

### A message from the District Director



**I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new acting District Director. My name is Rex Cowan and I have come from the Rockhampton District Office to relieve as District Director until 21st March 2009.**

I have been a Main Roads employee for around 35 years and have spent time in Mackay, Emerald, Cloncurry and Rockhampton. I started my career with Main Roads as a cadet designer and have continued with this profession. Throughout the years I have also undertaken various roles in project management as well as being Manager of Transport Planning in Cloncurry.

Since starting here in Emerald on 22 September, I have had some great experiences. I have been getting into the swing of things with the Emerald district by meeting all the district staff and going out into the field and meeting the RoadTek workers currently working on Hospital Road. The team working together with Main Roads staff on the Hospital Road project are doing exceptionally well with their performance in the delivery and the quality of the project.

With roadworks being carried out within the district I would like to urge all road users to follow advice provided on road conditions, drive safely, obey road signs and speed limits, and look out for road workers as they go about their job. In doing so, everyone will play a part in looking after this important community asset.

**Rex Cowan**  
Acting District Director  
Emerald District Office  
Fitzroy Region



### Awards and recognition

#### Emerald District receives 2 Excellence Awards

In May this year the 2008 Main Roads Excellence Awards were held and what a success they were!

Emerald District received 2 awards for outstanding achievements. The first award was in the **Leadership and Management** category for efforts during the January 2008 flood event.

The second award was **The Director-General's 'Relationship Award'** which recognises the importance of building strong relationships between Main Roads and the diverse range of stakeholders we encounter in our day-to-day business.

As the department continues to deliver a record program of works and grow in capacity and capability, it is vital that we recognise and celebrate our people who are contributing so much to our success.

Even more importantly, the awards promote excellence in the way we conduct ourselves, and demonstrate that Main Roads is working for and with the community.



Melanie Dunn with the Hon. Warren Pitt, MP, Minister for Main Roads

#### Recognition for a job well Dunn

Tireless work during January's floods put local Main Roads employee Melanie Dunn in the running for young achiever of the year at the 2008 Queensland Transport and Logistics Industry Awards.

Melanie, 25, is a communications officer in Main Roads' Emerald Office and was one of 10 finalists for the award, which recognises excellence among rising stars in the fields of transport and logistics.

Her district director at the time of the floods, Andrew Cramp, said Melanie showed an abundance of leadership and dedication under difficult circumstances.

Through it all, Melanie went above and beyond duty in making herself available at all times through the day and night to maintain vital communications links with Brisbane and the local area.

Her efforts were even more exceptional, given they stood out in a Main Roads district that prides itself on teamwork and high performance and has received three departmental awards in the last two years.

Melanie said the scale of the flooding was beyond her wildest imaginations.

"The flooding was like nothing I had ever seen and the task of keeping our stakeholders up-to-date was literally a round the clock job," Melanie said.

"In reality, I was just doing my job and I wouldn't even think twice about putting in the same effort as I did. I am so happy to have been nominated for such a great award – it's very humbling."

### Retirement after 21 years with Main Roads

Main Roads wishes to announce the retirement of Peter Hurley after 21 years of loyal and active service with the Emerald District office.

Peter embarked on his journey with Main Roads Emerald in 1987 as a supervisor of a works crew and his career flourished from there.

Peter has enjoyed a long and distinguished career with Main Roads where he has made several valuable contributions to the department and gained many friends and acquaintances along the way.

Peter's experience and expertise will be greatly missed across the department and his caring attitude significantly contributed to generating and maintaining a great working environment. Peter will be remembered for these significant contributions, his knowledge and his mischievous antics.

Happy retirement and good luck.



### Hospital Road Rehabilitation Project

A \$5.2 million upgrade to Hospital Road will improve the pavement structure of a 1.84km section of road between Egerton Street and Cameron Road.

Significant consultation with business owners along and surrounding Hospital Road has been in progress since April 2008. Consultation methods have included consultation meetings with business owners to show plans for the treatment and process as well as regular letters informing businesses and residents of the project's progress.

