

September 2009

### Flowing freely through the interchange

**Improved safety, reduced congestion and improved traffic flow are just some of the benefits motorists will experience when the Australian Government funded Ipswich Motorway Upgrade from Wacol to Darra is completed by December 2010.**

Motorists using the new multi-level Centenary Highway Interchange are already enjoying free-flowing access between the Centenary Highway and Ipswich Motorway.

The new Centenary Highway Interchange, with free-flowing turns from the Centenary Highway northbound to the Ipswich Motorway eastbound, and the Centenary Highway southbound, to the Ipswich Motorway westbound, has significantly reduced congestion for more than 55,000 vehicles travelling through the interchange every day.

The replacement of the signalised roundabout with a new free-flowing system involved some of the most complex traffic changes undertaken on the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade from Wacol to Darra. These changes were vital in allowing works to continue on upgrading the interchange while maintaining traffic flow for motorists.

After another four weeks of construction, the new free-flowing right-hand turns were completed and opened to traffic on 11 July.

Constructing a new, multi-level, free-flowing interchange has resulted in a smoother link between the Ipswich Motorway and Centenary Highway. Motorists now have a safer and more reliable connection to these vital arterial roads within the Western Corridor.



*The Centenary Highway Interchange still using the roundabout*



*The Centenary Highway Interchange now free-flowing and almost complete*

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#### Key project statistics

- 509 people are currently employed full-time to deliver the project
- 610 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
- 167,015 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 Transport and Main Roads established SAFELink Alliance to deliver the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade from Wacol to Darra.

SAFELink Alliance consists of five partners including the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Leighton Contractors, BMD Constructions, AECOM and Arup.



## Community programs

The Department of Transport and Main Roads forges partnerships with the local community to leave a sustainable legacy for future generations.

Since February this year, the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Wacol to Darra Community Engagement Team has been rolling out a series of community programs with six local primary schools in the area.

### Calendar Drawing Competition

During terms one and two of 2009, hundreds of entries were received in a calendar drawing competition from students in grades one to five from Darra State School, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, Richlands State School, Jindalee State School, Middle Park State School and Jamboree Heights State School. The aim of the competition was to raise awareness of the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade from Wacol to Darra, and build the students' awareness of road safety, road works, their local environment, and sustainability issues.

### “Write-a-Reader” Competition

A ‘Write-a-Reader’ competition was held for students in grades 6 and 7. This interactive learning experience invited students to write a simple book for younger children to read. The students were asked to choose a theme based on their local area, incorporating local history, their environment and road safety.

The winning entries in the Write-a-Reader competition were:

- 1st Place – Jindalee State School
- 2nd Place – Jamboree Heights State School

### Community programs

Throughout 2009, there are more community programs to be rolled out within the local area, including a colouring-in competition, a road safety awareness program and a community mural project.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads remains committed to engaging with local communities while building a safer, more reliable and more efficient road network in the Western Corridor.

### Community Liaison Group

The Wacol to Darra Community Engagement Team is committed to maintaining two-way communication with the local community. This is achieved through the project's Community Liaison Group (CLG).

Discussions at past CLG meetings, held at the project site office in Darra, have focused on environmental initiatives, community engagement activities, traffic changes and general construction updates. These meetings occur every three months and will continue until completion of the Wacol to Darra upgrade.

To view copies of past meeting minutes visit:  
[www.mainroads.qld.gov.au/wacol2darra](http://www.mainroads.qld.gov.au/wacol2darra)



Hundreds of entries were received for the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Wacol to Darra calendar drawing competition from students in grades 1-5.

The winning entries in the calendar drawing competition were:

- 1st Place Jindalee State School
- 2nd Place Darra State School
- 3rd Place Richlands State School
- 4th Place Jamboree Heights State School
- 5th Place Darra-Jindalee Catholic School
- 6th Place Middle Park State School

We thank all the students who participated in this competition. Shown above are some of the winning entries.



## Stage 2 construction is underway

*Left to right: Member for Ipswich and Queensland Minister for Transport Rachel Nolan, Project Director Mango Murphy, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, Treasurer Wayne Swan and SAFELink General Superintendent Ray Osborn, visiting the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Wacol to Darra site.*

Construction of Stage 2 of the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade between Wacol and Darra is now underway, thanks to \$124 million in Australian Government funding announced in the May budget.

