



# Townsville Northern Access Intersections Upgrade

## Construction Update — August 2021

Major construction works have begun on the Townsville Northern Access Intersections Upgrade (TNAIU) project. Crews are already making good progress on earthworks across the project site and piling works have started for the new Black River Bridge. This update provides an overview of current and upcoming works that you can expect to see around the project site over the next few months.

### Works currently underway include:

- piling works to install 18 bridge piles for the new Black River Bridge
- relocation of the Mount Spec water pipeline
- earthworks for the new Moree Road service road
- earthworks for the new southbound Bruce Highway carriageway between Bowden Road and Veales Road
- earthworks for the new Mount Kulburn Drive extension road that will connect through to Seafarers Way.



*Earthworks have started on the new southbound Bruce Highway carriageway.*

The \$107.65 million TNAIU 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.



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## Piles of work for the new Black River Bridge

The first stage of major bridge works on the new second Black River Bridge is now underway.

Following construction of a piling pad across the river and the arrival of specialist drilling equipment on site, bridge piles are now being driven into the river bed.

There are 18 piles in total that will support the new bridge. The piles will initially be screwed through the riverbed and into the underlying rock layer. Inside each pile is a steel-reinforced cage. The cage, which is at least 12 metres, is filled with concrete to provide a strong foundation for the second Black River Bridge.

Bridge works are expected to continue in Black River until the end of 2021.



*Construction of the new, second Black River Bridge has started.*



*Bridge piling equipment arrived on site in June and is now in use.*

## Construction

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.

### Managing construction impacts

Increased noise, dust and vibration are just some of the impacts that may be experienced during roadworks projects.

Construction crews are working to minimise environmental and community impacts from the TNAIU project by:

- conducting noise monitoring to ensure that construction noise remains within acceptable levels
- using water carts, along with soil binders on stock piles and exposed earthworks areas, to control dust. Works will also be reduced during periods of high winds
- monitoring vibration levels during high impact construction activities to ensure they remain within approved limits.



*Clearing has been completed and earthworks have started for the new Moree Road service road.*

## 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
- piling works in Black River.

## WWII history flows through the Black River area



*Aerial view of the US Army Hospital located in Black River during WWII.*

The department's dedicated cultural heritage staff undertook a historical assessment and preliminary evacuation works for the TNAIU project which uncovered significant historical material and shone a light on Townsville's history.

It turns out this is not the first time Black River has been a hive of construction activity. In November 1943, the United States Army started construction on a 4,000-bed military hospital at Black River during WWII.

The hospital was fully operation by April 1944 and consisted of prefabricated buildings that housed surgeries, medical wards, psychological wards, a dental unit and a pharmacy. The site also



*Entrance to the Black River Hospital, 1944.*

housed accommodation huts, latrines, laundries, recreation huts and a chapel. The site was the first waypoint for prisoners of war.

Some of the foundations of these buildings can still be seen in this area using satellite imagery. Further excavations will be undertaken as part of the TNAIU project by cultural heritage staff and a local WWII expert Historian.



*Prefabricated tents were insulated and included adjustable shutters, a wooden floor and a corrugated iron roof.*



*An image of the refuse area with wooden huts and tents in the background.*

## On the road to suppressing the dust

A water truck is continually operating across the TNAIU project site to keep earthworks damp and help manage dust impacts during excavation and earthmoving activities.

The truck's water tank holds up to 15,000 litres of water. When sprayed, the water bonds with dust particles and prevents them becoming airborne. Wetting agents and polymer binders are also added to the water to assist with dust suppression; this helps to reduce the volume of water required and the frequency of water applications. The organic based soil binders are made of psyllium and starch and are non-toxic and biodegradable.



15,000 litre water trucks help to mitigate dust impacts during construction works.

## Stay connected

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## Pointing out the pipes

If you've looked to your left recently when driving south on the Bruce Highway through Black River, you may have noticed a number of white pipes sticking out of the ground.

These pipes are colour coded and are used by crews to locate and identify service utilities under the ground. The pink tops of the pipes identify survey markers in the road reserve. Black markings are used to show communications services, blue indicates potable water and orange identifies electrical services.

It can often be a challenge locating services as some have been in the ground long before mapping became digital and specific. The site engineers take special care before any excavation works commence to ensure that all services have been located. The services are located through GPS technology during the design phase of the project and then checked again during construction.



Colour coded pipes identify underground utilities.

## Subscribe for updates



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.