

Progress

Main Roads is using state and federal funding to upgrade the motorway in stages, giving priority to the most congested areas and to projects that will deliver the greatest benefits first. Further upgrades will be considered as funding becomes available to meet projected traffic needs until 2026.

The Gold Coast is one of the fastest growing regions in one of the fastest growing states. The benefits will be improved traffic flow, reduced congestion and improved safety.

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To receive our regular construction updates, please contact us to register your details.

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Pacific Motorway upgrades on the Gold Coast

\$420 million of state and federal funds has been allocated to upgrade the Pacific Motorway on the Gold Coast. This will allow the upgrade of four interchanges between Nerang and Varsity Lakes, widening of the motorway between Nerang South and Worongary and improvements at Coomera.

Funding is being allocated for staged construction to the areas that firstly, are heavily congested and secondly, will deliver the greatest benefits.

Due to the rapid population growth in south east Queensland, Main Roads is continuing with planning and construction to upgrade the Pacific Motorway based on traffic forecasts to 2026.

Work upgrading the Nerang South Interchange, (Exit 73) started in February 2008 and work started at Mudgeeraba (Exit 79) in February 2009. Work at Varsity Lakes and Coomera will commence mid 2009.

Avoid congestion, plan your journey.



Nerang to Tugun

Long term planning for the upgrade of the Nerang to Tugun section of the motorway is being undertaken in two stages to meet traffic demands until 2026:

Stage one – Nerang to Varsity Lakes

The Master Plan is completed and work to stage the upgrade of four interchanges and widen sections of the motorway to six lanes is progressing. The estimated cost of upgrading this 12 km section of the motorway to an ultimate eight lane motorway is over \$2 billion.

Stage two – Varsity Lakes to Stewart Road at Tugun

The Master Concept Planning is expected to be completed in mid 2009.

Features include:

- widening the motorway from four to at least six lanes to reduce congestion and improve safety and travel times
- providing a four lane service road along the western side of the M1 from Guineas Creek Road to north of Tallebudgera Interchange
- major upgrades to improve interchange traffic movements and access to and from the M1.

Southern Gold Coast Infrastructure Corridor – Varsity Lakes to Tugun

There is a coordinated Whole-of-Government approach to the shared use of the motorway corridor between Varsity Lakes and Tugun. This involves infrastructure planning by Main Roads, ENERGEX and QR.

This joint planning, for future infrastructure construction in the next 30 years, aims to minimise environmental and social costs and reduce the need for new infrastructure corridors in the future.

The projects along the corridor include the:

- Pacific Motorway Upgrade Planning Study
- Varsity Lakes to Tugun Rail Extension Planning Study
- ENERGEX Mudgeeraba to Tugun network upgrade.

Coomera - Exit 54

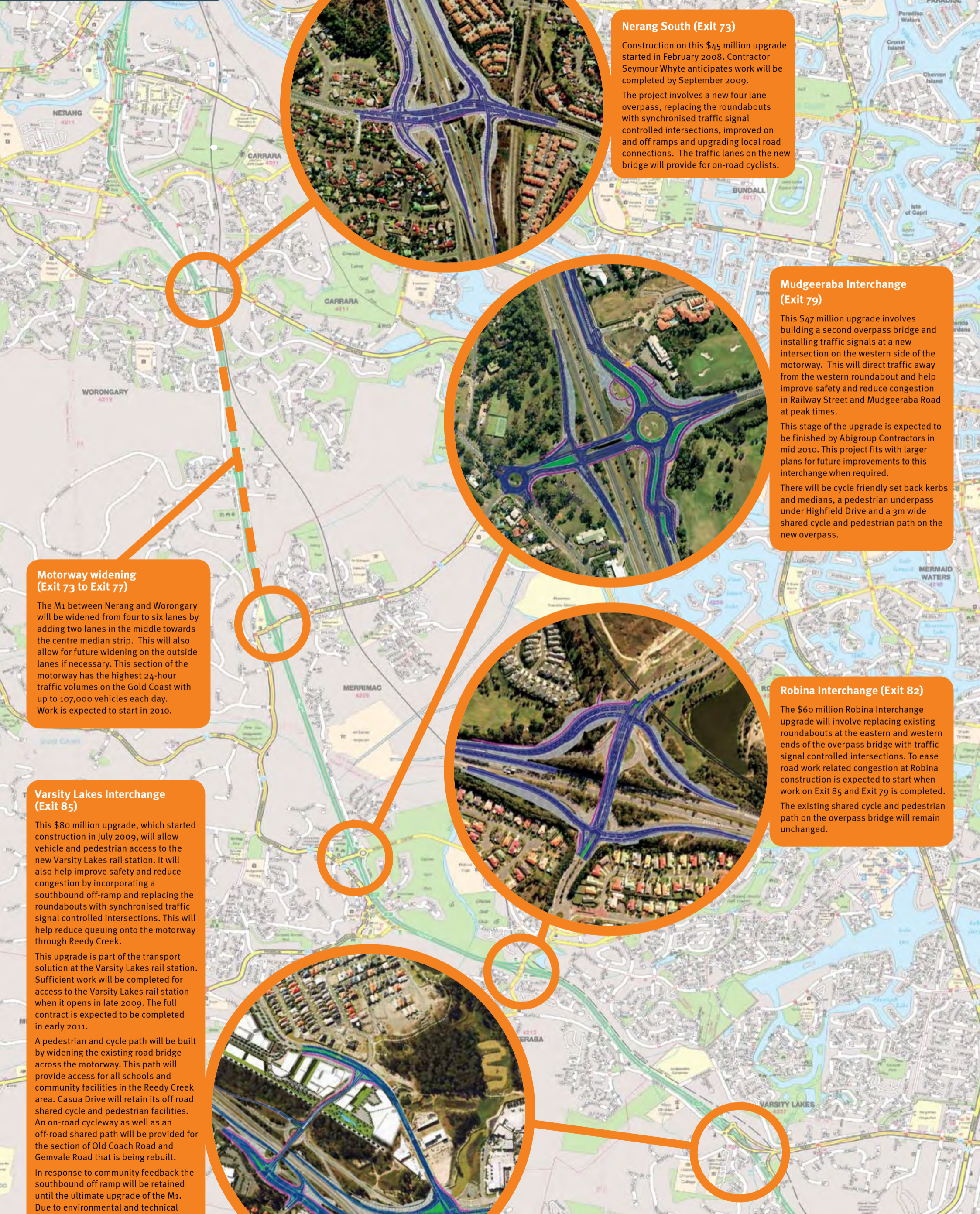
\$30 million has been allocated to upgrade Exit 54 northbound in the rapidly growing Coomera area.

