

#### A Message from the Regional Director



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Welcome to the August edition of the Local Links – our locally focused newsletter aimed at providing communities in Central Queensland with the latest information on activities and road projects across the region.

As you may be aware, Q150 is Queensland's celebration of 150 years of independence from New South Wales. As part of the Q150 celebrations Main Roads is naming bridges across the state in recognition of the important role roads and bridges have played in building Queensland's prosperity.

The six bridges across Rockhampton and Gladstone being named as part of the celebration are:

- Scrubby Creek Bridge, located south of Rockhampton on the Bruce Highway
- Three Yeppen Bridges located south of Rockhampton on the Bruce Highway
- Branch Creek Bridge located on the Dawson Highway
- Boyne River Bridge located on the Bruce Highway

I recently joined in the Q150 bridge naming panel, which included representatives from the Rockhampton and Gladstone communities, to select and recommend the names for the local bridges. In total, the panel received 18 submissions reflecting features of the local area, historical events and people who have contributed in a special way to enriching the community. The quality of these submissions made the panel's decision very difficult.

Main Roads is now planning for the Q150 celebration event to officially name the Rockhampton and Gladstone bridges.

#### Project updates

##### Fitzroy River Floodplain and Road Planning Study

###### Bruce Highway: Brisbane – Cairns Corridor

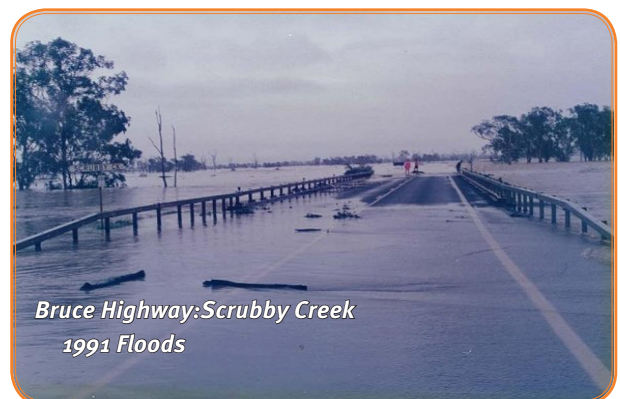
In June 2009, the federal government announced the commencement of a two-year study to identify the preferred alignment for future road and rail transport in Central Queensland.

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

The study will take a holistic approach, encompassing environmental, cultural heritage, safety and community expectations, not just hard infrastructure. It is the first vital step to ensuring the best for the Bruce Highway and local traffic needs in the future.

Community engagement and consultation will play a significant role in completing this study. Over the next two years, Main Roads is committed to engaging with identified stakeholders and organisations to consider the many possible transport corridor options and the impact of final recommendations. This communication process will include public submissions, displays and media opportunities, all with the intent of involving the community in every step of the study.

The study is expected to publish its final recommendations in mid 2011.



### Rockhampton - Emu Park Road

In 2008, the state government announced an \$18 million upgrade project for 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, including an eastbound overtaking lane at Palm Creek, to provide a smoother and safer connection for motorists travelling between Rockhampton and Emu Park.

The project also 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 a safer access for local residents.

Work on Stage Two of the project, which commenced in July, 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.



Rockhampton - Emu Park Road

### Don River Bridge replacement

#### Leichhardt Highway (Westwood – Taroom)

Planning for a \$65 million bridge replacement and realignment of the Leichhardt Highway, 22km south of Wowan, continues to progress well with work to determine the preferred highway realignment nearing completion.

The 12km realignment will include the replacement of three timber bridges originally built in the 1940s with a new concrete structure. Once completed, the project will improve safety along with flood immunity of this section of highway, which has previously closed the route for extended periods of time.

Planning, investigations and preliminary design will continue over the next three months, with construction expected to commence mid 2010. The realignment and upgrade of the Leichhardt Highway is scheduled for completion in late 2011.



Don River Bridge



Don River Bridge

### 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 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 will now undertake construction of the structure.

Early works, including the relocation of electrical and telecommunication services, were undertaken in May and June to ensure the safety of crews during construction and prevent unnecessary delays once works commence. Extension of the concrete footpath from Yaamba Road to the Main Street and Denning Street intersection, was also completed as part of the early works to provide a safe alternative for pedestrians to bypass the nearby construction area.

Work on the structure footings and sub-structure will remain the most visible works associated with the project until late 2009 when the footbridge is lifted into place. Due to the proximity of the construction area to Yaamba Road, motorists can expect some speed restrictions throughout the six months of construction.

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.

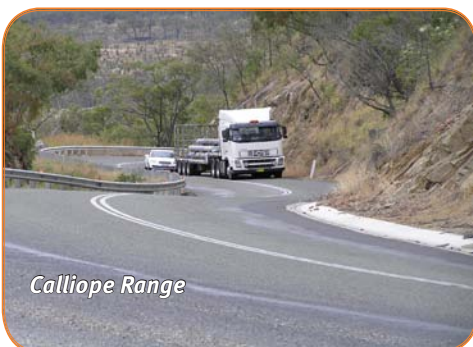


*Yaamba Road pedestrian overpass  
(Architectural perspective)*

### Calliope Range

#### Dawson Highway

The planning and design for a \$70 million realignment of the Calliope Range on the Dawson Highway is progressing well, with the project on schedule to be completed by 2011. Tenders for the project opened in July and site construction is expected to start in October 2009.



Situated 50km west of Calliope, the project spans the boundary of Banana Shire and Gladstone Regional Councils. The works will deliver a 5km realignment slightly to the north of the existing range crossing. The realignment of the Calliope Range crossing will provide a safer, more efficient link between Gladstone and Biloela.

#### Contact

For more information you can:

- » contact the Rockhampton office on +61 7 4931 1500
- » visit our website [www.transportandmainroads.qld.gov.au](http://www.transportandmainroads.qld.gov.au)