

In and Around Fitzroy

A message from the Regional Director

Welcome to the first edition of **Local Links for 2012**, our locally focused newsletter that is aimed at providing communities in central Queensland with the latest information on road projects and activities across the Fitzroy Region.

After the devastating start to 2011, this year we have hit the ground running with an incredible program of works to deliver, including works that form the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

Last year we completed works on a number of sections on the Bruce Highway between Rockhampton and Gin Gin, and on the Capricorn Highway between Rockhampton and Emerald. This year we will continue to tackle these major links to keep Queenslanders moving.

Works in this region have progressed quickly with more than \$220 million of work already underway.

Motorists are encouraged to drive safely, plan their trip (allowing extra travel time) and observe directions from traffic controllers at our roadwork sites.

For the most up-to date information on roadworks in the Fitzroy Region visit www.131940.qld.gov.au or phone 13 19 40.

Terry Hill
Regional Director (Fitzroy)

Dawson River Bridge replacement – Baralaba

The department has teamed up with Cockatoo Coal to deliver a new bridge over the Dawson River at Baralaba.

The department committed \$8 million toward the new bridge and road approaches, which have a total

estimated cost of \$16 million, with Cockatoo Coal providing the remainder.

The new higher-level two-lane concrete bridge will be 4.2 metres higher than the existing low-level, single lane structure. REED Constructions commenced work in August 2011 on the new structure which will involve replacing the existing bridge and improving the approaches on both sides.



Progress on bridge replacement

For community and industry, this will mean fewer disruptions during the wet season, which in recent times has caused significant hardship. The new bridge will provide improved access for both the community and Cockatoo Coal.

Due to recent unforeseen technical issues, the bridge was unable to be completed prior to this wet season.

It is expected that the bridge will be open to light vehicles as early as March 2012, weather permitting.

Fast fact.....

Did you know – the Dawson River Bridge was constructed in 1930.

Operation Queenslander

Nearly one third of Central Queensland's 3500 kilometres of state-controlled roads were damaged by the weather events over the 2010/2011 holiday period.

To reconstruct these roads, \$928 million is being invested in the Central Queensland road network over the next few years.

In August 2011, almost \$50 million worth of works between Rockhampton and Benaraby on the Bruce Highway was announced.

A number of sections of reconstruction roadworks south of Rockhampton are now complete, including sections between Calliope and Mt Larcom, south of Ambrose and at Raglan.

These sections of highway are the first to be reconstructed on the Bruce Highway following the floods. The highway has been widened to 10 metres with a longer life-span and improved drainage.

Almost half of the 104 kilometre stretch of the Bruce Highway requiring reconstruction is currently underway in the region. Works are also underway on more than 30 kilometres of the 120 kilometres of the Capricorn Highway between Rockhampton and Emerald.



Bruce Highway at Raglan

The benefits of the reconstruction program include:

- widened roads
- improved clear zones beside the roadway
- a more resilient pavement with an expected 20 year lifespan

- roadside drainage built to divert water away from the road surface more efficiently.

Due to the high volume of work, delays to motorists are inevitable but they are necessary to reconstruct Queensland. The state is a hive of activity as Transport and Main Roads gets on with reconstruction of roads right across the state.

Road users should drive to the changed conditions and obey all road signs for their own safety and the safety of roadworkers.

The patience and cooperation of road users is appreciated while these works are underway.

This program of works is being delivered under the NDRRA, a joint federal and state initiative. Under these arrangements, the Australian Government provides 75% of the funding, with 25% from the Queensland Government.

Fast facts for Fitzroy region

- \$928 million has been announced for road reconstruction works.
- Almost one third of the region's roads were damaged.
- Since May, more than \$225 million worth of contracts have been awarded.
- Across the region an estimated 3000 direct and indirect jobs are expected to be sustained as part of the reconstruction effort.
- Contractors are using local suppliers where possible, providing a boost to local communities.
- Works are currently underway on the Capricorn Highway, Bruce Highway, Gregory Highway, and Byfield Road.



Bruce Highway bitumen works

Gracemere Industrial Access Project – Capricorn Highway

In January 2012, the first sod was turned to mark the start of construction on the \$50 million Gracemere Industrial Access project, west of Rockhampton.

Historically, development of the Gracemere–Stanwell industrial precinct has been limited due to height restrictions for vehicles crossing the electrified Blackwater rail line to access industrial land.

In June 2010, the Queensland Government announced state funding of \$10 million to commence planning and preliminary works for an overpass to provide access to industrial land south of the Capricorn Highway, outside of Gracemere. Over the past 18 months, Transport and Main Roads, in collaboration with Rockhampton Regional Council, QR National, Department of Infrastructure and Planning and the wider community have undertaken community consultation, planning, design and preconstruction works.

Construction contractor Civil Mining and Construction will work with Transport and Main Roads to deliver the project, which is expected to be open to traffic early 2013, weather permitting.



Proposed Overpass

Installation of traffic signals in Emerald

The installation of Emerald's fourth set of traffic signals is set to commence in February 2012, weather permitting.

The signals will be located at the intersection of Clermont and Ruby Streets. These major roads connect east-west and north-south traffic through the heart of Emerald and as a result, high volumes of traffic pass through this intersection daily.

Currently, drivers experience longer than usual delays due to the volume of traffic using the intersection.

The signals will be synchronised with the three sets already installed in Emerald to enable all traffic movements to be as safe and efficient as possible.

Along with improving traffic flow, two signalised crossing facilities will be constructed to provide safer crossing options to pedestrians at this location.

During construction, motorists can expect delays of up to 15 minutes. Works will be carried out during the day and night, and will involve:

- pavement repair works
- reconstruction of medians
- relocations of street lights
- installation of traffic signals.

The completion of the project will result in some minor traffic changes to the intersection including additional u-turn facilities and the removal of a number of car parking bays.

Works are expected to be completed by mid-2012, weather permitting.

Burnett Highway upgrade

The \$7.5 million Burnett Highway (Hodgetts to Argoon Roads) project, located between Dululu and Biloela is nearing completion with final sealing taking place.

The project has been ongoing since June 2011 and includes the widening of approximately nine kilometres of the Burnett Highway including a nine metre bitumen seal, culvert extensions, property access upgrades and intersection improvement works.

The project is being constructed for Transport and Main Roads by Banana Shire Council and is expected to be completed by the end of February, weather permitting.

For more information

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