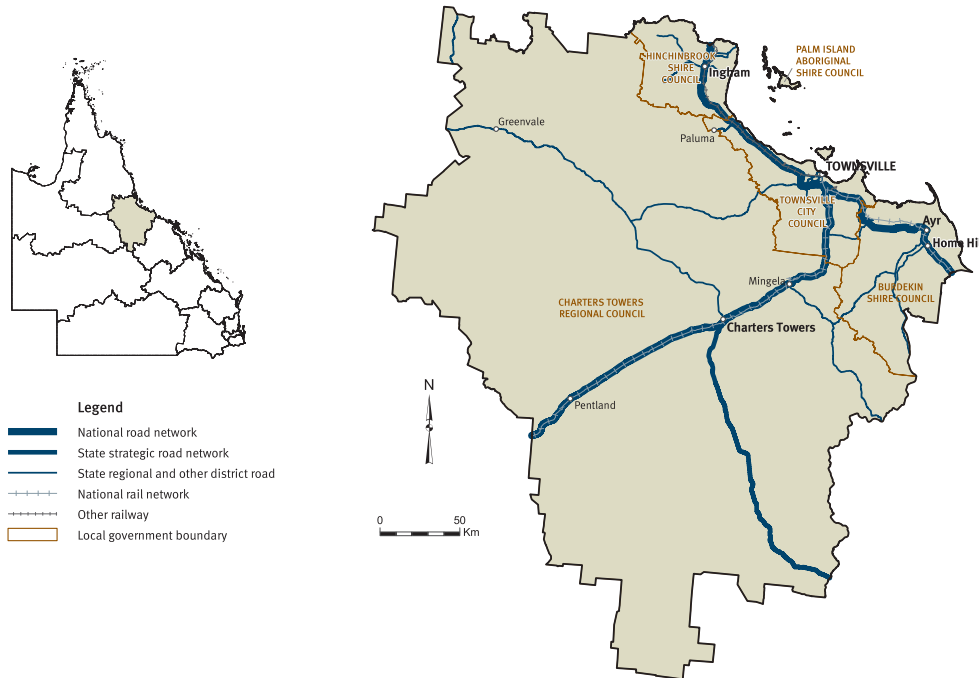


# Northern Road Facts

2010-11



## Area profile

**Area:** 107 696km<sup>2</sup>, extending from Ayr to Ingham along the coast, and west past Pentland and Greenvale.

**Population:** Around 214 295.

**Industries:** Tourism, horticulture, cattle, mining.

## Connecting Northern

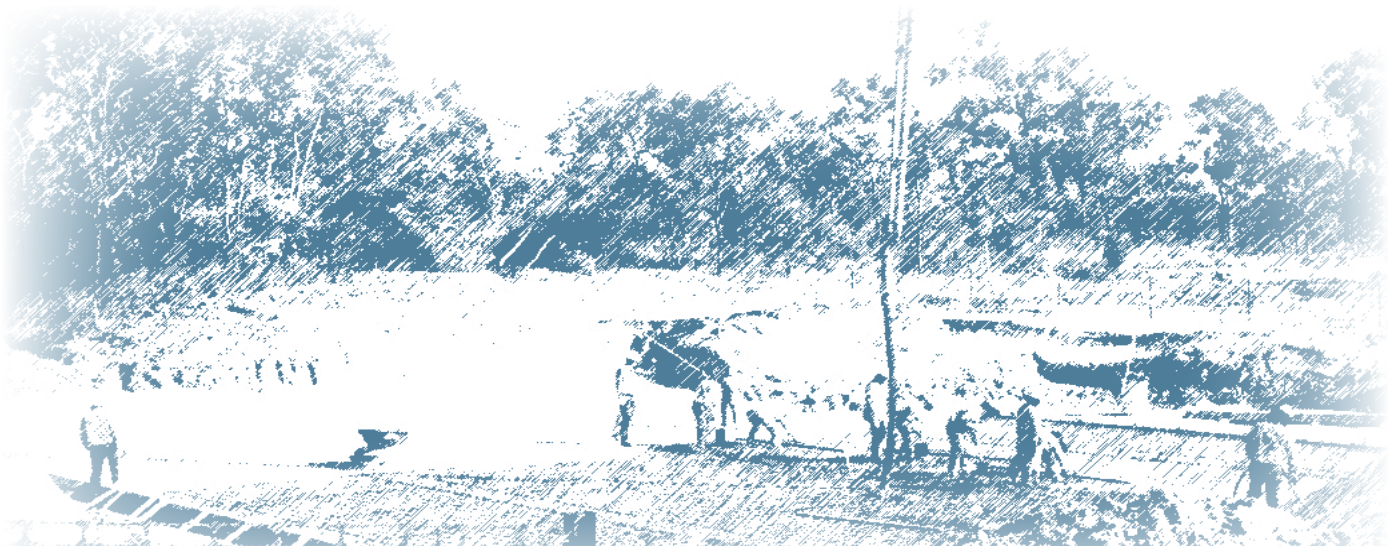
Transport and Main Roads services the state-controlled road network in Queensland. The department's Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2010-11 to 2013-14, outlines what the department is doing in the Northern Region of Queensland, now and in the future. The department's Townsville Office is the main point of contact for residents, industry and business to connect with Transport and Main Roads and learn more about what is happening in the area.