Stage 2 works involve upgrading the 2km section of the Ipswich Motorway between Sandy Creek, Wacol, and the Ipswich/Logan Interchange at Gables, widening the motorway from four to six lanes, with the provision for eight lanes in the future.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, accompanied by Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Anthony Albanese, visited the Wacol to Darra site during a tour of Western Corridor projects on 15 May. This was at the same location where, just over one year before, Mr Rudd turned the first sod to signal the start of major construction on the Wacol to Darra upgrade.

Prior to the injection of funding, early works were carried out in the Stage 2 construction area, including relocation of essential services and vegetation clearing in preparation for construction activities.

Stage 2 works are progressing well with completion scheduled for December 2010.

## Key milestones

October 2007 – Stage 1	Early works begin (relocating services including gas, electricity and water)
2 March 2008	Prime Minister Kevin Rudd turns the first sod
26 July 2008	New football fields, at PJ McIlwain Place, Wacol, officially opened
November 2008	Stage 2 early works commence (relocating services including gas, electricity, and water)
20 November 2008	Project Visitor Information Centre officially opened
27 March 2009	Northern end of rail embankment handed over to Darra to Springfield Transport Corridor Project
15 May 2009	Prime Minister Kevin Rudd visits the Wacol to Darra site following the budget announcement of funding for Stage 2 works
12 to 15 June 2009	Major traffic changes – Centenary Highway signalised roundabout closed permanently Right-hand movements from Centenary Highway northbound to Ipswich Motorway eastbound and Centenary Highway southbound to Ipswich Motorway westbound opened on temporary alignment
11 July 2009	New free-flowing right-hand turns from the Centenary Highway to the Ipswich Motorway opened to traffic

## Bridges old and new

Motorists driving through the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade from Wacol to Darra will have noticed a number of bridges being constructed in the area. What many people may have missed is the sight of old bridges being demolished.

Safety is the Department's number one priority, so a great deal of care must be taken during complex operations such as bridge demolition. The demolition of two bridges on the Centenary Highway over the Ipswich rail line was especially challenging, due to their location over a live rail line with overhead power lines, and traffic along Warrender Street in Darra. The northbound bridge was built in 1964 and the southbound in 1991.



*Demolition was staged around Queensland Rail's scheduled closures of the Ipswich rail line and the shutdown of the overhead power lines. Two excavators and a crane were used to dismantle the bridge piece by piece, to stop any material falling onto the rail line below.*



*Some interesting equipment, including a pulveriser and rock breaker, was used during the demolition process. A pulveriser is like a claw that grabs onto the concrete and crushes it into small pieces. A rock breaker acts as a hammer, hitting sections of the bridge until they collapse.*



*One of the two new bridges built over the Ipswich rail line has been open to traffic since 9 February 2009. More bridge construction and demolition will continue throughout the project, which will contribute to improving safety and relieving congestion for motorists.*



*Scrap concrete from the demolished bridges will be turned into road base to be used again. The steel will also be recycled for secondary use.*

## PJ McIlwain Place one year on

*"One year on, it truly is the perfect place to train and play rugby league, because it's been done so well.*

*The best thing about it is that it will always remain a centre for junior footy.*

*My thanks and congratulations to every one involved in the building of it."*

Peter McIlwain

**On 26 July 2008, the new home of Wests Centenary Junior Rugby League Football Club (WCJRLFC) was officially opened at PJ McIlwain Place, Grindle Road, Wacol.**

These football fields were built by the project team to replace the old fields which were located adjacent to the north-east corner of the Centenary Highway roundabout. One year on, the fields have proven to be an outstanding venue for junior rugby league matches.

WCJRLFC's new facilities boast:

- four full size match fields,
- lighting on three fields,
- a new club house with office,
- training facilities,
- canteen,
- parking for over 175 vehicles.

From left: WCJRLFC Life member Peter McIlwain, Member for Mount Ommaney Julie Attwood MP, Federal Member for Oxley Bernie Ripoll MP and WCJRLFC Club President Deirdre Matthyssen.



