

Project overview: Mitchell bridge replacement

The Department of Transport and Main Roads is constructing a new bridge over the Maranoa River at Mitchell. It will replace the existing Sir Thomas Mitchell Bridge built in the 1950s.

The new bridge will be located a few metres downstream, and align with Mitchell's main street. It will also provide safe and reliable access for pedestrians across the Maranoa River.

Why is the bridge needed?

The Warrego Highway between Roma and Mitchell is a key link in the federal government's Brisbane – Darwin Corridor Strategy to improve national freight routes.

Federal and State funding has been committed to upgrade the section from the breakdown pad west of Mitchell to Butcher's Hill west of Roma to a standard which allows the movement of Type 2 road trains.

Rough sections, pavement damage, narrow culverts and a narrow bridge mean more than 60 kilometres of this section of highway will need to be widened or rehabilitated.

The upgrade will improve safety for motorists and deliver significant economic benefits to the freight and livestock industries.

What will happen with the existing bridge?

The existing bridge will be demolished following completion of the new bridge. This is because:

- the spans of the new bridge will be several metres longer than those of the existing one. This will contribute to a significant build up of debris and cause erosion around both bridges and the river bed. It could also adversely affect the new bridge in future flood events.
- ongoing maintenance costs mean it would not be economical to maintain the old bridge to a safe and reliable standard.
- the existing bridge is not suitable for pedestrian access, as they need to cross the busy Warrego Highway. Pedestrian access across the Maranoa River will be provided as part of the new bridge.

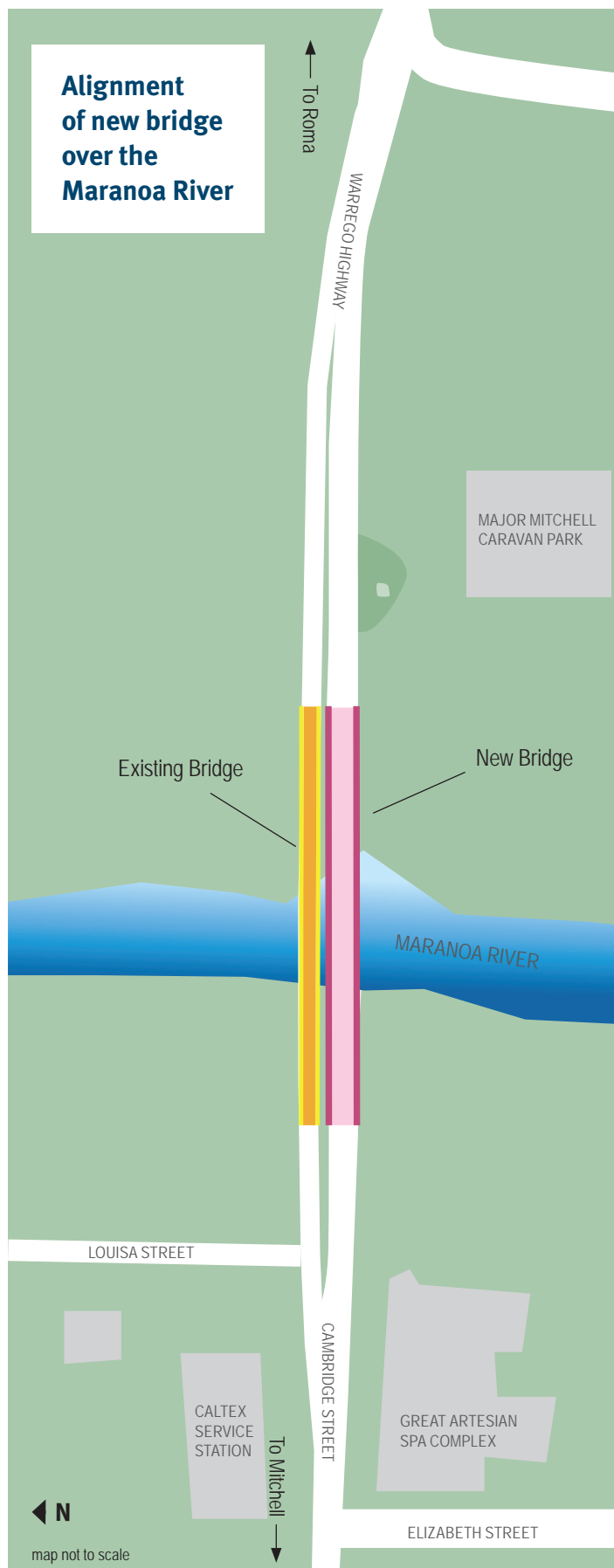
Stay up-to-date

The Department of Transport and Main Roads is committed to engaging the community throughout the life of this project.

To register for regular project updates call the department on 4622 9511 or send your contact details to roma.office@tmr.qld.gov.au with 'Maranoa River Bridge' in the subject line.



Alignment of new bridge over the Maranoa River



Building a bridge

Stage 1 - Development and design

During this stage, the department will complete hydraulic studies to understand water flow and flood patterns in the Maranoa River and Mitchell township. Geotechnical drilling around the site of the new bridge will provide information about rock and soil types.

Environment and Cultural Heritage teams will work with community and traditional owners to assess the site and surrounding area. This assessment will be used to develop a detailed Environmental Management Plan to manage potential impacts on the surrounding environment.

A final bridge design will be developed and put out to tender.

Stage 2 - Construction

During this stage, the contractor will establish work compounds and stockpiles and move heavy machinery on to the site.

Installation of piles will start on one side of the river before switching to the other side, eventually meeting in the middle. The addition of pile caps and headstocks will allow the deck to be lowered into place using cranes.

A specialist road construction crew will build new approaches on either side of the bridge and relocate telephone, water and electricity services.

Continuous monitoring of the environmental conditions will be carried out throughout the construction phase.

Stage 3 - Completion

The department and its contractors will clean up the work site and carry out any necessary rehabilitation before the bridge is opened.

Contact us

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Australian Government

Nation Building Program



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