

Communique

Cape York Region Package Sub-Working Group and Taskforce – November 2023

The Cape York Region Package (CYRP) Taskforce and Sub-Working Group (SWG) met on 14 November 2023. The meeting was held at Cooktown PCYC, 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, the Community Access Roads Program (CARP), the Social, Environmental and Economic Impact Assessment (SEEIA), the Peninsula Developmental Road (PDR) Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA), the PDR ILUA scholarships program, and future stages of CYRP.

Draft ToR and governance structure

The adoption of the ToR is on hold and will be reviewed pending the outcomes of the Australian Government's Independent Strategic Review of its Infrastructure Investment Program.

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.

Some projects under CYRP Stage 2 are dependent on the outcomes of the Australian Government's Independent Strategic Review of its Infrastructure Investment Program.

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.

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.
- Archer River Crossing Southern approach: Practical Completion achieved early November 2023.
- Archer River Crossing: Project is under wet season suspension. The bridge is expected to be open to through traffic in late 2024, weather and construction conditions permitting.
- Yarraden to Three Sisters: Part A (portion 1): Project is under wet season suspension.
- Yarraden to Three Sisters Part A (portion 2), B and C: Projects are dependent on the outcomes of the Australian Government's Independent Strategic Review of its Infrastructure Investment Program.

- Musgrave to Red Blanket (Part B): Project is dependent on the outcomes of the Australian Government's Independent Strategic Review of its Infrastructure Investment Program.
- Bamboo to South of Duck Holes: Project is dependent on the outcomes of the Australian Government's Independent Strategic Review of its Infrastructure Investment Program.

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) – A rescope to merge section 1 and section 2 is in progress. Construction remains underway on section 1.
- Lockhart River Access Road (Portland Roads Road) section 3 (5.4 kilometres) – A rescope is in progress. Construction remains underway.
- Lockhart River Access Road (Portland Roads Road) section 2 (3.3 kilometres) – Construction is continuing.
- Lockhart River Road section 3 - Large Drainage structure (0.5 kilometres) – Practical Completion achieved early November 2023.
- Pormpuraaw Access Road (Strathgordon Road) section 1 (6.5 kilometres) – Practical Completion achieved on 8 October 2022.
- Pormpuraaw Access Road (Strathgordon Road) section 2 (7 kilometres) – Practical Completion achieved mid-October 2023.
- Pormpuraaw Access Road (Strathgordon Road) section 3 (1.9 kilometres) and section 4 (5 kilometres) – Rescope is in progress, and realignment issues are being investigated.
- Pormpuraaw Access Road (Strathgordon Road) section 5 (5 kilometres) – Practical Completion achieved mid-October 2023.
- Aurukun Access Road Section 1 (8 kilometres) and section 2 (6 kilometres) – Practical Completion achieved in December 2021.
- Aurukun Access Road Section 3 (8 kilometres) and section 4 (6 kilometres) – Practical Completion achieved mid-October 2023, marking Aurukun Access Road as the first fully sealed community access road from the PDR.

CYRP future stages

- Future stages of CYRP are subject to funding commitments from the Australian Government. The value and benefits for the continuation of the program for the communities of Cape York was noted.

SEEIA

- TMR is in the process of making the SEEIA report a public facing document.

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 2024 academic year, TMR received 11 applications (nine secondary, two tertiary), and will award four secondary and two tertiary scholarships by the end of 2023.

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Further information:

TMR 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/>