

A message from the Regional Director



Hi and welcome to the latest edition of Local Links.

This newsletter is jam packed with the latest information about what we do in Main Roads and how we do our business – that is, maintaining the road network across the South West Region. Local Links is designed to give you, the reader, a better understanding of Main Roads' business and the stories that go behind building and maintaining Queensland's largest physical asset – the road network.

I hope you find it informative. Please don't forget if you want to provide feedback to Main Roads on any issue – whether it be road conditions, planning, complaints or just general feedback – please don't hesitate to give our friendly staff a call at either our Charleville or Roma offices.

Peter Evans
Regional Director
Roma District Office
South West Region

Traffic web camera for Roma

Main Roads' South West Region recently had its first traffic web camera switched on as part of the Roma Town Intersection safety upgrades.

The web camera, recently installed as part of the new traffic lights at Quintin and McDowall Streets, will give road users a "bird's eye" view of the intersection.

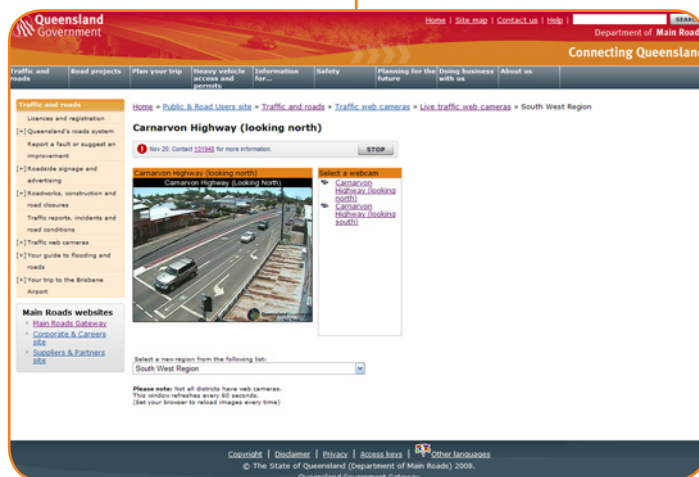
Web cams are predominantly used in the larger urban centres, however this technology can be used all over the state for a number of purposes such as reporting traffic incidents or advising Main Roads of network disruptions.

In Roma's case, there are peak times at the intersections just like anywhere else. Having a web cam installed will assist the Toowoomba Traffic Management Centre to better manage the traffic flow in Roma.

The live images will enable the centre to adjust the timing of the lights and also gauge the actual peak traffic times.

This means the lights can be adjusted to best fit the traffic patterns during the week.

To see images from the Roma web cam, go to the public and road users section on the Main Roads website – www.mainroads.qld.gov.au



The South West Region is now made up of six regional councils: Balonne, Roma, Paroo, Murweh, Quilpie and Bulloo.

Main Roads is responsible for 3833.5km of state-controlled road network in these council areas including managing 326.8km of federally-funded Auslink network for the Australian Government. The Auslink network in our region is the Landsborough (Morven to Augathella) and Warrego Highways (Dulacca to Morven). The next round of Auslink project funding will cover 2008/9 – 2013/14. \$40m has been allocated to upgrade sections of the Auslink network from Roma to Mitchell on the Warrego Highway.

Project updates

Angellala Creek Bridge



Widening of the Charleville – Morven section of the Warrego Highway for Type 2 road trains has moved a step closer following the announcement of a \$3.2 million contract.

The contract has been awarded to Davbridge Constructions to widen and upgrade the existing 70m long Angellala Creek Bridge in the state's South West Region.

The announcement of the contract is an important piece of the widening puzzle to eventually give Type 2 road trains access along the link.

It takes time to build an efficient network. We have been progressively widening Charleville – Morven for a number of years.

Currently Type 2 road trains wishing to travel east from Charleville can only reach Morven by deviating north through Augathella.

Our aim is to help these vehicles eventually go direct from Charleville to Morven, saving the industry time and money.

An average of 509 vehicles use the road each day with about 16% of those being heavy vehicles. Main Roads needs to have the infrastructure in place to meet existing and future demand for all vehicles

Main Roads thanks the local community for their patience while works are underway.



Funding update - Safer Roads Sooner

The Safer Roads Sooner program is specifically aimed at making Queensland's roads safer.

The program targets locations with either an actual accident history or a severe accident potential.

Main Roads' South West Region recently utilised this funding for the following projects:

- » Roma Town Intersection safety upgrade
- » Carnarvon Highway rest area upgrade and installation
- » Installation of audible tactile line-marking treatments on various roads



Works at Injune

Motorists travelling along the Carnarvon Highway can now experience a safer and smoother journey, with a road widening projected now completed near Injune.

The \$2.6 million road widening project was delayed slightly from rain earlier in the year and is now open to all traffic.

The Carnarvon Highway forms an important north-south freight and tourist route in southern Queensland.

When completed, this project will deliver a wider road to help improve safety for all motorists, and especially for Type 1 road trains and caravans along this route.

The works are part of a long-term strategy aimed at upgrading and widening sections of the highway north of Injune, to improve its safety and efficiency.

The intersection of Westgrove Road and the Carnarvon Highway was also upgraded as part of the project.

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Contract announcement

Murweh Shire Council has been awarded a \$1.3 million contract to maintain major roads in the state's south west for the current financial year.

Main Roads Minister Warren Pitt said the money had been allocated to the shire for all maintenance work on the federally-funded Auslink and state-controlled road networks.

"The Murweh Shire Council does a great job looking after the 171km of federally-funded national highway and 561km of state-controlled roads within its region," Mr Pitt said.

