

Labrador–Carrara Road and Ashmore Road intersection upgrade works

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

June 2016

What works are taking place at the Labrador–Carrara Road and Ashmore Road roundabout?

The Department of Transport and Main Roads will signalise the intersection of Labrador–Carrara Road (also known locally as Ross Street and Currumburra Road) and Ashmore Road.

This will involve:

- removing the existing roundabout
- reconfiguring traffic lanes through the intersection
- installing traffic signals and signalised pedestrian crossings
- constructing traffic islands and on road cycle lanes
- laying new road pavement and surfacing.

Why is this project necessary?

The Gold Coast is the fastest growing city in Queensland and the transport network is already feeling the pressure from population growth and the increasing number of visitors coming to the city to experience one of Australia's premier tourist destinations.

The Labrador–Carrara Road and Ashmore Road intersection carries more than 45,000 vehicles per day and has been identified as an intersection that is at capacity during peak times.

This project is designed to improve performance through the intersection. Converting the roundabout to a signalised intersection will maintain road network capacity, reduce traffic congestion and improve traffic flows.

What are the benefits of the project?

Converting the Labrador–Carrara Road roundabout to traffic signals will improve performance of the intersection by reducing travel times, traffic delays and queue lengths, as well as improving road safety.

A signalised intersection:

- allows road users to safely navigate through the intersection
- gives priority to a particular direction of travel at different times of the day
- allows large volumes of traffic to pass through the intersection with minimal delay.

Other safety improvements include:

- dedicated turn lanes on all legs of the intersection
- signalised pedestrian crossings on three legs of the intersection – Ashmore Road west, Currumburra Road and Ashmore Road east
- two metre-wide shared paths for pedestrians and leisure cyclists
- on-road cycle lanes for commuter riders

Search 'traffic signals' at www.tmr.qld.gov.au for more information on signalised intersections.

What is the cost of the intersection upgrade?

A funding commitment of \$30 million has been made to upgrade the Labrador–Carrara Road intersection. This project is one of a \$160.7 million package of upgrade projects designed to improve road network capacity on key Gold Coast routes.

This funding commitment includes costs related to planning, design, public service utility relocations, and construction.

Is this upgrade related to the Commonwealth Games?

Transport and Main Roads continually reviews the performance of the state-controlled road network to develop and implement a program of prioritised improvement projects.

The Labrador–Carrara Road intersection upgrade is one of a \$160.7 million package of road network upgrade projects on the Gold Coast designed to improve road network capacity.

Delivery of these projects will help ensure the road network is in good shape ahead of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Completion of this project will enable Gold Coast motorists to safely and efficiently use the road network before, during and after the Commonwealth Games.

For more information on the \$160.7 million package of road network upgrade projects refer to the June 2015 brochure *Road network improvements – Gold Coast* on the Transport and Main Roads website at www.tmr.qld.gov.au/projects.

Are land resumptions required?

The Labrador–Carrara Road intersection upgrade has been designed to fit within the existing road corridor and no land resumptions are required.

Will access to my property change?

While roundabouts provide opportunities for U-turn movements, the traffic volumes at the existing roundabout are such that U-turns could only be made safely at limited times. These traffic volumes are the reason why the roundabout is being upgraded to a signalised intersection. However, due to the geometry of the upgraded intersection, traffic capacity considerations, and potential traffic conflict points, it will not be possible to allow U-turn movements on all legs of the intersection. U-turn movements will be permitted on the Ashmore Road western leg allowing eastbound motorists on Ashmore Road (heading towards Benowa) to U-turn back towards the west. U-turn movements will not be permitted on the Currumburra Road leg, the Ross Street leg and the Ashmore Road (east) leg of the intersection. This will mean adopting alternative routes for access to properties depending on the direction of travel.

Properties that have driveway access within close proximity to the existing roundabout may have periods during construction when their access is changed or temporarily limited. Residents will be provided with advance notice via door knock or letterbox flyers.

Some driveways may require reconstruction as part of these works. In these cases, driveways will be replaced with 'like for like' and building and structure condition surveys will be undertaken prior to any construction activity within the property boundary.

Will on-street parking be affected?

A key objective for Transport and Main Roads is to provide an integrated transport system that supports the safe, efficient and reliable movement of people and goods. The department's priority is to provide and maintain a road network that assists with this objective.

While on-street parking is not a contributing factor in meeting this objective, where the road footprint is wide enough, the department considers provision for on-street parking, provided it does not impact on traffic flows and is consistent with the parking strategies of the council of the City of Gold Coast (CoGC).

