

# In and around Mackay/Whitsunday • July 2008



### A message from the Regional Director

A lot has been said recently about the condition of Malcomson Street between Glenpark Street and Evans Avenue. I'd like to explain the facts about this important commuter route.

In 1999, Main Roads was preparing to construct the East West Connector as an alternative route to Malcomson Street. The project was prevented from proceeding due to protests from what proved to be a very vocal minority, including the Daily Mercury.

The option of upgrading Malcomson Street was then investigated.

During public consultation in 2004 and 2005 the community was strongly against the upgrading of Malcomson Street as the heavy vehicle route to the Mackay Harbour due to the impacts on residents and local businesses. The community was very much in favour of an alternative road to Malcomson Street being constructed.

Construction of the Joint Levee Road started in October 2007, more than seven years after work was meant to commence on the East West Connector. Without this delay, the project would now be completed and the situation on Malcomson Street would have been resolved. Instead, Malcomson Street has had to cope with heavy traffic volumes well beyond its useful life, resulting in deterioration of the road.

The road pavement suffered greatly during the last wet season, especially during the floods in February. Main Roads always intended to carry out maintenance repairs prior to the next wet season to prolong the life of the pavement until the Joint Levee Road could be opened to traffic.

Once the Joint Levee Road is completed, an upgrade of Malcomson Street can begin. This is something that Main Roads has always been committed to doing.

It is important to understand why a full upgrade of Malcomson Street cannot be carried out now.

To commence upgrade works on Malcomson Street prior to the completion of the Joint Levee Road would result in disruptions to traffic and industry, severe delays to motorists, and added pressure on Mackay's other commuter routes such as the Hospital Bridge and Ron Camm Bridge.

There would also be an adverse economic impact, both for businesses in the Malcomson Street areas as well as for heavy vehicle operators that currently use Malcomson Street as the only designated route to the Mackay Harbour.



*Work continues on the Joint Levee Road, June 2008*

Work on the \$14.2 million Joint Levee Road is progressing well with the first stage of construction almost complete.

There are two more stages of construction. Stage three is due for completion in November 2009. Traffic can then be transferred onto the Joint Levee Road and Malcomson Street can be upgraded.

**Ian Husband**  
Regional Director  
Mackay District Office  
Mackay/Whitsunday Region

## Malcomson Street maintenance repairs

Maintenance repair work has recently been carried out on the state-controlled section of Malcomson Street between Glenpark Street and Evans Avenue.

Work involved removing sections of damaged pavement and filling with asphalt. The work is designed to prolong the life of the pavement through the next wet season and until the completion of the Joint Levee Road.

This work was part of Main Roads' scheduled maintenance program.

## Project updates

### Hospital Bridge at Pioneer River

The new Hospital Bridge is really starting to take shape with the concrete girders now in place on four of the 21 spans.

Work on constructing the new roundabout at the intersection of Landsdowne Road, Hume Street and Lagoon Street will commence in the coming weeks.

The noise barrier between the bridge and residents in Crowley Drive has been erected and landscaping has been completed. A range of native, self-mulching, drought tolerant plants were selected.

The project is due to be completed in May 2009.

Total Project Cost \$33.6m

### Forgan Bridge and Kooyong intersection

Equipment testing and temporary piling works will commence next week on the Forgan Bridge Replacement Project. There will be some noise associated with this work as well as delays for motorists.

The project will see the existing two-lane bridge replaced with a four-lane bridge that will be able to accommodate Mackay's growing traffic demands.

The Kooyong intersection will also be upgraded to help the network cope with the future traffic volumes from both the Forgan Bridge and the Joint Levee Road.

The project is due to be completed in May 2010.

Total Project Cost \$127.9m



### Mackay-Bucasia Road

Good progress is being made on the Mackay-Bucasia Road duplication project with pavement construction works now underway.

A retaining wall is currently being constructed between the new and existing roadways, on the southern approach to the rail overpass, and major drainage works are still continuing.

Work on the rail overpass bridge is also underway. A total of 15 liners have now been driven and concrete is being poured to form the piles for the overpass foundations.

The Mackay-Bucasia Road duplication project is due to be completed towards the beginning of 2009, weather permitting.

Total Project Cost: \$17m



*Girders being lifted into place on the southern side of the Pioneer River*

## Contact

For more information on Mackay/Whitsunday you can:

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