State road projects in and around the Northern Region are funded by the Queensland Government and the Federal Government. In the current roads program, the Queensland Government is investing over \$121 million in the region (including over \$6 million in Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme projects), and the Federal Government is contributing around \$75 million. Developers also contribute to the roads program.



### Road network

- Bruce Highway (Bowen - Innisfail)
- Flinders Highway (Townsville - Torrens Creek)
- Hervey Range Developmental Road (Townsville - Battery)
- Gregory Developmental Road (Belyando Crossing - The Lynd)
- Ayr-Dalbeg Road
- Woodstock-Giru Road
- Ross River Road
- Ingham-Abergowrie Road
- Ingham-Halifax-Bemerside Road
- Townsville Connection Road
- South Townsville Road
- Townsville Port Road
- North Ward Road
- Garbutt-Riverway Drive
- Angus Smith Drive Connection Road
- Douglas-Garbutt Road
- The Ring Road
- Home Hill-Kirknie Road
- Burdekin Falls Dam Road
- Ayr-Ravenswood Road
- Mt Spec Road
- Stone River Road
- Ingham-Forrest Beach Road
- Halifax-Lucinda Point Road

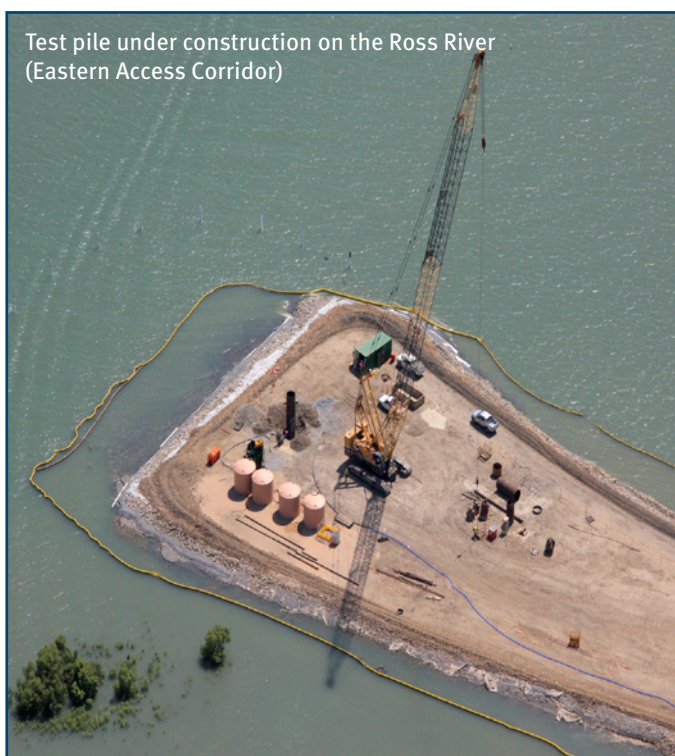


## Northern road activities

### Significant achievements in 2009-10

#### Effective, efficient and sustainable transport system

- Completed and opened the 2.5km Stuart Bypass - Stage 1 of the 10km Townsville Port Access Road.
- Commenced construction of Stage 2 of Townsville Port Access Road (Eastern Access Corridor).
- Completed construction of Stage 3 of the North Ward upgrade, the final stage in a program of works to widen 4.6km of road to four lanes and upgrade 22 intersections.
- Completed widening, from one to two lanes, 38.8km of Gregory Developmental Road, north and south of Charters Towers, as part of the Queensland Government-funded Other State-Controlled Roads program.
- Completed repair and restoration of 40km of Gregory Developmental Road, north of Charters Towers, and 20km of the Bruce Highway, damaged by cyclones Charlotte and Ellie in 2009. Work was funded through the Natural Disaster Recovery and Relief Arrangements program, a joint Federal and Queensland Governments initiative.



Test pile under construction on the Ross River (Eastern Access Corridor)



Stuart Bypass - construction of rail overpass

- Continued delivery of the regional portion of the \$347 million Accelerated Bruce Highway Upgrade Package (Townsville to Cairns), funded by the Federal Government. Works include major and minor flood immunity projects and other lower-cost safety initiatives.
- Continued a \$5 million planning study as part of the \$347 million Accelerated Bruce Highway Upgrade Package (Townsville to Cairns). The study aims to reduce the duration of flooding closures on the Bruce Highway, from south of Ingham to the foothills of the Cardwell Range. Currently, three possible alignments have been identified and a public consultation process is in progress.
- Commenced construction of a replacement concrete bridge at Gentle Annie Creek at Halifax, under the Queensland Government's Regional Bridge Renewal Program.
