# North West Queensland **Regional Roads and Transport Group**





**Total Transport Infrastructure** Development Scheme (TIDS) 2023–24 allocation



## \$666,651

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander TIDS 2023-24 allocation

### **Regional Roads and Transport Group Member Councils**

- Burke Shire Council
- Carpentaria Shire Council
- Cloncurry Shire Council
- Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council
- Flinders Shire Council
- Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council
- McKinlay Shire Council
- Mornington Shire Council
- Mount Isa City Council
- Richmond Shire Council
- TMR North West District

#### **Regional Roads and Transport Group Members**

#### Chair

Councillor John Wharton, Mayor, Richmond Shire Council

#### **Deputy Chair**

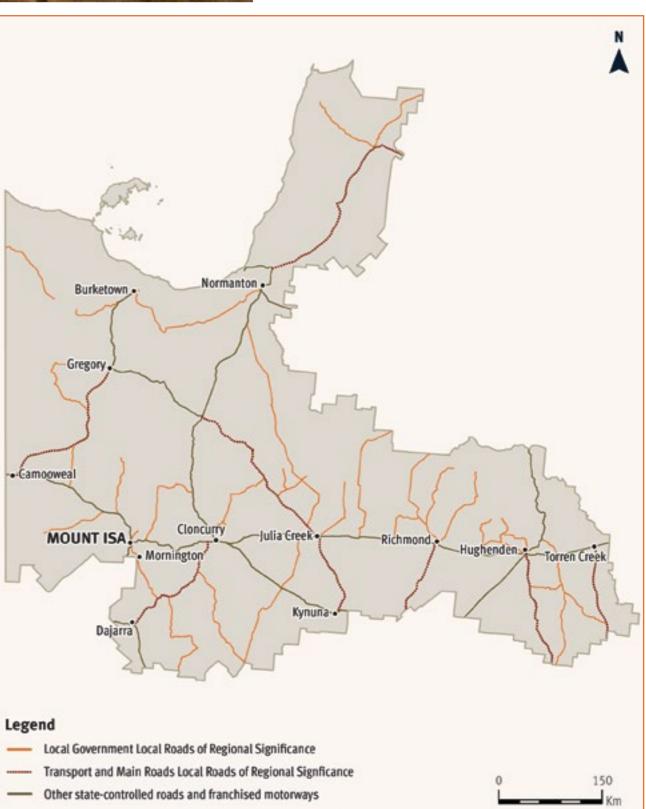
Councillor Greg Campbell, Mayor, Cloncurry Shire Council

#### **Technical Committee Chair**

Michael Wanrooy, Carpentaria Shire Council

**Technical Committee Deputy Chair** Amir Akrami, Burke Shire Council

**Technical Coordinator** Gerard Read, GWR Civil Engineering Management



◀ Dajarra Road, Mt Isa

#### North West Queensland RRTG map

### North West Queensland Regional Roads and Transport Group (RRTG) Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) Program Details

The following information lists the RRTG TIDS 2023–24 works program by local government, with the project name and the year-to-date TIDS expenditure.

#### **Burke Shire Council**

Project name	Expenditure
Gregory Lawn Hill Road, Archie and Dinner Creeks, construct culvert	\$747,500

#### Carpentaria Shire Council

Project name	Expenditure
Burketown Road (Section 5), construct to new sealed two lane standard	\$685,000
Burketown Road, Armstrong Creek, rock protection and improve drainage	\$150,000

#### **Cloncurry Shire Council**

Project name	Expenditure
Kajabbi Road, construct to new sealed two lane standard	\$858,125

#### Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council

Project name	Expenditure
Various outstation access roads, resheet gravel	\$666,166

