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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Douglas Card Returns – Inviting Locals to Rediscover and Stay in the Daintree

Far North Queensland locals are being invited to rediscover one of the world's most remarkable natural environments, with Douglas Shire Council confirming the reinstatement of the Douglas Card for May and June.

Launching tomorrow, just in time for the long weekend, the initiative provides free ferry access for eligible locals, making it easier than ever to explore the Daintree - from ancient rainforest walks and wildlife encounters to river cruises, guided experiences, and iconic destinations like Mossman Gorge.

The two-month extension follows last month's ferry closure and ongoing fuel cost pressures, both of which have impacted visitation to businesses in the Daintree region.

Tourism Port Douglas Daintree Executive Officer Emma Tunnock said the Douglas Card presents a unique opportunity for locals to reconnect with the region.

"The Daintree is right on our doorstep, yet for many people it's been a while since they've experienced it," Ms Tunnock said.

"This is an opportunity to slow down, stay a night or two, and truly disconnect - whether that's camping under the stars, staying with one of our incredible accommodation providers, or waking up to the sounds of the Daintree."

"We're encouraging locals to take the time to explore, stay longer, and experience everything the region has to offer - from guided rainforest experiences and local produce to wildlife, culture and stunning natural landscapes."

"We're also rolling out a targeted local campaign to encourage people to rediscover the Daintree, with the Douglas Card providing a clear call to action to turn that inspiration into a weekend away or short break."

Local operator Jaclyn Kiernan from Cape Tribulation Camping and Cape Trib Horse Rides welcomed the initiative.

"A big thank you to the Mayor and Councillors for approving the Douglas Card - it will hopefully be a real lifeline for businesses across the region who have had an extremely difficult start to the year with ferry disruptions, weather impacts and the fuel crisis," Ms Kiernan said.

"Let's hope the second half of the year brings plenty of sunshine and smiling visitors back to the Daintree."

Douglas Shire Mayor Lisa Scomazzon said the extension was designed to support operators through to the peak season.

“It’s been a tough period for Daintree tourism, and operators have told us the ferry closure really knocked visitor numbers,” Mayor Scomazzon said.

“We hope this extension encourages more Far North Queenslanders to come across the river and gives local businesses the support they need to get through to peak season.”

If you’re already a Douglas Card holder, your card remains valid. Eligible residents from Cardwell to Cooktown, including the Atherton Tablelands, can apply online or in person.

Locals are encouraged to plan a visit, stay overnight, and experience the Daintree over May and June.

More information and application details can be found at:

<https://www.visitportdouglasdaintree.com/douglas-card> or apply for your Douglas Card directly [here](#).

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