

Communique

Cape York Region Package Sub-Working Group and Taskforce – May 2024

The Cape York Region Package (CYRP) Taskforce (TF) and Sub-Working Group (SWG) met on 30 May 2024. The meeting was held at Cairns Regional Council's meeting rooms, 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 SWG & TF ToR preparation has been shared with Regional Development Australia (RDA) to progress minor changes, after which TMR will gain approval through CYRP Board to split the SWG & TF next SWG meeting.

CYRP Stage 2

CYRP Stage 2 is a 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 (AG) and Queensland Government on an 80:20 basis. The 2024 Federal Budget saw the return of \$68.5 million in funding to CYRP Stage 2, that was removed after the Australian Government's Independent Strategic Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program. This takes the program's total funding allocation to \$323.12 million.

CYRP Stage 2 is experiencing cost pressures. The Project Proposal Report (PPR) addendum submitted to the AG in March 2023 is being revised with the returned funding in mind and will be resubmitted later this year. Some projects under CYRP Stage 2 are dependent on this.

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: Works recommenced on 15 May. 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): Works recommenced on 4 June and expected to be completed late 2024.
- Yarraden to Three Sisters Part A (portion 2), B and C: Projects are dependent on future funding.
- Musgrave to Red Blanket (Part B): Project is dependent on future funding.
- Bamboo to South of Duck Holes: Project is dependent on future funding.

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) – AG approved descope on 28 February 2024. Funding from Sections 1 and 2 to be merged. Section 1 full scope to be completed. Section 2 to be completed to design stage. Contract was awarded 14 April 2024 and works recommenced in June 2024.
- Lockhart River Access Road (Portland Roads Road) section 1 (5.4 kilometres) Awaiting AG approval to descope.
- Lockhart River Access Road (Portland Roads Road) section 2 (3.3 kilometres) – Awaiting AG approval to descope.
- 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 required, 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 is noted.

SEEIA

- The SEEIA report is progressing through TMR approvals and will be made public once this occurs.

PDR Indigenous Land Use Agreement

- There are a number of new Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs) being formed. TMR is working with CYLC to involve TOs in the stakeholder engagement process.

PDR scholarships

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

Scholarship applications for 2025 are now open. TMR has awarded 38 scholarships to date.

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 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/>