

# Communique

## Cape York Region Package Taskforce and Sub-Working Group – November 2022

The Cape York Region Package (CYRP) Taskforce and Sub-Working Group (SWG) met on 15 November 2022. The meeting was held in Cairns, with a Microsoft Teams line available for attendees to connect remotely.

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

### **Draft ToR and governance structure**

The Australian and Queensland Government are to review the documents in preparation for review at the next meeting.

### **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.

In 2022, the Australian and Queensland Governments announced an additional \$85.6 million for the Cooktown to Weipa Corridor Upgrade, also jointly funded on an 80:20 basis under the ROSI program. TMR is reviewing the current scope of works to determine how best to prioritise these funds. TMR will seek approval from the CYRP Board regarding program changes with this funding once the funding has been reviewed.

### **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 is expected to seal about 54 kilometres of the PDR.

CYRP Stage 2 commenced in late 2020:

- Kennedy to Rocky Creek: Practical Completion achieved 3 August 2021
- Merluna to York Downs (Part B): Practical Completion achieved 4 September 2022
- Musgrave to Red Blanket (Part A): Practical Completion achieved 3 August 2022
- Musgrave to Red Blanket (Part B): Pending project review, construction will commence after the 2023 wet season
- Yarraden to Three Sisters: Issue for Construction drawings have been received for Part A
- Archer River Crossing Southern approach: Culvert installation is underway

- Archer River Crossing: TMR has experienced resource and material shortages/issues, as well as cost increase for supplies. TMR is working with the contractor and progressing construction.
- Bamboo to South of Duck Holes: Awaiting 70 per cent design from Aurecon.

### **CARP**

In partnership with the Torres and Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA), 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 works are delayed due to Native Title and Environmental permits. Cook Shire Council (CSC) and Northern Area Regional Council are working with Traditional Owners, with a view to start construction in 2023.
- Lockhart River Access Road (Portland Roads Road) sections section 1 (3.3 kilometres) – under construction, culvert installation and pavement works are continuing.
- Pormpuraaw Access Road (Strathgordon Road) section 1 (6.5 kilometres) – Practical Completion achieved on 8 October 2022.
- Aurukun Access Road Section 1 (8 kilometres) and section 2 (6 kilometres) - sealing works reached practical completion in December 2021.
- Aurukun Access Road Section 3 (8 kilometres) and section 4 (6 kilometres) – Tender awarded to FNQ Civil in September 2022. Construction commenced in late September 2022.
- Lockhart River Road Large Drainage structure (ch.90.3 – 91.3km) – Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) has approved CSC's revised proposal, allowing for the start of construction. CSC intends to go out to tender in 2023, with a view to commence construction in 2023.

### **CYRP future stages**

- While there is currently no funding allocated for future stages, it was noted on the value and benefits for the continuation of the program for the communities of Cape York.

### **SEEIA**

- Social, Economic, Environment Impact Assessment (SEEIA) Tender was jointly awarded to PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and Aurecon.
- TMR is working with PwC and Aurecon to refine the report, and a final copy of the report is expected in late 2022.
- 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.

### **PDR scholarships**

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

For the 2022 academic year, TMR awarded three scholarships: two secondary and one tertiary.

Applications for the 2023 PDR Scholarship Program closed on 26 August 2022.

TMR received two tertiary and four secondary scholarship applications.

The applications have been reviewed by TMR and a Traditional Owner representative.

### **General Business**

TMR advised of the Transport and Resource Committee's public inquiry into CYRP for works along the PDR, and the public hearings that were held in Weipa (6 June 2022) and Cairns (9 June 2022). The Transport and Resource Committee are yet to confirm a date for the report.

### **Contacts:**

- Regional Development Australia (RDA) Tropical North – ceo@rdatropicalnorth.org.au – 0493 080 143
- TMR – capepackage@tmr.qld.gov.au – 1800 184 317

### **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>

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