Cape York Region Package:

• Peninsula Developmental Road Progressively Extend the Seal
• Endeavour Valley Road Upgrade to Seal
• Torres and Cape Indigenous Council Alliance Community Works

About the Cape York Region Package

The Cape York Region Package (CYRP) is a $260.5 million program of works jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments to upgrade critical infrastructure on Cape York Peninsula, it consists of:

• $200 million to seal priority gravel sections of the Peninsula Developmental Road (PDR).
• $10 million to extend the bitumen seal on Endeavour Valley Road (EVR).
• $50.5 million for priority Community Works identified by the Torres and Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA).

A road to better outcomes

In 2017 works on the PDR continued to create employment opportunities for local Indigenous and non-Indigenous workers, businesses, suppliers and training providers.

For projects beginning in 2017, the figures as at 31 December 2017* were:

• 71 Indigenous people, including 33 new entrant trainees were employed on the sealing and gravel production projects on the PDR. This equates to 54% of the workforce.
• 27 Indigenous businesses/joint ventures were working on or sub-contracted to the PDR projects.

*These figures represent a point in time and the numbers vary depending on the work that took place and the stage of the projects.

2017 in review

In 2017, the length of sealed road on the PDR was extended by about 40 kilometres. This means that more than 144 kilometres of the PDR has now been sealed under the CYRP.

In late 2017, TMR successfully completed the following projects:

• the Archer to Wolverton, Coen South and Laura Racecourse to Little Laura road projects on the PDR.
• the fourth stage of the EVR upgrade funded under CYRP.

In addition, local government authorities completed a number of road and marine infrastructure improvements in Indigenous communities as part of TCICA.

2018 Program of Works

A further 29 kilometres of the PDR is expected to be sealed in 2018. The works will include the completion of projects already underway at Myall Creek to Rio Boundary section, South of Duck Holes Creek and 10 Mile Creek.

Works scheduled in 2018 include three new projects commencing at Piccaninny Black Soil, Telecom Tower to Archer River and Fairview to Kennedy (Fairview West) Part A.

Works will also continue on sealing the final 2.81 kilometres of Endeavour Valley Road. The Queensland Government has provided an additional $4.5 million, separate to the CYRP, to ensure this critical access road is sealed for the Hope Vale community. In the eight TCICA communities, work is continuing on improved transport and community infrastructure and marine facilities.
PDR scholarships bring sweet rewards

In 2018, TMR is offering eight scholarships for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, with a traditional or historical connection to country around the Peninsula Developmental Road.

Five scholarships, valued at $750 each, have been offered to high school students and three scholarships, valued at up to $10,000 each, have been offered to tertiary students.

The program builds on the success of the 2017 program, which awarded one Tertiary and three Secondary scholarships to successful applicants.

Michael Mitchell, a successful 2017 Tertiary Scholarship student from Cooktown, is currently studying a Bachelor of Science at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane. He told TMR’s Director-General Neil Scales that he was very grateful for the opportunity provided by TMR.

“This scholarship is providing me with an opportunity to pursue my dreams.... I hope that one day I can make a difference to my family and my community.” he said.

An Indigenous company has won two contracts for PDR projects in 2018. Bama Civil, an Indigenous building and earthworks business, will work on two sealing projects this year.

The first is the 1.6 km 10 Mile Creek project and the second is the 4.1 km South of Duck Holes Creek project.

The company received invaluable experience in culvert and road construction whilst subcontracting to TMR’s commercial arm, RoadTek, on the South of Moorehead project in 2015 and the South of Musgrave project in 2016.

It is the first time the company has been awarded contracts in its own right.

An average of 20 direct jobs will be supported throughout the two projects, demonstrating how upskilling the local workforce can have long reaching benefits for the Cape York community.

Safety reminder: driving to conditions on the PDR

Every year on the PDR, incidents and crashes happen because people do not drive to conditions. Safety is TMR’s top priority, and we encourage all road users to review the Driving the Peninsula Developmental Road fact sheet before beginning your journey on the PDR.

The fact sheet is available on our website at www.tmr.qld.gov.au (search ‘Cape York Region Package Peninsula Developmental Road’). For traffic and travel information, we also encourage road users to visit qldtraffic.qld.gov.au and follow our @QLDTrafficFNNQ Twitter feed.

Further information

Cape York Region Package

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* Free call from anywhere in Australia, call charges apply for mobile phones and payphones. Check with your service provider for call costs.