

Clarence Way Upgrade

Supporting community access, agriculture, industry and tourism



Kyogle Council needs \$14 million to complete the upgrade of the Clarence Way from Bonalbo to Urbenville.

An important regional road connecting communities from Queensland to Grafton, the Clarence Way is 210.7km long and links key agricultural communities in the Upper Clarence to regional towns and distribution hubs both sides of the NSW-Queensland border.

The project

Safety concerns, freight limitations and poor road conditions have driven the need to upgrade 48.5km of the Clarence Way between Sandilands and Urbenville.

Significant upgrade works have been completed to date, demonstrating Council's commitment to improving this link, these include:

- 18km upgrade between Bonalbo and Urbenville – \$25.9M
- 17.5km upgrade from Sandilands to Bonalbo - \$24.34M, with completion scheduled by end June 2026.



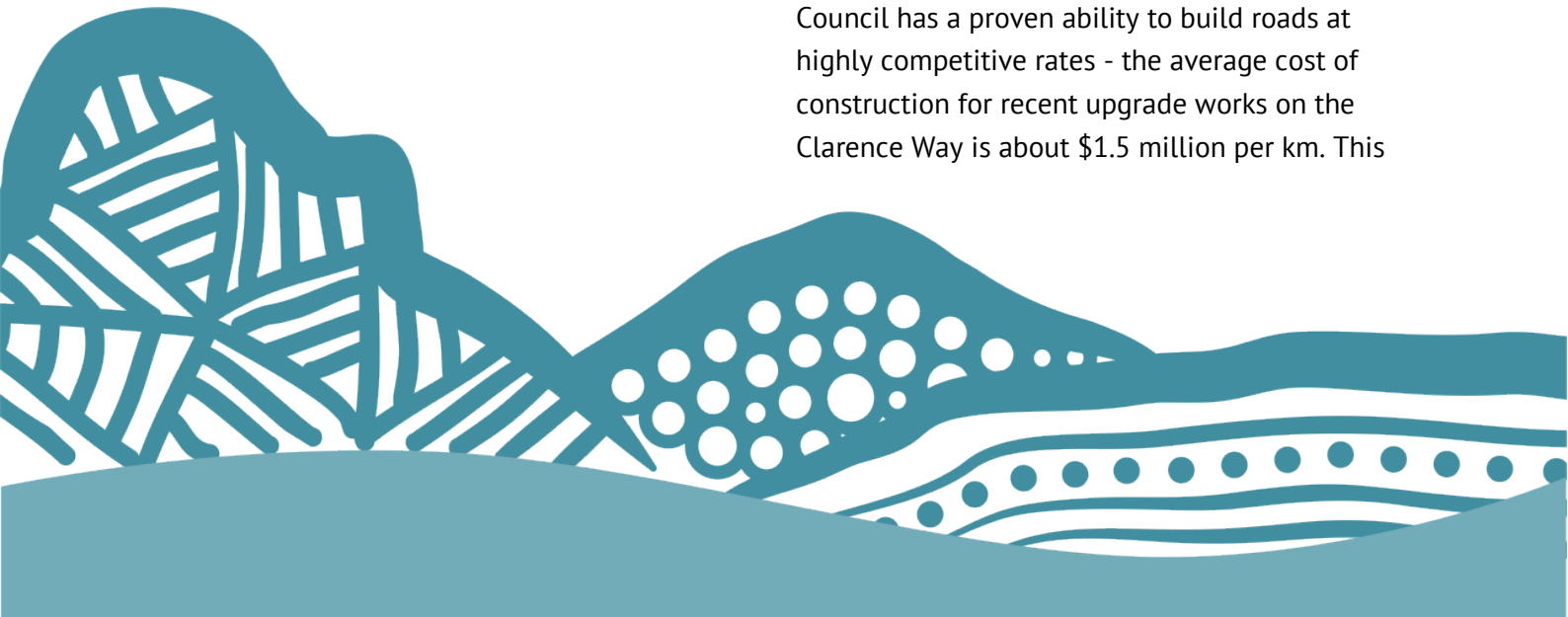
The poor condition of the Clarence Way is stifling community and economic development.

