

# Cairns Water Security Stage 1

## Update - Pine Creek–Yarrabah Road

### Southbound On-Ramp Closure

Community Notice – 26 February 2026



**The Bruce Highway southbound on-ramp at Pine Creek–Yarrabah Road will remain closed until the end of June 2026.**

Cairns Regional Council and John Holland are continuing critical works as part of Cairns Water Security Stage 1, and the on-ramp closure must remain in place to allow these works to be completed safely.

We understand this extended closure is frustrating for road users and nearby residents. We appreciate the community's patience while this essential infrastructure is delivered.

In our **September 2025** update, we advised the community of ongoing works at this location. Since then, significant progress has been made, including:

- Installation of protective concrete over existing services.
- Three of four new connections to the existing water network.
- Installation of concrete thrust blocks to stabilise the pipes.
- Completion of two underground tunnels to safely install protective pipes under the highway.
- Installation of two large water pipes (1125 mm and 914 mm) beneath the Bruce Highway.
- Installation of piling foundations to support and protect the new infrastructure

#### What's happening next?

Over the coming months, crews will continue with:

- Ongoing pump operations to keep the excavation dry and safe.
- Ongoing construction of the new pipeline pit.
- Final connection to the existing water mains (expected mid-March; affected properties will be notified of any temporary water outage).
- Installation of the pit lid (a 5.3 m × 9.8 m steel frame with access hatches).
- Installation of 350 m of fencing along the rail corridor.
- Construction of a permanent maintenance access track and removal of the temporary access track.
- Reinstatement of 30 m of guard rail and final finishing works.

These works play an important role in the new water network. When finished, it will connect the new pipelines into the existing system, supporting more reliable water supply for homes and businesses across Cairns.

#### Why the on-ramp is still closed?

To allow safe access for heavy machinery and material deliveries, a 30 m section of traffic barrier was removed. With this barrier removed, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) has assessed the area as unsafe for vehicle use.

Visit the project website for more information [www.cairns.qld.gov.au/CWSS1](http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/CWSS1) or scan the QR code.

#### Contact us:



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The reopening timeframe has been extended due to impacts on progress and need for additional works arising from:

- Inclement weather
- Higher-than-expected groundwater levels coupled with
- Unfavourable ground conditions

These factors required adjustments to the construction sequence and have extended the overall program.

Works are now sequenced through to completion, with reopening planned for June 2026.

John Holland is committed to prioritising these works and endeavour to complete the works as soon as possible.

We appreciate that the detour can be an inconvenience, and we thank the community for its patience.

### On-ramp Road Closure

