

Communique

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

The Cape York Region Package (CYRP) Taskforce (TF) and Sub-Working Group (SWG) met on 7 November 2024. The meetings were held at Cairns RSL Club 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 CYRP Stage 3.

Draft ToR and governance structure

TMR is progressing the SWG & TF ToR to the CYRP Board to gain approval to split the SWG & TF by 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. A revised Project Proposal Report (PPR) addendum was submitted to the Australian Government for approval on 9 October 2024. 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: Work is progressing with the bridge expected to be open to through traffic in late 2024, weather and construction conditions permitting.

- Yarraden to Three Sisters: Part A (portion 1): Work is progressing with the project 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) & section 2 (8.4 kilometres) – Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council submitted a request to reallocate budget for NP1 back toward NP2 with the intention of proceeding to construction in 2025. NP1 will now be funded via betterment funding through the Queensland Recovery Authority.
- Lockhart River Access Road (Portland Roads Road) section 1 (5.4 kilometres) Practical completion achieved November 2023 with the final 1.2 kilometers of seal funded by TMR under the TIDS program and due to be completed by June 2025.
- Lockhart River Access Road (Portland Roads Road) section 2 (3.3 kilometres) – Practical completion achieved November 2023 with the final 150 meters of seal funded by TMR under the TIDS program and due to be completed by June 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 is due to commence in 2025 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 2024–25 QTRIP, available from 2026–27, subject to negotiation with the Australian Government based on an 80:20 (federal:state) funding split.

- TMR has commenced planning and pre-construction works to determine the investment strategy for Stage 3
- There are around 164 kilometres of the PDR left to seal noting the remaining sections have significant technical challenges requiring high-cost solutions
- The Community Access Road program is also being reviewed for continuation under Stage 3.

SEEIA

- The SEEIA report has received Ministerial approval and is available on the Cape York Region Package Stage 2 webpage or by contacting Regional Development Australia (RDA) Tropical North.
- Findings of this report into the program's success were overwhelmingly positive with 85 per cent of project outcomes rated as 'good' or 'excellent'.

PDR Indigenous Land Use Agreement

- There are a number of new Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs) being formed. TMR is working with Cape York Land Council (CYLC) to involve Traditional Owners 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 closed on 30 August 2024 and are currently under assessment. TMR has awarded 38 scholarships to date.

Infrastructure naming

- TMR has commenced stakeholder consultation for the naming of three bridge structures: Archer River bridge, Saltwater Creek bridge and South Laura River bridge
- The closing date for submissions is 1 April 2025.
- Visit the CYRP Stage 2 webpage to make a submission.

Contacts:

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Further information:

TMR information available here:

- <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/>