In Western Queensland, Main Roads and the Australian Government rely predominantly upon the local councils to maintain the vast bulk of the road network.

They have the local expertise and knowledge of these roads and their ability to respond quickly to any urgent issues is vital.

Mr Pitt said Main Roads had now reached agreement with council on how best to continue the ongoing management of some of the less trafficable unsealed state roads in the shire.

He also encouraged the community and motorists to report road-related concerns to Main Roads on 1800 776 237.

Murweh Shire maintains the following roads on behalf of the Queensland or Australian governments:

- » Landsborough Highway (National)
- » Warrego Highway (National and State)
- » Diamantina Developmental Road (State)
- » Mitchell Highway (State)



Heading west along the Warrego Highway (Morven-Charleville)

Project delivery - Safer Roads Sooner

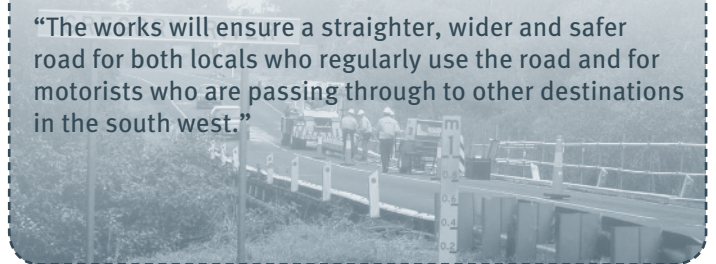
Work has now been completed on a \$500,000 project to deliver improved safety and driving conditions for motorists on Bulloo Developmental Road (Cunnamulla-Thargomindah) in the Paroo Shire.

Main Roads Regional Director Peter Evans said the safety works undertaken on the Mirraparoo Creek floodway (Moonjaree Crossing) were part of the Safer Roads Sooner program.

"The program focused on improving road safety for the local community by undertaking simple safety roadworks at relatively low cost, such as road widening or providing additional signage," Mr Evans said.

"This project consisted of installing new culverts, re-aligning the curve at the crossing and widening the pavement and floodways from five metres to eight metres.

"The works will ensure a straighter, wider and safer road for both locals who regularly use the road and for motorists who are passing through to other destinations in the south west."



Road corridor management

Does your development connect to or affect a state-controlled road?

The *Integrated Planning Act 1997* requires local government development assessment managers to send all applications that are relevant to state-controlled roads to the Department of Main Roads.

Under the *Transport Infrastructure Act*, Main Roads can apply conditions to these applications to maintain a safe and efficient road network.

For further advice on these matters please contact our Main Roads Development Assessment Team on 4622 9511

Regional project delivery - overview

» Roma - Taroom Road (sections)

Widening and construction of sections in Roma Regional and Banana Shire areas. Works are on-going in both council areas. RoadTek is currently working at the “Lighthouse” section of the link. This project is due to be completed by mid-2010.

» Carnarvon Highway (Injune North)

Widening and construction of an initial project including Westgrove Road intersection has now been completed. This is part of an ongoing program.

» Diamantina Developmental Road (Ward River Bridge)

Roadworks continue at the Ward River Bridge site about 18km west of Charleville off the Diamantina Developmental Road. Minimal traffic delays are expected at this site, as the new bridge is being constructed on a new alignment. This project is progressing smoothly, and is due to be completed in mid-2009, weather permitting.

» Warrego Highway (Mitchell Main Street)

Mitchell Main Street is nearing completion with linemarking to be finalised in the new year.

» Angellala Creek Bridge (Warrego Highway - Morven to Charleville)

This project is to replace the existing deck with a stronger and wider deck, and improve the road approaches. A temporary sidetrack will be in place for the duration of the project. Project is expected to commence in late January.



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Regional project planning - overview

» Mitchell Highway (Barringun to Cunnamulla)

Widen and improve the alignment from the New South Wales border.

» Carnarvon Highway (Injune to Rolleston)

Continuation of widening in 2009 and replacement of steel culverts.

» Roma Town (Bowen and Quintin Streets)

Work to convert this intersection to a T-intersection will commence in early 2009. After completion the intersection will have left turn in, left turn out access only to and from Bowen St West.

Project delivery - Roma – Mitchell

If you would like to preregister for the federally funded Roma – Mitchell upgrade consultation process please contact our office or email: roma.office@mainroads.qld.gov.au

Get involved and have your say

More information

Want to know more about our projects?

Check out some of the project fact sheets that can be found on the Main Roads website www.mainroads.qld.gov.au

Click on road projects and sort by South West Region.



Recently completed asphalt and median strip works on Main Street in Mitchell

Did you know?

The South West Region has two offices which are located in Roma and Charleville.

Be sure to drop in for any questions or feedback in relation to the state-controlled road network.

Roma office

- » email roma.office@mainroads.qld.gov.au
- » phone +61 7 4622 9511
- » fax +61 7 4622 9500
- » post to PO Box 126, Roma Qld 4455
- » visit 30 McDowall Street, Roma Qld 4455

Charleville office

- » email roma.office@mainroads.qld.gov.au
- » phone +61 7 4656 8421
- » fax +61 7 4654 2387
- » post to PO Box 192, Charleville Qld 4470
- » visit 98 Galatea Street, Charleville Qld 4470

Closures for heavy/wide vehicles due to load restrictions/
roadworks: 1800 077 247

For all state-wide road condition reports please contact the RACQ on 1300 130 595 or log on to www.racq.com.au



To stay connected go to www.mainroads.qld.gov.au