- Commenced a 6km duplication (four lanes) of the Douglas Arterial section of Townsville Ring Road. This project, jointly funded by the Queensland Government and Federal Government, will reduce heavy vehicle traffic through the residential and commercial areas of Townsville and overall travel time across the Townsville region.

# Northern Road Facts

- Finalised design for 4.2km realignment of the Bruce Highway at Cardwell Range, approximately 15km north of Ingham. This project, funded by the Federal Government as part of the Nation Building Program, will reduce the severity of the existing grades, provide climbing lanes on both sides of the range for heavy vehicles and an overpass of the Rungoo railway crossing.
- Continued planning on the Sandy Corner to Collinsons Lagoon flood immunity project, prior to obtaining construction funding under the Nation Building Program.
- Commenced construction of the two-lane sealed 4km Abbott Street deviation between Oonoonba Road and River Boulevard in Townsville.
- Continued ongoing rehabilitation of the Burdekin River Bridge.
- Completed rehabilitation of the Herbert River Bridge, 1km west of Halifax.



## Safe transport systems promoting health and well-being

- Completed the Intelligent Transport System for the Bruce Highway on Cardwell Range between Ingham and Cardwell. The system comprises a full remote closure system consisting of traffic signals, boom gates, variable message signs, variable speed limit signs and other fixed signs to be used in flood and accident events.

- Under the Safer Roads Sooner program:
  - completed state-funded heavy vehicle rest areas on Gregory Developmental Road, north and south of Charters Towers, improving safety by helping to prevent heavy vehicle driver fatigue
  - completed installation of a pedestrian refuge at the Ridley Road and Carthew Street intersection, Townsville
  - completed resurfacing at the Bundock Street and Old Common Road intersection, Townsville
  - completed upgrade of the Dalrymple Road and O'Keefe Court intersection.
- Completed a federally-funded heavy vehicle rest area on the Flinders Highway, near Mingela.
- Completed a signalised pedestrian crossing, specifically designed for disabled access, on the Bruce Highway at Home Hill
- Under the Bruce Highway Nation Building Black Spot Program:
  - continued planning for installation of fatigue management treatment signs, and upgrade and installation of new lighting at the Fredericksfield Road and Charles Hill Road intersection, Home Hill
  - continued planning to widen a culvert to provide a dedicated right-turn lane at the Ayr Sewerage Plant Access.
- Completed upgrade of the Bruce Highway at the Forestry Road and Toolakea Beach intersection, north of Townsville, under the Accelerated Black Spot Program.
- Continued planning for a heavy vehicle rest area 110km south of Charters Towers, close to Cape River, to help prevent heavy vehicle driver fatigue.
- Continued planning to signalise a marked pedestrian crossing at Lannercost Street, Ingham.





