

Communique: Cape York Region Package Taskforce Meeting 20 May 2015

The Sub-Working Group of the Cape York Region Package (CYRP) met in Cairns on the 20th of May followed by the Cape York Region Package Taskforce. These meeting focussed on four big agenda items:

1. Progress on the early-works package of projects on the Peninsula Developmental Road;
2. Finalising the remaining investment priorities for the Peninsula Developmental Road (some \$200 million including the early-works) and for the Peninsula's Indigenous communities (some \$60 million of the Package, including Endeavour Valley Road);
3. The progress of the Mein Deviation tender, and upcoming tender processes; and
4. Continued commitment to informing the community about the Cape York Region Package through the Taskforce

Progress on the Early Works on the Peninsula Developmental Road

- Some 34 km of seal and other preparatory work was completed in 2014;
- Tenders for the Mein Deviation were nearing completion;
- Scheduling for the remainder of the early works was also outlined.

Priorities for the Balance of the Cape York Region Package

- Transport and Main Roads outlined the detailed issues and priorities raised previously by the Taskforce and in broad community consultations about the Package;
- In relation to the PDR, based on a range of key issues, including safety, flood immunity and costs, the results of a multi criteria analysis were presented and discussed;
- The Taskforce supported the proposed listing and scheduling of the priorities for the balance of the PDR. A short paper regarding these priorities is attached; and
- The Cape York Indigenous Mayors Alliance also outlined its list of works priorities and these were supported by the Taskforce. This list of priorities totalled \$52 million, noting that the balance of available unallocated funding is \$50.5 million. The scope of these projects will now be fully developed and costed for potential inclusion in the Business Case to be submitted to the Commonwealth and the State Governments for formal approval.

This agreement about priorities now means that a clear work schedule can be established for the entire program.

Please refer to the presentation attached for details on the CYIP, prioritisation process etc

Mein Deviation Tender Process

- Transport and Main Roads outlined the process for the selection of the Mein Deviation tender, including an up-front screening of the capacity of tenders to deliver regional and Indigenous economic and employment benefits;
- The Taskforce members provided feedback on this process, including the need for greater regional support to be able to increase local participation and the need for improved communication;
- The Taskforce considered that Mein Deviation presented an opportunity to test the process, and that there was a chance to review the tender process for continuous improvement; and

- The need for timely and well-structured negotiation on resource access with traditional owners was also discussed.

Continued Taskforce Engagement

It was considered essential that the Taskforce continue to provide input into the process and remain open to new members if needed. Andrew Yeatman and Katrina Savo were welcomed as new members. The group agreed the next Taskforce meeting should be held soon, perhaps by late July.

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