#### **Flinders Shire Council**

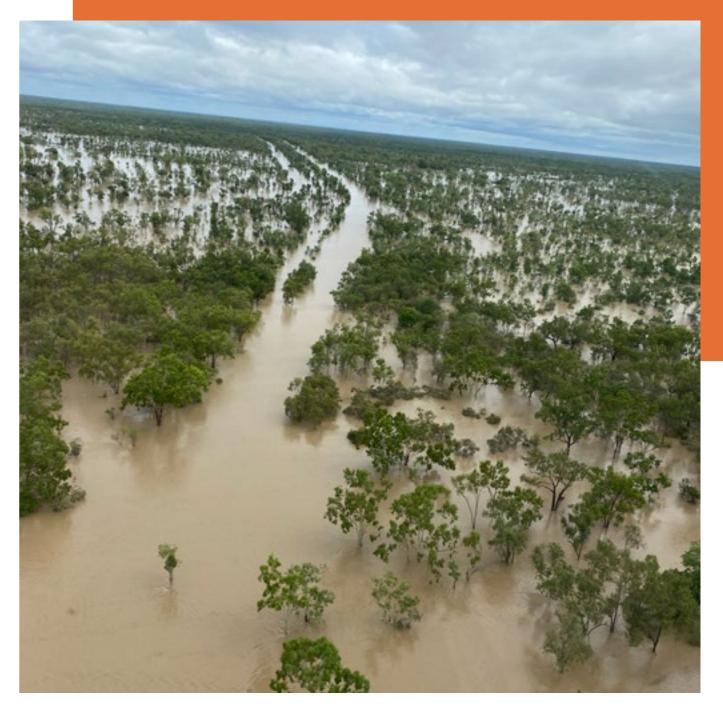
Project name	Expenditure
Old Richmond Road, form and seal	\$440,000
Various roads, install or replace floodways	\$136,000
Hughenden - Muttaburra Road, construct to a sealed standard	\$366,239

#### Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council

Project name	Expenditure
Various roads, upgrade pavement and drainage	\$267,500

#### **McKinlay Shire Council**

Project name	Expenditure
Byrimine Road, construct to a sealed standard	\$200,000
Punchbowl Road, construct to a new sealed standard	\$200,000
Taldora Road, construct to new standard	\$183,124



#### **Mount Isa City Council**

Yelvertoft Road, rehabilitate pavement	I	Project name
	`	Yelvertoft Road, rehabilitate pavement

Project name	Expenditure
Yelvertoft Road, rehabilitate pavement	\$350,000
Richmond Shire Council	
Project name	Expenditure
Crawford Street, various locations, rehabilitate and widen	\$500,000
Croydon - Richmond Road, reseal bitumen	\$200,000
Richmond - Winton Road, pave and seal truck pull over bay	\$18,125
North West RRTG, secretariat administration	\$137,071

Flooding of Kowanyma Road, Carpentaria Shire Council due to Cyclone Jasper

## **Project Story**

#### Carpentaria Shire Council – Safer access for Kowanyama

Submitted by Michael Wanrooy, Director of Engineering and Technical Committee Chair, Carpentaria Shire Council.

Kowanyama is a remote community in the Gulf located 365km north of Normanton and 605km west of Cairns by road. The only reliable road access is via the Dunbar-Kowanyama Road which has numerous water crossings that become impassable during the wet season. Creek crossings rise rapidly, often without warning, from upstream rain events creating dangerous situations that catch unwary road users by surprise whilst crossing narrow low-level floodways.

Kowanyama has a population of approximately 1,000 and this road is the only affordable freight and vehicle access to service the community. Kowanyama and Normanton have cultural ties as there is regular travel for sporting, family gatherings, and sorry business between the two communities. Vehicles have been lost because of drivers getting caught in sudden storms by crossing flooded waterways to get home, risking theirs and their rescuers' lives. In November 2022 a flooded Landcruiser Ute had to be abandoned in crocodile infested waters due to unexpected local rains causing flash flooding on the Dunbar-Kowanyama Road.

The road is impassable for three to six months of the year mainly due to narrow low-level floodways caused by annual flooding of the Mitchell River which runs parallel for its entire length. The Mitchell River is the second largest catchment in Australia, only marginally behind the Murray-Darling Basin.

To create a safer road, Carpentaria Shire Council, in partnership with TMR via the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander TIDS program, has raised by an average of 1.5m and widened five floodways along the road. Multiple multi-cell culverts

#### Plains Creek, Carpentaria Shire Council - post construction **•**

*Plains Creek, Carpentaria Shire Council* - pre-construction



with concrete protection were used. The latest floodways were completed at Plains Creek and Cabbage Tree Creek in December 2023.

Cabbage Tree Creek was constructed using six 2100mm by1200mm reinforced concrete box culverts with 63m of concrete batter protection and a concrete running surface. Plain Creek used five 2100mm by1500mm reinforced concrete box culverts and had 57m of concrete protection works. The total project cost was \$1.59 million for both floodways.

It is a logistical nightmare to organise work in such remote locations. A construction camp was established on site in extremely humid and tropical conditions. A batching plant was established on site to produce concrete and clean water was transported from Kowanyama. There was a lot of care and consideration taken in unloading the large culvert units from road transport after traveling long distances on unsealed roads. On several occasions an old bull emerged from the adjacent scrub to walk through a freshly poured concrete slab – much to the delight of the concreters! The crew then spent the night (on occasions up until midnight) repairing the damage. They also had to contend with waking up to fresh slides from crocodiles going from one side of the road to the other and using the newly installed culverts as a tunnel.

