

Message from the Director-General

In the November 2015 newsletter, I mentioned how there was a hive of road construction activity taking place, with work underway on four sealing projects on the PDR.

I am very pleased to advise that work has progressed significantly since my visit to these job sites.

Construction on the Sourayas Hill, South of Morehead River and South of Hann River projects is complete. Some 18.9kms of the 29km Mein Deviation project has also been sealed.



Bitumen sealing at Sourayas Hill on the Peninsula Developmental Road

This means lots of additional safer overtaking opportunities, with less gravel for motorists to negotiate and less dirt roads for the department to maintain.

To put this in perspective, for people who don't regularly drive the PDR, this equates to sealing the length of road from the Lake Street mall in the Cairns CBD to Ellis Beach.

“This equates to sealing the length of road from the Lake Street mall in the Cairns Central Business District to Ellis Beach.”

Neil Scales



Neil Scales
Director-General
Department of Transport and Main Roads

Another stage of the sealing works on the EVR has been wrapped up for the year, and pre-construction activities have been carried out in readiness for more sealing works in 2016.

A key focus of these CYRP works has been providing business and employment opportunities for Cape York locals including Indigenous people. The following statistics attest to this achievement.

39 local and local Indigenous businesses have been employed through the PDR works this year.

12 Indigenous businesses have gained employment through the PDR works this year.



Sealing at Mein Deviation on the Peninsula Developmental Road

In the first quarter of 2016, information will be released about new opportunities for tenders and sub-contract work for forthcoming works in 2016–17 for the CYRP. Industry briefings will be held at key locations along the PDR, and in Cairns and Weipa.

In the New Year, we also look forward to being able to announce more information about projects and opportunities in the \$50.5 million Cape Indigenous Mayors Alliance community works.

As the wet season approaches, I ask you to remember, “If it's flooded, forget it.” No matter what vehicle you are driving.

In early 2016, the department will be distributing ‘Drive to Conditions’ material, specifically tailored to driving on gravel roads.

I wish you and your extended families a safe and happy Christmas, and look forward to providing you with further updates about the CYRP in 2016.

Further Information

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*Check with your service provider for call costs.

Cape York Region Package:

- Peninsula Developmental Road Progressively Extend the Seal
- Endeavour Valley Road Upgrade to Seal
- Cape Indigenous Mayors Alliance Community Works



Newsletter
December 2015

About the package

The Cape York Region Package (CYRP) is a \$260.5 million program of works jointly funded by the Australian Government (80%) and Queensland Government (20%) to upgrade critical infrastructure on the Cape York Peninsula.

The package consists of:

- \$200 million program of works to progressively seal priority sections of the Peninsula Developmental Road (PDR)
- \$10 million over four years for sealing works on the Endeavour Valley Road through to Hope Vale
- \$50.5 million for priority community infrastructure works identified by the Cape Indigenous Mayors Alliance.

Status of 2015 works

Transport and Main Roads has made great progress since the November 2015 newsletter.



Final sealing works at Sourayas Hill on the Peninsula Developmental Road

On the PDR we have:

- completed sealing South of Hann River (7km)
- completed sealing at Sourayas Hill (north of Coen Airport) (4.5km)
- completed sealing South of Morehead River (4km)
- completed sealing of 18.9km of the 29km Mein Deviation project (north of the Archer River)
- completed construction of 21 water storage structures, in support of the works being delivered in 2016.

On the Endeavour Valley Road (EVR) we have:

- completed sealing of a 1.6km section, between Paw Paw Gully and Williams Creek
- carried out pre-construction activities for a 900m section, between Endeavour Falls and Paw Paw Gully, which will be upgraded and sealed in 2016.



Ben Ambrum standing on the newly sealed section of the Endeavour Valley Road

“This has been a joint venture between RoadTek and Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council. We've been working together to get them a sealed road between Hope Vale and Cooktown. It's been a good process.”

Ben Ambrum, Project Systems Representative of the Endeavour Valley Road project for RoadTek.



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Local perspectives

Royce Mulley is a long time Coen local and the Manager of the Exchange Hotel.

This iconic hotel has a 100 year history and is the hub of Coen, located in the centre of the Cape York region.

“The bitumen is the best thing. It’s going to give us full year round trade. You can trade for seven months, sometimes six months depending on how big the wet is,” Mr Mulley said.

“The limited access on the road makes it very difficult to get our pricing down to a level that’s affordable for people.”

Mr Mulley noted how the high level bridge built south of Laura and opened in late 2012 has made a difference.

“That really improved everything a great deal because it was a hard one to get across.”

“The bitumen is the best thing...”

Royce Mulley



Royce Mulley, Coen local and Exchange Hotel manager.

19 year-old Tristen Bowie from Weipa is currently completing her Certificate III in Civil Construction at Mein Deviation on the PDR.

“It’s different being a woman out here. I’ve had a lot of feedback from some of the workers; they reckon it’s good to see a woman doing civil,” says Miss Bowie.

Workers at the Mein Deviation road construction work 12-hour days, three weeks on and one week off.

Miss Bowie has been on the project from the beginning. She says learning to operate the loader has been the biggest challenge so far but she enjoys all aspects of the job, and the people on it.

Miss Bowie has completed all the theory for her certification and will finish the practical work over the next few months.

She is optimistic about the future. *“I think it will be easier for me to get work now, especially with this certificate.”*

“Hopefully with the experience I’ve gained from working on this project I can get into the mines, or maybe a couple of other projects on the PDR.”

“I think it will be easier for me to get work now...”

Tristen Bowie



Tristen Bowie, Trainee.

Patrick Spratt is from Coen and is the father of three young children. He has two boys and one girl.

Patrick recently started work with RoadTek on the final stages of the Sourayas Hill sealing project.

Mr Spratt hopes to secure more work next year.

“I hope to develop more skills on the roller, excavator and skid steer. Something to be proud of.”

“My main priority is to put my kids on the right track for the future, for them to have a good education.”

“One day, they can look at me and be proud of what I do and, hopefully, they follow in my footsteps.”

As a Coen local, Mr Spratt sees the benefit in extending the PDR seal. His partner’s family lives in Charters Towers.

“Once it’s sealed it will be easier for me and my family to travel both ways.”

“One day my kids can look at me and be proud of what I do...”

Patrick Spratt



Patrick Spratt, Trainee.

Estelle, Esma, David, Michael, Haley, Jasmine and Clarence of Hope Vale recently penned a letter of thanks to RoadTek’s long-serving employee, Arthur Yates, also known as ‘Uncle Arthur’:

“Dear Uncle Arthur, I would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity of being part of the upgrading of the Hann and Morehead Road.

It was an experience of a life time for us to see how much work goes into roads.

Also as T.O’s [Traditional Owners] to come back to country which we hold close to our hearts to work and see progress that will benefit all of the Cape.

Thank you again from the Kuku Thypan Monitors.”

“It was an experience of a life time for us...”

Kuku Thypan monitors



Arthur Yates, Senior Project Manager, RoadTek.