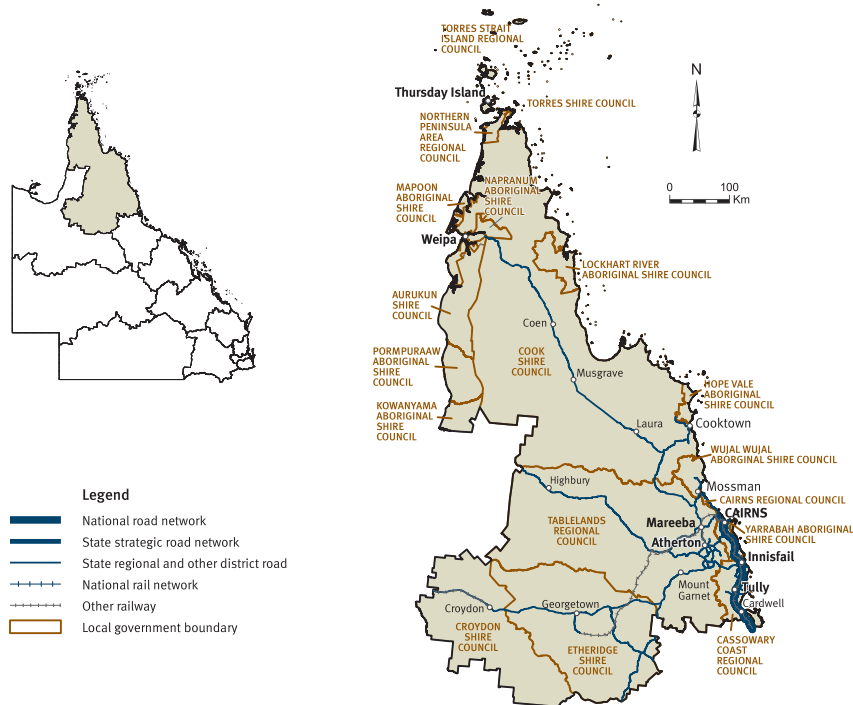


Far North Road Facts

2010-11



Area profile

Area:	273 147km ² , extending from Cardwell on the east coast, west to Croydon and north to include the islands of the Torres Strait.
Population:	Around 262 283.
Industries:	Tourism, sugar, fishing, beef, dairy, fruit, mining, agriculture.

Connecting Far North

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 Far North Region of Queensland, now and in the future. The department's Cairns 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 Far North Region are funded by the Queensland Government and the Federal Government. In the current roads program, the Queensland Government is investing over \$203 million in the region (including over \$28 million in Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme projects), and the Federal Government is contributing around \$209 million. Developers also contribute to the roads program.



Cairns at dusk

Road network

- Bruce Highway (Ingham - Cairns)
- Captain Cook Highway (Cairns - Mossman)
- Palmerston Highway (Innisfail - Mossman)
- Kennedy Highway (Cairns - The Lynd)
- Burke Developmental Road (Normanton - Dimbulah)
- Peninsula Developmental Road (Mareeba - Weipa)
- Mulligan Highway (Cooktown - Butcher's Hill)
- Gulf Developmental Road (Normanton - Mt Garnet)
- Gregory Developmental Road (Charters Towers - Quartz Blow Creek)
- Kennedy Developmental Road (Mt Garnet - Hughenden)
- Silkwood-Japoon Road
- Innisfail-Japoon Road
- Henderson Drive
- Millaa Millaa-Malanda Road
- Gillies Road (Gordonvale - Atherton)
- Malanda-Lake Barrine Road
- Gordonvale Connection Road
- Malanda-Atherton Road
- Cairns Western Arterial Road
- Anderson Street
- Mossman-Mt Molloy Road
- Mossman-Daintree Road
- Mareeba Connection Road
- Atherton-Herberton Road
- Mareeba-Dimbulah Road
- Longlands Gap-Herberton Road
- Thursday Island Road
- Mulgrave Road
- Port Connection Road
- Mourilyan Harbour Road
- Boogan Road
- South Johnstone Road
- East Evelyn Road
- Tinaroo Falls Dam Road
- Topaz Road
- Stratford Connection Road
- Port Douglas Road
- Shiptons Flat Road
- Endeavour Valley Road
- Tumoulin Road
- Herberton-Petford Road
- Forsayth Road
- Pine Creek-Yarrabah Road
- Kurrimine Beach Road
- El Arish-Mission Beach Road
- Tully-Hull Road
- South Mission Beach Road
- Tully-Mission Beach Road
- Davidson Road

