

In and around Fitzroy

February 2010

A message from the Regional Director



Welcome to the first edition of the Fitzroy Region Local Links for 2010 – our local newsletter aimed at providing communities in central Queensland with up-to-date information on activities and road projects across the region.

Once again, the traditional wet months of December and January brought rainfall and localised flooding across Central Queensland. Fortunately, the state-controlled road network escaped significant damage with emergency callouts limited to minor maintenance and pothole repairs.

As always, my thanks and appreciation goes to Transport and Main Roads staff as well as local government staff who remained on alert during this period given the annual threat of severe weather or cyclonic conditions.

Looking forward, 2010 is shaping up to be a year for completing significant projects across the region. In April, the department expects to officially open the Yaamba Road Pedestrian Overpass in North Rockhampton. Upgrade of the Comet River Road intersection and switching on of the Gracemere intersection traffic lights, on the Capricorn Highway, remain on schedule for completion in May.

Emerald's first sets of traffic signals on Hospital Road is expected to be switched on for the first time in August. Finally, December will mark the official commissioning of the \$18 million Emu Park Road upgrade, east of Rockhampton.

With these and many other projects underway, it is important that the community stays alert to the increased amount of roadworks being undertaken here in Central Queensland. Road safety is the responsibility of everyone and I urge all motorists to slow down around roadworks, drive to the changed conditions and observe speed signage.

I look forward to continuing to provide updates on these and other projects through future editions of the Fitzroy Region Local Links newsletter and trust that you find the content of this edition both useful and informative.

Terry Hill
Regional Director (Fitzroy Region)

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Project Updates

Fitzroy River Floodplain and Road Planning Study

Bruce Highway: Brisbane – Cairns Corridor

In June 2009, the federal government announced the commencement of a two-year study to identify the preferred alignment for future road and rail transport in and around Rockhampton.

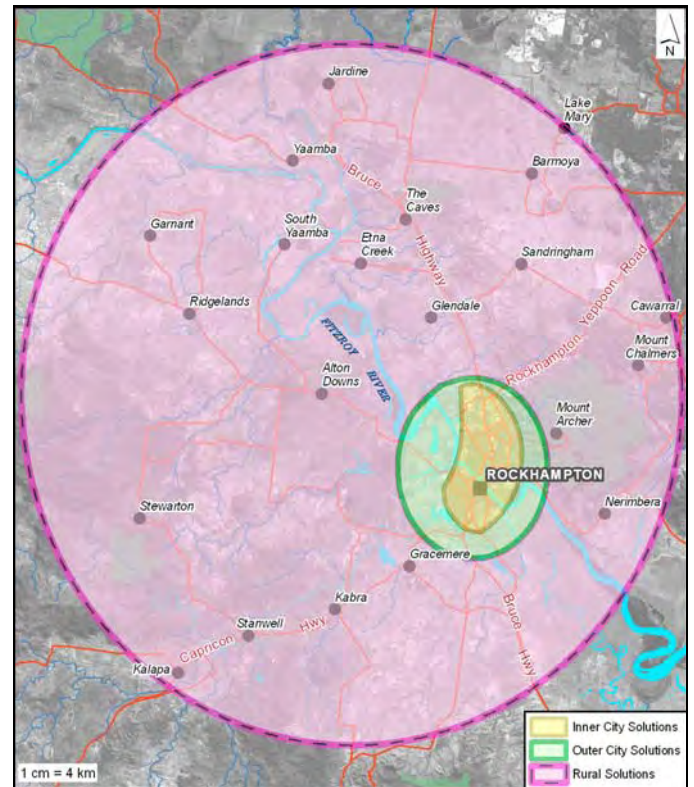
The \$5 million study, led by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, will identify and evaluate options to address flood immunity, traffic capacity, freight movement and amenity of the Bruce Highway through Rockhampton. This also includes the possibility of a new Fitzroy River crossing or highway re-alignment.

Community engagement and consultation will play a significant role in completing the floodplain study. Over the next 18 months, Transport and Main Roads is committed to engaging with the Central Queensland community to consider the many possible transport corridor options. This communication process will include public submissions, displays and media opportunities, all with the intent of receiving community input in every step of the study.

In February, the community will be asked to provide feedback and consider the opportunities/constraints of three broad solution areas (*Rural Solution, Outer - city Solution and Inner - city Solution*). In which the solution or solutions to Bruce Highway flooding and road congestion may be addressed. Submission forms along with copies of information sheets can be obtained by calling the project hotline (1800 027 340) or visiting the project website at www.tmr.qld.gov.au

The first submission period seeking feedback on the three solution areas closes on 12 March 2010.

The final Fitzroy River Floodplain and Road Planning Study is expected to be published in mid 2011.



Rockhampton - Emu Park Road

In 2008, the state government announced an \$18 million upgrade of Emu Park Road as part of the ongoing strategy to improve the Capricorn Coast road network and major connection roads to Rockhampton.

