

In and around Fitzroy Region

Local Links • October 2010

A message from the Regional Director



Welcome to the October edition of the Local Links, our locally focused newsletter that is aimed at providing communities in Central Queensland with the latest information on activities and road projects across the region.

A public meeting was held in Gracemere on 30 September for community members to have their say on the proposed Gracemere Industrial Access Project which includes plans for a new road and rail overpass west of Gracemere.

The meeting was attended by about 150 interested community members who were invited to provide their feedback to the project team on the options presented.

Works on Emerald's second and third set of traffic signals is progressing well. The \$2 million Safer Roads Sooner Program project will see two sets of signals installed at the Hospital Road intersections with Curt and Harris/Egan Streets. This project is expected to be completed by the end of 2010, weather permitting.

During the month of September unseasonal rainfall and localised flooding was experienced across the Rockhampton and Central Highlands region. Fortunately, the state-controlled road network escaped significant damage, however some localised sections of road were closed periodically due to flooding. I would like to take this opportunity to remind motorists to drive safely and to the conditions of the road during these wet weather periods.

Our aim is to minimise community disruptions and maintain road access to essential services, however safety is the department's top priority. We will ensure the community is kept aware of any changes to road conditions through the use of road-side signage and up-to-date information at www.131940.qld.gov.au.

Terry Hill
Regional Director (Fitzroy Region)

Project Updates

Fitzroy River Floodplain and Road Planning Study

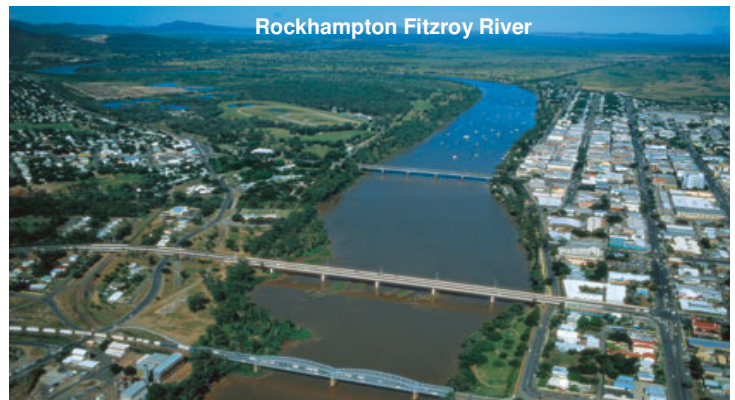
In June 2009, the federal government announced the commencement of a two-year study to identify the preferred alignment for future road and rail transport in and around Rockhampton.

The \$5 million study, led by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, will identify and evaluate options to address flood immunity, traffic capacity, freight movement and amenity of the Bruce Highway through Rockhampton. This also includes the possibility of a new Fitzroy River crossing or highway re-alignment.

Community engagement and consultation will play a significant role in completing the floodplain study. Over the next 12 months, Transport and Main Roads is committed to engaging with the Central Queensland community to consider the many possible transport corridor options. This communication process will include public submissions, displays and media opportunities, all with the intent of receiving community input in every step of the study.

The project team recently commenced the options identification stage during which a set of potential corridor alignments will be established. These potential alignments will then be shortlisted and put to the community for comment in late 2010.

The Fitzroy River Floodplain and Road Planning Study report is expected to be published in mid 2011.



Calliope Range Realignment Dawson Highway

The \$70 million Calliope Range Realignment project is Central Queensland's largest road project for 2010-11 and will provide a new Calliope Range crossing on the Dawson Highway, between Calliope and Biloela.

Situated 50km west of Calliope, the fully state-funded project spans the boundary of Banana Shire and Gladstone Regional Councils.

Preconstruction works that included the relocation of over 400 environmentally significant Cycad trees was successfully completed in late 2009, clearing the way for site works to commence.

More than 15% of earthworks associated with the Calliope Range Realignment has been completed and lane/speed restrictions remain in place to ensure the safety of motorists and construction workers.

Once completed, the Calliope Range Realignment will deliver a much smoother and free-flowing Dawson Highway, ensuring a safer and more freight-efficient alignment to replace the current highway bottleneck west of Calliope.

Gracemere Industrial Access Project Capricorn Highway

In June 2010, the Premier announced \$10 million state funding to commence planning works for an overpass to provide access to industrial land south of the Capricorn Highway, outside of Gracemere.

The Gracemere-Stanwell Industrial Precinct is located adjacent to the Capricorn Highway in Central Queensland. The location of the industrial corridor, on the south-western side of Rockhampton, means the corridor is well positioned to attract industries servicing the Bowen and Surat Basin coal and gas fields. Development of the precinct will also reduce the need for heavy vehicles to travel through Rockhampton CBD to access industrial facilities north of the city.

Historically, development of the Gracemere-Stanwell Industrial Precinct has been limited due to height restrictions for vehicles crossing the Blackwater Rail Corridor to access the industrial land. There are also safety issues for heavy vehicle traffic due to insufficient storage room between the rail line and Capricorn Highway. In the past, this has led to a number of near-miss incidents between rail traffic and heavy vehicles and is a major safety concern to the community.



The busy intersection of the Capricorn Highway and Somerset Road west of Gracemere

A public meeting was held in Gracemere on 30 September which was attended by about 150 interested community members who were invited to provide their feedback to the project team on the options presented.

The department expects to complete the planning and design activities associated with the Gracemere Industrial Access Project by July 2011.

Hospital Road Traffic Signals Gregory Highway

Installation of a further two sets of traffic signals commenced in August at the intersections of Curt Street and Harris/Egan Streets along Hospital Road.

These intersections are some of the busiest in Emerald and the new traffic lights will improve safety for motorists and pedestrians.

The signals are being delivered as part of the state government's Safer Roads Sooner Program and will be fully installed and operational by late 2010.

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