Far North road activities

Significant achievements in 2009-10

Effective, efficient and sustainable transport system

- Bulk of projects completed for the \$347m Accelerated Bruce Highway Upgrade Package, funded by the Federal Government. This program involved major and minor flood improvement works, intersection upgrades and construction of overtaking lanes to improve road safety, efficiency and flood immunity on the Bruce Highway between Townsville and Cairns. Works completed as part of this package include:
 - installation of traffic signals and an intersection upgrade at Yarrabah Road (Warner Road), north of Gordonvale
 - construction of overtaking lanes at Giddens Creek, south of Babinda and Bells Creek, north of El Arish
 - construction of dedicated turning lanes into Blundell Road and road surface improvements at Johnstone River Bridge and Victory Creek, north of Innisfail.
- Continued work on the jointly-funded planning study to investigate long-term transport planning options for 14km of the Bruce Highway from Wrights Creek south of Edmonton to Draper Street near Cairns city centre. To choose the best alignment for the Cairns Bruce Highway Master Plan, an extensive community engagement campaign was conducted to assist technical input.
- Continued determining scope of works for Stage 1 (Sheehy Road to Ray Jones Drive) of the Cairns Bruce Highway Master Plan, funded by the Federal Government.
- Continued design for 4.2km realignment of the Bruce Highway at Cardwell Range, approximately 15km north of Ingham. The federally-funded project will reduce severity of existing steep grades, provide climbing lanes on both sides of the range for heavy vehicles and an overpass of the Rungoo railway crossing. The project will increase transport efficiency over the range, increase safety and better connect North Queensland communities.
- Completed final stage of Mulgrave Road upgrade in Cairns, funded by the state government. This five-stage project included upgrading intersections, widening some sections to six lanes, upgrading route lighting and providing pedestrian and cyclist facilities, improving road safety, traffic flow and intersection capacity.
- Completed widening bitumen seal to two lanes on the Kennedy Highway between Ravenshoe and Mount Garnet. The final project included widening a 3.3km section of road to 8.5m sealed standard between Big Dinner Creek and Mount Garnet, improving safety and travelling conditions on the inland road network.
- Delivered substantial repairs and restoration to sections of the road network that sustained damage following cyclones Charlotte and Ellie in early 2009. This program was the largest of its kind to be delivered in Far North Queensland. Works were funded through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements program, a joint Federal and Queensland Governments initiative.



Road damage caused by 2009 floods

Safe transport systems promoting health and well-being

- The continuation of a range of safety improvements on Kuranda Range Road to improve safety and enhance traffic conditions, funded through the Safer Roads Sooner program. Works include commencement of curve widening works at priority locations on the range road to improve safety for all road users, particularly heavy vehicles
- Completed work to upgrade nine roundabouts on Captain Cook Highway between Machans Beach and Kewarra Beach, 7km north of Cairns, to improve safety for all road users, particularly cyclists. Works include shoulder widening and kerb separation to provide a 1.5m-wide bicycle lane at the roundabouts and approaches, funded by the Queensland Government. The Trinity Beach roundabout upgrade was funded by the Federal Government through the Black Spot program.
- Continued to provide facilities for bicycles on Mulgrave Road including installation of a one-way Copenhagen lane, a first for Cairns. A Copenhagen lane is located between the footpath and parking bays and provides a safe connection for cyclists.
- Completed upgrade of pedestrian facilities at Barr Street and Balaclava Road intersections on Mulgrave Road to improve safety for pedestrians.

- Completed upgrade of McLeod and James Streets intersections in Cairns city, including installation of traffic signals, pedestrian crossings and bicycle facilities to improve safety for all road users.

Cost-effective transport system delivery

- Sealed an additional 2km section of Peninsula Developmental Road east of Lily Creek using cost savings from a project to seal a 25km section of road between Lily Creek and Crocodile Gap, south of Laura.
- Installed a third inbound lane from Lyons Street to Brown Street using cost savings from Mulgrave Road upgrade. As part of additional works, on-road bicycle lanes and a separate one-way path for cyclists on the northern side of Mulgrave Road were extended from Lyons Street to Brown Street.

