

May 2009

Upgrade receives a big lift

The Department of Main Roads is upgrading the Ipswich Motorway between Jervis Street, Darra, and Sandy Creek, Wacol, following the Australian Government's commitment of \$700 million to stage one of the project.

This upgrade includes the widening of the Ipswich Motorway from four to six lanes, with the provision for eight lanes in the future and a major upgrade of the Centenary Highway Interchange involving the construction of a free-flow multi-level interchange, replacing the existing signalised roundabout to improve safety, relieve congestion and enhance reliability.

To continue the fast-tracking of the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Wacol to Darra, Main Roads has used one of the largest rubber-tyred cranes in Australia in its bridge construction.

This large crane:

- weighs over 850 tonnes
- efficiently lifted and placed 34 beams (used for bridge construction), weighing up to 94 tonnes and spanning 37 metres (some of the largest beams ever lifted in Queensland)
- fast-tracked the completion of the new bridge across Bullockhead Creek near Wacol.

This new bridge forms a key part of the new westbound Ipswich Motorway road pavement, which is scheduled to be opened by mid 2009. The current westbound Ipswich Motorway carries up to 80,000 vehicles per day. The upgraded motorway (when four lanes are open in each direction) is designed to accommodate 140,000 vehicles per day.

Over the next six months, many of the 26 bridges under construction will be completed, in addition to the new roadway they support. This means from late 2009, motorists can start enjoying the improved safety, reliability and traffic flow that this upgrade and other projects in the Western Corridor aim to provide.

Key project statistics

- » 550 people are currently employed full-time to deliver the project
- » 400 of 618 piles that are part of bridge foundations have been driven
- » 750,000 of 1.4 million cubic metres of bulk earthworks have been placed
- » 54,000 of 420,000 tonnes of asphalt have been laid
- » 10,000 native trees and 1.1 million native plants are being planted as part of project landscaping

Project benefits

- » improved safety on the Ipswich Motorway between Wacol and Darra
- » reduced congestion
- » improved and consistent traffic flow
- » increased reliability and better travel times.

SAFElink Alliance

The Department of Main Roads established SAFElink Alliance to deliver the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade from Wacol to Darra.

SAFElink Alliance consists of five partners including Main Roads, Leighton Contractors, BMD Constructions, Maunsell Australia and Arup.



Improving safety and traffic flow, and reducing noise

Safety, traffic flow management and noise reduction are key features of the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Wacol to Darra. Main Roads is now using design and construction techniques to provide motorists with a safer, faster and quieter journey.

The techniques being used on the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade from Wacol to Darra include:

Using open-graded asphalt



Different grades of asphalt result in different levels of road noise.

Open-graded asphalt is being applied in many new road projects across Australia, including the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Wacol to Darra. It can provide a smoother, quieter ride for motorists and less road noise for residents alongside the roadway.

Constructing free-flowing turns to keep traffic moving

The Centenary Highway Interchange will be upgraded with a free-flowing multi-level interchange to replace the current signalised roundabout.

Within this interchange will be a number of free-flowing turns that will move motorists from the Ipswich Motorway to the Centenary Highway and vice versa.

These turns will be clearly signed so motorists know which lane they need to select well before their turn.



Using high-impact signage

High-impact signage is now in use in our project area.

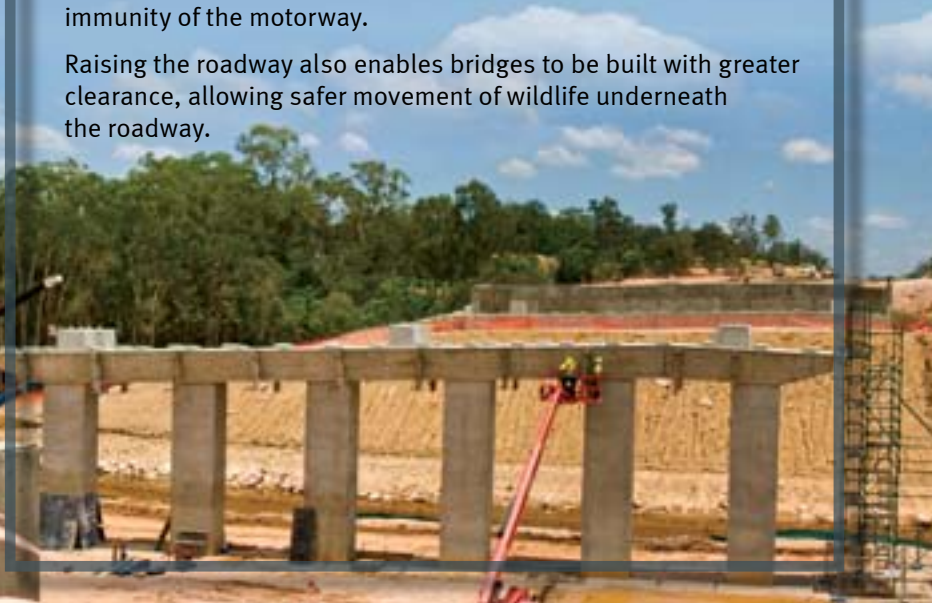
This type of signage is easier to see and is designed to provide motorists with improved guidance on the roadway.



Raising and levelling roadways

A major goal of the upgrade is to level-out the motorway thereby improving the line of sight for motorists, reducing the use of exhaust brakes by heavy vehicle drivers, and improving the flood immunity of the motorway.

Raising the roadway also enables bridges to be built with greater clearance, allowing safer movement of wildlife underneath the roadway.



Empowering the community

Main Roads forges partnerships with the local community to leave a sustainable legacy for future generations.

The Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Wacol to Darra Community Engagement Team has begun rolling out its first round of community programs with six local schools in the area.

Over terms one and two this year Darra State School, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School Darra, Richlands State School, Jindalee State School, Middle Park State School and Jamboree Heights State School will take part in a calendar drawing competition, an environmental education session, via the "Little Green Thumbs" program and a Write-a-Reader competition, in which Grade Six and Seven students write a book about wildlife in their local area. Each competition is designed to help build students' awareness of their community, road safety, road works and environmental and sustainability issues.

Recognising the important role schools play in the local community, the project has also partnered with three local high schools, Centenary State High School, Forest Lake College and Glenala State High School in two programs, the Young Achievement Australia Business Skills Program and Enlighten Education.



Jindalee State School students enjoy the "Little Green Thumbs" session.

These programs are focused on up-skilling our younger generation with the knowledge and skills to be successful and confident business people.

These school-based programs are just some of the initiatives the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Wacol to Darra Community Engagement Team is rolling out in 2009.

Other community based programs proposed include a community

mural project, student internships with the University of Queensland and a Waterways Legacy program.

This will be an exciting year for the local community and the project team as we partner to achieve a brighter and safer future.

There is opportunity for local businesses to partner with the project and local high schools in the Young Achievement Australia Business Skills Program.

If your business would like to get involved or you would like more information on our community programs, contact the project team on 1800 605 410.



Traffic update

In the first half of 2009 there will be a number of major traffic changes necessary for work to continue on the upgrade of the motorway.

By mid 2009

The existing Centenary Highway Interchange will be replaced by a new free-flow system interchange. This includes new temporary right-hand turns from the Centenary Highway to the Ipswich Motorway. To achieve this, traffic will need to be diverted from the interchange over one weekend.

During works, signage, detours and traffic control will be in place to minimise disruption to motorists.

By mid 2009

Opening of the new permanent roadway from Bullockhead Creek to Sandy Creek on the Ipswich Motorway westbound.

By mid 2009

Opening of the new permanent roadway from Sumners Road to Warrender Street on the Centenary Highway southbound.

Staying up-to-date with traffic changes

Main Roads is committed to informing communities and motorists about upcoming roadworks. Traffic changes will be communicated via newspaper and radio advertising, flyer distribution, electronic signage, public information displays, emails, media releases, web updates and SMS messages. Traffic control and signage will guide motorists when each change occurs.

All traffic changes are subject to weather and construction conditions.

For more information, phone the free-call community hotline on 1800 605 410.



Early works underway between Wacol and Gailes

Work to upgrade the Ipswich Motorway between Wacol and Gailes is progressing with the relocation of services, west of Progress Road (Sandy Creek, Wacol to the Ipswich/Logan Motorway Interchange, Gailes).

These early works involve:

- relocating existing public utility plant services including gas, electricity, water, telecommunications and sewer pipes
- placing barriers along the Ipswich Motorway
- undertaking minor vegetation clearing works.

During these early works, you may notice some changes along the Ipswich Motorway at Wacol. These changes will include increased vehicle movements, traffic management signs and personnel.

Main Roads is endeavouring to minimise disruptions where possible, and to ensure the safety of motorists, pedestrians and workers at the site.

Business updates available

Keeping our communities and stakeholders informed is an important part of Main Roads' business. The project team is offering project update sessions to businesses in Darra, Wacol and Richlands.

The update sessions typically run for around one hour and are delivered at your business by project team members. The updates cover the following topics and can be tailored to meet your needs:

- project background
- construction progress
- upcoming traffic changes.

If you and your colleagues would like to know more about the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade, contact us to book an update today. Bookings can be made by calling **1800 605 410** or emailing wacol2darra@mainroads.qld.gov.au

Right: An aerial photo of Ipswich Motorway works between Sandy Creek, Wacol and the Centenary Highway Interchange



How will the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade between Wacol and Darra benefit motorists?

- Improved safety and reliability.
- Improved traffic flow between the Ipswich Motorway and Centenary Highway.
- Reduced congestion on the Ipswich Motorway and Centenary Highway.



Transforming the Western Corridor

The Ipswich Motorway Upgrade from Wacol to Darra is just one of the projects that are transforming the Western Corridor. Many projects are now underway to improve road and public transport infrastructure throughout this corridor and from day to day the landscape is changing.

The aerial construction photos below show just how much the landscape is changing between Wacol and Darra as this upgrade moves towards completion in December 2010.



March 2008



February 2009



An artist's impression of the upgraded Centenary Highway Interchange

Contact us

Community Engagement Team:

Phone: 1800 605 410

Free call Australia wide. Higher rates apply from mobile phones and pay phones.

Email: wacol2darra@mainroads.qld.gov.au

Post: Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Wacol to Darra
Reply Paid, PO Box 942,
Sumner Park BC QLD 4074
(no stamp required)

Website: www.mainroads.qld.gov.au/wacol2darra

Other major projects in the area

Centenary Highway Extension

Phone: 1800 500 544

Email: centenary@mainroads.qld.gov.au

Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Ipswich/Logan Interchange

Phone: 1800 703 093

Email: ipswich.logan@mainroads.qld.gov.au

Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Dinmore to Goodna

Phone: 1800 465 682

Email: dinmore2goodna@mainroads.qld.gov.au

Darra to Springfield Transport Corridor (Road and Rail)

Phone: 1800 887 464

Email: info@horizon.incite.com.au

Corinda to Darra Rail Upgrade

Phone: 1800 680 385

Email: corinda2darra@trackstar.incite.com.au

For general information on all Western Corridor transport projects phone 1800 013 189