

# In and around Fitzroy Region

Local Links - April 2010

## A message from the Regional Director



**Welcome to the latest edition of Local Links. February and March has again brought heavy rainfall and localised flooding across the Rockhampton and Central Highlands region.**

The state-controlled road network sustained significant damage, particularly in the Emerald area with emergency callouts required to manage pothole repairs in a timely manner. The highways in the Rockhampton and Emerald area were also affected when creeks and rivers flooded.

As always, my thanks and appreciation go to all Transport and Main Roads staff who remained on alert during this period and the critical incident response team members who were also on standby due to the imminent threat of Cyclone Ului.

The last few weeks have been busy in the Fitzroy Region. In late March the 120 tonne, 48m long Yaamba Road Pedestrian Overpass was lifted into place with minimal disruption to motorists and local businesses in the area between Yaamba Road, Moores Creek Road and Boland Street.

Yaamba Road was closed for about 8 hours while the 48m footbridge section was installed. Now that the footbridge is in place, a final fit-out stage will be completed and it is expected that the Yaamba Road Pedestrian Overpass will be opened in mid April.

On 26 March, Member for Rockhampton Robert Schwarten MP officially opened the new \$1.7 million Plant Hire Services workshop located on Richardson Road. The old Richardson Road workshop stood for over 40 years and material from the old workshop building is being saved for recycling and reuse.

With Easter fast approaching I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Easter. If you are travelling on the roads, please take care to ensure you arrive at your destination safely. Remember, stop-revive-survive this Easter break.

**Terry Hill**  
**Regional Director (Fitzroy Region)**

# In and around Fitzroy

## Project Updates

### Fitzroy River Floodplain and Road Planning Study

#### Bruce Highway: Brisbane – Cairns Corridor

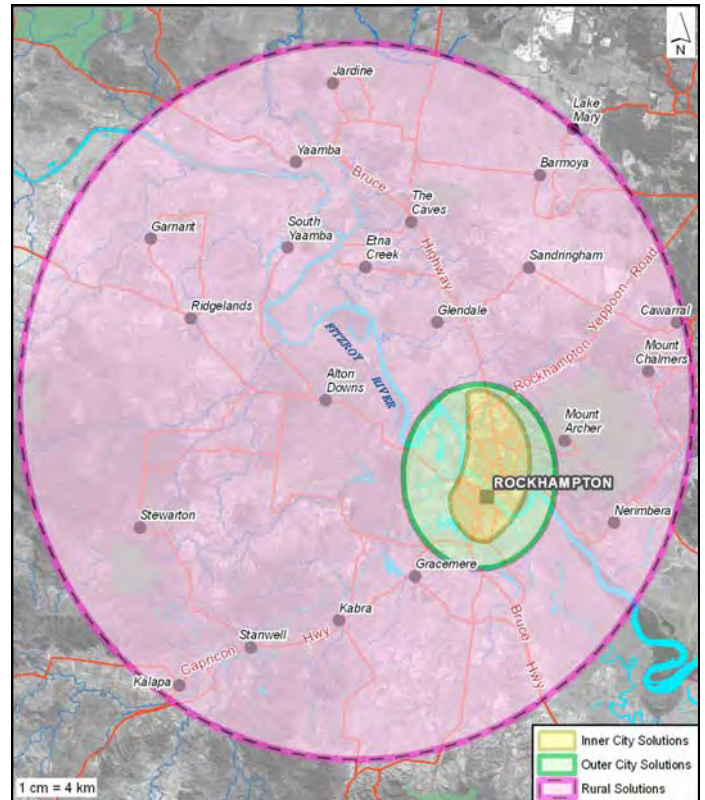
In June 2009, the federal government announced the commencement of a two-year study to identify the preferred alignment for future road and rail transport in and around Rockhampton.

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 18 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.

In February and March, the community was asked to provide feedback and consider the opportunities/constraints of three broad solution areas (*Rural Solution, Outer-city Solution and Inner-city Solution*) in which the solution or solutions to Bruce Highway flooding and road congestion may be addressed. In total, the project team received more than 200 community submissions which will now be reviewed and help to drive the study forward over the next twelve months.

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



### Rockhampton - Emu Park Road

In 2008, the state government announced an \$18 million upgrade of Emu Park Road as part of the ongoing strategy to improve the Capricorn Coast road network and major connection roads to Rockhampton.

