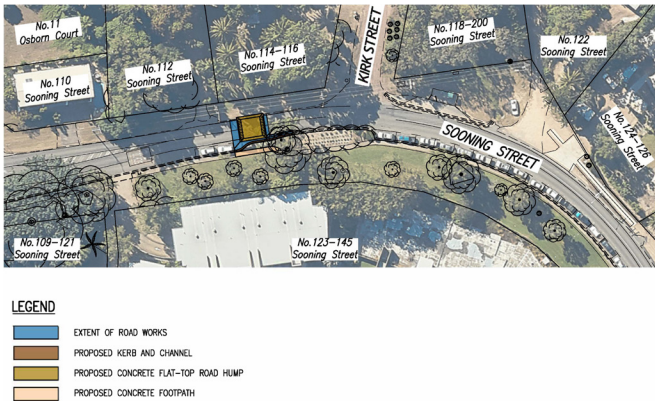
If you haven't visited the Mobile Library yet, now is a great time to start. Whether you want novels, magazines, DVDs, audiobooks, or digital resources, there's something for everyone – and it's all free with your library membership.

To find out when we will be next on the island, visit townsville.qld.gov.au and search for 'Mobile Library Service Calendar' or download the Townsville Citylibraries app.

Sooning Street Black Spot Project

Every year, hundreds of Australians lose their lives or are seriously injured in road crashes. The Australian Government's Black Spot program improves road safety and helps

prevent serious injuries and deaths on our roads. As part of the program, Council has identified a section of Sooning Street as a dangerous road location where crashes are occurring or at risk of occurring. To improve safety, we are preparing to install a flat-top concrete platform fronting 114–116 Sooning Street as a traffic calming device. We plan to undertake this work this financial year. We will continue to update the community as the planning for this project progresses.³



For Lease – Horseshoe Bay Storage Shed

Looking for storage space? Council is now accepting tenders to lease a 6x6 metre shed with two manual roller doors, conveniently located next to the Horseshoe Bay Community Centre. The shed is suitable for storage only and is not being made available for office space or similar. If you are interested, please submit your tender by Friday 12 September 2025. For further information, please visit vendorpanel.com.au/publictenders.aspx and search 'Horseshoe Bay Storage Shed'.



Picnic Bay Reservoir Roof Replacement

To ensure safe roof construction, Ergon carried out the planned disconnection of overhead power lines, followed by a successful reconnection. Major construction works are finished, with the contractor now completing roof sheeting and internal tank lining. Council expects to commission the reservoir by late September 2025.





Picnic Bay Public Amenities Renewal

Construction works at the Picnic Bay Public Amenities are nearing completion, with only the switchboard installation, electrical connections, and final commissioning remaining.

While these tasks were initially scheduled for completion prior to the school holidays, a delay in the delivery of the SCADA switchboard (currently in transit from overseas) has extended the project timeline. Completion is now expected by the end of September. In the meantime, as part of the recent Local Street Artist Call Out, a local artist will be engaged to create a mural and bring life to one of the exterior walls.²



Magnetic Island Recycled Water Irrigation Upgrade

Council is in the final stages of evaluating tenders for future construction. We will continue to provide updates on this process as they become available. The project team also recently completed a cultural heritage workshop at the Magnetic Island Wastewater Recycling Facility.

Sooning Street Bridge Update (Gustav Creek Structure Restoration Work)

Council is progressing with the design of the Sooning Street bridge in close collaboration with the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA). Council, contractors, and SARA have met three times as part of the pre-lodgement process.



On 1 May 2025, SARA confirmed that the preferred design is a two-span bridge. During these initial discussions, SARA raised concerns regarding flood flow, fish movement, the existing water main, and rock protection.

On 30 June 2025, the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) agreed to provide pre-lodgement advice for the bridge development application. SARA also confirmed that they would soon issue pre-lodgement advice to help progress the bridge development application.

On 4 July 2025, Council and SARA met to refine the fish passage design and outline the next steps for the development application. Final advice will be provided after DPI reviews the plans. Aligning the design with the State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP) will simplify the referral process. Following these three meetings, Council received 'in-principle' approval in mid-July to proceed with the detailed design. Since then, SARA has indicated that the design meets their required guidelines. Council will continue to work closely with SARA representatives on this project.

Once SARA grants final approval, we will share the details with residents. Council understands the significance of this connection for daily travel, local businesses, and emergency access, and remains fully committed to restoring the bridge as quickly and safely as possible.¹

DRFA Road Inspections and Reconstruction Update

In August, essential interim works on Kelly Street were completed, with full road repairs scheduled to commence following the reopening of the Sooning Street bridge.

As part of this program of works, Council has also completed unsealed road repairs along:

- Apjohn, Pollard and Somerset Streets, Horseshoe Bay
- McCabe Crescent, Arcadia
- Mandalay, Barton, Compass Streets and Mango Parkway, Nelly Bay
- Hurst and Yule Streets, Picnic Bay
- West Point Road and Sunglow Avenue, West Point.

During this time, Council also cleared debris and reinstated stormwater drains between Gifford Street and Apjohn Street in Horseshoe Bay.

Council is committed to delivering long-term, resilient upgrades that meet current standards and future-proofing our transport network. We appreciate the community's patience and understanding as we continue working toward a safer, stronger road system.¹





Help Protect Magnetic Island from Yellow Crazy Ants

Magnetic Island is a natural treasure, and we need your help to protect it. Yellow crazy ants haven't been found here, but they pose a serious threat to our environment. These invasive ants are about 4mm long, with long legs and antennae, a brown/striped abdomen, and frantic movement when disturbed. They hide under rocks, logs, outdoor gear, and garden items.

Please keep an eye out in your yard or neighbourhood. If you spot unusual ant activity, contact Townsville City Council for a free inspection. Staying alert helps keep our island safe. Learn more at townsville.qld.gov.au/yellowcrazyants.⁴



Development Application: Redevelopment of the Picnic Bay Hotel

In June 2025, Council received a Development Application for the redevelopment of the Picnic Bay Hotel, located on The Esplanade, Picnic Bay. The application seeks approval for a Hotel, Short-term Accommodation, and Shop. For full details of the application, visit planning.townsville.qld.gov.au and search reference MCU25/0037.

The Great Spring Clean Up 2025

Location: The Old Helipad, 115 Nelly Bay Road, Nelly Bay

Date: Sunday 14 September 2025

Time: 8.30 – 10.30am

Join Council to help tackle litter along our coastline and improve our environment.

We will provide clean-up bags, gloves, a refreshment, and a native plant as a thank you for your participation. All you need to do is show up, wear enclosed shoes, and dress in sun-safe clothing. We hope to see you there!

For more information, please visit whatson.townsville.qld.gov.au



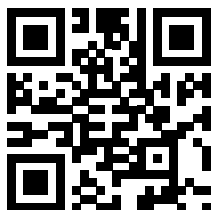
Celebrating Local Creativity: Local Street Artist Callout Update

The winning design for the Picnic Bay Public Amenities mural will soon be revealed, with painting expected to begin in September 2025, weather permitting. This project is part of Council's commitment to showcasing local talent and transforming public spaces through vibrant street art. Stay tuned for the big reveal!

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MAGNETIC ISLAND PROJECTS

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

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1. Assistance provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-state Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).
2. This project is proudly funded by the Queensland Government's Works for Queensland program.
3. This project is funded by the Australian Government Black Spot Program.
4. This project is funded by the Australian Government's Saving Native Species program and delivered by the Queensland Government and Townsville City Council.



Australian Government



Queensland Government