

In and around Fitzroy

A message from the Regional Director



Welcome to the December edition of Local Links, 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.

Throughout 2010, Fitzroy Region successfully delivered a number of significant projects such as the 120 tonne, 48-metre Yaamba Road pedestrian overpass located across the Bruce Highway in North Rockhampton.

A new set of traffic signals were switched on at the entrance to Gracemere on the Capricorn Highway. Three new sets of signals were installed in Emerald at:

- the Ruby and Egerton Street intersection
- the Curt Street and Hospital Road intersection
- the Harris Road and Hospital Road intersection.

In addition the department widened and rehabilitated the Rockhampton - Emu Park Road between Tungamull and Tanby Road. The work included a bus pull over area and the widening of Coorooman Creek Bridge. The safety upgrade of Comet River Road and

Capricorn Highway intersection was also completed.

Traditionally the wettest months for Central Queensland are December and January. The Fitzroy Region is in the process of preparing for the rainfall and localised flooding that may impact the local state-controlled road network during this period.

For information about the conditions of the State-controlled road network in Central Queensland please log onto www.131940.qld.gov.au.

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

Terry Hill – Regional Director (Fitzroy Region)

Project updates

Fitzroy River Floodplain and Road Planning Study

In June 2009, the federal government announced a two-year, \$5 million study which 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 realignment.

The project team recently commenced the options identification stage during which a set of potential corridor alignments will be established. These potential alignments will then be shortlisted and put to the community for comment in early 2011.

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 20% 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

Stoney Creek Bridge alignment – Byfield Road (Capricorn Coast)



Stoney Creek Bridge

In November, Department of Transport and Main Roads commenced 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 km 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, with construction of the concrete bridge expected to commence before Christmas.

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, 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.

There are also safety issues for heavy vehicle traffic due to insufficient storage room between the rail line and Capricorn Highway. In the past, this has led to a number of near-miss incidents between rail traffic and heavy vehicles and is a major safety concern to the community.

Earlier in December, 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

Hospital Road traffic signals – Gregory Highway

Installation of Emerald's first three sets of traffic signals is now complete. The project involved the installation of signals at:

- the Ruby and Egerton Streets intersection
- the Curt Street and Hospital Road intersection
- the Harris Road and Hospital Road intersection.

The project also included the installation of signalised pedestrian crossing facilities to improve safety.

On 9 November 2010, all three sets of signals were officially commissioned by Councillor Peter Maguire, Mayor of Central Highlands Regional Council and Acting District Director Dereck Sanderson.

During this special event a parade of Emerald Car Club vehicles passed through the signals to commemorate this milestone in Emerald's history.



Wallaroo Range upgrade – Carnarvon Highway

Works to upgrade the Wallaroo Range Crossing on the Carnarvon Highway are now underway. The \$5.6 million project began in late October and is being undertaken by RoadTek.

The project includes widening 5.5kms of the highway, and upgrades to the guardrail.

This project will improve safety for motorists particularly heavy vehicle operators travelling on this commonly used central Queensland road link. Estimated completion date for this project is February 2011.

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