

### A message from the Regional Director



Welcome to the latest edition of *Local Links* – a newsletter aimed at providing you up-to-date information on activities and road projects in the Wide Bay/Burnett region.

It's been a busy start to the year for the region with a number of major projects now well underway. Works continue on the Bundaberg Ring Road project and the project to upgrade Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road between Dundowran Road and Pialba–Burrum Heads Road.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads reached an important milestone when stage two of the \$70.8 million Australian Government funded project in Gympie was recently completed. The project involves upgrading 3.4km of the Bruce Highway in Gympie to four lanes. Construction of stage three was expected to start by mid 2009.

Several timber bridges in the region being replaced under the Southern Queensland Accelerated Road Rehabilitation Program (SQARRP) have also been completed with motorists expected to be using the remaining bridges by late 2009.

The department is also undertaking community engagement for the \$18 million project to upgrade Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road between Torbanlea–Pialba Road and the Dundowran Road intersections.

The region is working harder than ever to deliver a huge program of road and bridge projects that will cater for the area both now and into the future.

The department is also committed to keeping the community informed about road projects in our region so if you have any questions about current or future road projects, I encourage you to contact the Communication Team on 1300 728 390.

**Doug Wass**  
Regional Director  
Bundaberg Office  
Wide Bay/Burnett Region

### Out and about in South Burnett

#### Bridge replacements

Work to replace the Unnamed Creek bridge and its approaches, on the Murgon–Gayndah Road north of Murgon, is now complete.

The bridge and its approaches underwent reconstruction to improve its durability and was widened to suit the high volume of freight traffic travelling on Murgon–Gayndah Road.

The reconstruction involved replacing the existing timber bridge with a new concrete structure, which will help decrease future maintenance costs and ensure long-term durability.

Nangur Creek Crossing No. 3 bridge on the Burnett Highway has also been completed.

The timber bridges are replaced as part of the Southern Queensland Accelerated Road Rehabilitation Program (SQARRP), a Main Roads bridge upgrade initiative.

### Out and about in North Burnett

#### Gladstone–Monto Road

Work to seal various sections on the Gladstone–Monto Road is progressing well and on track to be completed in mid-2009.

The new surface overlay will help strengthen the road and cater for growing traffic volumes while providing a much smoother surface to drive on.



## Out and about in Bundaberg

### Bundaberg Ring Road project



*The new Bundaberg Ring Road and FE Walker Street intersection and overpass*

### Construction is continuing on the \$92 million Bundaberg Ring Road project.

The first stage involves the construction of 7.4km of a new 10m-wide sealed road from Bargara Road to Goodwood Road. Stage two involves the construction of 6.9km of a new 10m-wide bitumen sealed road from the Isis Highway to Goodwood Road.

The 14.3km ring road will connect the Isis Highway to Bargara Road and provide an alternative route from the Isis Highway to Bargara Road, the Bundaberg Port and other parts of the city.

Motorists are now using a section of the ring road between Elliott Heads Road and Bells Road. Opening the road has provided motorists with a safer alternative route while the remainder of the construction work is carried out.

Once completed, the ring road will alleviate traffic congestion on the existing road network, improve safety for motorists and heavy vehicle operators as well as save considerable time for road users.

The first stage is expected to be completed in June 2009, weather permitting with traffic using the new 14.3km road by August 2009.

### Bundaberg–Miriam Vale Road

Construction is underway on a \$3.8 million project to upgrade a section of the Bundaberg–Miriam Vale Road.

The project involves widening, resurfacing and realigning a 2.1km section of road between the Booloongie Road and Moorlands Road intersections.

A separate left-turn and right-turn lane from Bundaberg–Miriam Vale Road into Booloongie Road will be constructed and the southern Fig Tree Terrace intersection will be repositioned.

Fixed obstacles such as trees and power poles that if impacted, have the potential to cause serious injury or loss of life will be relocated or removed.

