Cairns Water Security Stage 1

Mulgrave River, Gordonvale incl. Sunday works

UPDATED Construction Works Notification #077a

16 September 2025

Welcome to the latest localised update for the Cairns Water Security Stage 1 project. These construction works notifications will continue to be distributed to keep you informed of upcoming construction activities within the Gordonvale, Aloomba and Behana Gorge communities.

From Tuesday**, 23 September 2025**, John Holland will commence Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) works beneath the Mulgrave River from Chamberlain Road to Rushworth Road (see map overleaf) which will form part of the Mulgrave raw water main. Works will take place between 6:30am and 6:30pm, Monday to Sunday, and are expected to take approximately 10 weeks to complete, weather permitting.

Due to the sensitive nature of the HDD works under the Mulgrave River, construction will need to occur seven days a week to protect the structural integrity of the borehole. Leaving the drill idle for extended periods in challenging ground conditions can compromise its stability. To help minimise impacts on the surrounding community, the works will consist of set-up, cleaning out the casings and drilling. No hammering of pipes as part of the pipe installation process will be performed on Sundays.

What is Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)?

HDD is a trenchless boring method for installing underground pipes along a prescribed bore path with the use of a surface-launched rig / machine, which minimises the disruption of the surrounding area. This type of trenching method is used to minimise the impact on certain infrastructure and waterways.

What can I expect?

- The work zones will be clearly marked with traffic cones, barriers and temporary fencing.
- Temporary one lane road closure along Rushworth Road, detours, and traffic controllers.
- Installation of pipes using a large drilling machine.
- Construction noise, machinery, and increased construction vehicle movement.
- Activities on Sundays will commence at 8:00am and no hammering works will be performed. Streets and impacted areas will be restored to their original condition upon completion of the works.

How are we managing impacts?

- Clearly marking the work zone with traffic cones, barriers, and fencing.
- Liaising with property owners if access to properties is temporarily impacted.
- Implementing traffic control measures in accordance with approved traffic management plans.
- Providing advance notification to nearby residents and businesses about key activities, including works performed on a Sunday or out-of-hours work.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation while we conduct this important work.

Visit the project website for more information www.cairns.qld.gov.au/CWSS1 or scan the QR code.

Contact us:

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Work Location

Mulgrave raw water – Chamberlain Road to Rushworth Road, Gordonvale

