

### South West *Connect*



Hi and welcome to our second edition of South West Connect. Our newsletter is designed to keep members of the public and our stakeholders better informed about our program of works and projects around the South West region.

Main Roads continues to roll out our program of works in the region in 2008-09 with a number of projects now coming to fruition after many months of planning and preparation.

I am very happy to report that the \$30m Roma – Taroom Road upgrading is progressing very well. The new Roma Regional Council is making excellent progress on the widening of its single lane section, with 25.5km of widening completed so far. In the north, Banana Shire has completed approximately 25km of new construction.

The \$15m Ward River Bridge outside Charleville is now full steam ahead. A bridge contractor, Davbridge has already driven all 149 bridge piles and is now well underway constructing pilestocks and columns. When completed, this 260m long structure will be the fourth longest bridge west of the range. Murweh Shire has completed earthworks on the eastern approaches, and has just commenced the western road approaches. This project is due to be completed in 2009.

Progress on upgrading intersections in Roma continues. From November this year Roma will have its first set of traffic lights. Other intersections are also being upgraded to improve traffic flow and efficiency.

Main Roads continues to address the safety needs of the trucking industry with work complete at eight truck stops along the Carnarvon Highway. Four existing truck stops have been upgraded and four new ones built at a total project cost of \$800,000.

We need no reminding from our kids that school holidays are here. Please drive safely on our roads during this holiday season. Unfortunately, we are still having too many accidents in Queensland due to motorists driving when tired and without due attention.

**If travelling over the break, please ensure you allow plenty of time for your trip, stick to the speed limit and take regular rest breaks every two hours.**

Finally, Main Roads is getting on with the job of connecting South West Queenslanders with many projects occurring all over our region. As you drive through our road works sites, please watch out for road workers and obey the posted speed limit at all times.

**Peter Evans**  
Regional Director  
Roma District Office  
South West Region



Construction on the new Ward River bridge



Aerial shot of the Ward River bridge construction site

The Ward River Bridge project is being constructed under a partnering arrangement with Davbridge and Murweh Shire Council.

## Ward River bridge

Work is progressing well on the Ward River Bridge project with bridge piling now complete and delivered on time.

Reaching this project milestone was a major achievement for the contractor Davbridge which had to drive 149 piles into the ground with some challenging geology at the site.

Main Roads' initial geological analysis showed that the bed of the river was much deeper in the past than what it is now.

Piles up to 28 metres long had to be driven through many layers of sediment of varying hardness until they reached refusal – the point at which the designers are certain that they will be able to carry the load.

Despite these considerable challenges, the contractor has completed the work on schedule and all piles have now been accepted by the Main Roads engineers.

Davbridge has now moved on to commence forming and casting the massive concrete pilecaps, which will each support two 1200 mm diameter columns up to nine metres height.

All parties work closely together to quickly resolve any problems that arise during the construction phase of the project.

The new bridge and road alignments are part of Main Roads' overall strategy to increase safety and visibility with improved alignments and a single, wider bridge, to replace two existing single lane bridges across Ward River and Woolshed Creek which were on a poor alignment.

The bridge is being constructed at a high level, and is designed to last more than 100 years.

The approaches will have a lower but still improved flood immunity as these can be more easily raised should this be required in the future.

## Roma Town safety works

Upgrading in Quintin Street (Carnarvon Highway) in Roma has been progressing well, thanks to the efforts of two teams from RoadTek South West Downs and Mooloolaba.

At the intersection of McDowall and Quintin streets, both the south and north bound lanes have been rehabilitated and sealed, and new traffic poles traffic islands installed.

RoadTek has worked hard (including weekend work) to fast-track the Roma project, in order to minimise disruption to motorists and the community.

With the seal completed on the south and north-bound lanes of Quintin Street, works are now focussing on channelising and the installation of kerb and traffic islands.

Main Roads acknowledges there have been some unavoidable disruptions to parking and access at the site. However, businesses and the community have been great and we really appreciate their help and patience during the works.

The next phase of the work will focus on erecting the traffic light poles after the recent installation of footings and electric conduits by RoadTek.

Works at the intersection of Quintin and McDowall streets are expected to be completed by early November 2008.

The final stage in the project is to change the Bowen and Quintin street intersection (KFC corner) to convert it to a T-intersection.

**After completion, this intersection will only have left turn in, left turn out access to and from Bowen Street West.**



*RoadTek and Main Roads discussing plans*



*Jason Champeneys on the job for RoadTek*

## Main Roads Local Links

### Audible line marking



Main Roads recently completed installing audible line marking on key roads within the south west region as part of its state-wide commitment to improve safety.

