



December 2020

Captain Cook Highway

Smithfield Bypass Project

Final layout released

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has released the final layout for the \$164 million Smithfield Bypass Project.

The new 3.8km road between McGregor Road roundabout and the intersection of the Captain Cook Highway (CCH) and Cairns Western Arterial Road (CWAR), is taking shape. The final layout includes southern extension works to four lane CWAR to Caravonica State School, and install new traffic signals at the Skyrail Drive intersection.

The bypass will separate through traffic from local traffic, easing congestion on the local road network including the Smithfield roundabout.

A flythrough video and map are available on the [project web page](#).



Northern extent - McGregor Road roundabout

Construction of a new overpass bridge at the northern extent of the bypass continues. The overpass will comprise two bridges across Unnamed Road and McGregor Road roundabout. On and off ramps will help motorists access the bypass and exit the bypass from CCH in the north. A 250-tonne crane was used to lift the following headstocks and units into place for the bridges.

McGregor Road overpass bridge

- 7 headstocks, each weighing 69 tonnes and measuring 12.9 metres in length.
- 160 bridge decking units, each weighing between 25.3 - 30.8 tonnes and measuring between 19 and 25 metres.

Unnamed Road

- 40 decking units, each weighing 31.5 tonnes and measuring up to 25 metres



Southern extent - CCH and CWAR intersection

The five-stage reconstruction of the CCH and CWAR intersection continues at the southern extent of the bypass. Temporary southbound slip lanes (pictured) are currently in operation as part of stage two works. In early 2021, a temporary signalised T-intersection will be introduced when reconstruction works move to stage three.



Works completed

- Avondale Creek Bridge (pictured) and culverts
- Pre-landscaping and topsoiling across the length of the bypass
- 1.1km noise wall along the residential alignment
- Asphalt works to introduce stage 2b traffic switch in the reconstruction of
- CCH and CWAR intersection
- Clearing and earthworks alongside CWAR as part of southern extension works
- Structural works at two bridges in northern extent; piling works, headstock and
- decking unit installation
- A new wetland habitat at Cattana Wetlands



Upcoming Works

- Temporary T-intersection and traffic signals for stage 3 of a five-stage reconstruction of CCH-CWAR intersection (early 2021)
- Continuation of bridge works for northern overpass
- Ground preparatory works for southern extension



Experiencing life as an engineer

Three Year 12 students from Smithfield State High School with ambitions for a career in engineering and environmental science participated in work experience at the project during the September school holidays. The week-long placements were organised by Construction Skills Queensland (Gateway Program) in conjunction with Smithfield State High School's Department of Vocational Pathways and the project contractor, Highway Construction and Albem Operations (HAJV).

Caption: Pictured on site are students from left, Mohit Palarwal, Rochelle John Kelly and Fatima Karimi with Daniel Harrison (HAJV Construction Manager Civil) and Japan Shah (HAJV Project Manager).



Project hosts local government engineers

As one of the significant road projects currently under construction in Cairns, the Smithfield Bypass generates much attention among government and industry. The project has hosted several visitors including a delegation from the FNQ Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC).

Members of its FNQ Regional Road and Transport Group technical committee stopped by in October to inspect progress on the bypass.

Caption: Pictured in front of the completed Avondale Creek Bridge, from left, Justin Fischer (Cassowary Coast Regional Council), Garry Pickering (Croydon Shire Council), Natasha Murray (Douglas Shire Council), Brad Finegan (TMR Project Manager) and Darlene Irvine (FNQROC).



New wetland habitat comes to life

The Smithfield Bypass will leave an environmental legacy thanks to a unique partnership between the construction contractor and a passionate group of volunteers.

HJV worked closely with members of Cairns Regional Council's Green Space Our Place volunteer program, the Jabirus, to develop a new wetland habitat in the Cattana Wetlands reserve, adjacent to the bypass.

The wetlands is home to abundant wildlife including more than 200 species of native birds.

The Jabirus have been busy landscaping the swamp and surrounds with a variety of native flora including water plants suitable for magpie geese and pandanus for crimson finch nesting habitats before the start of the wet season.

Caption: Members of the Jabiru volunteer group creating roosting posts on the cleared site are, pictured from left, Rodney Lloyd, Geoff McClure, Sandy Long and Prue Fitzpatrick.



What is the green substance?

Motorists may have noticed a green substance being sprayed on the embankments along the new bypass.

This substance is a soil binder. It works like PVA glue - when sprayed onto exposed soils the binder 'glues' soil particles together to help minimise erosion, suppress dust and improve the quality of any water that leaves the site during wet weather. It is a temporary measure that is used until landscaping and turfing is established.



Stay connected

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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.

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