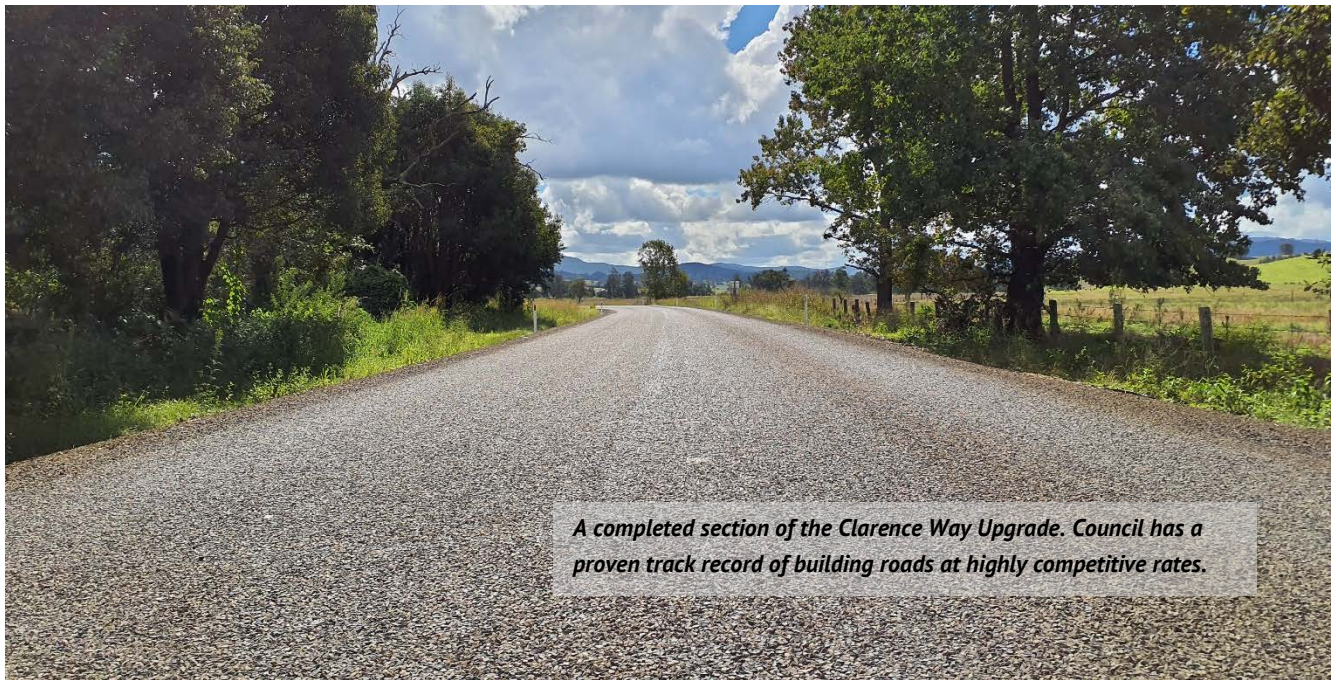
Despite substantial progress, further works are needed, and completion of the upgrade remains one of Council's highest priorities.

The challenge

More than 13 km of the Bonalbo to Urbenville section of the Clarence Way remains below the required standard and requires upgrading. Council has secured \$5 million in funding to upgrade a further 3.4 km within this section, however, additional funding is required to complete the remaining works.

Council has a proven ability to build roads at highly competitive rates - the average cost of construction for recent upgrade works on the Clarence Way is about \$1.5 million per km. This





A completed section of the Clarence Way Upgrade. Council has a proven track record of building roads at highly competitive rates.

compares to the IPART benchmark in 2021 \$2 million per km, which is calculated to have grown to \$2.8 million today.

Significance of the Clarence Way

The Clarence Way is the lifeblood for rural communities in the west of the Kyogle local government area (LGA). It is the ONLY transport option connecting communities, businesses and tourism and is the major economic driver for the area.

The Upper Clarence supports established beef, dairy, forestry, and horticulture industries and is an increasingly popular destination for tourists.

The poor condition of the Clarence Way has previously been identified by industry as seriously impacting their current operations and any potential future investment.

Kyogle Council's economic modelling shows that the completed upgrade would bring 63 jobs and provide a massive boost to the local economy.



The project requires replacement of ageing stormwater infrastructure.



Due to the remote location of the Clarence Way, Council has experienced challenges and incurred exorbitant costs associated with transporting natural resources such as water and quarry materials to the sites.