

PROJECT LAUNCH APPROVAL – 2024/25 LRCI RURAL ROAD SHOULDER WIDENING PROGRAM (PT25233)

50/7/1-1 | #7423921

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Approves the Project Launch Approval (PLA) for the 2024/25 Pavement Rehabilitation Program (Rural Shoulder Widening) with a Project Launch Budget (PLB) of \$1,725,000 and an Approved End Date (AED) of 30 June 2025; and
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to enter into contracts, negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters relating to this program subject to Council’s procurement practices and policies.

INTERESTED PARTIES:

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Note: The identification of interested parties is provided on a best endeavours basis by Council Officers and may not be exhaustive.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Council have received funding under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Phase 4 Part B Grant of \$1,055,844 towards the improvement of safety on rural, outer-urban or regional roads.

This report requests the funds be combined with \$669,256 in Council revenue from the 2024/25 Pavement Rehabilitation Program for a total Project Launch Budget of \$1,725,000 to fund a Rural Road Shoulder Widening Program which will be completed prior to 30 June 2025.

BACKGROUND:

Council manages approximately 1360km of roads of which approximately 186km is classified as rural road. Rural roads are categorized typically as the roads which service the rural and rural residential subdivisions inclusive of rural home sites and hobby farm types of developments.

Council received an offer of \$2,886,402 in grant funding under Phase 4 of the Commonwealth Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant (LRCI) program for expenditure by 30 June 2025. The funding is made up of two parts.

1. Funding received under Part A (\$1,830,518) can be spent on any eligible local road or community infrastructure project.
2. Funding received under Part B (\$1,055,844) should be spent on eligible local rural, regional, or outer-urban road projects.

The purpose of the LRCI Program is to support local councils to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects across the nation, supporting jobs and delivering benefits to local communities.

COMMENT:

Council passed a resolution at the Ordinary Meeting on 25 October 2023 to allocate the entire Part B portion (\$1,055,844) of the grant towards a project to undertake shoulder widening of sections of the rural road network. The project was derived from the annual Pavement Rehabilitation program and included a component of Council funding to increase the total program to at least \$1,500,000.

Council officers have undertaken an assessment of the rural road network and identified a prioritised list of sites for the 2024/25 shoulder widening work on based on the current width of the road, hierarchy, traffic volume and the timing of the resealing of the existing road surfacing to maximise efficiency of the construction work.

The rural roads prioritised for delivery within the shoulder widening program are detailed in the following table.

Road	Suburb
Angus Street	Babinda
Hospital Street	Babinda
Bartle Frere Road	Bartle Frere
Ellis Road	Bellenden Ker
Harvey Creek Road	Bellenden Ker
Ross Road	Deeral
Deppeler Road	Edmonton
Roper Road	Eubenangee
Highleigh Road	Gordonvale
Russell Road	Gordonvale
Sues Street	Gordonvale

The budget required to deliver the above list of sites is \$1,725,000 based on construction estimates. The 2024/25 capital funds available in the adopted budget are as per the below table.

Funds	Project	2024/25
Adopted Budget	Pavement Rehabilitation Program	\$ 4,500,000
Project Launch Budget (PLB)	Rural Shoulder Widening	\$ 1,725,000
Variance		\$ 2,775,000

This report requests a Project Launch Approval with PLB of \$1,725,000 and an AED of 30 June 2025.

OPTIONS:

Option 1

That Council:

1. Approves the Project Launch Approval (PLA) for the 2024/25 Pavement Rehabilitation Program (Rural Shoulder Widening) with a Project Launch Budget (PLB) of \$1,725,000 and an Approved End Date (AED) of 30 June 2025; and
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to enter into contracts, negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters relating to this program subject to Council's procurement practices and policies.

Option 2

That Council does not progress with the works.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Risk Management:

Works are programmed to be delivered during the dry season to minimise the impacts of inclement weather on site and construction efficiency.

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

The \$1,725,000 required to deliver the works is allocated within the approved 10-year capital works program. The project is funded through a mix of grant funding (\$1,055,844) and Council revenue.

Community and Cultural Heritage:

Improved transport infrastructure will enable safer travel within rural communities.

Natural Environment:

The project has minimal impact on the natural environment as the works are fully contained within the existing road corridor, renewing the existing road pavement surface.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

Focus Three: Design for Liveability;

- Enhance community wellbeing, safety and natural disaster resilience
- Deliver valued suburban community infrastructure

CONSULTATION:

Standard public consultation procedures will apply to each site. Council has also developed in 2021-22 'Maintaining Our Roads' an informative guide available to residents on Councils website and distributed through letterbox drops to potentially effected households prior to upcoming works, to better inform residents about the effects and benefits of road surfacing works, such as Asphaltic Concrete (AC) Overlay.

Refer to <https://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/water-waste-roads/roads/maintaining-our-roads>

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Proposed Location Details



Tyrone Curcuruto
Executive Manager Strategic Asset Management & Planning



Mark Wuth
Director Cairns Infrastructure and Assets

Attachment 1 – Proposed Location Details

Suburb	ROAD NAME	ROADID	Shoulder Widening Cost Estimate
BABINDA	ANGUS STREET	61#1	\$14,025
	HOSPITAL STREET	1010#1	\$15,045
		1010#2	\$28,900
BABINDA Total			\$57,970
BARTLE FRERE	BARTLE FRERE ROAD	157#2	\$21,250
		157#3	\$55,250
		157#4	\$36,125
		157#5	\$21,250
		157#7	\$38,250
BARTLE FRERE Total			\$172,125
BELLENDEN KER	ELLIS ROAD	671#1	\$12,750
		671#2	\$29,750
		671#3	\$42,500
		671#4	\$42,500
	HARVEY CREEK ROAD	935#1	\$85,000
		935#2	\$85,000
		935#3	\$82,110
		935#4	\$74,460
		935#5	\$85,000
		935#6	\$85,000
		935#7	\$66,300
	935#8	\$28,390	
	935#9	\$80,750	
BELLENDEN KER Total			\$799,510
DEERAL	ROSS ROAD	1869#1	\$85,000
DEERAL Total			\$85,000
EDMONTON	DEPPELER ROAD	5586#2	\$85,000
EDMONTON Total			\$85,000
EUBENANGEE	ROPER ROAD	1862#2	\$85,000
EUBENANGEE Total			\$85,000
GORDONVALE	HIGHLEIGH ROAD	976#1	\$85,000
		976#2	\$85,000
	RUSSELL ROAD	1881#7	\$85,000
		1881#8	\$85,000
		1881#9	\$85,000
	SUES STREET	2046#1	\$14,110
GORDONVALE Total			\$439,110
			\$1,723,715