

Cultural heritage

December 2019

Bruce Highway Upgrade – Cooroy to Curra Section D: Woondum to Curra

The Bruce Highway Upgrade – Cooroy to Curra project involves a 62km upgrade and realignment of the Bruce Highway. Section D: Woondum to Curra (C2CD) is the final section to be constructed and will provide a new 26km upgrade and realignment of the highway between Woondum and Curra. Including interchange works and tie-ins to existing roads means 30km of new highway will be constructed for C2CD.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) recognises the significance of different cultures and the importance of managing Indigenous, historical, shared and natural heritage. Several archaeological, anthropological, ground penetrating radar surveys, cultural heritage surveys and investigations were undertaken to inform the development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the project. This includes surveys by the Registered Native Title Group.



Test pitting was undertaken at many sites along the 26km new highway corridor as part of cultural heritage investigations.



Trainee, Laurie Muckan, in the field learning new skills as part of the Capacity Building Program. Here he is getting some assistance from Steve Husband, Noosa and District Landcare Group Project Manager.

Cultural Heritage Management Plan

TMR and the registered native title claimants, the Kabi Kabi First Nation People (Kabi Kabi), have an agreed Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) in place for the C2CD project. The plan has been registered with the state Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and is on the Cultural Heritage Register for Queensland.

The plan includes how the Kabi Kabi will be involved in project activities with respect to cultural heritage monitoring and protection.

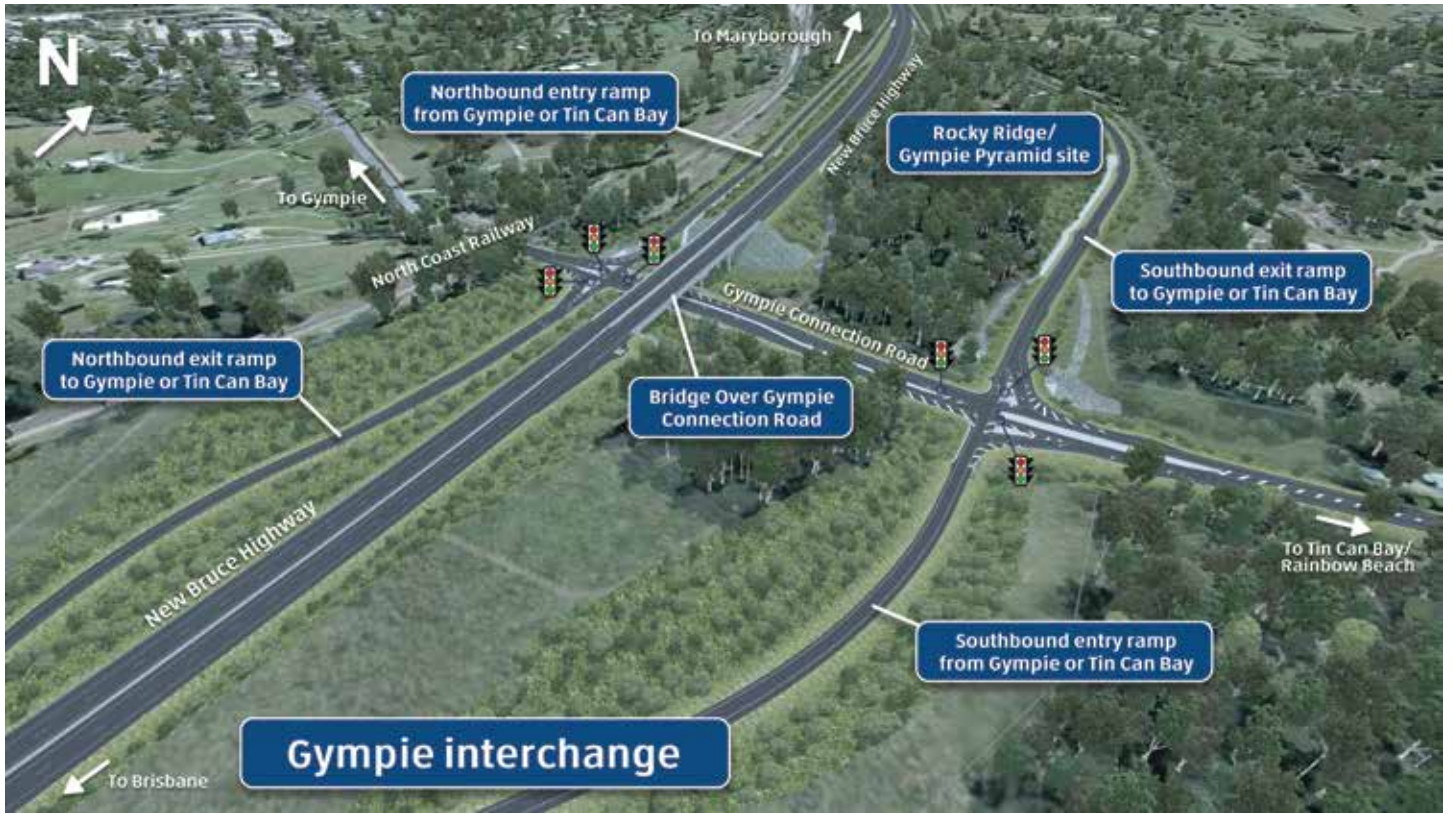


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Capacity Building Program

The Kabi Kabi Capacity Building Program is an initiative developed between the native title claimants, TMR and Noosa and District Landcare Group. The program will allow Kabi Kabi peoples to gain new skills, strengthen their connection to “Country” by being directly involved in the management of Kabi Kabi lands, and facilitate sustainable employment outcomes.

Kabi Kabi peoples will be provided opportunities to be directly involved in the management of Kabi Kabi lands and skills development through the funding of 10 traineeships. The traineeships will provide:

- Certificate III in Conservation Land Management
- Construction White Card
- Agricultural Chemical Distribution Certificate (an ACDC)
- First Aid Certificate including CPR
- Level 1 Chainsaw License
- On-the-ground experience
- Future employment opportunities.

Two Kabi Kabi participants have already started their traineeships with one more scheduled to start in the new year. Any questions on the program can be directed to Noosa and District Landcare Group.

Rocky Ridge (also known as the Gympie Pyramid)

The Rocky Ridge site is a group of private properties acquired by TMR for the project.

Numerous studies by qualified experts and surveys by Kabi Kabi registered native title claimants were undertaken at the site. These studies found no tangible evidence of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Despite the findings, the department has taken on board the interest in the site, along with technical and cost considerations, and re-designed the Gympie interchange ramps of the new highway to avoid the majority of the Rocky Ridge site.

Cultural heritage inductions will be held for all construction staff and contractors, and surveys will occur prior to clearing. As part of TMR’s duty of care, our construction contractors must identify and preserve Aboriginal cultural heritage artefacts if any are found during construction.

Contact details

Phone: 1800 180 566* (this number is directed to a project officer in Gympie)

*Free call anywhere in Australia, call charges apply for calls from mobile phones and pay phones.

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