

Outback Regional Roads and Transport Group



Red sand dunes and ghost gums west of Windorah

Outback RRTG map



22 projects

Total 2023–24 transport infrastructure projects



\$6,272,686

Total Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) 2023–24 allocation

Regional Roads and Transport Group Member Councils

- Barcaldine Regional Council
- Barcoo Shire Council
- Blackall-Tambo Regional Council
- Boulia Shire Council
- Diamantina Shire Council
- Longreach Regional Council
- Winton Shire Council
- TMR Central West District

Regional Roads and Transport Group Members

Chair

Councillor Francis Murray,
Mayor, Diamantina Shire Council

Former Chair

Councillor Gavin Baskett,
former Mayor, Winton Shire Council

Deputy Chair

Councillor Rick Britton,
Mayor, Boulia Shire Council

Technical Committee Chair

Stuart Bourne,
GBA Consulting Engineers

Technical Committee Deputy Chair

Ajay Agwan,
Blackall-Tambo Regional Council

Technical Coordinator

Matthew Brennan and Joeline Barwick,
GBA Consulting Engineers



Outback Regional Roads and Transport Group (RRTG) Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) Program Details

The following information lists the RRTG TIDS 2023–24 works program by local government, with the project name and the year-to-date TIDS expenditure.

Barcaldine Regional Council

Project name	Expenditure
Box Street, Ash Street to Elm Street (Barcaldine), install kerb and channel	\$100,000
Craven Road (Alpha), pave and seal	\$100,000
Barcaldine - Aramac Road (Section 1), rehabilitate and widen	\$1,109,649

Barcoo Shire Council

Project name	Expenditure
Windorah Airport, repair runway	\$119,196
Windorah Airport, runway repairs	\$150,000
Barcoo Shire, planning and design on the state network	\$13,920
Diamantina Developmental Road (Quilpie - Windorah), Long Crossing to Windorah (Section 1), widen pavement	\$146,824

Blackall Tambo Regional Council

Project name	Expenditure
Ward Road (Tambo), pave and seal	\$200,000

Boulia Shire Council

Project name	Expenditure
Various roads, reseal bitumen	\$150,000
Diamantina Developmental Road (Dajarra - Mount Isa), Waverly Creek northern approach, undertake safety improvements	\$45,762

Diamantina Shire Council

Project name	Expenditure
Birdsville Simpson Desert National Park Road (Big Red Road), pave and seal	\$150,000
Birdsville township, various roads, install footpaths	\$75,248
Eyre Developmental Road (Bedourie - Birdsville), pave and seal	\$10,149



Windorah Airstrip Upgrade, Barcoo Shire Council

Longreach Regional Council

Project name	Expenditure
Bustard Street (Longreach), kerb and channel	\$25,000
Isisford township, various roads, rehabilitate pavement including kerb and channelling	\$100,000
Longreach - Silsoe Road, bitumen reseal	\$50,000
Longreach township, install roundabouts	\$50,000
Stonehenge River Road (Longreach), bitumen reseal	\$50,000
Cramsie - Muttaborra Road, rehabilitate and widen pavement	\$1,796,581
Ilfracombe - Aramac Road, gravel resheeting	\$313,000

Winton Shire Council

Project name	Expenditure
Winton Airport, improve runway lighting	\$150,000
Richmond - Winton Road, pave and seal	\$1,006,603

Project Story

Barcoo Shire Council, Windorah Airstrip Upgrade – Runway repairs and resurfacing

Submitted by Barcoo Shire Council.

Barcoo Shire Council celebrates the completion of the major refurbishment of the Windorah airstrip. This important project costs more than \$2.8 million and shows the importance of collaboration in regional development and infrastructure.

The refurbishment was part-funded by Barcoo Shire Council and part-funded by both levels of government, the state government, and the federal government, under the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program.

This partnership aims to bring regional infrastructure and safety up to scratch and keep remote communities thriving.

Major upgrades include improvements to the taxiway, runway, and pavement infrastructure, as well as meeting the strict safety criteria. Importantly, the newly upgraded facility will help support aviation operations as well as the provision of essential services, such as healthcare, emergency food aid and other essential supplies and services. The facility will also allow the Royal Flying Doctor Service to provide outreach medical services and aid better.