The Labrador–Carrara Road intersection upgrade has been designed within the current road footprint to minimise additional land requirements. However, this means there will be some impact to on-street parking to allow for additional lanes through the intersection.

Will there be any changes to the current speed limit?

To ensure the safety of road users and roadworkers during construction of the Labrador–Carrara Road intersection upgrade, the speed limit will be reduced to 40km/h at all times through the work zone.

Once the project is complete, the speed limits on Ross Street and Currumburra Road will be permanently reduced to 60km/h on the approaches to the intersection.

Is additional street lighting being installed?

As part of the Labrador–Carrara Road intersection upgrade, some additional street lights will be installed at new locations, however the level of road lighting will remain the same.

Street lighting on this project has been designed in accordance with Australian Standards to meet stringent safety requirements for road users.

Lighting covers (or shrouds) are no longer installed as they compromise the illumination performance of the street lighting, and therefore pose an unacceptable risk to vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

To ensure street light glare is minimised the department uses specially designed lights with the light bulb recessed into the casing.

Where will bus stop locations be?

As part of the Labrador–Carrara Road intersection upgrade a new bus stop will be installed northbound on Ross Street, to service the new shopping centre on the southwest corner of the intersection.

An additional bus stop southbound on Currumburra Road will also be installed.

Bus stops on Ashmore Road, east and west of the intersection, will remain unchanged. Note that Ashmore Road, and its associated infrastructure, is under the jurisdiction of the council of City of Gold Coast. Council can be contacted on email via mail@goldcoast.qld.gov.au or by calling 1300 465 326.

What landscape changes are required for this project?

Transport and Main Roads is committed to managing its road network in a manner that optimises outcomes for the natural, social and built environments.

The department uses a range of environmental expertise to develop detailed management plans to ensure all of its road projects are environmentally sustainable. Vegetation clearing for any road improvement works are kept to a minimum and only carried out where necessary.

In the case of the Labrador–Carrara Road intersection upgrade, some landscape vegetation will be removed to make way for new infrastructure. Due to minimal space within the road corridor, most landscaping replacement is limited to turf only. Should new vegetation be planted it will be of a compact native variety such as dwarf lilly pillies.

When will construction start and end?

A construction contract was awarded to Mcllwain Civil Engineering Pty Ltd on 23 October 2015.

A temporary full closure of the roundabout was carried out in early March that allowed significant drainage and road pavement works through the roundabout area. Some future partial closures will be required to lay final asphalt surfaces.

The project is expected to be completed by mid-2016, weather, site and contractor conditions permitting.

What can residents expect during project construction?

The Labrador–Carrara Road intersection upgrade will be constructed in stages.

Lighting towers will be required during night hours but will be directed away from residences wherever possible. Reverse beepers and flashing light beacons on machinery and vehicles are a safety requirement and must continue to be used during night work hours.

There are some earthworks required for this project and heavy machinery will be in use.

MCE will mostly work from 6am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 6pm Saturday. In general, all construction activities will cease at 10pm, however there have been, and will continue to be, times when these hours are extended, for example when installing underground services across the intersection. Whenever possible, advance notice of works after 10pm will be provided to residents.

MCE has prepared a Noise and Vibration Construction Management Plan and regularly conduct noise monitoring during construction to verify compliance with the plan. A report on MCE's compliance with the plan will be provided to Transport and Main Roads for review each month.

As the works depot needed to be situated on a level and wide parcel of land, the City of Gold Coast provided approval for MCE to set up a works compound at Gunyah Park in Girraween Grove, Ashmore. Conditions of this approval include MCE installing a 1.8 metre high security fence on all sides of the compound, and the area restored to its original condition once the project is completed.

Can residents request relocation while works are underway?

As a state government department, Transport and Main Roads is lawfully authorised to carry out roadworks to improve the road network for the benefit of the whole community.

The department does not relocate residents while roadworks are taking place.

Transport and Main Roads is always mindful of the impacts of roadworks and does everything that can be reasonably expected to minimise inconvenience.

The department is committed to keeping everyone informed with timely and accurate information on the Labrador–Carrara Road intersection upgrade. Every effort will be made to provide residents with early notice of upcoming works to help residents plan their daily activities.

How will traffic conditions change during roadworks?

Local motorists should expect varying travel delays during the Labrador–Carrara Road intersection upgrade, while through motorists should consider alternative routes whenever possible.