A transport system providing access to employment, education and services

- Continued extending bitumen and upgrading floodways on Peninsula Developmental Road. Works include extending bitumen seal on 27km between Lily Creek and Crocodile Gap, south of Laura, jointly funded by the Federal and Queensland Governments.
- Completed new bridge over the Endeavour River on Endeavour Valley Road west of Cooktown, improving flood immunity and access for residents and the freight and grazing industries.



Endeavour River Bridge

- Commenced widening to two lanes sections of Kennedy Developmental Road between Three Ways and The Lynd, south of Mount Garnet. Works will improve safety and efficiency on the inland road network.
- Commenced widening and sealing 2.4km of Gulf Developmental Road, east of Mount Surprise. This three-stage project will improve safety and travelling conditions between Cairns and the Gulf of Carpentaria.
- Continued to help local government to upgrade and maintain remote access roads in the Cape York area through Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme funding. Works include drainage and pavement upgrades on Lockhart River Access Road between Tozer's Gap and the Iron Range rainforest, jointly funded by the Federal and Queensland Governments.

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

- Worked with local, state and federal governments and community, environmental and conservation groups to develop a trial road treatment that has been installed on Tully-Mission Beach Road, Mission Beach, with the intention of reducing road deaths of the endangered cassowary. This trial forms part of a long-term cassowary conservation strategy.
- Worked cooperatively with Mulgrave Landcare and Catchment Group to manage vegetation offsets associated with the Desmond Trannore Bridge project, over the Mulgrave River south of Gordonvale. Works included planting, establishing, replacing and maintaining vegetation adjacent to the project site to enhance habitat connectivity along the Mulgrave River Valley.
- Worked in conjunction with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and in negotiation with Wet Tropics Management Authority for vegetation offset for Kuranda Range Road safety works. Funding was provided to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to collect and propagate *Cycas media* seeds to assist with locally provenanced offset plantings on Kuranda Range, when required. *Cycas media* is a listed Category A species under the *Nature Conservation Act*.

Contemporary and progressive people, processes and systems

- Convened a Road Safety Summit in November 2009, in conjunction with Queensland Police Service and RACQ, to discuss with the community ways to increase road safety and reduce the road toll in Far North Queensland. Data gathered from the summit was used to develop Cairns-specific road safety initiatives which focused on driver education and community consultation.
- Convened an Indigenous Roads Forum in February 2009, in conjunction with local government. The forum provided Aboriginal and Torres Strait councils throughout Queensland with an avenue to decide their future priorities within available funding for access roads, local streets, curbing and channelling and street lighting. This was the first phase in a unique initiative created to assist in the development of community capability in road construction, maintenance and management activities. The initiative received a 2009 Main Roads Excellence Merit Award in the Cultural Awareness category.



Key deliverables in 2010-11 and 2011-12

Effective, efficient and sustainable transport system

- Complete design and commence construction of Stage 1 of the Cairns Bruce Highway Master Plan (Sheehy Road to Ray Jones Drive).
- Commence construction of 4.2km realignment of the Bruce Highway on the northern side of Cardwell Range, funded by the Federal Government. The project will increase transport efficiency over the range, improve safety and better connect North Queensland communities.

