

Cairns Water Security Stage 1

Update - Pine Creek–Yarrabah Road

Southbound On-Ramp Closure

Community Notice - 30 September 2025



Cairns Regional Council and John Holland are continuing important works on the Cairns Water Security Stage 1 Project, and are progressing with works at the Jones Road pit, the primary reason for the Bruce Highway on-ramp closure.

What's been completed so far?

John Holland are continuing work to install two new pipelines using a thrust bore drilling method under the highway, along with a concrete services pit. Once complete, this pit will link the new pipelines to the existing network, to manage water flow and keep household water supply reliable.

Significant progress has been made, including:

- Site surveys and Geotechnical investigations
- Construction of the pipeline pit
- Removing temporary traffic barriers
- Completing the first underground thrust bore, installing a pipe 1.3 metres diameter and a length of 65-metre pipe safely to ensure ground integrity and resilience.

What's happening next?

- Continuing the second underground thrust bore to prepare for connecting the new pipelines into the wider water network
- Installing protective concrete over existing services to keep them safe during and after construction
- Building thrust blocks to stabilise the pipes and keep them secure under pressure preventing them from shifting or moving
- Constructing a permanent access track to support future maintenance of the pipeline

Why the on-ramp is still closed?

A 30-metre traffic barrier has been removed to allow heavy machinery, work crews, and material deliveries safe access via a newly built access road leading up to the essential pipeline maintenance and inspection pit.

With the barrier removed, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) has assessed the area and deemed it unsafe for vehicles. As a result, the detour will remain in place until it's safe to reopen in March 2026.

We appreciate that the detour can be an inconvenience, and we thank the community for your patience. These works are a key part of the Cairns Water Security Stage 1 Project, ensuring that homes across the region have a safe and reliable water supply for years to come.

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

Contact us:



