

From the DD's desk



Welcome to the 3rd edition of Main Roads Emerald newsletter!

Safety will be a primary focus for 2009 as Main Roads prepares to roll out a number of road improvement projects in Emerald.

The stand-out project this year will be the start of installation works for Emerald's first set of traffic lights at the Ruby and Egerton streets intersection.

Other works underway in Emerald include the completion of an \$8.7 million rehabilitation of the Peak Downs Highway near Myall Creek; start of construction of a \$6.7 million upgrade of the Dawson Highway at Meteor Creek; and the implementation of various safety enhancements to the Capricorn Highway, including new linemarking and signage. These projects will help enhance the safety of motorists travelling throughout the Emerald District.

While works are occurring, urge motorists to slow down and drive to the changed conditions. Speed restrictions will be in place around many of the worksites and it is vital that all road users drive to the changed conditions to ensure the safety of themselves and our roadworkers.

We are working closely with the Queensland Police to enforce speed restrictions around roadworks and minimise delays for motorists.

Further information on road upgrades planned for Central Queensland in 2009 can be found on the Main Roads website (www.mainroads.qld.gov.au) or by contacting the department's local office on 4983 8700.

In light of the recent Queensland Election, Premier Anna Bligh announced that Queensland Transport and the Department of Main Roads will merge to form a single

agency to be known as the Department of Transport and Main Roads. The merge of these portfolios is part of a whole of government initiative instituted by the Premier to consolidate like functions into larger and more viable agency groupings.

In closing, the Emerald and Rockhampton offices are continuing to work closely to deliver quality roadworks in the Fitzroy Region.

Rex Cowan
District Director
Emerald Office
Fitzroy Region



Workplace health and safety

Main Roads Wellness Committee

Main Roads takes the safety of our staff very seriously. There are many reasons for staying safe at work. Workplace safety doesn't just affect you at work – it affects your whole family. The Work Safe, Home Safe campaign reminds us that one of the most important reasons is to ensure a safe return home to friends and family.

The Wellness Committee has been formed to promote and participate in health events during the year such as the 10,000 steps program, National Diabetes Week and many more!

Safety Around Roadworks

Main Roads is spending A\$13.3 billion on roads over the next five years, so there currently is and will be lots of roadworks happening throughout Queensland. This makes 'safety around roadworks' even more critical.

To make your journey safer and easier around roadworks:

- » be sure to allow extra travel time
- » think about changing your route or consider public transport
- » listen for radio updates
- » check this website or your local newspaper
- » slow down at roadworks
- » drive to suit the conditions
- » look out for roadworkers and signs, and follow their instructions.

Main Roads Local Links

Safer Roads for the Central Highlands

Main Roads has allocated more than \$1 billion over five years to direct safety initiatives, This includes the \$54m Safer Roads sooner program, which is funding the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Egerton Street and Ruby Street.

Emerald had grown significantly in the past five years and installing the traffic lights will help improve safety of road users, maintain local access to businesses and provide safe pedestrian crossings.

Main Roads will commence construction of the new lights towards the end of 2009 and they are expected to be fully functional by mid 2010.

Keep an eye out for Main Roads in local shopping centres as community consultation kicks off very shortly!

Staff profile

Name: Guru Balasubramanian

Position: Civil Engineer

What you do at Main Roads?

I am a Civil Engineer working for various projects with the Program Delivery and Development team.

Current projects you are working on?

1. Traffic signals project at the Ruby/Egerton street intersection.
2. 'Safer Roads Sooner' project on the Capricorn Highway (Emerald-Duaranga).
3. Road Maintenance Performance contract (Emerald Shire).

What benefits will these projects deliver to the community?

Improved safety and standards on the road network.

Best thing about working for Main Roads?

Main Roads has provided me with a great opportunity to improve road safety for the community in one of the largest Government departments in Queensland. In addition to this, Main Roads is a safe workplace and encourages equality and respect for work/life balance.



The floods - one year on

Since the January flood event last year, funding from the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangement has been approved and repair works have commenced.

Approximately \$13.7m worth of roadworks will be carried out in the Central Highlands and so far, all projects are on schedule. Some of the projects include repairing failures on the pavement and clearing culverts.

Main Roads would like to thank the travelling public for their patience while we carry out these important roadworks.

Main Roads Local Links



Current Projects for 2009!

