

A message from the Regional Director



The RIP is a \$16.2b ripper

The 2008-09 to 2012-13 Roads Implementation Program (RIP), launched by Main Roads Minister Warren Pitt recently, outlines a record \$16.2 billion infrastructure investment for Queensland's roads over the next five years, representing a \$2.9 billion, or 22 per cent, increase on last year's program.

The RIP forms part of Main Roads' longer-term planning for the future of the state's road network.

It provides a firm funding commitment for projects listed in the first two years; while for years three to five funding allocations are indicative for planning purposes.

In the Wide Bay Burnett Region, the RIP outlines \$670 million of planned road works over a five-year timeframe.

Some of the projects include

- » \$400,000 in 2008-09 to commence the re-decking of the timber bridge at Eel Creek, 7km south of Boompa, on Boompa Road, at a total estimated cost of \$650,000
- » \$1.3 million in 2009-10 for sealing shoulders on the Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road near Susan River, funded by the Safer Roads Sooner Program
- » construction of the \$92 million Bundaberg Ring Road
- » a \$18 million project to upgrade major intersections and road improvements on the Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road between the Torbanlea turnoff and Dundowran Road
- » a \$11.5 million project to widen the Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road from north of Dundowran to the Pialba-Burrum Heads Road, 7km south of Pialba
- » a \$6.6 million project to replace the bridge and approaches at Degilbo Creek on the Maryborough-Biggenden Road near Biggenden
- » a \$4.6 million project to replace the bridge and approaches on Harkness Boundary Creek No 1 on the Burnett Highway near Eidsvold

The Bundaberg District Office of the Wide Bay Burnett Region services an area of 37,130 square kilometres, comprising some 2002 kilometres of state controlled roads.

Last month roads across the region were affected by heavy rainfall. While rain is welcome it can come at a cost to the roads. When it rains, water gets into the road surface and combined with added pressure from vehicles driving over the area, the road surface can weaken and be washed away. This is what causes a pothole and why they can occur so quickly. When the road pavement gets saturated it can take time for moisture to drain from the material and for full-strength properties to return.

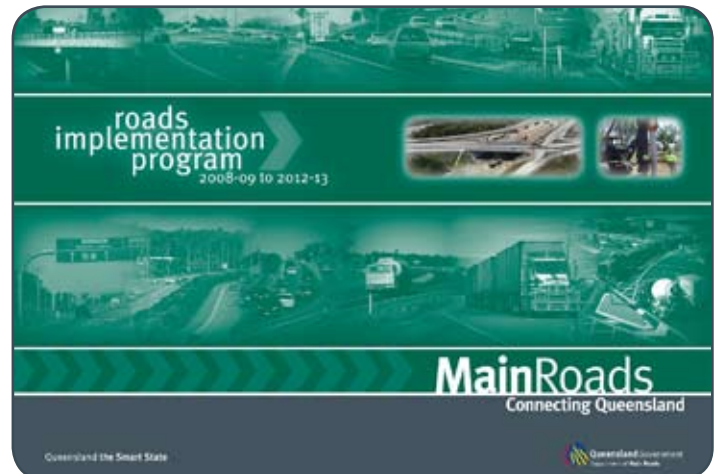
As soon as the rain settles down, maintenance crews are right on the job to undertake emergency repairs to any roads damaged by the weather.

Main Roads staff work around the clock to get the job done, demonstrating our commitment to safety.

After the recent rains in June the crews were out on the road as soon as the rain slowed down. In one day the crews laid approximately 230 tonnes of asphalt on the Maryborough - Hervey Bay Road, put in place temporary signage and speed restrictions where necessary, and repaired potholes to ensure the safety of all road users.

With more wet weather forecast around the state, everyone is reminded to slow down in the wet and drive to the conditions of the road.

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



Snapshot of works around the Wide Bay/Burnett region

With many projects on the go at the one time you are bound to see road workers in your area. Please remember safety around road works is a two-way street, so always slow down and drive carefully. You should add 10 minutes to your journey to reach your destination on time.

Work is progressing on schedule on the \$11.5 million project on Boat Harbour Drive between Hunter and McNally streets. The upgrade includes one kilometre of four-laning, eight intersection upgrades including two new sets of traffic signals at Taylor Street and Banksia Park Drive and a new road surface. The project is expected to be finished by the end of this year.

Construction on the new \$92m Bundaberg Ring Road is well under way. The first stage — 7.4km from Bargara Road to Goodwood Road — is on target to be finished by the end of February 2009. Stage two from the Isis Highway to Goodwood Road — is expected to start in July 2008. Traffic should be using the new 14km road by the end of 2009.

Four of the 17 timber bridges being replaced in Wide Bay District under the Southern Queensland Accelerated Road Rehabilitation Project are now complete. You will see construction workers at the remaining nine bridges this year. These bridges are located across the Wide Bay at Nangur Creek No 2 and No. 3, Widgee Creek, Littabella Creek, Mullet Creek, Yandaran Creek, Cockatoo Creek, Wagners Gully and Gregory River on the Isis Highway and Goodwood Road. All works are expected to be completed by May 2009. The total cost of the project in the Wide Bay region is \$78.3 million.

A \$1.4 million project on the Gladstone-Monto Road to seal the last 5 kilometres of gravel sections has started. The project between 2km south of Kalpowar and 600m south of Walkers Creek Road is expected to be completed in August 2008.

A \$723,000 project to improve road safety for motorists by widening the existing narrow single-lane road to a two-lane road on the Mundubbera – Durong Road will mean motorists can overtake with improved visibility. This project is expected to be completed by August 2008.

Did you know?

- » The state's entire road network is about 182,000 km, and is made up of national highways, state-controlled and local government roads
- » The state-controlled road asset is Queensland's largest community asset with a replacement value of some \$34.9 billion
- » Road freight is expected to grow faster in Queensland than any other state over the next 20 years.



Boat Harbour Drive roadworks



Construction works on the Bundaberg Ring Road



Contact

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