

MEDIA STATEMENT

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Cape upgrade continues building careers

The Peninsula Developmental Road (PDR) upgrade is continuing to deliver real economic opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as works progress.

Transport and Main Roads Director-General Neil Scales said the Cape York Regional Package (CYRP) Stage 2 was providing significant opportunities for Indigenous participation, including training and upskilling.

"Under CYRP Stage 1, more than 152,000 hours of training was delivered to Indigenous workers," Mr Scales said.

"A further \$237.5 million is being investing through CYRP Stage 2 between 2019–20 and 2023–24 to continue progressively upgrading the PDR and improve community access roads.

"CYRP Stage 2 will continue the outstanding work on the Cape and deliver a broad range of direct, indirect and ongoing benefits for communities."

Mr Scales said a key focus of the package was to provide training and employment for Indigenous people and contracting opportunities for local businesses.

"Training delivered as part of the upgrade has included plant operations, road building and line marking," he said.

"This package of works is equipping Cape York jobseekers with valuable skills.

"It's a fantastic result when trainees can work alongside experienced operators and professionals, learning on-the-job skills on one of the region's most significant public infrastructure projects.

"We're also developing a skilled pool of workers who can take advantage of the many opportunities on the Cape in mining, civil construction and infrastructure maintenance."

RoadTek training coordinator Luke Threlfall has overseen the training, recently working with registered training organisations and Coen-based Indigenous business Kalan Enterprises.

"An important part of road building is ensuring operators work to the required standards," Mr Threlfall said.

"Operating machinery is one aspect, but we also need to ensure trainees have the technical skills to build and maintain roads which can withstand the harsh Cape York environment.

"This project is providing local people with a fantastic opportunity to gain these skills and hone their civil construction techniques, right in their own back yard.

"It's very special to see the trainees progress through their training to the stage where they can become proficient in their chosen profession."

For further information on the Cape York Region Package, visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/C/Cape-York-Region-Package-Peninsula-Developmental-Road

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Media contact: TMR Media Unit, 3066 7060