

In and around Fitzroy

A message from the Regional Director



Welcome to the August 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 the Fitzroy Region.

Across the state, the department has commenced the massive task of reconstructing the state road network damaged by weather events in 2010 and 2011 as part of Operation Queensland. This initiative is funded under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments. All road users are encouraged to follow the direction of traffic control and drive with caution where roadworks are underway for the safety of road users and construction crews.

Terry Hill – Regional Director (Fitzroy)

Project updates

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.

Over the coming two months, the project team expects to finalise planning and design activities associated with the project.

Construction of the overpass bridge and access road is expected to commence in early 2012 following the announcement of \$50 million funding in the 2011 – 12 state budget. With an anticipated 12 month construction timeframe, weather permitting, the Gracemere Industrial Access is expected to open to traffic in early 2013.



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

Calliope Range realignment – Dawson Highway

The \$70 million Calliope Range realignment 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. Speed restrictions remain in place to ensure the safety of motorists and construction workers.

The Calliope Range realignment project remains on track for completion later in 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.

Work is currently underway on the new bridge piles and support structure, with the realigned Byfield Road expected to open to traffic by December 2011.

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.

Fitzroy River Floodplain and Road Planning Study

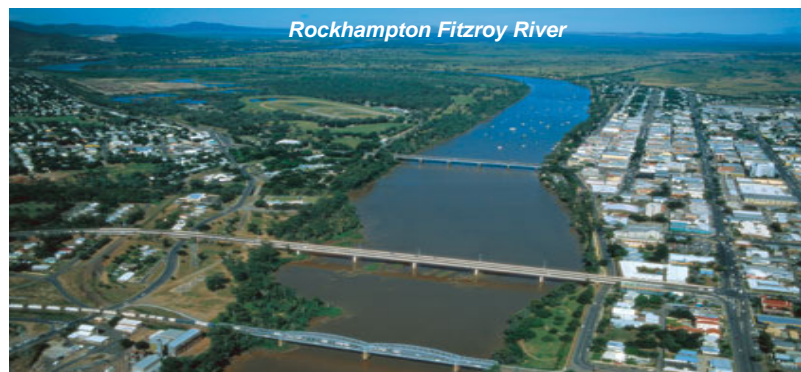
The \$5 million Fitzroy River Floodplain and Road Planning Study is specifically looking at ways of reducing congestion within Rockhampton and improving the highway's flood immunity to reduce the impact of Fitzroy River flooding on the Bruce Highway.

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 at the end of 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.



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 located between Dululu and Biloela. This project includes the widening of approximately 9 kilometres of the highway to a 9 metre bitumen seal, culvert extension, property access upgrades and intersection improvement works.

The project site works commenced in June and are being undertaken by Banana Shire Council with completion expected by the end of 2011, weather permitting.

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