1300 69 22 47



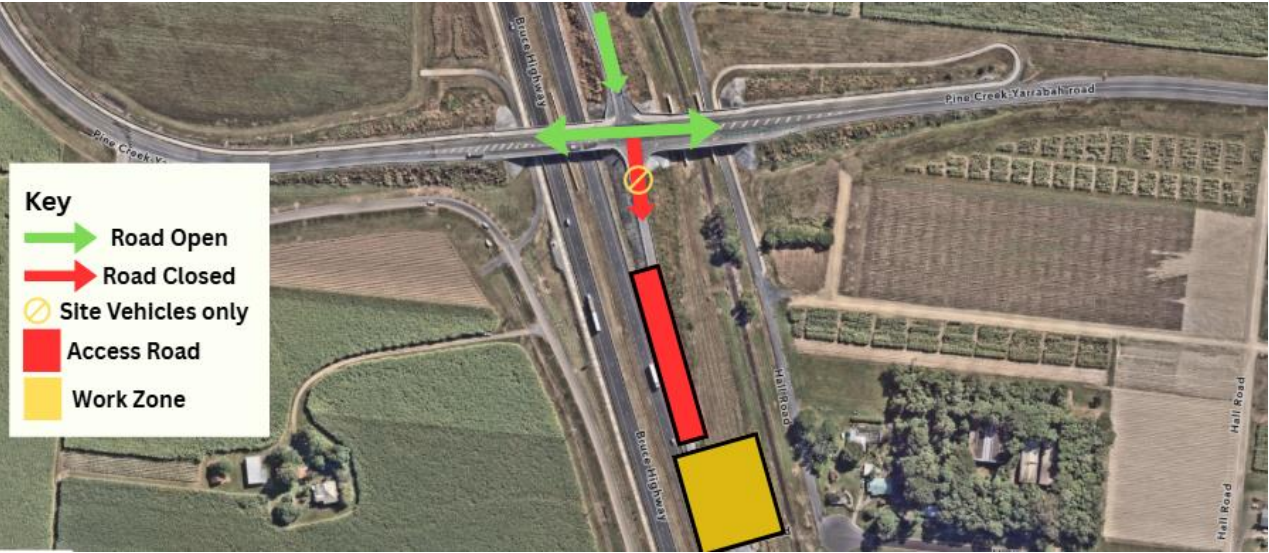
council@cairns.qld.gov.au



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On-ramp Road Closure



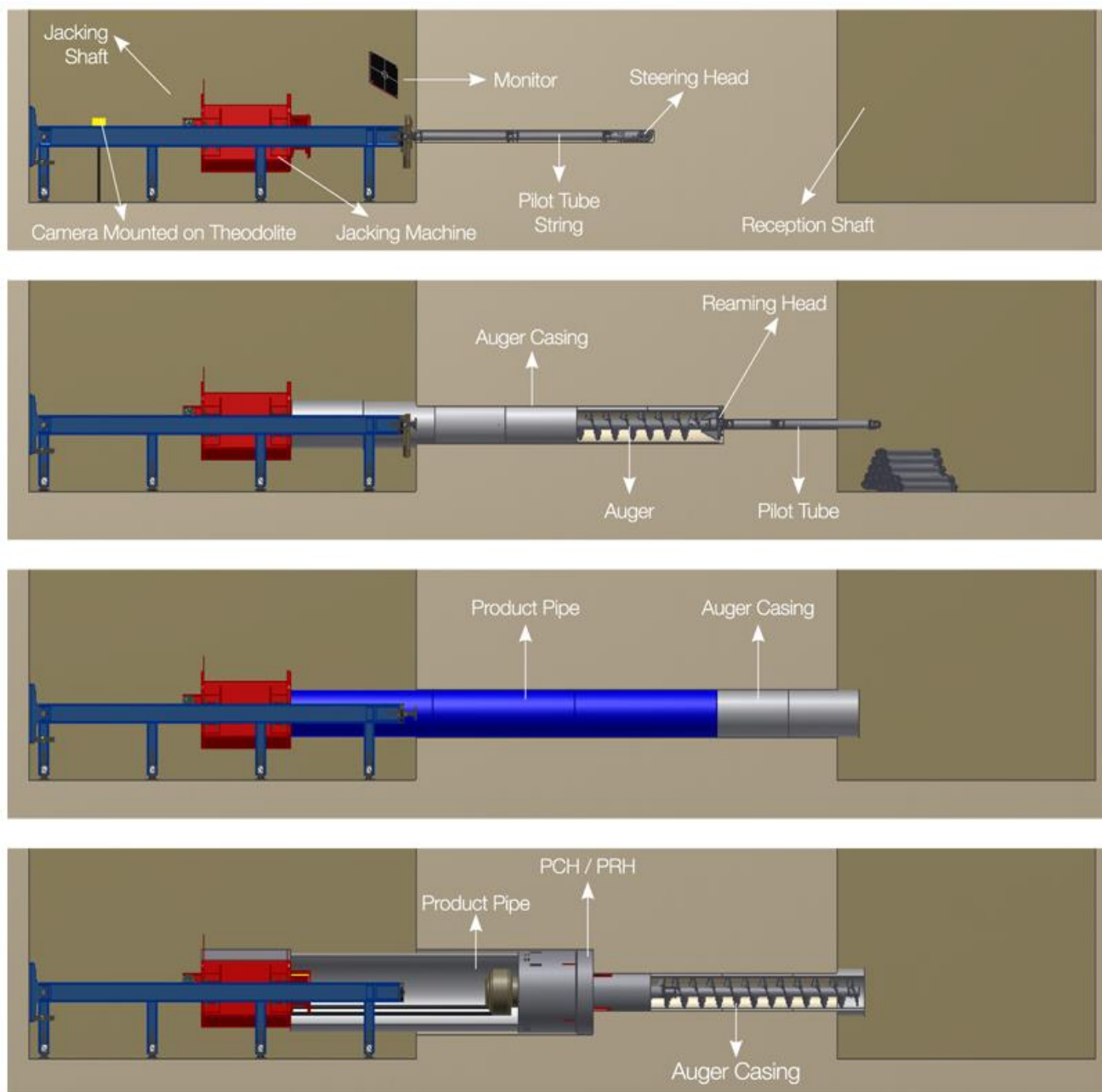
Work Locations

Thrust Bore – Jones Road to Eastern Side of the Bruce Highway, Gordonvale



Thrust bore process

The below diagram shows the pilot tube string is pushed through as guidance before the hole is then drilled using an auger with the final product pipe then installed and grouted into place.



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