


Building our Regions

Carnarvon Gorge Road Upgrade

 Funding*	
Total project cost	\$8,500,000
BoR funding	\$4,250,000
Council funding	\$4,250,000

The tens of thousands of motorists travelling each year to the world-renowned Carnarvon Gorge—between Roma and Emerald in the Central Highlands—no longer face the constant risk of punctured tyres, damaged suspensions and cracked windscreens following the sealing of the last 15km of the only access road.

Central Highlands Regional Council undertook construction works to improve the road’s drainage, alignment, capacity and signage with funding assistance through the Building our Regions program.

According to Mayor Kerry Hayes the road upgrade will support and grow the 65,000-visitors-a-year tourism industry, while providing livestock producers with improved business confidence and opportunities.

“The local community wanted this last stretch of road fully sealed to improve safety for the more than 100 vehicles a day that use it,” Mr Hayes said.

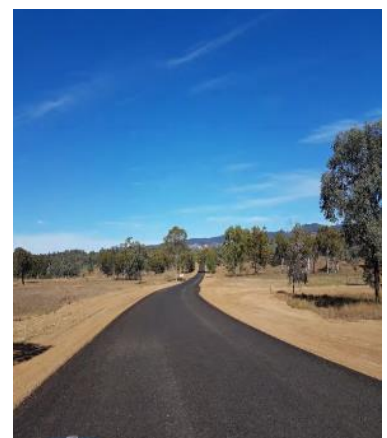
“The upgrade also increases flood resilience for local residents so they are not isolated by floodwaters for extended periods.”

Amanda Porter, Manager of the Takarakka Bush Resort, says the long-awaited sealed road has been well received by appreciative guests.

“It has definitely opened the way to less-confident travellers and tourists who are passing through the region on short stays,” Ms Porter said.

“While most of our guests stay four to six days to truly experience the area, we have found the new road has meant that short-stay guests are more inclined to venture in.

“With improved access, we find guests expect improved services and our guests are always impressed with Takarakka’s modern facilities and services they find at the end of the road.”



Before and after: The sealed road has banished the dust and risk of punctures



Visitors said the road upgrade has made Carnarvon Gorge a more enticing place to visit:

“Carnarvon Gorge was always on our bucket list, but we never drive on dirt roads with our rig. We knew it would happen one day and now here we are. There’s no way we would have made it until this road was put in.” – Rod and Judy Sweet, ACT, visitors to Takarakka Bush Resort

“I’d first travelled up to Carnarvon in 1981 on the all-dirt road, and I’m back today with a totally new set of memories on the views coming up here. I didn’t hear the road was fully sealed until about four days ago. It’s great to see.” – the Shepard family, pictured right at Takarakka Bush Resort



* Funding amounts referenced are as approved.