

Yamala Feeder Roads Options Study

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Aim:

The Yamala Feeder Roads Options Study was undertaken to provide improved road network connectivity to the proposed Yamala Enterprise Area (YEA), for agricultural producers within the Priority Agriculture Area (PAA) study area.

Method:

A 3 phase study by SMEC:

Phase 1 - Preliminary Investigations, included desktop data review, on-site inspections and targeted consultation to develop 12 route options.

Phase 2 - Stakeholder Consultation, involved presentation of 6 options to stakeholders. The study undertook an evidence based analysis to provide improved road network connectivity for agricultural producers within the PAA study area to YEA.

Phase 3 - Preferred Option Development, based on consultation, to allow Council to apply for future grant funding. Building upon this qualitative and quantitative data sets a Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) process helped determine a preferred option. The preferred Option 1 was assessed through a Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA).

Results:

The final recommendation is to progress with Option 1, as being the preferred option. CHRC is currently proceeding with the planning, design, approvals and a business case for future grant funding opportunities. The initial concept cost estimates was \$18m for Option 1 – Stage 1.

Conclusion:

The project has a BCR of 1.29, at discount rate of 6% and has the support of the stakeholders. This project is likely to capture more of the indirect and wider benefits of the proposed improved access, e.g. road safety, stimulate new and expanded economic growth, promote tourism, etc identified by stakeholders. Further the opportunity to capitalise on existing funding programs, CHRC road renewal programs and road upgrades through development approval conditions for mining lease.

References:

- PJ Cullivan - George Bourne & Associates.
- J Hoolihan - Manager Infrastructure Central Highlands Regional Council
- SMEC (July 2017). Yamala Feeder Roads Options Study