The audible lines were installed at locations within the region where there had been a history of fatigue-related crashes.

Audible line markings use a series of closely spaced raised bumps made from a thermoplastic material designed to create a continuous noise and vibration when driven on by a motor vehicle.

The audible line marking was part of a package of safety measures announced by the former Queensland Premier Peter Beattie following the Queensland Road Safety Summit in 2006.

The \$8 million funding commitment enabled about 1700 kilometres of state and national roads to be treated.

These measures complement initiatives targeted at managing fatigue and enhancing safety in the south west and across Queensland.

These initiatives include intersection upgrades, widening roads, installing additional signage and road side markers, as well as clearing the road reserve and providing additional road side rest areas.

The audible lines are installed on sections of the following roads in the south west:

- » Mitchell - Morven (Warrego Highway)
- » Miles - Goondiwindi (Leichhardt Highway)
- » Morven - Charleville (Warrego Highway)
- » Morven - Mitchell (Warrego Highway)
- » Miles - Roma (Warrego Highway)
- » Morven - Augathella (Landsborough Highway)

### Balonne River footbridge

Pedestrians now have a safe way to cross the Balonne River in Surat with the installation of a 140-metre footbridge.

The \$500,000 project, a joint partnership between Main Roads and Roma Regional Council improves access and safety to both sides of river for tourists and residents and provide an enjoyable walking path to recreation and camping areas.

Main Roads is pleased the pedestrian bridge is now in place, after several options were evaluated during negotiations with the former Warroo Shire Council.

The 1.5-metre wide bridge is made of galvanised steel and is attached to the bridge piers below the deck and has handrails on both sides. For safety reasons, fishing will be prohibited from the bridge and footbridge at all times.



*The completed Balonne River footbridge*

### Roma-Taroom Road

Work is continuing on the \$30 million project to upgrade sections of the Roma – Taroom Road.

Following the local government amalgamations, construction and sealing work is now being carried out by Roma Regional Council and Banana Shire Council.

The road is a very important link from the south-west to the Central Highlands and North Burnett regions.

Following completion, most of the Roma -Taroom Road will be sealed. This will make it much safer and more convenient to drive between Roma and Taroom and more reliable for children to get to school at Peek-a-doo and other areas along the road.

The project is on track for completion in 2010.

## Heavy vehicle rest areas

Main Roads has upgraded and installed eight heavy vehicle rest areas at a cost of \$800,000 on the Carnarvon Highway to combat driver fatigue.

The rest areas were funded by the state's Safer Roads Sooner program, which uses revenue from speeding and red light camera fines to address safety issues.

The new and improved rest areas provide a space where heavy vehicles drivers can pull over safely, fill out their log books and rest before continuing their journey.

The rest areas now provide more stopping locations with increased capacity along the Carnarvon Highway which is a key north-south route in the region for freight operators.

Main Roads is working towards improving and installing more of these facilities where possible for heavy vehicles as part of its long-term strategy to address heavy vehicle driver fatigue.

The heavy vehicle rest areas are now sealed and have new benches, chairs, shelters, bins and fresh rain water from storage tanks for the drivers to use throughout the year.

Native shrubs and trees will be planted soon to protect the sites and provide additional privacy and shade cover for drivers during the day.

Drivers are encouraged to continue to look after these sites and dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.

The eight heavy vehicle rest areas are located at the following locations:

- » 45km north of Roma.
- » 35km south of Roma.
- » 17km south of Roma.
- » 14km north of Surat.
- » 40km south of Surat.
- » 48km north of St George.
- » 18km north of St George.
- » 9km north of St George.

## Main Roads raises money for SIDS and KIDS

Main Roads South West Region recently joined in the campaign to raise awareness of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) last month with vehicles fitted with a red nose magnet.

Main Roads South West Regional Director Peter Evans said he was pleased Main Roads got involved in the cause, raising funds and helping to increase awareness of SIDS.

Selected Main Roads vehicles across Queensland had donned the famous red noses in the lead up to red nose day.

We all realise the importance of raising funds and awareness for this cause and hopefully our vehicles have stood out and encouraged others to get on board.



## Contact

For more information on South West you can:

- » call the Roma district office on +61 7 4622 9511
- » email [roma.office@mainroads.qld.gov.au](mailto:roma.office@mainroads.qld.gov.au)

To report road safety issues you can:

- » call 1800 776 237