The works will not only provide safer conditions for motorists, but also cater for future growth. Construction is scheduled for completion in October 2009, weather permitting.



*Work starts on the project to upgrade a section of the Bundaberg–Miriam Vale Road*

### Walker Street and Branyan Street intersection upgrade

The \$1.3 million project to upgrade the Walker Street and Branyan Street intersection is well underway and is expected to be completed in May 2009, weather permitting.

The project involves adding left-turning lanes at each approach and resurfacing and widening the roundabout to slow traffic speed. The extra lanes will improve traffic flow in all four directions and motorists will be able to make left turns with minimal wait.

### Timber bridge replacements

Work to replace the Gregory River timber bridge on Goodwood Road was recently completed with several others expected to be completed in the near future.

The Littabella Creek and Mullet Creek bridges on Bundaberg-Miriam Vale Road are scheduled for completion in May 2009. The Gregory River bridge on the Isis Highway and Wagners Gully Bridge on Bundaberg-Gin Gin Road are also expected to be completed in May, weather permitting. The Yandaran Creek and Cockatoo Creek bridges are scheduled for completion in August 2009, weather permitting.

The existing structures are being replaced with new concrete bridges on improved alignments to increase the visibility of oncoming vehicles. The new bridges will be wider and higher to improve safety for motorists and greater flood immunity. They will also assist in managing future freight and traffic demands.

The timber bridges are being replaced as part of the Southern Queensland Accelerated Road Rehabilitation Program (SQARRP), a Main Roads bridge upgrade initiative.



*Completed timber bridge replacement at Gregory River on Goodwood Road*

## Out and about in the Fraser Coast

### Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road project

Work to upgrade the Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road from the Dundowran Road intersection to Pialba–Burrum Heads Road intersection is progressing well.

The \$11.5 million project includes five intersection upgrades with separate turning lanes. These improvements include 6.9km of road widening and surface works, new improved bus stop areas, new signage and overhead lighting.

The road project is scheduled to be completed in mid-2009.



*Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road, looking north from Piggford Lane*

## Out and about in Gympie

### Bruce Highway upgrade (Gympie)

Construction on the second stage of the \$70.8 million Bruce Highway upgrade through Gympie is complete.

Traffic signals at the Bruce Highway/Monkland and Channon Street intersections have been switched on. It is expected that 30,000 motorists a day will benefit from the additional turn lanes.

The new intersections are capable of supporting traffic growth well beyond the next 10 years and are expected to improve safety and efficiency and reduce driver frustration.

Design for stage three is complete and upgrade works will include:

- » four laning the highway between Channon Street and Pine Street
- » traffic signals and a left turn lane southbound into Cross Street
- » traffic signals and right turn lanes north and southbound into Jane Street
- » improvements to the Pine Street intersection including a longer right turn lane northbound into Pine Street.

Contracts will be awarded in May 2009 with construction of stage three expected to start mid-2009 and finish mid-2010.

### Tin Can Bay/Rainbow Beach intersection upgrade

Work has commenced on the \$2 million upgrade of the Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach Road intersection.

The project aims to improve safety and will involve:

- » providing a dedicated left turn lane into Rainbow Beach Road from the east
- » providing a dedicated right turn lane into Rainbow Beach Road from the west
- » widening the intersection to improve sight distance and turning radius.

Plants and habitat trees of environmental significance are being preserved as part of the works. Fenced 'no go' zones are in place to restrict construction plant to the construction area.

Sediment fences and rock check dams are being used to minimise impact on the surrounding area.

The project is expected to be completed mid-2009, weather permitting.



Stage three layout of the Bruce Highway upgrade in Gympie



Stage two of the Bruce Highway in Gympie is now complete

## Contact

If you would like any further information about projects in the Wide Bay/Burnett region, you can:

- » phone the Communication Team on 1300 728 390
- » email [bundaberg.office@mainroads.qld.gov.au](mailto:bundaberg.office@mainroads.qld.gov.au)