

Cape York Region Package: Peninsula Developmental Road

October 2015

About the project

The Australian Government committed \$208.4 million to the Cape York Region Package from 2013-14 to 2018-19, with the Queensland Government contributing \$52.1 million.

The package will upgrade infrastructure including significant works on the Peninsula Developmental Road. These works will improve accessibility to Cape York, support the growth of the local industry and secondary economies and strengthen local and Indigenous communities.

It is expected that \$200 million from the available funding will be allocated to the Peninsula Developmental Road, which is the main transport link within the Cape York Peninsula.

A better road means improved access

The Peninsula Development Road is closed due to flooding and boggy road conditions every wet season, generally between December and April. As the main road transport link within Cape York Peninsula the four-month closure has large impacts on the communities that rely on the road for connectivity.

Sealing the road will reduce road closures, improve resilience to future flooding, safety and reduce ongoing road maintenance costs. Better access will also increase the efficiency and reliability of Heavy Vehicle freight movements on Peninsula Developmental Road.

Better access results in more resilient communities

When the Peninsula Developmental Road is closed due to flooding, it's difficult to transport food and other essential items into the region. Access to essential services for health and well-being is also often hindered.

With a sealed road supply chains will become more reliable, safer and more efficient. This will enable Cape York communities better access to health services, employment, education and training opportunities.

Opening up economic opportunities

The annual closure of the Peninsula Developmental Road is a key barrier to economic development on Cape York Peninsula.

Upgrading the road will reduce the reliance on expensive shipping solutions for freight transport and remove obstacles to growing key industries like agricultural, pastoral and mining. This may also secure investment in new industries and provide businesses with the confidence to invest in the region.

The region's largely unspoilt wilderness makes it a popular tourist destination. Better access will assist the region in developing its tourist industry.

Protecting our environment

Dust, erosion and run-off into watercourses all impact on unsealed roads which require annual re-opening and maintenance programs. Sealing the Peninsula Developmental Road will help protect the environment by reducing the dust, erosion and water run-off. See Fact Sheet: Environmental Obligations.

Further information

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