

# MEDIA STATEMENT

08 December 2023

## Live testing of intelligent Transport System (ITS) on Kuranda Range

- Live testing of the ITS technology installed on the Kennedy Highway (Cairns – Mareeba), Kuranda Range has commenced.
- The ITS technology is a first for Far North Queensland and the live testing ensures the devices are working correctly and communicating with the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) Traffic Management Centre (TMC).
- The flashing red circle on the variable speed signs indicates the speed limit has changed from the normal speed limit.
- The live testing will be ongoing; motorists must follow all signs through the area.

The newly implemented ITS technology is a first for Far North Queensland, integrating traffic monitoring cameras, traffic monitoring loops and weather stations that will provide real-time road conditions to the TMC. Rigorous live testing ensures these devices are operational and communicating with the TMC. During this testing phase, motorists will notice the flashing red circle on the variable speed signs, indicating the speed limit has changed from the standard speed limit.

When the electronic sign is blank, the fixed sign below sets the speed limit. The variable speed limit is subject to change at any time, yet adjustments will be gradual, affording drivers ample time to adapt smoothly. Although the variable speed limit on the electronic signs is projected to align with the normal speed limit most of the time, ongoing live testing requires motorists to adhere to all signage in the area.

The variable speed limits are enforceable.

The ITS will alert the TMC in instances of traffic slowdowns or stops, road hazards, or deteriorating weather conditions on the range.

TMC operators will have the capability to lower the speed limits in response to changed traffic conditions to improve safety for motorists.

Once road conditions improve and safety is restored, the speed limit will revert to the standard.

### Quotes attributable to A/Regional Director (North Queensland) Ross Hodgman:

"Kuranda Range has been known to be susceptible to landslips and traffic incidents, leading to temporary closures of this section of the Kennedy Highway.

"The installation of the ITS technology will allow rapid detection and management of incidents.

"The ITS will help TMC operators better identify the location of an incident on the range and communicate this quickly to first responders.

"It is expected the ITS treatments will reduce the number of closures and shorten the closure times.

"The variable speed limit will reduce the risk of rear-end and severe crashes.

"The ITS technology is expected to be fully operational in early 2024, pending the results of the testing phase."

You can view a video on this project here.

[Kuranda Range ITS - Video News Release November 2023](#) Password: KURANDA

***Further Information:***

This project is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments under the Australian Government's Infrastructure Investment Program – Regional Economic Enabling Fund (REEF) and is part of a \$415 million economic stimulus package.

For more information about this project visit the project webpage: [Kennedy Highway \(Cairns - Mareeba\), Kuranda Range, Intelligent Transport System | Department of Transport and Main Roads \(tmr.qld.gov.au\)](#)

**ENDS**

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