

Keeping our roads running



Cairns Regional Council is responsible for maintaining 1034km of sealed urban roads and 644km of rural roads on behalf of the community. This fact sheet provides an overview of what Council does to maintain and improve the condition of our roads.

Annual road maintenance programs

Each year, Council allocates funding to undertake reseal, asphalt and pavement rehabilitation programs to keep the roads in the Cairns region in good condition.

Reseal program: Resealing a road involves spraying the old stone sealed surface with hot bitumen and rolling in loose stones, of between 7mm to 14mm in diameter, over the top. This process is used when the road structure underneath is in good condition but the surface needs another coat of black paint and stones to seal it. Loose stones and soft bitumen can be an annoyance after sealing however, this settles after a couple of weeks as the bitumen hardens. This process is a little like painting a house to prevent it from wood rot in that it is the most cost-effective method used on the majority of our roads.



Asphalt overlay: Overlaying involves laying a hot asphaltic concrete product which is a mix of bitumen aggregate and sand, and rolling and spreading it out across the road surface to a thickness of 35mm to 50mm. This process is only used when the road structure is in reasonable condition but the surface is very uneven or has been damaged and deformed. This is a premium product and it costs more than four times the price of the resealing process mentioned above therefore it is used on very busy roads and in new subdivisions.

Surface rejuvenation: This is a relatively new process which involves spraying a reinforced liquid product on the entire road surface. This process is used when old asphalt surfaces need minimal attention (ie. just a coat of paint instead of a complete overlay) and there is not very heavy traffic. Parking bays, cul-de-sacs and local residential streets that already have an asphalt surface are ideal for this treatment. The treatment is extremely cost effective as it is

Road improvement programs for the 2016/2017 financial year include:

- Reseal and asphalt overlays - \$5.4 million;
- Pavement rehabilitation - \$4 million;
- Suburban enhancement program (eg. road shoulder sealing / kerb and channel replacement) - \$4.5 million;
- Pothole repair and patching \$1.25 million;
- Street sweeping - \$1.1 million.

approximately a third of the cost of an asphalt overlay process and can significantly extend the life of the original road. It is also environmentally friendly as the process is completed without the product having to be heated.

Pavement rehabilitation: This involves large machinery effectively 'ploughing up' the road to a depth of 200mm, mixing into it a combination of cement, bitumen and gravel, and then re-laying and rolling it. This process is used when the road has completely lost its strength and shape and it is only carried out after an extensive testing process. Pavement rehabilitation is more than three times the price of an asphalt overlay process.

Crack sealing: Crack sealing involves pumping hot, compressed air into the road cracks, which both cleans and dries the crevice. The crack is then sealed using a heated hose and wand unit, filling it with a polymer modified bituminous sealant with rubber fillers. This provides a strong rubber seal, preventing water from penetrating the road surface. The sealant dries in minutes and can be driven over almost immediately, minimising disruptions to motorists. This process is very cost effective and can considerably extend the life of the road.





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Completed major capital works road improvement projects include:

- **Aumuller Street upgrade (2015):** The section between Mulgrave Road and Gatton Street was widened to four lanes, receiving a complete safety overhaul. The \$8.7 million upgrade included upgraded street lighting, footpaths, cycle lanes, replacement of water mains and a landscaped median with u-turn provisions.
- **Lake Street extension to Airport (2014):** A T-intersection was constructed at the far northern end of Lake Street, connecting it to Airport Avenue. This has provided a second road link between the CBD and the airport. Motorists travelling towards the airport can now turn right from Lake Street onto Airport Avenue and motorists travelling from the airport can turn left from Airport Avenue onto Lake Street. The project has extended Lake Street by approximately 85 metres, providing a more direct route for people accessing the domestic and international airport and making our city easier for visitors to navigate. The \$3 million project also included street lighting, landscaping and cycleway improvements.



- **\$1.3m Walker Road upgrade, Edmonton (2011):** This upgrade included widening the road to four lanes with a centre median between the Quinn Street roundabout and the roundabout near the Sugarworld Shopping Centre. Works also included stormwater drainage improvement works and centre median street lighting.

State and local government road responsibilities

Councils look after the majority of roads within their local government boundaries, with the exception of State-government controlled highways. Highways within the Cairns Regional Council area that are maintained and controlled by the State Government's Department of Transport and Main Roads include the following:

- Gillies Highway (including Riverstone Road, Gordonvale);
- Bruce Highway (including Mulgrave Road, Cairns);
- Southern Connection (including Ray Jones Drive, Comport St & sections of Kenny St, Florence St, and Bunda St);
- Pine Creek-Yarrabah Road,
- Kennedy Highway (including Kuranda Range Road);
- Cairns Western Arterial Rd (including Reservoir Rd, McCoombe St, Alfred St, Pease St, Anderson St, James St);
- Stratford Connection Rd (including Aeroglen Drive);
- Captain Cook Highway (including Sheridan St, Cairns; Alchera Drive, Front St and Foxton Ave, Mossman; Port Douglas Rd, Davidson St, Macrossan St, and Mossman-Daintree Rd);
- Mossman-Mt Molloy Rd (Rex Range).



What can you do to help? If you notice a pothole or road problem, please report it by contacting Cairns Regional Council's customer service team on 1300 69 22 47. Alternatively, details can be logged via the Contact Us Online section of Council's website. It helps if you include a good description of the problem and the location of the damage, including street name, nearest intersection and any identifying buildings or landmarks. A service request can then be forwarded to the appropriate road maintenance crew. Any issues found on State government highways should be reported to the Department of Transport and Main Roads on 132 380.