# Wild about the environment

Working along one of Brisbane's busiest motorways requires constant protection of the surrounding environment, and in particular, the safe relocation of local wildlife.

## Roads and skills for the future

While driving through the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Wacol to Darra project, it is obvious that construction is progressing quickly and we are closer to completing a safer and more reliable road network in the Western Corridor.

What is not always as noticeable is that while we are upgrading the Ipswich Motorway and Centenary Highway Interchange, we are also creating thousands of jobs within the local area. This is extremely important to the project team.

- Currently, there are more than 540 personnel working on site, complemented by hundreds of local sub-contractors who are also contributing to the upgrade.
- The project will sustain an average of more than 2498 direct and indirect jobs by the time it is completed in December 2010.

Working on the Wacol to Darra upgrade, one of the most complex and challenging road projects ever undertaken in Queensland, provides employees with a great range of experiences. Up-skilling the team is also a priority on the project, with additional training offered to all employees.



Prior to starting construction on the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade from Wacol to Darra, surveys of the habitat and fauna surrounding the construction zone were carried out. This included using ultrasonic recorders to monitor bat populations and surveys of bird life and fish species within local waterways.

A dedicated environmental team uses a variety of strategies to minimise the impact of construction activities on local wildlife, including:

- relocation of wildlife as close to original habitats as possible
- handing over young animals, that would not survive alone in the wild, to licensed wildlife carers
- recording details of all wildlife in the area including data on habitats and vegetation requirements, to find out how to best manage these animals at the end of the project
- establishing wildlife corridors to supply animals with paths under the Ipswich Motorway, along the waterways of Sandy Creek, Bullockhead Creek and Bullockhead Creek Tributary
- installing nesting boxes to provide a safe habitat for microbats, possums, birds and squirrel gliders
- maintaining trees wherever possible, with no unnecessary removal of vegetation.

In the interests of the safety of motorists and local wildlife, every effort has been made to keep kangaroos off the Ipswich Motorway by using fencing where possible.

Wood ducks are also common in the project area and are often found leading ducklings through the waterways.

To date, a variety of species have been found and relocated within the project area between Wacol and Darra, including squirrel gliders, Brushtail possums, White-striped Free-tailed bats, bearded dragons, carpet snakes, water dragons, Forest kingfishers, Firetail gudgeon, Fork-tailed catfish, Longfin eels and turtles.

### Transforming the Western Corridor

The Ipswich Motorway Upgrade from Wacol to Darra is just one part of a wider transformation of the Western Corridor. Many projects are now underway to improve road and public transport infrastructure through this corridor and from day to day the landscape is changing. The aerial construction shots below demonstrate just how much the landscape has changed between Wacol and Darra as this upgrade moves towards completion by December 2010.



March 2008



June 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](mailto: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](http://www.mainroads.qld.gov.au/wacol2darra)

**SMS updates\*:** [www.westerncorridorsms.qld.gov.au](http://www.westerncorridorsms.qld.gov.au)

\*Visit the website to receive free project updates direct to your mobile phone.

#### Other major projects in the area

##### Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Ipswich/Logan Interchange

**Phone:** 1800 703 093

**Email:** [ipswich.logan@mainroads.qld.gov.au](mailto:ipswich.logan@mainroads.qld.gov.au)

##### Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Dinmore to Goodna

**Phone:** 1800 465 682

**Email:** [dinmore2goodna@mainroads.qld.gov.au](mailto:dinmore2goodna@mainroads.qld.gov.au)

##### Darra to Springfield Transport Corridor (Road and Rail)

**Phone:** 1800 887 464

**Email:** [info@horizon.incite.com.au](mailto:info@horizon.incite.com.au)

##### Corinda to Darra Rail Upgrade

**Phone:** 1800 680 385

**Email:** [corinda2darra@trackstar.incite.com.au](mailto:corinda2darra@trackstar.incite.com.au)

##### Warrego Highway/Brisbane Valley Highway Interchange

**Phone:** 1800 052 722

**Email:** [ipswichoffice@mainroads.qld.gov.au](mailto:ipswichoffice@mainroads.qld.gov.au)

##### Warrego to Cunningham Connection

**Phone:** 3725 7400

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