

In and around Fitzroy

A message from the Regional Director



Welcome to the first edition of Local Links for 2011, our locally focused newsletter that is aimed at providing communities in Central Queensland with the latest information on road projects and activities across Fitzroy Region.

Once again, the traditional wet months of December and January brought heavy rainfall and significant flooding across Central Queensland. Large sections of the state-controlled road network were inundated and experienced widespread damage. As waters have receded emergency callouts along with emergency maintenance and pothole repairs have been our top priority to reconnect communities.

As always, my thanks and appreciation goes to local government staff as well as Transport and Main Roads staff who remained on alert during this period and for whom much of the holiday period was spent away from families.

Looking forward, 2011 is again shaping up to be a year for significant projects across the region. In addition to the reconstruction task, which we are only coming to understand the scale of, the department expects to complete the Calliope Range realignment on the Dawson Highway by mid-year along with finalising the recommendations of the Fitzroy River Floodplain and Road Planning Study. The Stoney Creek Bridge approaches and bridge upgrade at Byfield is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year along with the Wallaroo Range upgrade on the Carnarvon Highway south of Rolleston.

Emerald Office staff have been working tirelessly since early December facing many flood events throughout the Banana and Central Highlands council areas. Roads in these areas have been closed for long periods of time, however roadworks crews have worked exceptionally well to re-open these roads to a safe and trafficable condition. Most of the road network in the Banana and Central Highlands has re-opened to all vehicles.

Terry Hill – Regional Director (Fitzroy Region)

Project updates

Fitzroy River Floodplain and Road Planning Study

In June 2009, the federal government announced the \$5 million Fitzroy River Floodplain and Road Planning Study to assess current and future demands on the Bruce Highway and make recommendations that will help inform long-term transport infrastructure investment decisions for the Rockhampton region.

Specifically, the study is looking at ways of reducing congestion within Rockhampton and improving the highway's flood immunity to reduce the impact of Fitzroy River flooding on the vital Bruce Highway link.

Transport and Main Roads will return to the community for Stage 2 community engagement this month to seek feedback on shortlisted road and rail corridors in and around Rockhampton. The department will present three road and two rail corridor options for community comment during the month-long engagement period. Each option has very different characteristics, however they all have the potential to deliver significant improvements to traffic flow and reduce the impact of flooding in the region.

Further information on community meetings and displays associated with the floodplain study will be published on the Transport and Main Roads website once available.

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. It will provide a new range crossing on the Dawson Highway between Calliope and Biloela.

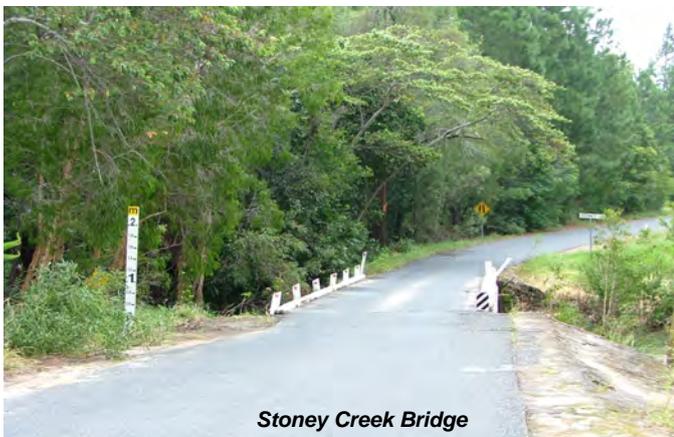
More than 50% of earthworks associated with the Calliope Range realignment is complete. Lane/speed restrictions remain in place to ensure the safety of motorists and construction workers.



Calliope Range Realignment

The Calliope Range realignment project remains on track for completion by late 2011.

Stoney Creek Bridge alignment – Byfield Road (Capricorn Coast)



Stoney Creek Bridge

In November 2010, Transport and Main Roads began the upgrade of Byfield Road at Stoney Creek to provide improved access to the community as well as the nearby national park.

The \$6.5 million Stoney Creek project will realign a one kilometre section of Byfield Road and construct a two lane concrete bridge across Stoney Creek. The new two-lane bridge will be more than four metres higher than the existing single-lane creek crossing.

Vegetation clearing and site preparation works are well underway. Construction of the concrete bridge was planned to start before Christmas, however rain and localised flooding has postponed the start of the bridge construction until later this month.

Surrounded by national park and sensitive watercourses, environmental management will be a strong focus, with extensive revegetation to be provided at the end of the project.

Gracemere Industrial Access Project – Capricorn Highway

In June 2010, the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, Premier of Queensland 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.

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 the industrial land.

In December 2010, Transport and Main Roads announced the intersection of the Capricorn Highway and Malchi-Nine Mile Road as the preferred location for the new road and rail overpass. A road and rail overpass at this location will provide central access into the Gracemere – Stanwell Industrial Corridor, with links to the existing local road network.

Following the announcement of the overpass location, the department expects to complete all planning and design activities associated with project by July 2011.



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

Wallaroo Range upgrade – Carnarvon Highway

Works to upgrade the Wallaroo Range Crossing on the Carnarvon Highway have been deferred until further notice due to the recent natural disaster throughout Queensland. The department will continue to keep all stakeholders up to date on the current status of this project.

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