Meteor Creek, Dawson Highway

- » **Construction of the \$8.5 million Meteor Creek Project on the Dawson Highway south of Rolleston commenced on Monday 2 March 2009.**

The project will improve the pavement structure on a 17km stretch of the Dawson Highway and provide motorists with a safer and smoother ride.

The Dawson Highway is a State Strategic Road and connects Emerald with Gladstone to the east and Roma to the south, providing an important freight and tourism route through the central mid west region.

The contract for the Meteor Creek project was awarded to JMS Civil and Mining on 17 February 2009, who have since commenced construction on site.

Motorists are encouraged to remain patient, observe roadworks signs and always drive to the conditions. Traffic control will be in place for the duration of the project, which is expected to take 6 months, weather permitting.

Myall Creek, Peak Downs Highway

- » **An \$8.75 million upgrade to the Peak Downs Highway at Myall Creek, approximately 22km north-east of Clermont is well underway and is due for completion in mid 2009, weather permitting.**

The rehabilitation and widening project will improve the pavement structure and provide an 8.5 metre sealed road on an 8.1km section of the Peak Downs Highway at Myall Creek.

RoadTek has been engaged to deliver the project and it is important while construction is in place that drivers play their part in ensuring a safe construction site by slowing down and following the instructions of traffic controllers and signage. Main Roads thanks motorists for their patience during these important works and will aim to minimise disruptions as much as possible.

Clermont Coal

- » **The Clermont Coal Road Deviation Project started in the field on 14 September 2007.**

This project will provide Main Roads and the Central Queensland community with approximately 15 km of newly constructed road to replace approximately 11.5 km of old road of variable condition. This constitutes an investment into the District's road asset of at least \$23m.

The project is due for completion in mid 2009, weather permitting.

Main Roads Local Links



Towards our targets

Keeping the lines of communication open was vital when the Main Roads Emerald Office started work on the \$5.3 million Hospital Road Rehabilitation Project. The road is the principal arterial through the Central Queensland town and is the chosen transport route for many of the region's primary industries.

The project was completed in late 2008 and was carried out in order to maintain the safety of the travelling public and improve the condition of the road. As a result of industry growth, traffic volumes in Emerald had increased significantly over recent years which had put greater demands on the performance requirements of Hospital Road.

Sheila O'Keefe, Main Roads Assistant Operational Manager, praised the efforts of her fellow team members.

"We had a great team, everyone worked well together and it was a great learning experience."

The stakeholders along Hospital Road provided fantastic feedback about the work and the consultation process.

Queensland Police Service Senior Sergeant Graeme Reeves, said the community received excellent communication from the project team.

"Consultation was excellent by both the administrative level and road works supervisors. Emergency services were kept informed at all times."

The Hospital Road Rehabilitation Project proved a great success coming in under budget by \$700,000 and being delivered within the negotiated timeframes.

Well done to the team behind the Hospital Road Rehabilitation Project!

"It was good to work in a team where everyone was focused on a Best for Project outcome."

Jason Hoolihan,
Project Manager



Main Roads Local Links



Melanie Dunn (left) and Carmen Hass

“As Emerald is a tight-knit community, our consultation activities had to be consistent, thorough and down to earth. Regular consultation meetings, daily face-to-face visits and constant phone calls were all part of our goal to keep our key stakeholders up-to-date every step of the way.”

Carmen Hass & Melanie Dunn, Communication Officers

“Traffic Management was the highest and most complex task on this project and with good staff and accurate diagrams it was easily delivered.

My role was project coordinator and I found this to be a challenging role. Some of my duties were to ensure that processes were followed, liaising with the project team and local stakeholders and examining proposed scope changes.

Communication was the key and the way each team member communicated is what made this project such a success.”

Gavin Nicholson, Project Coordinator



“I personally enjoyed the challenge of delivering works that took a huge amount of coordination. I had a great time contributing to and supporting the department’s wonderful reputation in the district. I also liked working in the project team which hopefully set the scene for future successful Main Roads projects.”

Phil McKenzie, Operations Manager



Wes Hinsbey

“I conducted an audit on the workplace health and safety of the construction site and the Hospital Road Team passed with flying colours. The safety of the roadworkers and the travelling public was maintained at all times and I commend all team members for making such a huge effort.”

Wes Hinsbey, Workplace Health and Safety Officer

Contact

For more information:

- » contact the Emerald district office on +61 7 4983 8700
- » www.mainroads.qld.gov.au
- » www.racq.com.au

To stay connected go to www.mainroads.qld.gov.au