



A message from the District Director

Emerald District Office, Fitzroy Region, has a number of challenges in the year ahead. Our focus is firmly on flood recovery work across the area, as well as work related to the announcement of the department's new district boundaries.

We are progressively attending to emergent works across the area to ensure the road network is safe for all road users. We expect to complete these works by mid-May. Delivery of flood-related roadworks will be happening over time, along with the delivery of the annual Roads Implementation Program (RIP).

As part of this, we are participating in regular flood recovery meetings with the Central Highlands Regional Council, and also holding regular information sessions for industry groups.

The road network is now open to all excess mass and dimension vehicles. I encourage all operators to refer to the Permit Management System to keep up-to-date with current road conditions in and around Emerald.

I urge all road users to follow the advice provided on road conditions, drive safely to the road condition, obey road signs and speed limits, and look out for roadworkers as they go about their job. In doing so, everyone will play a part in looking after this important community asset.

The Minister for Main Roads, the Hon Warren Pitt, recently announced new district offices and regional boundaries. The former Central Highlands district is now known as Emerald district office, Fitzroy Region. Within the Fitzroy region, we will continue to maintain a high level of service delivery to ensure a safe road network for road users and the community.

Andrew Cramp
District Director
Emerald District Office
Fitzroy Region



Flood recovery

Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) emergent repairs were carried out, with some works finishing in early May 2008, including:

- » clearing debris from culverts on a number of roads
- » safety repairs to culverts and structures
- » significant repairs to around 1 km of road at Belyando Crossing, involving a total reseal.

Recovery arrangements and estimates for repairs as a result of the flooding are in progress, with information being sourced from local councils. Other NDRRA works will take place in conjunction with the delivery of the RIP.



Safer Roads Sooner

\$1.9 million for Safer Roads

The Minister for Main Roads, the Hon Warren Pitt announced \$1.9 million in safety improvements in the Central Highlands area for roads under the Safer Roads Sooner program.

The funding is part of the 2008-09 to 2012-13 RIP.

State-wide, \$55.425 million will be spent on 88 new Safer Roads Sooner projects and two new mass action programs to improve safety for road users.

The projects include:

- » \$800,000 in 2009-10 on fatigue management measures for the Capricorn Highway in the Duarunga and Emerald areas. Works include delineations, installing road edge guide posts and fatigue management signage, chevron alignment markers, linemarking and removing roadside hazards.
- » \$1.1 million allocated over two years for signalling and median works at Hospital Road (Gregory Highway)/Ruby Street/Egerton Street intersection in Emerald.
- » Through this program, revenue from fines collected from motorists is going straight back into life-saving road improvements.

Safer road environments

How Main Roads is improving roadwork safety

Road users can expect to see improvements to roadwork signage making it clearer what is happening and why.

Road users and the wider community can expect to see more up-to-date and real time information on the department's website about roadworks and road projects to better plan trips.

Main Roads is working closely with key stakeholders, including Queensland Police Service, local government and service providers, to ensure a consistent approach to safety around roadworks.

The department is working with other road and transport agencies to ensure an integrated approach to safety on roads and around roadworks.

Safety issues at roadworks

Roadworks are worksites for our staff. There are many workplace health and safety issues at roadworks for our workers as well as road users.

- » For road users, there can be heavy machinery and construction equipment, possible narrower lane widths, incomplete line markings, road shoulders with steep drop-offs, and loose stones and gravel that may damage vehicles.
- » For roadworkers, there can be speeding vehicles, drivers unaware of the need to drive to the changed road conditions, verbal abuse from motorists, vehicles weaving in and out of work sites, and drivers ignoring roadworkers and roadwork signage.



Roadworks signs are enforceable

Roadwork signage is there to ensure the safety of roadworkers and motorists.

Roadwork signs are official signs and are enforceable. Disobeying these means:

- » our roadworkers are at risk of serious injury
- » a driver is committing an offence, which may lead to fines and licence demerit points
- » a driver may be liable for damage caused to roadwork equipment and materials
- » a driver's insurance claim may be void
- » vehicles may be damaged by loose stones and gravel.

New regional boundaries

Central Queensland residents will benefit from recent changes to the way Main Roads manages the region's road network. Minister for Main Roads, the Hon Warren Pitt announced the changes which came about in response to the local government reform process. As a result of the reform process, Main Roads reviewed its district boundaries and determined that some adjustments were needed to continue delivering services effectively.