Safe transport systems promoting health and well-being

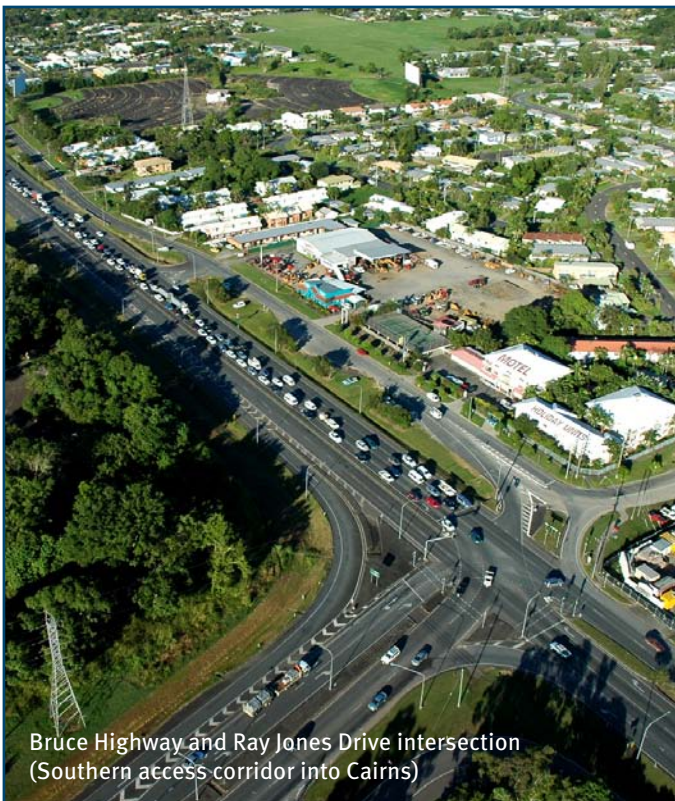
- Continue to provide projects to improve safety for all road users, through Safer Roads Sooner. Projects include:
 - improvements on Kuranda Range Road, including curve widening
 - bicycle facilities at various locations on the Captain Cook Highway and Cairns Western Arterial Road
 - improvements for motorists, cyclists and motorcyclists on Gordonvale-Atherton Road (Gillies Range).



The endangered cassowary

A transport system providing access to employment, education and services

- Continue to extend bitumen seal and upgrade floodways on Peninsula Developmental Road to complete sealing of the road to Laura. Works include:
 - sealing 4km of road and construction of a bridge at Carols Crossing over the Laura River
 - sealing 1km of road and bridge construction at Ruths Creek
 - commencing construction of a low-level causeway at the Laura River to improve safety and access.
- Continue to eliminate narrow sections of the road network (with a seal less than 6.5m). This will greatly improve freight access to support industries including mining, grazing and tourism, and improve safety for all road users. Works include:
 - completing the widening to two lanes sections of the Kennedy Developmental Road between Three Ways and The Lynd, south of Mount Garnet, improving safety and efficiency on the inland road network



Bruce Highway and Ray Jones Drive intersection (Southern access corridor into Cairns)

- continuing to widen sections of Gulf Developmental Road between Mount Surprise and Georgetown to improve safety and travelling conditions between Cairns and communities in the Gulf of Carpentaria
- continuing construction of a new causeway on Burke Developmental Road at Chillagoe, improving wet season access for residents, emergency services, schools and mining operations on the western side of the township
- sealing 20km of Kennedy Developmental Road south of The Lynd Junction (known locally as the Hann Highway), funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments with contributions from local government.
- Continue to help local government upgrade and maintain roads through Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme funding.
- Continue initiatives to support Indigenous training and employment on road projects.
- Commence construction of an unsealed section of Northern Peninsula Road between Captain Billys turn-off to Sailors Hill.
- Commence road and drainage improvements on Lockhart River Access Road between Pascoe River and Browns Creek.
- Commence road and drainage improvements on section of Pompuraaw Access Road.
- Commence construction of a new bridge and approaches at the Bloomfield River crossing at Wujal Wujal.

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

- Continue to work with local, state and federal governments and community, environmental and conservation groups to reduce road deaths of the endangered cassowary in the Mission Beach area as part of a long-term cassowary conservation strategy.
- Implement initiatives to protect a species of conservation significance from inadvertent damage along Herberton-Petford Road on the Atherton Tablelands. The shrub, *Macropteranthes montana*, is listed as vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. *Macropteranthes montana* is known from several small areas just south of Cape York Peninsula.

Contemporary and progressive people, processes and systems

- Continue to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island councils throughout Queensland to help them decide their future priorities within available funding for access roads, local streets, curbing and channelling and street lighting.
- Convene a second Indigenous Roads Forum. Given the widened role of the department, the forum will be broadened to include transport issues such as boat ramps and airports.



Major challenges for Far North

- 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.
- Contribute to an improved quality of life for remote and rural communities through projects that improve travelling conditions, access and Indigenous training, employment and development.
- Protect environmental biodiversity and sensitivity with sustainable planning and construction practices.
- 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.



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 or contact a local Transport and Main Roads office.

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