The concrete crew had to work quickly due to the oncoming wet season. A sudden unexpected downpour in November caused major flooding that worried the crew greatly, as they pondered being stuck in the middle of nowhere among the crocodiles. They



persevered with their work in total dedication and managed to complete the two causeways and demobilised before Cyclone Jasper struck in December 2023.

This project will significantly improve flood immunity (time of closure) and safety where residents are travelling and become trapped as flood levels rise. It is particularly important for early access to be restored to allow re-stocking of local stores and to allow residents to access medical and social appointments outside Kowanyama.

## **Project Story**

#### McKinlay Shire Council, Taldora Road Sealing

Submitted by Cameron Scott, Director of Engineering & Regulatory Services, Technical Committee representative, McKinlay Shire Council and Gerard Read, Technical Coordinator.

McKinlay Shire Council undertook a much-needed sealing project on an existing three-kilometre unsealed section of Taldora Road approximately 110km north of Julia Creek in 2023–24. Taldora Road is a high-order council-controlled rural arterial road which provides a key link between Julia Creek and Normanton to the state-controlled Wills and Burke Developmental Roads. It commences at its intersection with the Wills Developmental Road, 23km northwest of Julia Creek and continues predominantly in a northerly direction to its intersection with the Burke Developmental Road, 57km south of Normanton. The link is approximately 337km long, with the southern 206km within the McKinlay Local Government Authority (LGA) and the northern 131km within the Carpentaria LGA (the road name changes to Iffley Road within the Carpentaria



Taldora Road, McKinlay Shire Council - completed



LGA). Prior to this project, approximately 70km was sealed (all within McKinlay LGA) and the remainder was unsealed.

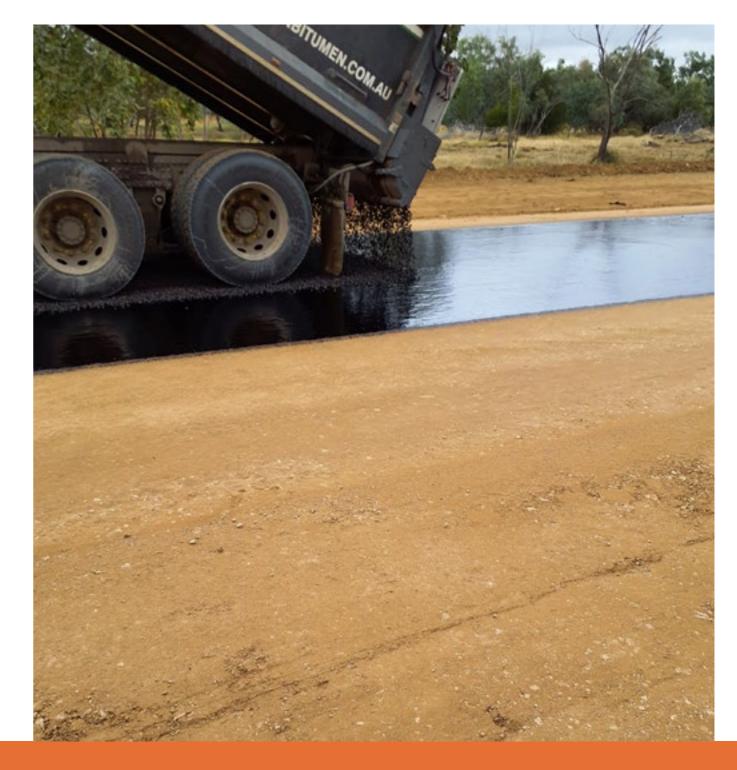
The road serves numerous large cattle properties, and consequently stock are directly transported along it. While daily traffic counts are not high (approximately 40 vehicles per day on average), heavy vehicles comprise approximately 60 per cent of the count which reinforces its importance to the rural sector.

It is also a reasonably popular alternative route for 'off-the-beaten track' tourist traffic from the Flinders Highway north to the southern gulf, in particular Normanton and Karumba.

Construction commenced in late March 2024 and was completed early June 2024, although paving material for the project was stockpiled prior to Christmas 2023, in advance of the wet season. The protracted wet weather in late 2023/early

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Taldora Road, McKinlay Shire Council - pre-construction



2024 presented a challenge and did delay commencement, however the project was completed within a satisfactory timeframe. It was undertaken by an external contractor under the project management of Cameron Scott. The Roads and Transport Alliance TIDS funding of approximately \$183,000 contributed to the project.



Sealing of Taldora Road, McKinlay Shire Council