North Ward Road upgrade under construction

### Cost-effective transport system delivery

- Delivered traffic signals at the Abbott Street and Bruce Highway intersection at Cluden, to improve safety and efficiency of this major arterial link. Delivery of these signals defers requirement for extensive road upgrades for a period of approximately five years.
- Delivered 23.5km of road widening between Charters Towers and Belyando Crossing, including widening the road between Cape River and Victoria Creek, improving freight movement and safety for high volumes of heavy vehicle traffic.
- Delivered the North Ward upgrade, Townsville, duplicating to four lanes 4.6km of road between Walker Street and Ingham Road.
- Delivered the Townsville Ring Road Stages 2 and 3.
- Savings from all regional road projects totalled \$5.82 million due to project delivery efficiencies.
- Completed the two-lane sealed construction of the Abbott Street deviation between Oonoomba Road and River Boulevard in Townsville.

### A transport system providing access to employment, education and services

- Delivered the Townsville Ring Road Stages 2 and 3, providing residents of the Northern Beaches with significantly enhanced access to James Cook University, Lavarack Barracks and Townsville General Hospital.

- Delivered the North Ward Road Package C, the final stage in a program of works to widen to four lanes 4.6km of road in central Townsville, resulting in reduced congestion and travel times to and from Townsville's CBD.
- Completed widening from one to two lanes 38.8km of Gregory Developmental Road, north and south of Charters Towers and repair and restoration of 40km of Gregory Developmental Road, north of Charters Towers, part of the Queensland Government-funded Other State-Controlled Roads program. These works have improved safety and access for employees of mines operating in the area.
- Delivered traffic signals at Abbott Street and Bruce Highway intersection in the Cluden region of Townsville, providing enhanced access from Townsville's CBD to James Cook University, Lavarack Barracks and Townsville General Hospital.

### Transport-related impacts on natural, cultural and built environments managed

- As part of the Townsville Port Access Road project, delivered fish passage structures in culverts and two fauna underpass culverts. In addition, commenced a five-year rehabilitation program for the 530 hectare 'Environmental Reserve' funded by the department and managed by the Department of Environment and Resource Management, for future transfer to a protected area tenure.



Townsville Ring Road project

## Contemporary and progressive people, processes and systems

- Delivered improved road infrastructure through open tender and alliance contracts. In 2009 the Northern Region won awards on both the Tully Alliance and the Townsville Ring Road projects, including:
  - Alliance Team of Excellence awarded to Tully Alliance/BMD from the Alliancing Association of Australasia, for an alliance team that has demonstrated an outstanding level of collective engagement and achieved excellent outcomes facing difficult or highly complex situations on a project alliance
  - Project Management Award for the Bruce Highway Upgrade (Corduroy Creek - Tully High School)
  - 2009 CCF Earth Award for the Tully Upgrade works in the “Project over \$75 million” category
  - Engineers Australia Community Engagement Award for the Townsville Ring Road joint venture of Main Roads and Thiess, as well as a finalist spot for the Australian Engineering Excellence Award
  - PRIA Golden Target Awards - The Townsville Ring Road project team received highly commended, finalist recognition.

