

A message from the Regional Director



Terry Hill
Regional Director
Fitzroy Region
Rockhampton Office

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

It has been a busy start to 2009 with planning and construction underway on over \$150 million worth of projects from as far north as Marlborough, south to Miriam Vale and west to Banana.

On 15 May 2009, I had the pleasure of attending the launch of the Regional Achievement and Community Awards in Rockhampton. The Queensland Government is the major sponsor of the annual awards which recognises the dedicated and tireless efforts of individuals, businesses and community groups within our regional communities.

This year there are seven award categories:

- Business and Employment
- Arts and Culture
- Environment and Landcare
- Community of the Year
- Events and Tourism
- Regional Service
- Youth Leadership

If you know an individual, group or organisation in the community who demonstrates leadership and excellence in one or more of these categories, head to the website www.awardsaustralia.com to find out more and complete a nomination form. Nominations close 31 July 2009.

Over the coming month, motorists across the region will encounter more roadworks on our highways and major connector roads as delivery of our 2009 program of works hits full steam.

It is therefore timely to remind motorists when travelling through roadworks to exercise caution and observe all warning signs, speed restrictions and traffic controller directions. Safety is Main Roads' number one priority.

Q150 bridge naming project

Nominations for the Q150 bridge naming project closed on 15 May 2009, with a variety of submissions received.

The six bridges across Rockhampton and Gladstone to be named 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

A panel has been formed with representatives from across the region to assess the submissions. It is anticipated that the new bridge names will be selected over coming weeks.

Capricorn Highway upgrade (Gracemere intersection)

Residential and commercial growth experienced by Gracemere over recent years has placed increasing demand on the local road network. Traffic volumes on Lawrie Street now exceed 10 000 vehicles daily, with many of these entering or exiting Gracemere onto the Capricorn Highway.

Primary details of the Capricorn Highway (Gracemere intersection) upgrade include:

- provision of traffic signals at the intersection of Capricorn Highway and Gavia-Gracemere Road (McLaughlin Street)
- widening McLaughlin Street approaches to the Capricorn Highway intersection to provide two turning lanes
- providing two inbound lanes on the Capricorn Highway a further 500 metres towards Rockhampton
- construction of a new concrete centre median on McLaughlin Street, providing a barrier between inbound and outbound traffic which will further improve safety by preventing vehicles from turning in front of traffic at the new intersection.

Main Roads is also investigating possible changes to the Old Capricorn Highway/Fairybower Road intersection to prevent vehicles exiting from the Old Capricorn Highway onto the Capricorn Highway.

An option being considered is the installation of a new concrete island and 'no entry' signage that would require all traffic exiting Gracemere to use the new McLaughlin Street signals.

Community feedback will be considered when determining any changes to the Capricorn Highway and Old Capricorn Highway intersection.

Gracemere (Capricorn Highway) Intersection Upgrade



Don River bridges



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.

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 early 2011.

Yaamba Road pedestrian overpass

In April 2009, Main Roads, project contractor York Civil Pty Ltd, Emmaus College and surrounding business representatives met to consider plans for delivery of the Yaamba Road pedestrian overpass.

Emmaus College has agreed to have the project site office established on the college's Main Street campus oval, adjacent to the car park. Assembly of the overpass structure will take place on the oval and it will then be transported to site. Having the site office on campus is not expected to impact on the day-to-day college operations. Fencing and/or barriers will be installed to ensure the safety of students at all times.

Maintaining the safety of students, the public and construction employees is the highest priority of the project team. A temporary signalised pedestrian crossing will be installed adjacent to the Denning Street and Main Street intersection to ensure the safe passage of pedestrians during the construction period. Both Emmaus College students and the public will use the temporary Main Street crossing, Yaamba Road footpath and Boland Street pedestrian signals to cross Yaamba Road.

Early construction works for the new pedestrian overpass are on schedule to commence in June. In the coming weeks, Main Roads will also hold an information evening at Emmaus College to outline full details of the project.



Rockhampton - Emu Park Road

Rockhampton – Emu Park Road will soon be wider, smoother and safer for motorists travelling between Rockhampton and Emu Park.

Work is nearing completion on stage one of an \$18 million package of works to improve safety on the coastal connection. Rehabilitation of the existing road commenced in May 2009 between Keppel Sands Road and Tanby Road.

Stage one of the project will involve widening and resurfacing a 3.7km section of Emu Park Road between Keppel Sands Road and Coowonga Road intersections.

When completed, the Rockhampton – Emu Park Road will provide a 10m wide sealed road, two metres wider than currently exists.

The widening of the Coorooman Creek Bridge is also nearing completion as bridge deck construction commenced on 18 May 2009.

Calliope Range realignment (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 were called in May and site construction is expected to start in August 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.mainroads.qld.gov.au