

Communique

Cape York Region Package Taskforce and Sub-Working Group – November 2021

The Cape York Region Package (CYRP) Taskforce and Sub-Working Group (SWG) met on 15 November 2021. The meeting was held in Weipa and via video conference.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) provided updates on the progress of CYRP Stage 1, the Social Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment (SEEIA), CYRP Stage 2, the Community Access Roads Program (CARP) and the Peninsula Developmental Road (PDR) Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) scholarships program.

CYRP Stage 1

The \$276 million CYRP Stage 1 was jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments on an 80:20 basis and was delivered over five years (2014-15 to 2018-19).

All 18 CYRP Stage 1 priority projects have been completed.

SEEIA

Social, Economic, Environment Impact Assessment (SEEIA) Tender has gone out to market and will close on December 10th, 2021. The Assessment will study the flow-on benefits of the CYRP Stage 1 and how the upgrades in Cape York have benefitted education, health, and community outcomes.

The communities of Bamaga, Laura and Coen have been selected to participate in the study.

TMR will consider the SEEIA as a supplementary model for supporting project evaluation where the traditional methods used by whole of government are insufficient for transport infrastructure projects.

CYRP Stage 2

CYRP Stage 2 is a \$237.5 million program of works to continue upgrading the PDR and other priority road infrastructure on Cape York Peninsula. The program is jointly funded by the Australian Government and Queensland Government on an 80:20 basis, with the Australian Government contributing \$190 million and the Queensland Government contributing \$47.5 million.

PDR program

The CYRP Stage 2 PDR program was developed to ensure a geographic spread of construction work to maximise economic benefits across Cape York throughout the five-year delivery period. Projects were also selected in consideration of the availability of key resources, such as water and gravel along the PDR.

The CYRP Stage 2 PDR program includes 11 projects to seal about 55 kilometres of the PDR:

- eight pave and seal projects between Laura and Coen
- one pave and seal project north of the Archer River, including the Aurukun Access Road intersection
- construction of the Archer River Bridge Southern Approach

- construction of the Archer River Bridge.

CYRP Stage 2 commenced in late 2020.

- Kennedy to Rocky Creek: Practical Completion achieved 3 August 2021. Awaiting line marking.
- Merluna to York Downs (Part B): Approx 4kms sealed. Another 3kms to be sealed before Christmas.
- Musgrave to Red Blanket (Part A): Deck units are being installed on the bridge. First seal estimated before Christmas. Roadtek to recommence after wet season.
- Musgrave to Red Blanket (Part B): Tender scheduled for release to market in Quarter 3 2022 (Sept).
- Yarraden to Three Sisters: Design progressing to 100 per cent.
- Archer River Crossing Southern approach: Going into suspension due to wet season early December 2021.
- Archer River Crossing: Tender called 29 October 2021. Pre-close meeting held on 23 November 2021. Tender closing 13 January 2022.
- Bamboo to South of Duck Holes: Design tender closed 25 November 2021.

CARP

In partnership with the Torres and Cape Indigenous Council Alliance, TMR identified a program of works to upgrade unsealed sections of primary access roads to remote communities under CYRP Stage 2.

- Northern Peninsula Road (Jardine Ferry Road) section 1 (11.9 kilometres) - sealing to commence in Apr-May 2022
- Lockhart River Access Road (Portland Roads Road) Section 1 (3.25 kilometres) - on track for completion end of December 2021
- Pormpuraaw Access Road (Strathgordon Road) Section 1 (6.5 kilometres) - drainage works complete. Pavement and sealing works to be completed end June 2022.
- Aurukun Access Road Section 1 (8 kilometres) and Section 2 (6 kilometres) - sealing works commenced. On track for completion in December 2021.
- Lockhart River Road Large Drainage structure (ch.90.3 – 91.3km) – Cook Shire Council (CSC) submitted a proposal for culvert installation to Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF). CSC is awaiting response from DAF to advise TMR on proposed delivery. Project delivery pushed out to 2023-24 until a proposed solution is recommended.

PDR scholarships

In accordance with the PDR ILUA, TMR awards scholarships each year to secondary and tertiary students with a connection to the PDR.

- TMR received 2 secondary and 1 tertiary applications for the 2022 scholarships program
- A panel including representatives from TMR, Cape York Land Council and Traditional Owners completed shortlisting in October 2021.
- For the 2022 academic year, TMR awarded 3 scholarships: 2 high school and 1 tertiary.

General business

TMR outlined the process in Pre-close of Tender meetings of having an ILUA committee member speak on the importance and flow-on effects of achieving KRA's.

- Next CYRP Taskforce and SWG meeting – TBC (April 2022)

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Further information:

TMR updates and information available here:

- <https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/cape-york-region-package>
- <https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/cape-york-region-package-stage-2>

Subscribe to RDA's monthly newsletter with regular CYRP updates here:

- <https://www.rdatropicalnorth.org.au/>