

Communique

Cape York Region Package Sub-Working Group and Taskforce – November 2025

The Cape York Region Package (CYRP) Taskforce (TF) and Sub-Working Group (SWG) met on 13 November 2025. The meetings were held at Cairns Regional Council 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 CYRP Stage 2, the Community Access Roads Program (CARP), the Peninsula Developmental Road (PDR) Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA), the Infrastructure Naming process for Archer River, Saltwater Creek and South Laura bridges, the PDR ILUA scholarships program, and CYRP Stage 3.

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 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, which takes the program's total funding allocation to \$323.12 million.

TMR is in negotiations with the Australian Government regarding the revised Project Proposal Report (PPR) Addendum which was submitted to the Australian Government for approval on 9 October 2024. Due to cost pressures, the progress of some projects under CYRP Stage 2 are dependent on resolution of the PPR Addendum.

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 3 November 2023.
- Archer River Crossing: Practical Completion achieved 24 November 2024.
- Yarraden to Three Sisters: Part A (portion 1): Practical Completion achieved 13 December 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 (NP1) (11.9 kilometres) and section 2 (NP2) (8.4 kilometres) – Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council submitted a request to reallocate budget for NP1 back toward NP2. NP1 will now be funded via betterment funding through the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. Works on NP2 have commenced.
- Lockhart River Access Road (Portland Roads Road) section 1 (5.4 kilometres) – Practical completion achieved November 2023 with the final 1.2 kilometres of seal funded by TMR under the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) program and completed in October 2025.
- Lockhart River Access Road (Portland Roads Road) section 2 (3.3 kilometres) – Practical completion achieved November 2023 with the final 150 metres of seal funded by TMR under the TIDS program and completed in October 2025.
- 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) – section 3 works have commenced with section 4 to be held for future funding.
- 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 Stage 3

- The Queensland Government committed \$60 million for CYRP Stage 3 in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2024-25 to 2027-28* available from 2026-27, subject to negotiation with the Australian Government based on an 80:20 (federal:state) funding split.
- TMR prepared an interim delivery PPR for CYRP Stage 3, which has been submitted to the Australian Government for approval.
- TMR will submit a delivery PPR for Stage 3 once the Stage 2 PPR Addendum is resolved.
- TMR again proposes to allocate 20 per cent of funds to CARP projects, as per previous tranches.

- There are around 164 kilometres of the PDR left to seal noting the remaining sections have significant technical challenges requiring high-cost solutions.
- Priorities for the emerging Stage 3 proposal were discussed at the TF meeting.

PDR Indigenous Land Use Agreement

- TMR is working with Cape York Land Council (CYLC) to transition new Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs) into 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 2026 opened on 1 April 2025 and closed 5 September 2025.
- The application review process is underway.

Infrastructure naming

- Stakeholder consultation for the naming of three bridge structures—Archer River bridge, Saltwater Creek bridge and South Laura River bridge—closed on 1 April 2025.
- Three independent naming committees were formed – one for each bridge, with the submission review process completed on 23 May 2025.
- A review of the TMR Naming of Infrastructure policy was initiated prior to completion of the PDR naming process.
- TMR will update stakeholders on the naming process once the review is finalised.

Contacts:

- RDA Tropical North: ceo@rdatropicalnorth.org.au – 0413 011 543
- TMR: cyrp@tmr.qld.gov.au – 1800 184 317

Further information:

TMR information is available at:

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

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