During construction, road conditions will frequently change, including:

- lane and road shoulder closures
- short duration traffic stoppages
- narrowed lanes
- 'switches' between traffic lanes
- changing road surface levels.

To ensure the safety of road users and roadworkers, the speed limit will be reduced to 40km/h at all times during this project. While there may be times when there are no roadwork crews onsite, this reduced speed

limit will remain in place because of the changing traffic conditions outlined above. If you cannot see a roadworker, it does not mean you can increase your speed – there may still be hazards.

All motorists are reminded that roadwork speed limits are enforceable and they should continue to obey roadwork signs and traffic controllers. Keeping a safe distance between you and other vehicles, and from traffic barriers, construction equipment and roadwork crews is recommended.

Road users should subscribe to the free traffic alert SMS or email system for updates on changing traffic conditions once construction starts. Register for either or both services at RossStreet@tmr.qld.gov.au or call 5563 6600 (standard call charges apply).

Will road traffic noise increase once the project is complete?

Road traffic noise is recognised as a concern for many people living adjacent to or near motorways and arterial roads that have high traffic volumes and individual noisy vehicles.

Transport and Main Roads manages road traffic noise in accordance with the *Transport Noise Management Code of Practice Volume 1 – Road Traffic Noise November 2013*. The Code of Practice sets out standard processes for dealing with the effects of road traffic noise on properties adjacent to state-controlled roads.

The department carried out road traffic noise monitoring before construction started on the Labrador–Carrara Road intersection upgrade. The monitoring involved measuring noise levels along this section of roadway. After the project has been completed TMR will again carry out noise monitoring to assess whether noise levels have changed.

Should a requirement be identified Transport and Main Roads will be guided by the Code of Practice in relation to any mitigation measures.

Funding for any noise mitigation treatments has not been allocated and is not a part of this project.

While the Labrador–Carrara Road intersection upgrade is designed to improve current traffic performance by reducing travel times and queue lengths through the intersection, there is no expectation that road traffic noise will increase as a result. However, the upgrade will provide a new, smoother-riding asphalt road surface, which will help reduce existing traffic noise levels.

For more information about managing road traffic noise visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au and search for ‘transport noise management code of practice’.

Will there be any impact to pedestrians or cyclists during the works?

During construction of the Labrador–Carrara Road intersection upgrade, pedestrians and cyclists are advised to seek alternative routes whenever possible.

When passing through the work zone, pedestrians and cyclists are reminded to be extra vigilant, follow all directional signage and keep their personal safety top of mind.

What about the shopping centre development?

The application for the shopping centre development on the southwest corner of the Labrador–Carrara Road intersection was assessed and approved by the City of Gold Coast (local council). The shopping centre has been designed to have access to both Labrador–Carrara Road (Ross Street) and Ashmore Road. This will ensure the appropriate distribution of traffic and access for users of the development.

Transport and Main Roads has jurisdiction over Labrador–Carrara Road which includes the roundabout that connects with Ashmore Road. TMR assessed the shopping centre development and provided conditions for managing its state interests relating to the operation of Labrador–Carrara Road, the design of the Ross Street access, and potential impacts to public transport.

Ashmore Road east and west of the roundabout is controlled by the local government and is therefore the responsibility of the City of Gold Coast. The design and construction of the development's access to Ashmore Road was reviewed and approved by local council.

For further information about the shopping centre development, or for enquiries regarding Ashmore Road, contact City of Gold Coast on email via mail@goldcoast.qld.gov.au or by calling 1300 465 326.

How can I get more information or keep up-to-date?

Local residents should have received an introductory brochure titled *Road network improvements – Gold Coast* in their letterboxes last year, which included details on the Labrador–Carrara Road intersection upgrade. All residents in the area can expect ongoing letterbox flyers for updates during construction.

Motorists will be advised of changed traffic conditions via static and electronic roadside signage, or can phone 13 19 40 or visit www.131940.qld.gov.au for up-to-date information on traffic disruptions.

All members of the public can subscribe to receive free SMS text messages or email traffic alerts when road and traffic conditions change during construction.

For any questions or comments about the design and construction of these works, or to register for the above services, contact the project team on:

Phone: (07) 5563 6600 during business hours (standard call charges apply)

Email: RossStreet@tmr.qld.gov.au

Web: www.tmr.qld.gov.au

Post: The Department of Transport and Main Roads
PO Box 442, Nerang Qld 4211