



December 2018

Bruce Highway Cairns Southern Access Corridor

Stage 4: Kate Street to Aumuller Street Project

Construction underway

The Australian and Queensland governments are working together to provide faster, safer and more reliable travel for Cairns motorists. The \$104.1 million Bruce Highway - Cairns Southern Access Corridor - Stage 4: Kate Street to Aumuller Street project is under construction with the successful contractor Georgiou Koppen Joint Venture starting works late August 2018.

A start of works event was held on 5 October 2018 to celebrate this major milestone.

This project will deliver a boost in jobs for Far North Queensland with an average of 113 direct jobs supported over the life of the project.



Installation of the rock drainage layer adjacent to the Bruce Highway at Chinaman Creek.

Project works update

As construction gets underway some of the first works include the relocation of energy and communications infrastructure, and the clearing of vegetation along the Bruce Highway between Kate Street (renamed Links Drive) and Aumuller Street to prepare the area for construction of the highway upgrade. Prior to the commencement of clearing works the project team undertook removal and translocation of the protected Ant Plants and rare mangrove species living in the area. Find out more about the ways the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is working to maintain the environmental and cultural heritage integrity in the Environment and cultural heritage section of this newsletter.



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Project zones

The 2.6km project corridor will be divided into three work zones.

Zone One:

Works commenced in **early October 2018** and is occurring along the Bruce Highway (Ray Jones Drive) between Links Drive and Aumuller Street.

Zone Two:

Works are expected to start **early 2019** and will occur in the section along Comport Street from Aumuller Street to Fearnley Street.

Zone Three:

Works started in **late October 2018** and are located between the Comport Street and Draper Street intersection up to Kenny Street.



What to expect during construction

- Clearing of vegetation in the works zones.
- Changed traffic conditions including reduced speed limits in the works zones. Electronic sign boards will alert motorists to the changed conditions on approach. Please look out for these signs and obey all signage/traffic control.
- Noise from construction activity, machinery and workers in the area.
- Access to all businesses will be maintained throughout construction, with some temporary changes to access if required.
- To provide space for widening of the road, changes will be required to the on-street parking on the city-bound side of the road. Please note, parking removal/changes will not occur until works in zone two start in early 2019.
- Parking along Comport Street from Aumuller Street to Fearnley Street will be removed.
- Parking near the intersections in this area will either change from angled parking to parallel or be removed.
- Some parking in Lyons Street will be changed from angled parking to parallel.



Construction hours

The project work hours are between 6am and 6pm Monday to Saturday. Some work outside of these times may be required. Further information will be provided as construction progresses.



Key project information

This section of the highway is one of the busiest parts of the Bruce Highway in the Cairns region accommodating 33,000 vehicles per day. This project will see the highway widened from 4 to 6 lanes to provide motorists with less congested travel into and out of the Cairns CBD along this route.

For more information about this project visit the project [webpage](#).

Background

The \$104.1 million project forms the fourth stage of the Cairns Bruce Highway Upgrade Program and is jointly funded with \$83.3 million from the Australian Government and \$20.8 million from the Queensland Government.

This project is just one part of the \$10 billion Australian Government investment to the Bruce Highway Upgrade Program.

Project benefits

- Improves traffic flow and reduces congestion during peak periods
- Supports existing infrastructure and industrial development in the port precinct
- Supports safe travel up to 80km/h.



Key milestones

- **June 2016:** Project funding announced
- **May 2018:** Design process completed
- **Mid-August 2018:** Contract award
- **Late August 2018:** Construction start
- **Mid-2021:** Construction due for completion, weather permitting.

Project scope

- 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.



Chinaman Creek Bridge to be replaced as part of the works.

Environment and cultural heritage

TMR takes its environmental responsibilities very seriously, the project team includes environmental officers who are dedicated to managing and mitigating impacts to wildlife and the environment.

Our project team works closely with environmental scientists to conserve the protected Ant Plants and mangrove seedlings living in the project corridor by translocating them to a new home where they will continue to flourish. TMR has undertaken consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Environment and Science as well as consultation with local environmental groups.

TMR has engaged with the two local Aboriginal parties for the project area, the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji people and the Yirrganydji (Irukandji) people, to proactively manage the impacts to cultural heritage.



Ant plants relocated from the construction zone.

Aboriginal cultural heritage monitors have been on site during initial construction activities to ensure Aboriginal cultural heritage is appropriately managed. The team of monitors have participated in the relocation of both the Ant Plants and mangrove seedlings. The team of monitors will remain available to the project team throughout the life of the project should unexpected items of cultural heritage be identified.

Project webpage

For more information about this project and to see a project map please visit the project [webpage](#).



Stay Connected

For project updates and enquiries

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