For the duration of the project, the local council ensured that there was as little disruption to the community as possible, with a regular bus service, run in conjunction with REX Airlines and Translink, between Windorah and Quilpie on the usual flight routes to keep the community connected.

The project was not without its problems, however. Unexpected rain and unexpected geological conditions tested the perseverance and ingenuity of the council's work crews and consequently led to inventive solutions that reduced breaks in construction and allowed the completion of the project on time.

*Windorah airstrip, Barcoo Shire Council
- during the refurbishment ▶*

The Windorah airstrip hasn't just been refurbished. It's been set on a path for the future as a crucial enabler that will foster outback development and maintain the airstrip's role as an agent of regional development and interconnectedness.

The project demonstrates the power of local government cooperation and partnership.

This is evident in the work of the Outback RRTG. The Barcoo Shire and its partners remain an excellent example of shared purpose and a collective desire to improve life and safety in the community.



Project Story

Diamantina Shire Council, Birdsville Footpaths – Installation of footpaths

Submitted by Diamantina Shire Council.

In the heart of the Simpson Desert lies the small yet iconic town of Birdsville, where the population of 80 swells to thousands during events like the Big Red Bash and Birdsville Races. Recognising the need for better pedestrian access, Diamantina Shire Council undertook a discretionary TIDS project to construct a footpath connecting the pub, bakery, and police station.

Every July, the Big Red Bash brings music lovers from around the globe to Birdsville, transforming the town into a bustling hub under the vast desert skies.

This influx of visitors and the annual Birdsville Races highlighted the necessity for a safe, convenient walkway.

The project wasn’t without its challenges. Extensive rainfall and flooding in late 2023 to early 2024 caused significant road closures, making it difficult for the construction team to progress. Despite these obstacles, the council’s commitment to enhancing community infrastructure prevailed, and the footpath was successfully completed.

The new footpath is more than just a pathway; it significantly improves the town’s infrastructure, ensuring that residents and visitors can navigate Birdsville safely, even during peak event times. This project is a testament to the resilience and dedication of the Diamantina Shire Council and its ability to overcome natural challenges to serve its community better.



▲
*Birdsville footpath, Diamantina Shire Council
- installation*



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Birdsville footpath, Diamantina Shire Council



Project Story

Winton Shire Council, Richmond-Winton Road – Pavement and seal

Submitted by Winton Shire Council.

Winton Shire Council are proud to announce the successful completion of significant upgrades to the Richmond-Winton Road, a crucial transport artery in Queensland's vast outback.

Stretching 145km and consisting of sealed and unsealed sections, the Richmond-Winton Road is vital for linking local cattle properties to major freight routes, including the Landsborough and Flinders Highways. Moreover, it serves as an

essential gateway for tourism, opening the heart of the outback Queensland to visitors eager to explore its unique landscapes and heritage.

This imperative section was supported by Tranche 1 and 2 of the Road Safety Program, totalling \$10.27 million. With this link being of such significance to Winton Shire Council, they internally opted to contribute approximately \$2.4 million of TIDS funding as well.

From March 2021 to October 2023, the Richmond-Winton Road upgrade covered three key phases, enhancing 15.5km of the road:

- Safety Improvements: Targeted upgrades aimed at reducing accident risks.
- Flood Resilience: Sections of the road were

elevated and sealed to improve wet season accessibility.

- Maintenance Efficiency: Upgraded road surfaces are designed for reduced maintenance needs, contributing to cost savings.
- Ride Quality: The project delivered a smoother road surface, enhancing the travel experience.

Specifically, the upgrades included:

- Phase 1 (March 2021 - September 2021): Addressed specific chainages, resulting in a seal expansion over 6.876km.
- Phase 2 (September 2021 - June 2022): Continued road improvements over an additional 5.960km.



Richmond-Winton Road, Winton Shire Council - during construction

- Phase 3 (May 2023 - October 2023): Completed the final sealing works covering 2.700km.

This initiative reflects a strategic approach to enhancing road infrastructure, focusing on precise improvements based on the segments' requirements.

The completion of the Richmond-Winton Road upgrades is a proud moment for the Winton Shire Council.

We're grateful to everyone who played a part, from planners to workers, and our collaboration with the Queensland Government. This project is a leap forward in our ongoing efforts to improve local infrastructure, directly benefiting our community's safety and connectivity. We look forward to the positive changes this will bring to our region and remain dedicated to enhancing our transport network for all.