

### A message from the Regional Director



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

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Queensland's separation from New South Wales as a colony. As part of these celebrations the Department of Transport and Main Roads has led the Q150 Bridge Naming Project state-wide.

This project gave all Queenslanders the opportunity to suggest bridge names in honour of people, places, events or items of cultural significance.

Here in central Queensland, Main Roads Minister Craig Wallace recently announced that Yeppen Creek 3 Bridge, located on the Bruce Highway south of Rockhampton, will be named Darumbal Bridge. The Darumbal name commemorates the Darumbal people who are recognised as the original occupants of the land on which Rockhampton and the Capricorn Coast were founded.

In the Central Highlands, the Carnarvon Creek Bridge on the Carnarvon Highway has been named the G M Pedersen Bridge and this name represents the Pedersen family who have lived in the area for around 75 years.

In addition, the Comet River Bridge on the Capricorn Highway has been named the Ludwig Leichhardt Bridge after the famous explorer who discovered the area in 1844.

A further three bridges in Rockhampton, three bridges in Gladstone and one bridge in Blackwater will be named as part of the Q150 celebrations in the coming months.

The Q150 bridge-naming festivities highlight the integral role that roads and bridges play in building the state's prosperity and connecting Queenslanders. The state's 150th birthday is an important milestone for all Queenslanders and we want to involve the community in the celebrations.



**Terry Hill**  
Regional Director (Fitzroy Region)

## Project Updates

### **Fitzroy River Floodplain and Transport 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 the issues of 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 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.

Main Roads is soon expected to announce the successful engineering consultant who will join the department in delivering the transport 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 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 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.



# In and around Fitzroy

## 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 in the second half of 2010. The realignment and upgrade of the Leichhardt Highway is scheduled for completion in late 2011.



## 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 is now undertaking construction of the structure.

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

From December 2009, fabrication of the footbridge will commence off-site at the nearby Yaamba Road school campus, with the structure expected to be lifted into place in early 2010.

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

Preconstruction works for a \$70 million realignment of the Calliope Range on the Dawson Highway are progressing well, with the project on schedule to be completed by 2011.

Tenders for the project closed in August 2009, with the successful tenderer expected to be announced in the coming month. Relocation of over 400 environmentally significant Cycad trees is almost complete, with the last tree due to be relocated by the end of October.

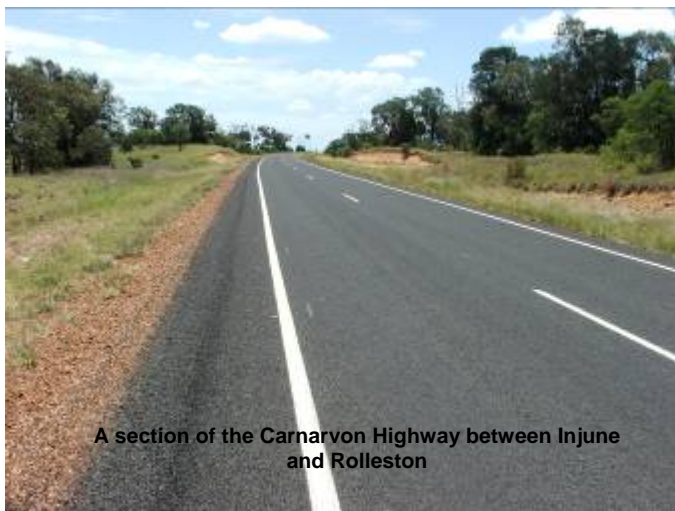
Situated 50km west of Calliope, the project spans the boundary of Banana Shire and Gladstone Regional Councils. The works will deliver a 5km realignment slightly to the north of the existing range crossing. The realignment of the Calliope Range crossing will provide a safer, more efficient link between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

# In and around Fitzroy

## Carnarvon Highway: Wallaroo Range Project

The Carnarvon Highway is classified as a State Strategic Road and is used to connect Emerald with Roma to the south-east, providing an important freight and tourism route through the central mid-west region.

The project works will include installation of guardrails, full width rehabilitation, seal edge repairs and shoulder maintenance. Construction is due to commence in the 2009/10 financial year.



A section of the Carnarvon Highway between Injune and Rolleston

## Traffic lights announced for Emerald

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 receive three sets of traffic lights in 2010.

Emerald is in for some big changes next year with traffic lights 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 lights which are being delivered as part of the Safer Roads Sooner program, will be fully installed and operational by late 2010, and will greatly benefit the Emerald community.



The intersection of Ruby Street and Egerton Street in Emerald where a set of traffic lights will be installed

Community consultation will take place toward the end of 2009 in advance of the roadworks. The department will also be providing an education program about traffic lights.

## Comet River Road Intersection Upgrade

The \$1 million Blackspot funded project at the intersection of Comet River Road and the Capricorn Highway is due to commence in early 2010 with completion expected in June 2010, weather permitting.

The project involves upgrading the intersection to improve safety for all motorists.



Comet River Road intersection on the Capricorn Highway

# In and around Fitzroy

## Blackwater-Rolleston Road Upgrade

Roadworks are due to commence on the Blackwater-Rolleston Road on 1 June 2009 and completion is expected by the end of 2009, weather permitting.

The \$4.5 million project involves rehabilitating and widening a 6km section of road to an 8.5m sealed width. Funding has been supplied by the Sustainable Resource Communities Initiative.

Once the project is completed, motorists will enjoy a smooth ride and improved safety.



## Dawson Developmental Road

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

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 December 2009, weather permitting.

The aim of this project is to reinstate this road to its previous standard prior to the devastating January 2008 floods.

## Contact us

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