

Communique

Cape York Region Package Sub-Working Group and Taskforce – May 2026

The Cape York Region Package (CYRP) Taskforce (TF) and Sub-Working Group (SWG) met on 8 May 2026. 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, Archer River crossing, the Community Access Roads Program (CARP), a potential CYRP Stage 3, the Peninsula Developmental Road (PDR) Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) and the PDR Scholarships program.

CYRP Stage 2

CYRP Stage 2 is a program of works to continue upgrading the PDR and other priority road infrastructure with connection to the PDR, on Cape York Peninsula. The program is jointly funded by the Australian Government (AG) and Queensland Government on an 80:20 basis.

On 19 December 2025, TMR received approval for additional funds from the AG to complete CYRP Stage 2 through its *2025–26 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook* process.

PDR program

The CYRP Stage 2 PDR program ensures a geographic spread of construction work to maximise economic benefits across Cape York. Projects are also selected in consideration of key resource availability, such as water and gravel along the PDR.

CYRP Stage 2 progress includes completion of seven projects, including the Archer River and Saltwater Creek bridges, and 35.18 kilometres of new seal. Newly approved projects include:

- Yarraden to Three Sisters (Part A portion 2): Project expected to start this year, subject to final approval from the AG.
- Musgrave to Red Blanket (Part B): Project expected to start this year
- Koolburra to South of Hann (Part A): Project expected to start late this year, subject to final approval from the AG.
- Musgrave to Red Blanket (Part C): Project expected to start next year

Archer River crossing

On 20 March, as a result of flooding caused by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Narelle, Archer River crossing received its first major test

The Archer River peaked at 18.5 metres, with floodwaters rising about three metres over the bridge deck. The bridge was underwater for less than 48 hours. It was designed for these conditions and performed as expected

Inspections have confirmed no structural damage to the bridge, while minor wear to the approach road will be addressed through routine maintenance.

CARP

In partnership with the Torres and Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA), TMR is working to upgrade unsealed sections of primary access roads to connect remote communities under CYRP Stage 2.

- Aurukun Access Road (21.8 kilometres sealed): Practical Completion October 2023
- Lockhart River Access Road (Portland Roads Road) (9.2 kilometres sealing and drainage works): Practical Completion achieved October 2025 as part of CARP and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme
- Pormpuraaw Access Road (Strathgordon Road) (20.4 kilometres of seal and drainage): Practical Completion achieved October 2023
- Northern Peninsula Road section 1 (11.9 kilometres) and section 2 (8.4 kilometres): Section 1 now funded by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority as a betterment project. Section 2 is in progress.

CYRP Stage 3

Planning and preliminary work is underway for CYRP Stage 3. The Queensland Government has committed \$60 million as its 20 per cent contribution to CYRP Stage 3, subject to negotiation with the AG as part of an 80:20 funding split.

TMR will prepare a Project Proposal Report for Stage 3.

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 (including the remaining parts of Stage 2 and future stages), noting remaining sections have significant technical challenges requiring high-cost solutions.

Myall Creek bridge has been identified as a potential priority under Stage 3 works, with other possible Stage 3 projects discussed at the Taskforce meeting.

PDR Indigenous Land Use Agreement

TMR and Cape York Land Council (CYLC) continue to work with seven Prescribed Bodies Corporate which intersect with the PDR.

PDR scholarships

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

Scholarship applications for 2027 are open until 14 August 2026. TMR continues to promote the PDR scholarship program to encourage applications.

Contacts

RDA Tropical North – ceo@rdatropicalnorth.org.au – 0413 011 543

TMR – cyrp@tmr.qld.gov.au – 1800 184 317

Further information

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

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