



Townsville Northern Access Intersections Upgrade

Construction Update — January 2022

Construction work continues on the new Black River bridge

A significant project milestone has been achieved with the piling and substructure of the second Black River bridge now completed.

Throughout this year, the bridge crew took delivery of 35 precast concrete girders measuring 33-metres long and weighing 84 tonnes. These girders were manufactured in Rockhampton and transported by truck under police escort and pilot vehicle.



A truck waiting to deliver a girder to site.



Two specialised cranes are used to install the 84 tonne girders

A girder or span is one of the main components of the bridge that connects the pile beams. The work involves placing one girder at a time on top of the bridge headstock using two specialised cranes. These cranes work together to facilitate the controlled installation of the girder and enable continuous production of the bridge.

This project is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments on an 80:20 basis under the 15-year, \$13 billion Bruce Highway Upgrade Program. Construction started in May 2021 and will be completed in early 2023, weather permitting.



Australian Government



Queensland Government

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Culverts

While earthworks continue on the Bruce Highway and the new service roads are taking shape, the focus of work has turned to an important piece of infrastructure that often blends into the background (or underground). Without them there would be a detrimental affect on the roads. This important part of the road is known as a culvert.

A culvert has two goals; the first is to be able to hold up under the weight of traffic passing over it; and the second is to allow enough water to pass through it.

While culverts are commonplace along roadways, the engineering behind them is complicated. Some water courses are obvious, such as creeks and rivers, others aren't so much and often only appear during or after rainfall.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads has carried out extensive hydrology modelling to ensure that the culverts are suitably designed and well placed to ensure the roads being built as part of the TNAIU project compliment the natural water courses in the area.



Culverts are being installed across the TNAIU project to compliment the natural water courses in the area

New local roads taking shape

Work on the three new local roads has ramped up with crews now working on the drainage, fencing and pavement of these new roads.

The new local roads; Nora Road extension, Moree Road Service Road and Mt Kulburn Drive, are an important component to the TNAIU project design. These new roads are an important component of the TNAIU project by reducing the number of intersections along this stretch of the Bruce Highway.

Construction hours

Works will occur across the TNAIU project site from:

7.00am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday

When works are required to be completed outside of normal working hours, impacted residents will be provided with advance notice.

Wet season preparations are underway

The wet season is fast approaching and with the Bureau of Meterology outlook predicting an above medium wet season, the TNAIU project team has been busy preparing the site for heavy rainfall and flooding this season.

As work continues in 2022, TMR will continue to monitor weather forecasts and undertake any works to deal with severe weather.

One important task the project team has completed was the development of a Severe Weather Management Plan.

This plan:

- enables effective management of severe weather onsite
- details actions to be taken when severe weather is forecast to hit the project site
- lists the procedures to be followed when responding to a severe weather event onsite.



Earthworks on the Nora Road extension

Upcoming works

Works continuing across the TNAIU project site in the coming months include:

- earthworks and excavation works along the Moree Road service road, Mount Kulburn Drive extension and Nora Road extension
- earthworks and excavation works for the new Bruce Highway southbound carriageway
- construction of the Black River bridge continues.

Artefacts discovered in Black River



A rusty Singer sewing machine was found near Nora Road.

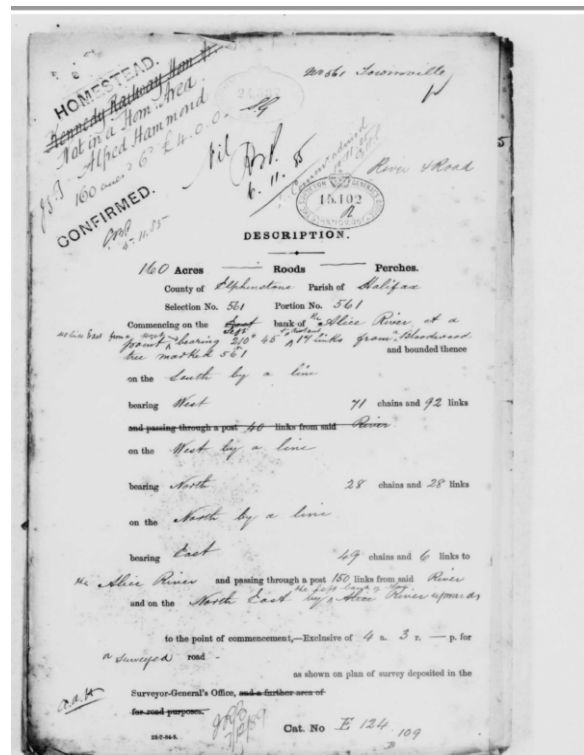
When excavation work commenced on the new Nora Road extension, the cultural heritage team had expected to find artefacts related to the WWII US Army hospital that was based in Black River in the 1940's. What they didn't expect to find was historical housing contents of a Townsville pioneer family.

Uncovered in the creek area of the Nora Road extension were household items owned by Alfred Hammond dating between the 1860's and 1880's. Alfred purchased the 160 acre block on what was then called the Alice River for a grand total of £4.

The contents uncovered included a large rusty milk churn that has been sent to the Museum of Tropical Queensland for restoration, a singer sewing machine and a washstand tile from a marble slab.



A heavy duty milk churn that was found near the Nora Road works



Signed deed for the property Alfred Hammond purchased in 1889

Active transport connections

A three (3) meter wide off-road shared pedestrian and bike riding path will be constructed under and across the new Black River bridge. This pathway will significantly improve active transport infrastructure for users that will link to the existing local pedestrian and bike tracks. The new pathways will be illuminated in the evenings and will provide a safer connection for active transport users across Black River.



Shared pedestrian and cycle paths shown in green offer a safer route for active transport users who want to cross Black River.

Mesh strengthens the road

The Bruce Highway road is made up of a number of different layers which comprise of dirt, gravel and rock. What is also included in these engineered layers is a heavy duty plastic geogrid mesh.


This mesh is used to support the road base and the underlying layers which deliver an increased load carrying ability and extends the life of the road surface.

This mesh layer interlocks with the dirt and gravel to provide extra reinforcement to the new southbound lane of the Bruce Highway.




Stay connected

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 tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/townsville-northern-access-intersections-upgrade-bruce-highway-veales-road-to-pope-road



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Thank you for your patience and understanding during TNAIU construction works. Safety is TMR's top priority. Traffic and road conditions may change regularly so please remember to drive to the conditions and obey all signage and traffic controllers' directions when driving through the project site.