

MEDIA STATEMENT

15 January 2019

Preliminary works continue for Smithfield Bypass

Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has started preliminary works for the \$152 million Smithfield Bypass Project. As part of the program of works, vegetation in the McGregor Road roundabout area will be cleared from 21 – 23 January between 7am - 5pm, weather permitting.

TMR's Acting District Director (Far North Queensland) Ross Hodgman said vegetation clearing was necessary to allow the contractor to access public utility services.

"Due to the presence of electric ants, it is not possible to relocate any of the vegetation growing at McGregor Road roundabout from outside local area," Mr Hodgman said.

"All vegetation growing within the McGregor Road roundabout will be removed and relocated to the south of McGregor Road within the area affected by electric ants to stop them from spreading to new locations.

"TMR has conducted environmental assessments and has obtained the relevant permits and approvals as required. Environmental officers will be on site during the vegetation clearing to undertake fauna spotting and environmental assessment.

"The cleared vegetation will be disposed of in accordance with biosecurity requirements and recommendations.

"Once clearing is complete, the ground surface will be topsoiled and regrowth will be maintained as required."

For the safety of road users and roadworkers, changed traffic conditions will be in place including temporary signage and manual traffic controllers.

Road users should expect minor delays and plan their trip accordingly.

The Smithfield Bypass is expected to be completed late 2020, weather permitting.

For further project updated and enquiries contact the Far North District Office by email at spb@tmr.qld.gov.au or by telephone on 1800187937.

Regular project updates can also be found on the TMR website at <https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/smithfieldbypassproject>

ENDS

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Captain Cook Highway/McGregor Road roundabout is located to the north of Smithfield.

Image caption: Captain Cook Highway / McGregor Road Smithfield, pre-vegetation clearing.

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