

# MEDIA STATEMENT

18 May 2022

## Update on Gold Coast hinterland roads emergency works

Emergency works have continued on the Gold Coast hinterland's Beechmont and Gold Coast-Springbrook roads, despite further heavy rain in the past week.

Weeks of stabilisation work on Beechmont Road means a temporary, single-lane side track can now be built around the major landslip to restore access for Lower Beechmont's residents and businesses.

Transport and Main Roads Acting South Coast Regional Director Andrew Wheeler said the department had started work immediately to stabilise the slope after heavy rainfall caused significant damage in February and March.

"This is a natural disaster, and the sixth major weather-related event in the region in the last three years," Mr Wheeler said.

"We understand the impact this closure has had, and teams have been working tirelessly to repair the damage as quickly as possible.

"I am pleased to give Beechmont Road residents the good news the team will be working day and night to build the side track for additional access to and from Beechmont during reconstruction of the landslip."

Mr Wheeler said the track was expected to be open in July and would confirm an exact date in coming weeks.

"Some restricted travel times and conditions will be needed for the permanent reconstruction works, so the side track will be closed between 8.30am and 2.30pm Monday to Friday," he said.

"This means drivers can get to work or school in the mornings and home again in the afternoons, with repairs continuing throughout the day to restore full access as soon as possible.

"The side track will also remain open on weekends, however some work may result in short delays and we expect to continue doing night works where needed.

"Vehicles using the side track will need to be a maximum of 24.5 tonnes, four-tonne maximum wheel load, and trucks and buses must be rigid body."

Mr Wheeler also said a temporary helipad had been secured at Syd Duncan Park, Lower Beechmont, for emergency services.

"We have worked with local emergency services to set up this facility to ensure residents have access to services they need," he said.

At Gold Coast-Springbrook Road, Mr Wheeler advised the extent of damage at the landslip site meant it would remain closed between Neranwood Park and Pine Creek Road for an extended period of time.

"Ongoing assessments have confirmed the extent of damage from the major landslip on the one-way section of road is far worse than originally anticipated and will require an extensive works program," he said.

"While it is too early to say exactly how long the closure will last, we expect it could be in place from 18 months to two years.

"A side track is unfortunately not possible here due to geotechnical constraints and the sheer extent of the damage.

"I understand that this extended closure will be a major inconvenience to many, however, the challenging and technically difficult site, along with the extent of the damage means we won't be able to open the road until it is safe to do so."

Mr Wheeler said traffic to and from Springbrook would continue to use Pine Creek Road as an alternative.

"The emergency works and reconstruction will involve major scaling activities and stabilisation works," he said.

"On the upslope is stabilised, further assessment and restoration work will be needed on the road and downslope area.

"Motorist safety has always been our first priority and we thank the community for its patience while we work to restore the roads."

Mr Wheeler said in addition to the landslip site, there were at least 15 other major sites needing significant reconstruction work along Gold Coast-Springbrook Road.

"The bad weather this month has resulted in another major slip within the closed section of Gold Coast Springbrook Road and further assessments are needed," he said.

"We will continue to keep the community updated as this disaster recovery work progresses."

Assistance will be provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

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