

# MEDIA STATEMENT

18 July 2023

## Queensland Driver Reviver sites undergoing changes

After long-standing participation in the Driver Reviver Program, Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has given council and community groups the green light to take over the program.

In recent months, TMR has worked closely with local representatives across the state to transition the management of Driver Reviver sites to be led at a local level.

It is expected this change will bring dual benefits to road users and local communities by providing opportunities for the program to operate beyond school holiday periods.

While TMR is transitioning the management of the driver reviver sites, it is important to note the 18 rest areas where the Driver Reviver sites operated, will remain open to the public 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year for motorists to stop and manage fatigue.

Out of the 18 TMR-managed Driver Reviver sites:

- Seven will be led by the local community or council and moved to another location
- Seven Driver Reviver sites had previously transitioned to a nearby council or closed, following a community or volunteer decision
- Four Driver Reviver sites will close, but continue to operate as a rest area for motorists.

The Driver Reviver Program encourages drivers travelling long distances to take a break every two hours at rest areas and to enjoy a free refreshment before they continue safely on their journey.

This will potentially increase foot traffic through local community businesses and tourism operators helping to support jobs and our great lifestyle.

Most of these sites will transition to local councils or community groups to continue to run the program through their Visitor Information Centres which operate most days of the year, or another nearby location.

Most current Driver Reviver services only operate during holiday periods, meaning moving these sites will provide a more regular service for drivers.

Across Queensland, more than 450 rest areas continue to be open to motorists to help manage fatigue 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

### **Quotes attributed to Transport and Main Roads Northern Regional Director and department lead for the program, Adam Ainsworth.**

"The safety of travellers on Queensland roads is our first priority, which is why the department has worked closely with councils, volunteer and community representatives to transition the state's Driver Reviver sites to be managed by them.

"The transition also means the local councils and community groups in the area can help evolve the program to meet the ongoing needs of visitors and travellers.

"Fatigue is still a major contributor to crashes, which is why it is so important that we continue to raise awareness of the signs of fatigue while driving and being prepared for long road trips.

"I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the volunteers who have made this program a success over the years with their dedication and hard work."

**Explainer/fast fact and or further information (when required/relevant):**

There has been a huge drop-off in the use of driver reviver sites by motorists of up to 80 per cent.

A rest area is a public facility located next to a large thoroughfare such as a motorway or highway, at which drivers and passengers can rest, eat, or refuel without exiting onto secondary roads.

Driver Reviver is a nationally managed program, supported by volunteers which would usually be located on a rest area or community space.

Rest areas will remain open to the public.

**Driver reviver outcomes**

<b>Driver Reviver</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Frances Creek	Operate through the Tyto Wetlands Visitor Information Centre.
Gunalda (Gympie)	Under consideration to continue at a nearby Visitor Information Centre.
Innisfail (Fred Drew Park)	Operate through two Visitor Information Centres at Cardwell and Tully.
Mount Gordon (Bowen)	Under consideration to continue at a nearby Visitor Information Centre.
Yaamba	Under consideration to continue at a nearby Visitor Information Centre.
Hughenden (Apex Park)	Council or community groups will continue to manage the Driver Reviver Program locally, either from the existing local government owned site, or from an alternate location.
Julia Creek (George Sills Park).	Council or community groups will continue to manage the Driver Reviver Program locally, either from the existing local government owned site, or from an alternate location.
Gin Gin	The Driver Reviver Program will no longer operate at this site. Unfortunately, much of the TMR-owned driver reviver infrastructure across the state is not safe and the cost of repairs and ongoing maintenance is not feasible. The safety of our volunteers, staff and the travelling public is always our first priority. The rest area will remain open to motorists to pull over and take a break. Alternative commercial options are a two-minute drive away.
Gladfield (Warwick)	The Driver Reviver Program will no longer operate at this site. Unfortunately, much of the TMR-owned Driver Reviver infrastructure across the state is not safe and the cost of repairs and ongoing maintenance is not feasible. The safety of our volunteers, staff and the travelling public is always our first priority. The rest area will remain open to

	motorists to pull over and take a break. Alternative commercial options are a 16-minute drive away.
Granite Creek	The Driver Reviver Program will no longer operate at this site. Unfortunately, much of the TMR-owned Driver Reviver infrastructure across the state is not safe and the cost of repairs and ongoing maintenance is not feasible. The safety of our volunteers, staff and the travelling public is always our first priority. The rest area will remain open to motorists to pull over and take a break. Alternative commercial options are a one-hour drive away.
Waverley Creek	The Driver Reviver Program will no longer operate at this site. Unfortunately, much of the TMR-owned driver reviver infrastructure across the state is not safe and the cost of repairs and ongoing maintenance is not feasible. The safety of our volunteers, staff and the travelling public is always our first priority. The rest area will remain open to motorists to pull over and take a break. Alternative commercial options are a 22-minute drive away.
Sandy Corner	Previously closed.
Tully (Bilyana)	Previously closed
Fountain Springs	Previously closed
Calliope River	Previously closed
Amberley	Previously closed
Nambour (Northbound BP) (Chevallum)	Previously closed
Ormeau (Brien Harris oval)	Previously closed

ENDS

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