

MEDIA STATEMENT

12 March 2019

Study to support Far North heavy vehicle management

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is conducting a \$480,000 study to develop a Heavy Vehicle Management Strategy for the Atherton Tablelands area in Far North Queensland.

TMR District Director (Far North Queensland) Ross Hodgman said TMR were aware of the importance of the transport industry and the growing demand on the road network for transporting mining, agricultural and horticultural products.

“With a focus on investment in northern Australia and strong population growth in Far North Queensland, we want to improve the current heavy vehicle management for the Tablelands to meet the growing demands of the transport industry,” Mr Hodgman said.

“Extensive community consultation was carried out during the options analysis phase and several potential preferred upgrades and new facilities were identified.

“Road is the only viable mode for transportation of freight in the study area and critical to the viability of industry and population centres.

“Ensuring efficiency, safety and security of road-based freight supply chains is the backbone of the region.”

Further consultation will be undertaken focusing on the following preferred upgrades:

- a proposed Heavy Vehicle Rest Area (HVRA) on the Mulligan Highway, north of Mareeba
- a proposed HRVA on the Kennedy Highway, west of Speewah
- a proposed Heavy Vehicle Stopping Place at the top of the Rex Range (Mossman – Mt Molloy Road).

For the study, the Tablelands freight network mainly encompasses the Tablelands Regional Council and the eastern most part of the Shire of Mareeba areas. The study is expected to be completed by late 2019.

The Tablelands HVMS is currently in the business case development phase. The business case will deliver a masterplan for the Tablelands freight routes, providing a guide for potential upgrades.

Any upgrades are currently unfunded and will be prioritised against other important infrastructure needs across the state for inclusion in future works programs.

For more information contact Transport and Main Roads Cairns office on (07) 4045 7328 or email cairns.office@tmr.qld.gov.au.

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