Preliminary works involving median and drainage work commenced on 11 August 2008 and were completed with great success.



*RoadTek workers on site during Hospital Road Preliminary Works*

The construction program began on Sunday 21 September with isolated pavement repairs from Curt Street to Cameron Road. Following these repairs an asphalt seal is being laid from Egerton Street to Curt Street. These works will be carried out at night to minimise disruptions to the efficiency of the road network.

The project will significantly prolong the life of the existing pavement and provide a safer, smoother trip for motorists. It is Main Roads priority to maintain a safe and efficient road network on behalf of the community.



## Yamala West Project

This project will provide Main Roads and the Central Queensland community with approximately 13.5 km of re-constructed road to reduce roughness of existing road of variable condition and widen the pavement to 9m. This constitutes an investment into the District's road asset of more than \$9 million.

The Yamala West Project started in the field in April 2007. The construction of the project involved strengthening of the existing pavement with the incorporation of cement during stabilisation and a pavement overlay to reduce roughness of the road.



Capricorn Highway, West of Yamala

After construction the road will be inspected regularly to maintain the pavement and reduce maintenance costs. These improvements will increase transport efficiency on this section of the road network. This project is part of a long-term strategy to widen the Capricorn Highway between Emerald and Rockhampton.

It is expected that the Capricorn Highway, Yamala West Project will be completed by end December 2008.

## Myall Creek Project

An \$8.75 million upgrade to the Peak Downs Highway at Myall Creek, approximately 22km north-east of Clermont, is due to commence 13 October 2008.

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.

The Peak Downs Highway is classified as a State Strategic Road and is used to connect Clermont and the Central Highlands with Mackay to the north, providing an important link for freight, the Bowen Basin mining industry and tourism through the Central Highlands region.

RoadTek has been engaged to deliver the project and we ask motorists to be patient, observe roadworks signs and always drive to the conditions.



## Safer Roads Sooner

### Hospital Road / Ruby Street Intersection Proposal for Traffic Lights

Local commercial stakeholders of the Ruby Street North area were invited to discuss three alternative options for the Ruby Street/Egerton Street intersection.

To ensure each option was considered equally, a set of criteria was utilised to assess each of the options and compare them against the original design. The criteria included issues such as vehicular and pedestrian safety, business access and impacts on schools and residences.

Now that directly affected businesses have been consulted and their inputs have been considered, Main Roads will now carry out a final consultation meeting with the Central Highlands Regional Council for their input and consideration.

To finalise this consultation, Main Roads will make the final decision on which option will be constructed at this intersection. An extensive community consultation exercise will take place to ensure the Emerald community is fully informed.

## Natural Disaster Recovery Works

Since the January flood event this year, Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangement works have commenced. These works have been prioritised with some being identified as needing to be completed prior to the upcoming wet season.

Most works have been forwarded to Emergency Management Queensland for approval with the estimated value of works to be \$15 million.



## Clermont Coal Project

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 progressing well, despite some delays due to wet weather in January and February.

A new section of the Gregory Highway was opened on the 26 August 2008. Vehicles will be required to use the new intersection which is located 1km south from the existing T-Junction of the Gregory Highway and Gregory Developmental Road towards Clermont. Some detours are still in place.

It is expected that the Gregory Highway will be officially opened in October and the Peak Downs Highway in late November.



## Workplace Health and Safety

### Safe Work Australia Week

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.

### Fire Safety

Main Roads staff recently updated their skills in fire safety with the use of fire extinguishers. The Emerald Fire Brigade carried out the training at the Emerald District office to give all staff the opportunity to participate. Main Roads takes safety very seriously and always encourage our staff to have up-to-date skills for emergency procedures.



*Workplace Health & Safety Officer, Wes Hinsbey practices the use of fire extinguishers*

### 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.

## Contact

For more information:

- » contact the Emerald district office on +61 7 4983 8700
- » [www.mainroads.qld.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.qld.gov.au)
- » [www.racq.com.au](http://www.racq.com.au)