

In and around Fitzroy

A message from the Regional Director



Welcome to the April 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.

Options were presented to the community on 2 March 2011 at a meeting attended by nearly 200 local residents and business representatives for the Fitzroy River Floodplain and Road Planning Study. Outlined were a number of short to medium-term improvements which include a high-level Bruce Highway crossing of the Yeppen flood plain to reduce the risk of the southern entrance into Rockhampton being isolated during flood events. The Central Queensland community now has until 1 April 2011 to provide feedback on the short listed road and rail options.

Emerald Office is now well into the recovery phase preparing submissions for Emergency Management Queensland from the recent natural disasters that have damaged many roads in the Central Highlands and Banana shires. Crews are out undertaking emergency works and carrying out inspections to restore the region's roads. Motorists will see many road workers out on the roads repairing very significant flood damage. All road users are encouraged to follow the direction of traffic control and drive with caution where road works are underway.

Terry Hill – Regional Director (Fitzroy)

Project updates

Fitzroy River Floodplain and Road Planning Study

The \$5 million study is specifically 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.

The study team has now identified three road and two rail options that could provide long-term transport infrastructure solutions for the Rockhampton region.

These options were presented to the community on 2 March 2011 at a meeting attended by nearly 200 local residents and business representatives. The department also outlined a number of short to medium-term improvements which included a high level Bruce Highway crossing of the Yeppen flood plain to reduce the risk of the southern entrance into Rockhampton being isolated during flood events.

The Central Queensland community has again provided feedback on the short listed road and rail options, each of which has very different characteristics. However all have the potential to deliver significant improvements to traffic flow and reduce the impact of flooding on the Bruce Highway.

In February 2010, the community was invited to submit their comments on flooding, freight, road and rail transport issues in and around the city of Rockhampton. This feedback, along with technical review and traffic and hydraulic (flood) modelling, has been considered by the study team to inform the development of the short listed road and rail corridors.

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

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



Stoney Creek Bridge realignment – Byfield Road (Capricorn Coast)



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 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 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 the project by July 2011.

Funding for construction of the overpass will be considered for inclusion in this year's state budget.



Baralaba - Rannes Road Project

This \$1.1 million project on the Baralaba - Rannes Road will see approximately two kilometres of road just east of Baralaba widened to improve safety for road users.

The road is currently 3.5 metres wide and will be upgraded to a 7.5 metre wide bitumen seal to provide a safer and smoother ride on this important link between Baralaba and the Leichhardt Highway.

While works commenced in August 2010, the project is currently delayed due to wet weather experienced at the end of 2010 and beginning of 2011.

S-Bends Project – Leichhardt Highway

Motorists and heavy vehicle operators travelling on the Leichhardt Highway between Theodore and Banana will benefit from a \$750,000 safety upgrade as part of the Queensland Government's Safer Roads Sooner program.

This project includes the widening of 1.2 kilometres of road to a 9 metre width, improvements to drainage, the installation of rumble strips and new signage.

Works began in early August and are being undertaken by Banana Shire Council on the department's behalf. The project is currently delayed due to wet weather experienced at the end of 2010 and beginning of 2011.

The Safer Roads Sooner program specifically targets areas of the state's road network with existing crash histories.



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.

Contact us

Rockhampton Office

Visit: 31 Knight Street
North Rockhampton Qld 4701

Phone: 4931 1500

Fax: 4927 5020

Emerald Office

Visit: 83 Esmond Street
Emerald Qld 4720

Phone: 4983 8700

Fax: 4983 8722

Web: www.tmr.qld.gov.au