The Fitzroy Region covers Rockhampton, Gladstone and the Central Highlands regional councils. Service delivery for these local governments will take place through the department's Emerald and Rockhampton district offices.

The new Central Highlands Regional Council consists of the former Emerald, Bauhinia, Peak Downs and Duaringa Shires. Main Roads' Emerald district office will primarily service this area.



Excess mass and dimension

The Emerald road network is now open to all excess mass and dimension and "as of right" vehicles. The following permanent restrictions for excess mass apply.

- » Fitzroy Developmental Road (Taroom-Bauhinia Downs) 85A.
- » Fitzroy Developmental Road (Bauhinia Downs-Duaringa) 85B.
- » Biloela – Duaringa Road 462.
- » Clermont – Alpha Rod 552.

The following bridges require that excess mass and dimension travel happens on the "centreline of pavement".

- » Springton Creek, Charlevue Creek and Duckworth Creek at a maximum of 10 kph on the Fitzroy Developmental Road (85C) north of Dingo.
- » Miclere Creek at a maximum speed of 10 kph on the Gregory Developmental Road (98A) north of Clermont.

We encourage operators to check the Permit Management System for road conditions prior to movements.



Getting the message out there

As part of awareness-raising, we are getting the roadwork safety message out to Queenslanders on television, radio, the press and at local events and displays. The message is that safety around roadworks is everyone's responsibility.

Main Roads will monitor the effect the campaign has on improving awareness and driver behaviour.

The department will be working closely with Queensland Police on monitoring and enforcement to keep worksites safe.

Remember, just because you don't see a roadworker, doesn't mean there are no hidden dangers to motorists.

Please slow down around roadworks. It's your responsibility too.



Project updates



- » RoadTek recommenced minor roadworks west of Yamala.
- » Significant inundation of water from the January rains and floods meant the pavement had to dry out enough to continue with the reconstruction of the Capricorn Highway, west of Yamala.
- » Minor works on property accesses and pull over areas are now happening.
- » Reconstruction of the Capricorn Highway will improve safety for motorists, by providing a 9 m wide bitumen seal. These improvements will increase transport efficiency and reduce maintenance costs.

Hospital Road/Clermont Street corridor study

Traffic consultants have been contracted to undertake a study and produce a 10-year preferred option for the corridor between the Opal Street/Clermont Street intersection and the Racecourse Road/Hospital Road intersection.

The objectives of the study are to improve safety and efficiency for all road users.

The study is looking at a variety of traffic, pedestrian and cyclist issues, along with developing and assessing options to address these. The study will not be investigating a heavy vehicle bypass or assessing the local road network.

A traffic model for the corridor was developed by external consultants. This was used to identify and understand traffic issues on Hospital Road over the next 10 years, and test the effectiveness of options to improve traffic conditions.

Three options came from this process and are based on general consensus from key stakeholders involved in the process. This led to a theme favouring traffic signals at major intersections.

Currently, we are developing this preferred option which will be included in a draft report due for release in 2008. When the staging and packaging options are finalised, there will be more opportunities for community and stakeholder consultation on the preferred option.



Hospital Road, Emerald

Future projects

Myall Creek

Located north of Clermont on the Peak Downs Highway, the Myall Creek project involves widening and overlaying the surface and providing an 8.5 m bitumen seal. Construction is expected to commence in early July 2008.

Community engagement

Community consultation will commence soon on the rehabilitation of Hospital Road (Gregory Highway). The consultation process will cover a range of issues including:

- » access
- » timing of construction work
- » vibration impacts
- » minimising possible impacts on businesses.

To keep you up-to-date, Main Roads will continue to provide information through radio announcements, newspaper advertisements and fact sheets.

The next phase of consultation for the Clermont Street and Hospital Road corridor study will start in June, and keep people up-to-date with the preferred treatment option. The option was developed in consultation with the Chamber of Commerce, Queensland Police and Emergency Services, to reach the best treatment solution. The option will be on show at public displays at the local shopping centres. A fact sheet will detail the proposed works.

Contact

For more information you can:

- » contact the Emerald district office on +61 7 4983 8700
- » visit our website www.mainroads.qld.gov.au