About the project

The Queensland Government has committed a total funding package of $152 million to construct the Smithfield Bypass project.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) will construct a new 3.8 kilometre-long road between McGregor Road and Yorkeys Knob Road roundabouts as an alternate route to the Captain Cook Highway.

The new road will deliver a safer, more efficient travel route for motorists and industry along this section of the Captain Cook Highway. It will separate through traffic from local traffic movements.

The project provides vital community infrastructure for the northern beaches of Cairns and meets the strategic transport needs of the area into the future.

Concept layout design features

Key features of the design include:

- a bypass route connecting the Captain Cook Highway at Yorkeys Knob Road roundabout to the McGregor Road roundabout
- a two lane, two way overpass at McGregor Road roundabout
- upgrades to the existing Yorkeys Knob roundabout to a four way signalised intersection to incorporate the connection of the bypass route traffic
- improvements to the Captain Cook Highway and Cairns Western Arterial Road roundabout with a signalised double right turn from Captain Cook Highway inbound onto Cairns Western Arterial Road inbound
- an exit and entry ramp to a new designated road to connect with McGregor Road
- a wide centre line treatment for improved safety
- an off-road cycle pathway.
**Project benefits**

- The Smithfield Bypass project will improve the Captain Cook Highway by significantly reducing traffic volumes, improving traffic flow and increasing safety by reducing the risk of crashes.
- After construction, motorists travelling along the new bypass road between McGregor Road and Yorkeys Knob roundabouts are predicted to experience a decrease in travel times of around 63 per cent in the morning peak and 75 per cent in the afternoon peak, compared to the existing Captain Cook Highway.
- An average of 115 direct jobs will be supported over the life of the project.

**Tender process**

TMR is currently working with two shortlisted tenderers through an Early Contractor Involvement process for the project.

The two shortlisted tenderers are currently proposing designs that deliver additional functionality and efficiency, using the concept layout design as a reference. This allows the tenderers to propose ‘value for money’ innovations.

The interactive tender process will ensure the best value outcomes and the most suitable design layout is chosen for the project through a comprehensive evaluation process.

**Environmental and cultural heritage impacts**

TMR has a duty of care to assess the impacts on environmental values and to identify activities to avoid, mitigate and minimise potential impacts. In particular TMR will aim to minimise impacts to the Cattana Wetlands.

TMR will undertake noise modelling, to predict future road traffic noise impacts. The modelling will identify sites requiring new or upgraded noise barriers, as well as other noise mitigation measures.

TMR will ensure the project has minimal impact on the cultural heritage of the area, including that there is no harm to Indigenous cultural heritage.

**Project timeframes**

- Project funding announced July 2017
- Tendering process (Preliminary design phase) commenced late 2017
- Contract award mid-2018
- Start of construction late 2018
- Construction due for completion late 2020, weather permitting

**Get involved and have your say**

TMR is committed to listening to stakeholders and will communicate and engage with property owners, businesses and the broader community throughout the project, to discuss potential impacts and ensure concerns are understood and addressed in a timely manner.

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For Smithfield Bypass project updates and enquiries

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