

ROADS TO RECOVERY PROGRAM GRANT ALLOCATION

CIA | 85/5/1-01 | #7951692

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. Approves the submission of applications for funding under the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and the Arts, Community Infrastructure Program for the projects identified in the report.**
- 2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to finalise any and all matters relating to the above application.**

INTERESTED PARTIES:

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts – *federal government Department funding the program.*

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Council has received an allocation of \$16,108,611 in grant funding under the Commonwealth Government Roads to Recovery program for expenditure by 30 June 2029.

The objective of the Program is to contribute to the Australian Government Infrastructure Investment Program through supporting the maintenance of the nation's local road infrastructure assets, which facilitates greater accessibility and improved safety, economic and social outcomes for Australians.

Council officers have selected a group of projects from within the current adopted capital works program which meet the eligibility criteria and have allocated budget within the current funding period for Council consideration to include in the program.

BACKGROUND:

The Australian Government's Roads to Recovery (RTR) Program provides funding to local governments to support the maintenance and improvement of local road infrastructure. The program is designed to assist councils in ensuring that local road networks remain safe, accessible, and capable of meeting the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors.

Council receives Roads to Recovery funding in accordance with the program guidelines and funding allocations determined by the Australian Government. Funding may be applied to eligible road infrastructure projects that improve the condition, safety, and functionality of the local transport network.

As part of Council's ongoing asset management and capital works planning processes, potential projects are identified and assessed against factors including asset condition, network function, traffic demand, safety considerations, resilience outcomes, and alignment with Council's strategic objectives. The proposed projects have been developed to maximise the benefit of available funding while addressing current and future infrastructure needs across the Cairns local government area.

The total RTR allocation for Cairns Regional Council is \$16,108,611 which runs until end of June 2029 and must be spent on projects relating to the construction or maintenance of a road to be eligible.

COMMENT:

Council officers have reviewed the allocated Roads to Recovery funding for Cairns Regional Council and identified a program of works comprising of a mixture of asset renewal and rehabilitation with infrastructure safety and capacity improvements. Delivery of these works will assist Council in reducing future maintenance liabilities, improving transport efficiency, and maintaining an appropriate level of service and safety outcomes across the road network.

In developing the proposed program, Council has sought to balance the needs of urban and rural road users while ensuring that available funding is directed towards high-priority infrastructure requirements. The projects have also been assessed for eligibility under the Roads to Recovery Program and are considered consistent with the objectives of the funding initiative.

The proposed allocation of Roads to Recovery funding will enable Council to continue investing in critical transport infrastructure and support the ongoing management of its extensive road asset portfolio. Projects may be either partially or fully funded by the RTR Program. Specific project details, estimated costs and delivery timing for selected projects which meet the eligibility criteria are provided below.

Proj. No	Proj. Name	Allocated Budget	Timing	Division
600647	Page & Hill Road Upgrade, Wrights Creek	\$2,677,747	2027	1
600369	Dexter Road Upgrade, Gordonvale	\$945,000	2028	1
600276	Giffin Road Upgrade, White Rock	\$1,330,684	2027	3
601097	Kenny & Dutton St Intersection Upgrade – Heavy Vehicle Access, Portsmith	\$282,000	2026	5
600195	Scott St / Severin St Intersection Upgrade, Parramatta Park	\$1,089,053	2028	5
600358	McGregor Road Upgrade Stage 2 – Sidlaw St to Faculty CI, Smithfield	\$5,063,000	2027-2028	8
601241	Veivers Road Footpath/Kerb & Channel Renewal, Palm Cove	\$560,000	2028	9
1401	Pavement Rehabilitation Program	\$13,940,000	2027-2028	All
Total		\$25,877,484		

OPTIONS:

Option 1 (Recommended)

That Council:

1. Approves the submission of applications for funding under the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and the Arts, Community Infrastructure Program for the projects identified in the report.
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to finalise any and all matters relating to the above application.

Option 2

That Council requests alternate projects for submission of applications for funding under the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts Roads to Recovery Program.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Risk Management:

Financial Management - to ensure that funding can be fully acquitted within the grant duration, projects with total budget allocations exceeding the funding allocation have been selected for consideration.

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

The selected projects have existing budget allocation within the funding period in the adopted capital works program.

CONSULTATION:

Project specific consultation will be undertaken on a project-by-project basis in accordance with Council's Engagement Policy.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil



Tyron Curcuruto
Executive Manager Strategic Asset Management Planning



Gagan Kang
Associate Director Engineering Services



Mark Wuth
Director Cairns Infrastructure & Assets