

MEDIA STATEMENT

27 November 2018

Bruce Highway north of Gympie to be good as gold

Motorists travelling on the Bruce Highway, north of Gympie, will soon have a safer drive after an upgrade contract was recently awarded.

Wide Bay Burnett District Director Hendrik Roux announced the contract had been awarded to Hazell Bros Group Pty Ltd.

“The \$17.75 million project will provide safer travel conditions and better traffic flow along a 4.7-kilometre stretch of the highway,” Mr Roux said.

“Dedicated turn lanes will be built to improve safety by separating through and turning traffic, reducing the potential for rear-end crashes.

“The project also involves widening works, flattening roadside slopes and installing guard rail at various locations to reduce the severity of any off-road crashes.

“A wide centre line treatment will be reinstated to provide greater separation between vehicles travelling in opposite directions.

“A new layer of asphalt will also be placed along this stretch to improve the road’s longevity and reduce future maintenance costs.”

Mr Roux said the works would go a long way toward improving safety and providing a free-flowing corridor.

“About 16,000 vehicles travel along this busy road each day, including more than 2800 heavy vehicles,” he said.

“Upgrades to this important freight and transport link will allow everyone to reach their destination sooner and safer and are also an important investment for the area.

“The project is expected to support an average of 58 direct jobs over the life of the project and provide a boost to the local economy.

“Construction is due to start early in the New Year and be completed by the end of 2019, weather permitting.

Works will generally be carried out between 6am and 6pm, Monday to Saturday.

“To carry out these works safely and efficiently, traffic controllers, single-lane closures, temporary detours and speed restrictions may be in place.

“Motorists should be patient, drive to the changed conditions and obey all signs while these works are under way.”

Safety improvements will occur at the following Bruce Highway intersections:

- **Fleming Road intersection:** Building a dedicated right-turn lane
- **McCullough/Benson roads intersection:** Building dedicated right and left-turn lanes
- **Robert Road intersection:** Building a dedicated right-turn lane
- **Vantage Road intersection:** Building a dedicated right-turn and left-turn lane, offset from the through lane on the highway, to improve visibility for motorists entering the highway
- **Service road intersections:** Building dedicated right and left-turn lanes at the access near Irvine Road, closing the most northern access to the service road (near Reynolds Road) and restricting movements at the most southern access to left-out only
- **Reynolds/Rammutt Road intersection:** Building a dedicated right-turn lane on the highway to Reynolds Road
- **Fishermans Pocket Road intersection:** Building dedicated right and left-turn lanes
- **Fraser Road and Fritz Road intersections:** Completing minor modifications to meet current design standards, as part of the road widening works.

For further information about this project, phone 1300 728 390 or email bundaberg.office@tmr.qld.gov.au.

Funding for works on Bruce Highway, north of Gympie:

Program	Package	Funding
Bruce Highway Upgrade Program	Bruce Highway Safety Package	\$9.6 million (Federal) \$2.4 million (State)
Bruce Highway Upgrade Program	Blackspots, Rest Areas and Safety Upgrades	\$5.75 million (Federal)

ENDS

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