

A message from the Regional Director



The South West region has some big challenges ahead in 2008.

The recent wet season over the summer period has caused extensive delays and disruption to our road network and projects with a number of work sites being inundated with water.

Main Roads has been working with local governments and stakeholders to meet these challenges and to get south-west Queensland residents back on the road as soon and as safely as possible.

I would like to thank the general public and heavy vehicle industry for their patience and understanding in getting our road network repaired and open as quickly as possible.

My thanks also goes out to our local government contractors and staff, Queensland Police and Queensland Transport and RoadTek who have all been working very hard to ensure the community and industry have remained safe while the road network is being repaired.

I would like to encourage the community to contact our emergency phone and feedback number **1800 776 237** if they have any concerns regarding the road network over the school holiday period.

Kind regards,
Peter Evans
Regional Director
South West Region



Work is progressing on the Roma – Taroom road

The year ahead

This year Main Roads will be completing several projects and also starting some larger projects that will bring greater benefits to the community and industry in the region.

These include the start of planning for the Mitchell to Roma sections of the Warrego Highway. The \$40 million contribution by the Federal Government will go a long way towards improving specific sections of the link with the ultimate goal of getting Type II road trains to the Roma Saleyards.

Construction of the Ward River Bridge outside Charleville on the Diamantina Developmental Road will begin this year. Murweh Shire has commenced construction of the eastern road approach. This part of the project is due to be completed by mid-2008. Tenders have now closed for the bridge construction contract, with four tenders having been received.

The first stage of the \$3 million Mitchell main street project has been completed. Additional kerbing and channelling and asphaltting will be required to complete the project later in the 2008.

Safer Roads Sooner

\$1.18 million for safer roads

Minister for Main Roads and Local Government Mr Warren Pitt has announced Roma and the South-West will receive \$1.18 million under the Safer Roads Sooner program.

The funding is part of the 2008-09 to 2012-13 Roads Implementation Program (RIP).

State-wide, \$55.425 million will be spent on 88 new Safer Roads Sooner projects and two new mass action programs to improve safety for road users.

In South-West Region, projects include:

- \$180,000 in 2009-10 for safety improvements on the Warrego Highway (60.0 - 82.0km) in Murweh Shire. Works include sealing shoulders, delineation, installing edge lines and removing roadside hazards.
- \$100,000 in 2009-10 for fatigue management measures on various sections of the Warrego Highway in Murweh Shire. Works include installing motorist rest areas and stopping places and installing fatigue management signage.
- \$700,000 in 2009-10 for safety improvements on the Mitchell Highway (Barrington - Cunnamulla and Cunnamulla - Charleville) in Paroo and Murweh shires.

Works include installing motorist rest areas and stopping places, installing fatigue management signage, removing roadside hazards, sealing shoulders, delineation and installing advisory speed signs on curves.

- \$200,000 in 2009-10 to remove roadside hazards, seal shoulders, delineation and install advisory signage on the Leichhardt Highway in the Taroom area.

Region changes

Following the local government elections, the South West Region is changing to become a region - one of 12 Main Roads regions in Queensland.

The new South West Region will now include Balonne Shire, Roma Regional Council, and the four western shires of Bulloo, Quilpie, Murweh and Paroo.

It will no longer include Taroom Shire and Murilla Shires, which are being amalgamated into other regions.



Work continues on upgrading the Roma to Taroom Road.

Roma Town bottle trees relocated

Main roads has recently completed the relocation of eight bottle trees from Quintin and Bowen streets in Roma.

The Bottle Trees were being relocated to improve safety and visibility for road users.

Motorists using Quintin Street and Bowen Street will have improved sight lines on Charles, Wyndham, McDowall and Mayne Streets enabling motorists to have a clear view of oncoming traffic as they turn.

As part of the program, Main Roads also carefully relocated two trees from Hero's Avenue that were previously at the intersection of Wyndham and Bowen Streets. The remaining trees on Hero's Avenue will be unaffected.



