

MEDIA STATEMENT

21 May 2021

Attention: EDITORS/CHIEFS OF STAFF

Cunninghams Gap design tender awarded

Cunninghams Gap is another step closer to final repairs with the project design tender awarded to ARUP.

Transport and Main Roads Regional Director for South Coast, Mr Paul Noonan said the project would repair significant slope damage caused by severe bushfires in late 2019.

"Works will involve restoring lanes back to their pre-bushfire condition on the eastern side of Cunninghams Gap and installing new rockfall barriers with catch fencing to maintain motorist safety," Mr Noonan said.

"The project will optimise the available road corridor space by using innovative rockfall barriers with catch fences up to 12 metres high, which can be built close to the upslope rock face.

"This method will minimise construction impacts to the existing lanes on this key freight route."

Mr Noonan said the detailed design was expected to be completed by September 2021.

"We will call for expressions of interest from construction contractors from July this year (2021), with works expected to start in early 2022," he said.

"While activities haven't been seen on the ground since geotechnical investigations were undertaken in January this year, Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has been continuing to work with specialist geotechnical advisors.

"These comprehensive ground investigations have helped refine the initial repair options to determine the most appropriate solution.

"Working through the geotechnical and structural assessments of the area's complex topography before starting detailed design ensures the repairs selected will provide value for money for taxpayers.

"These engineering assessments also reduce the time spent on construction meaning less disruptions for motorists during works."

Mr Noonan said targeted consultation would be carried out with impacted community stakeholders.

"We will consult with the community, heavy vehicle industry, emergency services and other road users from around mid this year to ensure we minimise travel impacts," he said.

"As design progresses, TMR will also continue to work through the review process with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and Commonwealth Government to ensure the project meets its eligibility requirements."

Eligible reconstruction works are jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

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Media contact: TMR Media Unit, 3066 7060