The \$18 million project includes widening and rehabilitating Emu Park Road between Keppel Sands intersection and Tanby Road to provide a smoother and safer connection for motorists travelling between Rockhampton and Emu Park.

The project provides for bus pull-over areas at intersections and the upgrade of accesses to private properties. It also includes construction of new access roads which service a number of properties providing safer access for local residents.

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Work on Stage Two of the project, which commenced in July 2009, includes widening 6.7km of the existing road, visibility improvements, and overlay works along Emu Park Road between Coowonga and Tanby Road. Also included is the installation of one overtaking lane at Palm Creek, and five intersection upgrades between Tungamull Creek and Tanby Road.

The upgraded Emu Park Road is on-track to be opened to traffic in June 2010.



Yaamba Road Pedestrian Overpass Bruce Highway, North Rockhampton

The state government announced in June 2008 that a pedestrian overpass would be constructed across Yaamba Road, North Rockhampton, to provide safe pedestrian access across the road and improve long-term traffic flow on the busy corridor.

Since January 2009, the project contractor York Civil has worked professionally alongside Transport and Main Roads to design the new pedestrian overpass. On 2 July 2009, York Civil was awarded the contract for Stage Two of the project and is now undertaking construction of the structure.

Work on the structure footings and sub-structure remained the most visible works associated with the project in 2009. Over recent months however, the size and scale of the project has become evident for Rockhampton residents as the structure rises from the ground and work is completed on the lift wells and staircases.

In January 2010, assembly of the footbridge will commence off-site at the nearby Yaamba Road school campus, with the 48m steel span expected to be transported and installed in March 2010, weather permitting.

Once completed, the Yaamba Road Pedestrian Overpass will provide safe pedestrian access across the busy North Rockhampton corridor and reduce delays for traffic on Yaamba Road.

Calliope Range Realignment Dawson Highway

The \$70 million Calliope Range Realignment is Central Queensland's largest road project for 2010-11 and will provide a new Calliope Range crossing on the Dawson Highway, between Calliope and Biloela.

Situated 50km west of Calliope, the project spans the boundary of Banana Shire Council and Gladstone Regional Council.

Preconstruction works, which included the relocation of over 400 environmentally significant Cycad trees was successfully completed in late 2009, clearing the way for site works to commence in the next two months.

Once completed, the Calliope Range Realignment will deliver a much smoother and free-flowing Dawson Highway, ensuring a safer and more freight-efficient alignment to replace the current highway bottleneck west of Calliope.

Traffic signals announced for Emerald Hospital Road (Gregory Highway)

Central Highlands roads are to benefit from a series of new safety improvements, following the announcement of the Department of Transport and Main Roads' 2009-2010 Roads Implementation Program.

Emerald will be provided with three sets of traffic signals in 2010.

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Emerald is in for some big changes in the coming months with traffic signals being installed at the intersection of Ruby/Egerton Streets and along Hospital Road at Curt Street and Harris Street.

These three intersections are some of the busiest in Emerald and the new traffic lights will improve safety for motorists and pedestrians.

The signals, are being delivered as part of the Safer Roads Sooner program, and be fully installed and operational by late 2010.

Community consultation has commenced with key stakeholders and will continue over the coming months. The department will also consult with the wider community and provide education and safety awareness programs.



Comet River Road Intersection Upgrade Capricorn Highway

The \$1 million Blackspot funded project at the intersection of Comet River Road and the Capricorn Highway is due to commence in March 2010 with completion expected in June 2010, weather permitting. The project involves upgrading the intersection to improve safety for all motorists.

Blackwater-Rolleston Road Upgrade Capricorn Highway

Roadworks are expected to commence on the Blackwater-Rolleston Road in April 2010 and completion is expected by June 2011, weather permitting.

This project, funded by local, state and federal governments involves sealing a 58 km section of the road to provide motorists with a smooth ride and improved safety.

Dawson Developmental Road

Extensive flood repair work commenced on various sections of the Dawson Developmental Road (Springsure-Tambo) in mid 2009.

These works include:

- gravel resheeting
- heavy formation grading
- reinstatement of road shoulders
- reinstatement of sealed/concrete floodways and approaches
- removal of flood debris and de-silting drainage
- reinstatement of road drainage
- pavement repairs
- replacement of guideposts and signage

The works are expected to be completed by April 2010, weather permitting.

The aim of this project is to reinstate the Dawson Development Road to its previous standard, prior to the January 2008 floods.

Contact us

Transport and Main Roads

Rockhampton Office
31 Knight Street
North Rockhampton Qld 4701
Tel: (07) 4931 1500
Fax: (07) 4927 5020

Emerald Office
83 Esmond Street
Emerald Qld 4720
Tel: (07) 4983 8700
Fax: (07) 4983 8722

www.tmr.qld.gov.au