The \$18 million project includes widening and rehabilitating Emu Park Road between Keppel Sands intersection and Tanby Road to provide a smoother and safer connection for motorists travelling between Rockhampton and Emu Park.

The project provides for bus pull-over areas at intersections and the upgrade of accesses to private properties. It also includes construction of new access roads which service a number of properties providing safer access for local residents.

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Work on Stage Two of the project, which commenced in July 2009, includes widening 6.7km of the existing road, visibility improvements, and overlay works along Emu Park Road between Coowonga and Tanby Road. Also included is the installation of one overtaking lane at Palm Creek, and five intersection upgrades between Tungamull Creek and Tanby Road.

The upgraded Emu Park Road is on-track to be opened to traffic in June 2010.

## **Yaamba Road Pedestrian Overpass Bruce Highway, North Rockhampton**

The state government announced in June 2008 that a pedestrian overpass would be constructed across Yaamba Road, North Rockhampton, to provide safe pedestrian access across the road and improve long-term traffic flow on the busy corridor.

Since January 2009, the project contractor York Civil has worked professionally alongside Transport and Main Roads to design the new pedestrian overpass. On 2 July 2009, York Civil was awarded the contract for Stage Two of the project and is now undertaking construction of the structure.

Work on the structure footings and sub-structure remained the most visible works associated with the project in 2009. Over recent months however, the size and scale of the project has become evident for Rockhampton residents as the structure rises from the ground and work is completed on the lift wells and staircases.

On 27 March 2010, Transport and Main Roads completed the milestone event of lifting the 48m steel footbridge span into place above Yaamba Road. In total, Yaamba Road was closed to all vehicle traffic for seven hours with several hundred Rockhampton residents watching on. The footbridge was safely installed and highway reopened to traffic by midnight.

A final fit-out stage is currently underway with the concrete deck, electrics and lighting being installed ready for use.

Once completed, the Yaamba Road Pedestrian Overpass will provide safe pedestrian access across the busy North Rockhampton corridor and reduce delays for traffic on Yaamba Road.

## **Calliope Range Realignment Dawson Highway**

The \$70 million Calliope Range Realignment 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 project spans the boundary of Banana Shire Council and Gladstone Regional Council.

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

In March, Civil Mining and Construction was announced as the successful contractor joining Transport and Main Roads to construct the 5km realignment.

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.

## **Traffic signals announced for Emerald Hospital Road (Gregory Highway)**

Central Highlands roads are to benefit from a series of new safety improvements, following the announcement of the Department of Transport and Main Roads' 2009-2010 Roads Implementation Program.

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Emerald will be provided with three sets of traffic signals in 2010.

Emerald is in for some big changes in the coming months with traffic signals being installed at the intersection of Ruby/Egerton Streets and along Hospital Road at Curt Street and Harris Street.

These three 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 Safer Roads Sooner program, and will be fully installed and operational by late 2010.

Community consultation has commenced with key stakeholders and will continue over the coming months. The department will also consult with the wider community and provide education and safety awareness programs.



## Comet River Road Intersection Upgrade Capricorn Highway

The \$1 million blackspot funded project at the intersection of Comet River Road and the Capricorn Highway is due to commence in April/May 2010 with completion expected by the end of June 2010, weather permitting. The project involves upgrading the intersection to improve safety for all motorists.

## Blackwater-Rolleston Road Upgrade Capricorn Highway

Roadworks are expected to commence on the Blackwater-Rolleston Road in April 2010 and completion is expected by June 2011, weather permitting.

This project, funded by local, state and federal governments involves sealing a 58km section of the road to provide motorists with a smooth ride and improved safety.

## Dawson Developmental Road

Extensive flood repair work continues on various sections of the Dawson Developmental Road (Springsure-Tambo) as further flooding was experienced early this year.

Works will include:

- gravel resheeting
- heavy formation grading
- reinstatement of road shoulders
- reinstatement of sealed/concrete floodways and approaches
- removal of flood debris and de-silting drainage
- reinstatement of road drainage
- pavement repairs
- replacement of guideposts and signage.

The aim of this project is to reinstate the Dawson Developmental Road to its previous standard, prior to flooding.

## Contact us

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