Bruce Highway
Cairns Southern Access Corridor

**Stage 4: Kate Street to Aumuller Street Project**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is the Stage 4 project?**

The Bruce Highway – Cairns Southern Access Corridor - Stage 4: Kate Street to Aumuller Street project will widen 2.6km of the Bruce Highway between Kate Street (renamed Links Drive) and Aumuller Street. Stage 4 forms part of the continued implementation of the Cairns Bruce Highway Upgrade Master Plan.

**What is the scope of the project?**

- Widening of the Bruce Highway between Links Drive and Aumuller street from 4 to 6 lanes
- At Chinaman Creek the current inbound bridge will be replaced with a new 3 lane bridge and the existing outbound bridge widened to 3 lanes
- Upgrades to the Lyons Street and Aumuller Street intersections will include additional turning lanes to improve traffic flow for motorists
- Additional works from Comport Street to Kenny Street include an upgrade of the existing roundabout at Draper Street and Kenny Street to a signalised intersection, with a new double left-turn for outbound traffic
- Better, safer facilities will be provided for cyclists and pedestrians with a new off-road shared pathway.
- The project includes upgrades to both the Lyons Street and Aumuller Street intersections.
- Additional works from Comport Street to Kenny Street together with an upgrade of the existing roundabout at Draper Street and Kenny Street to a signalised intersection, with a new double left-turn for outbound traffic.

The project also includes better, safer facilities for cyclists and pedestrians with a new off-road shared pathway.

**Why is it needed?**

The Bruce Highway – Cairns Southern Access Corridor – Stage 4: Kate Street to Aumuller Street is one of the busiest sections of the Bruce Highway in the Cairns region accommodating 33,000 vehicles per day. This section of the Bruce Highway is being upgraded to cater for future growth to the south of Cairns. The project will deliver long-term improvements to traffic flow, freight delivery and road safety south of Cairns.

**When will construction commence?**

Construction commenced on 31 August 2018.

**When is the project due to be completed?**

The project is expected to be completed by mid-2021, weather permitting.

**How much will the project cost?**

The upgrade will cost $104.1 million.

**Who is funding the project?**

The project will be funded on an 80:20 basis, with the Australian Government committing up to $83.3 million, and the Queensland Government committing up to $20.8 million.

This project is just one part of the $10 billion Australian Government investment to the Bruce Highway Upgrade Program.
What opportunities will there be for local businesses to be involved during construction?

The Queensland Government understands the importance of ensuring local contractors have access to government-led opportunities. A new policy came into effect on 1 September 2017, and will encourage all government agencies to 'buy local'.

Will construction be awarded to a local business?

In the interest of fairness and transparency, The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) assesses and awards contracts in accordance with a very strict procurement policy and process. The tender assessment process includes consideration of contractors' compliance with the Queensland Charter for Local Content, which aims to provide all businesses with full, fair and reasonable opportunities to tender for Queensland Government procurements.

Infrastructure projects of this scale require specialised skills and experience and TMR requires contractors for projects of this nature to be prequalified under the National Prequalification System for Civil (Road and Bridge) Construction Contracts.

Contract award

Tender closed on 20 June 2018. The tender included price and non-price valuation including the Queensland Procurement Policy through non-price criteria. The contract was awarded to Georgiou Koppen Joint Venture on 13 August 2018. Koppen is a local Cairns contractor and have worked on previous projects for TMR including the Peninsula Developmental Road. Georgiou have successfully delivered numerous projects across Queensland including the recent delivery of the $53 million Warrego Highway Stage 2 Project near Toowoomba as well as the Tinana Interchange Project on the Bruce Highway near Maryborough.

How many jobs will the project create?

An average of 113 direct jobs will be supported over the life of the project.

What are the cultural heritage impacts?

TMR will ensure the project has minimal impact on the cultural heritage of the area, by working hand in hand with the traditional owners and other key stakeholders.

What are the environmental impacts?

TMR is aware of environmentally sensitive areas within the project limits and will adhere to all relevant environmental legislation during the planning and construction phases of the project.

What impacts will the project have on local businesses?

Impacts to businesses with direct access to the highway will be kept to an absolute minimum where possible. Prior to any works starting discussions with local business will be undertaken to ensure some form of access is maintained. Generally two lanes of traffic will be maintained during peak times with single lane operations being implemented outside peak times. Once completed, the improved traffic flow will assist business efficiency.

What impacts will the project have on local residents?

Fortunately there are limited residential properties adjacent to the project site that will be directly affected by these works, however an infrastructure project of this scale will have some impact on the adjacent businesses and the public travelling through the project site. These delays and disruptions will be kept to a minimum where possible. Noise and dust nuisance are an inevitable side effect of road construction and these will be regularly monitored to minimise any effects and to ensure compliance with legislation.

Why are you building a new bridge?

The construction of a new bridge on the inbound carriageway is needed as the existing bridge has reached its design life prematurely due to alkali silica reaction in the concrete.

Stay connected

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