Making sure bottle trees are looked after.

Main Roads understands the importance of the trees to the Roma community and recognises their iconic, historical and sentimental value.

The avenue and memorials honour the town's fallen First World War soldiers and Main Roads the importance of relocating and planting these trees with honour and in the spirit in which they were planted many years ago.

Main Roads is working closely with affected parties to find a suitable way to honour the memory of the soldiers and to dedicate the trees at their new location.

All bottle trees have been relocated at various locations around Roma which were determined in consultation with Roma Regional Council and other interested parties.

Relocation of bottle trees.



Ward River Bridge

Earthworks are well under way on the first stage of the new bridge approach for the Ward River crossing, west of Charleville on the Diamantina Developmental Road.

Murweh Shire Council is constructing 4km of new earthworks and drainage for the eastern approach of the bridge



Site of the new Ward River Bridge.

The new wider Ward River Bridge, with improved road approaches, will improve safety and flood immunity.

Following community consultation, Main Roads is constructing a single 260m-long bridge over the Ward River on a higher alignment to replace the Ward River and Woolshed Gully bridges.

The earthworks and drainage for the eastern bridge approaches will be paved and sealed prior to bridge construction.

A separate project, to be carried out later, will construct the western approaches to the new bridge and pave the full deviation.

The eastern approach is due to be finished at the end of June 2008 (weather permitting).

Road resealing program

Main Roads has will complete work on a \$6.5 million reseal program to protect road pavements in the South-West, during April.

Resealing work is an ongoing activity to protect roads against the wear and tear caused by weather and traffic, preventing the need for costly maintenance repairs.

The work also preserves the underlying structure of the road, making it more resistant to water during the wet season and to cracking in the heat.

Roads scheduled to be resealed include:

- 14.93km on the Roma - Taroomb road
- 25km on the Carnarvon Highway (Roma - Surat)
- 16.93km on the Warrego Highway (Roma - Mitchell)
- 25.5km on the Warrego Highway (Roma - Jackson)
- 5.18km on the Warrego Highway (Jackson - Miles)
- 16km on various sections of the Leichhardt Highway (Miles to Taroomb)
- 6.23km on the Leichhardt Highway (north of Taroomb)
- 1.16km on the Warrego Highway (east of Miles)
- 3.69km on the Condamine Road (east of Condamine)
- 3.2km on the Roma Southern Road
- 5km on the Carnarvon Highway (south of Surat)
- 9.6km on the Surat Developmental Road

Mitchell main street upgrade

The \$3 million Mitchell main street upgrade has edged closer to completion following the reconstruction of traffic lanes through the centre of town.

Cambridge Street, part of the federally funded Warrego Highway, is now open to traffic.

The new Roma Regional Council will have completed the remainder of works by May which will include additional kerb and channelling, placing asphalt over the road surface and construction of a new centre island with landscaping.

Road safety Message

With the school Holidays upon us and more holiday traffic on the road, Department of Main Roads is urging motorists to drive safely as they travel to their destination

Main Roads South West Regional Director Peter Evans said the school holiday period was a busy time for everyone but reminded motorists to take additional precautions when driving on regional roads.

"Motorists should take care and listen to road and weather reports before travelling," Mr Evans said.

Main Roads and regional councils provide roadside rest areas at key intervals on the road network so drivers can stop, relax and spend some time out of the vehicle to manage their fatigue.

Mr Evans said it was important drivers don't push themselves when travelling during the school holidays, take regular rest breaks at least every two hours and use the rest areas along their route.

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"Main Roads is also getting on with the job of maintaining and connecting the regional road network in the district. Motorists are also advised to slow down around road work sites and obey all traffic signals," Mr Evans said.

"We understand motorists might be in a bit of a rush to get to their destination. Following these driving hints will help them enjoy their holidays and arrive safely."

For more information

Phone: 4622 9511 Fax: 4622 9500

Email: www.southwestern@mainroads.qld.gov.au

Phone 1800 776 237 to report road safety issues.