

In and around Fitzroy

A message from the Regional Director



Welcome to the June 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.

This month, the Fitzroy Region will be the first area in the state to begin the significant reconstruction task to repair the state's highways and major road network. The first works are programmed for Gladstone – Benaraby Road, however over the coming weeks and months, rebuilding will also commence on the Bruce Highway, Capricorn Highway, Leichhardt Highway and many other roads across the entire region.

With this work ramping up, and many other large-scale projects already being delivered, motorists can expect to encounter more roadworks and changed traffic conditions when on the road.

The safety of road crews and motorists remains our number one priority. I remind road users that safety around roadworks is a two-way street and where possible to plan your journey and expect delays as we continue to deliver new and better roads for central Queensland and commence the state-wide reconstruction task.

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 Bruce Highway.

Earlier this year, the study team identified three road and two rail options that could provide long-term transport infrastructure solutions for the Rockhampton region.

These options, which included a number of short to medium-term improvements, were presented to the community in March.

In total, the study team distributed around 2000 information packs during the consultation period. At the conclusion of the consultation period, in April 2011, more than 180 community submissions had been received.

This feedback, along with a technical review and traffic and hydraulic (flood) modelling, is currently being reviewed by the study team to identify a final preferred corridor and develop short and long-term road and rail recommendations.

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 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 75% 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 in August 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 postponed the start of construction until March 2011.

With the site now accessible, work has commenced on the new bridge piles and support structure.

Surrounded by national park and sensitive watercourses, environmental management continues to 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 and Minister for Reconstruction 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

The \$1.1 million Baralaba – Rannes Road project will widen approximately two kilometres of road just east of Baralaba, improving safety for road users.

The existing 3.5 metre formation 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, completion of the project has been delayed due to wet weather experienced at the end of 2010 and beginning of 2011. The project is expected to be completed in coming months.

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 widening 1.2 kilometres of the Leichhardt Highway to nine metres, drainage improvements, installation of rumble strips and new signage.

Construction commenced in August 2010, however completion of the project has been delayed due to wet weather experienced at the end of 2010 and beginning of 2011. The project is now expected to be completed in coming months.



Burnett Highway – Widening works

The \$7.5 million Burnett Highway (Hodgetts to Argoon Roads) Project is situated between Dululu and Biloela. This project includes the widening of approximately 8.7 kilometres of the highway to a 9 metre seal, culvert extension, property access upgrades and intersection improvement works.

Clearing works are now underway to improve visibility and to allow the road to be widened. During the design phase of this project, a large historical tree stump with a triangular shield was identified. The mark on the tree is approximately 60 years old and was originally used as a survey mark for construction of the road. Once removed, this artefact will be donated to a local historical group.

Site works are being undertaken by Banana Shire Council with major construction scheduled to begin in early June and is expected to be completed by the end of 2011, weather permitting.

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