## Key deliverables in 2010-11 and 2011-12

### Effective, efficient and sustainable transport system

- Continue construction of Stage 2 of Townsville Port Access Road (7.5km Eastern Access Corridor).
- Continue construction of 6km duplication (four lanes) of Douglas Arterial section of Townsville Ring Road.
- Commence construction of 4.2km realignment of the Bruce Highway at Cardwell Range, approximately 15km north of Ingham.
- Continue \$5 million planning study aimed at reducing the duration of flooding closures on the Bruce Highway, from south of Ingham to the foothills of the Cardwell Range. This study forms part of the \$347 million Accelerated Bruce Highway Upgrade Package (Townsville to Cairns), funded by the Federal Government.
- Commence construction on the Sandy Corner to Collinsons Lagoon flood immunity project, subject to funding from the Federal Government as part of the Nation Building Program.
- Continue repairing and strengthening the Burdekin River Bridge on the Bruce Highway.
- Complete two-lane sealed construction of Abbott Street deviation between Oonoonba Road and River Boulevard in Townsville.



Mouth of the Ross River, Townsville Port

- Continue replacement of the bridge at Gentle Annie Creek, Halifax, with a new concrete bridge, under the Regional Bridge Renewal Program.
- Commence widening to two lanes 14km of Gregory Developmental Road, north of Charters Towers, between Christmas Creek and Charcoal Creek.

#### **Safe transport systems promoting health and well-being**

- Under the Safer Roads Sooner program:
  - continue to provide several heavy vehicle stopping places on Gregory Developmental Road
  - enhance advanced guide signs on Woolcock Street, Townsville
  - install roadside and surface delineation at the Boundary Street and Saunders Street intersection in Townsville
  - install a pedestrian refuge on Boundary Street, close to Railway Estate in Townsville.
- Upgrade the Good Shepherd/Palmetum Access Road at Douglas in Townsville under the Black Spot Program.
- As part of the Bruce Highway Nation Building Black Spot Program:
  - construct a signalised pedestrian crossing at Lannercost Street, Ingham
  - continue planning for widening of a culvert to provide a dedicated right-turn lane at the Ayr Sewerage Plant Access
  - install road condition information signs north and south of Townsville to warn motorists of upcoming road conditions.
- Complete a heavy vehicle rest area 110km south of Charters Towers, close to Cape River.
- Install and replace guard rails along Gregory Developmental Road at various locations between Belyando and Charters Towers.

#### **A transport system providing access to employment, education and services**

- Commence widening to two lanes 14km of Gregory Developmental Road, north of Charters Towers, between Christmas Creek and Charcoal Creek. Together with the widening and repairs already completed, these new improvements will enhance safety and access for mine employees in the area, as well as improve freight access and support primary industries.

- Continue construction of the Eastern Access Corridor, Stage 2 of the Townsville Port Access Road, designed to accommodate rail infrastructure and materials conveyor infrastructure. The Townsville Port Access Road will provide future access to Townsville CBD for southern major developments such as Rocky Springs.

#### **Transport-related impacts on the natural, cultural and built environments managed**

- Continue construction of 4.2km realignment of the Bruce Highway at Cardwell Range, approximately 15km north of Ingham. The project area is surrounded by Girringun National Park and a Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Design provides for five cassowary underpasses, five mahogany glider rope crossings and a 180m viaduct across gullies, providing a large scale underpass opportunity. These measures will significantly enhance fauna connectivity across the highway and threatened species in particular.
- Continued development of Rocky Springs residential project with respect to preservation of wildlife corridors conflicting with transport corridors and possible sustainable solutions.



Fauna rope crossing

## Major challenges for Northern

- Continue to plan for the future and to play a key role in stimulating the economy through road infrastructure enhancement and preservation projects.
- Continue to work in partnership with local government to develop and deliver the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme.
- Target the reduction of accident-prone areas through the Safer Roads Sooner program.
- Support regional development, industry competitiveness and growth by upgrading key freight and passenger routes.
- Achieve affordable and short-term improvements in safety by carefully targeting investment in widening the single-lane sealed network, and in other priority projects.
- Protect environmental biodiversity and sensitivity with sustainable planning and construction practices.



### How to find out more

To find out more, the department's website has up-to-date information on current and future projects, roadworks and road closures, web cameras and how communities and interested citizens can be involved in community engagement activities.

Please visit [www.tmr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au) or contact a local Transport and Main Roads office.

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