There will be a new link road from the existing northbound off ramp to a new traffic signal controlled intersection at Abraham Road and there will be a free left turn from Abraham Road into Days Road.

This will help relieve congestion during peak times at the western roundabout of the Coomera Interchange and provide an alternative route for traffic to Upper Coomera. Construction is due to start in mid 2009 and be finished in 2010.



Community Update



Nerang South (Exit 73)

Construction on this \$45 million upgrade started in February 2008. Contractor Seymour Whyte anticipates work will be completed by September 2009.

The project involves a new four lane overpass, replacing the roundabouts with synchronised traffic signal controlled intersections, improved on and off ramps and upgrading local road connections. The traffic lanes on the new bridge will provide for on-road cyclists.

Mudgeeraba Interchange (Exit 79)

This \$47 million upgrade involves building a second overpass bridge and installing traffic signals at a new intersection on the western side of the motorway. This will direct traffic away from the western roundabout and help improve safety and reduce congestion in Railway Street and Mudgeeraba Road at peak times.

This stage of the upgrade is expected to be finished by Abigroup Contractors in mid 2010. This project fits with larger plans for future improvements to this interchange when required.

There will be cycle friendly set back kerbs and medians, a pedestrian underpass under Highfield Drive and a 3m wide shared cycle and pedestrian path on the new overpass.

Robina Interchange (Exit 82)

The \$60 million Robina Interchange upgrade will involve replacing existing roundabouts at the eastern and western ends of the overpass bridge with traffic signal controlled intersections. To ease road work related congestion at Robina construction is expected to start when work on Exit 85 and Exit 79 is completed. The existing shared cycle and pedestrian path on the overpass bridge will remain unchanged.

Motorway widening (Exit 73 to Exit 77)

The M1 between Nerang and Worongary will be widened from four to six lanes by adding two lanes in the middle towards the centre median strip. This will also allow for future widening on the outside lanes if necessary. This section of the motorway has the highest 24-hour traffic volumes on the Gold Coast with up to 107,000 vehicles each day. Work is expected to start in 2010.

Varsity Lakes Interchange (Exit 85)

This \$80 million upgrade, which started construction in July 2009, will allow vehicle and pedestrian access to the new Varsity Lakes rail station. It will also help improve safety and reduce congestion by incorporating a southbound off-ramp and replacing the roundabouts with synchronised traffic signal controlled intersections. This will help reduce queuing onto the motorway through Reedy Creek.

This upgrade is part of the transport solution at the Varsity Lakes rail station. Sufficient work will be completed for access to the Varsity Lakes rail station when it opens in late 2009. The full contract is expected to be completed in early 2011.

A pedestrian and cycle path will be built by widening the existing road bridge across the motorway. This path will provide access for all schools and community facilities in the Reedy Creek area. Casua Drive will retain its off road shared cycle and pedestrian facilities. An on-road cycleway as well as an off-road shared path will be provided for the section of Old Coach Road and Gemvale Road that is being rebuilt.

In response to community feedback the southbound off ramp will be retained until the ultimate upgrade of the M1. Due to environmental and technical issues the Crown Court extension has been delayed and will not be delivered as part of this project.