

In and around Wide Bay/Burnett Region

Local Links • November 2009

A message from the Regional Director



Welcome to the November 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.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads celebrated a major achievement a few months ago with the completion of the Bundaberg Ring Road project. Construction of the 14.3km road linking the Isis Highway to Bargara Road has improved safety and travel times for motorists and reduced congestion in our fast-growing region. The new piece of infrastructure was officially commissioned by Main Roads Minister Craig Wallace in September.

In August, Premier Anna Bligh announced a \$16.9 million state-government funding boost to progressively upgrade sections of the Eidsvold-Theodore Road. The project, funded over four years, will allow the farmers and transport operators with permits to use B-doubles on this section of the road that is a vital route for the cattle industry.

Early next year, construction will start on a \$17.1 million project to upgrade Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road between Torbanlea–Pialba Road and Dundowran Road. I ask motorists for their patience and support throughout construction and remind them that safety around roadworks is their responsibility too – so slow down and drive to the conditions.

The department is 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 or visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au.

Doug Wass
Regional Director
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Wide Bay/Burnett Region

Out and about in Bundaberg

Main Roads Minister officially commissions Bundaberg Ring Road

Motorists travelling along the \$100 million Bundaberg Ring Road are enjoying a safer, quicker and more comfortable driving experience since the road was completed in September.

The project included the construction of 14.3km of a new 10-metre-wide bitumen-sealed road and four new bridges, connecting the Isis Highway to Bargara Road. The project enables heavy vehicles to bypass Bundaberg's central business area, providing a more efficient freight route and improving local congestion and connectivity.

Main Roads Minister Craig Wallace visited Bundaberg in September to officially commission the road and said it was great to see the new road now complete.

He also recognised the efforts of local organisations that had played a part throughout the life of the project including the department's environmental officers and local environmental groups.



Out and about in the Fraser Coast

Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road project

The second of two major upgrades to improve the Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road will start construction early next year. The \$17.1 million project involves widening and strengthening a 3.6 kilometre section of road between Torbanlea–Pialba Road and Dundowran Road.

The project also includes the construction of 1.5 kilometres of four-laning from the existing Booral Road intersection to north of Dundowran Road. The existing Torbanlea–Pialba Road and Booral Road intersections will be realigned with the construction of a new roundabout.

These improvements will not only improve the safety of motorists but also traffic flow and efficiency on the main road connecting Maryborough and Hervey Bay. The project is expected to take about 12 months to complete, weather permitting.

Booral Road and Main Street intersection upgrade

Motorists are experiencing safer driving conditions after a project to upgrade the Booral Road and Main Street intersection was completed recently.

The \$645,000 project included the construction of a separate right-turn lane for motorists turning into Main Street from Booral Road. As part of the project, the existing road surface was widened and flag lighting was installed indicating to drivers there is an upcoming intersection.

These additions have improved safety at the busy intersection, and also improved traffic flow, especially during peak periods.

Out and about in Gympie

Bruce Highway upgrade (Cooroy to Curra)

Construction has begun on one of Queensland's highest priority road infrastructure projects, the Bruce Highway (Cooroy to Curra) upgrade.

The project will be constructed in four sections for safety and construction purposes:

- Section A (Cooroy southern interchange to Sankeys Road)
- Section B (Sankeys Road to Traveston Road)
- Section C (Traveston Road to Keefton Road)
- Section D (Keefton Road to Curra, including a Gympie bypass)

Section B (Sankeys Road to Traveston Road) is the construction priority due to safety and traffic needs, and will be delivered in three packages:

- Package 1: Bulk earthworks
- Package 2: Construction of a southern deviation of the Bruce Highway
- Package 3: Remaining pavement, bridge and finishing works.

On 3 September 2009, Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, and Local Government, Anthony Albanese, was onsite to announce Abigroup Construction Pty Ltd as the successful contractor for the bulk earthworks contract and to turn the first sod on Section B.

The bulk earthworks package for Section B is expected to be complete in late 2010 with the full 11km

Section B upgrade scheduled to be completed in 2012, weather permitting. Tenders for package 2 will be called in October 2009.



Bruce Highway upgrade (Gympie)

Construction is well underway on stage three of the \$70.8 million Bruce Highway upgrade through Gympie.

The upgrade works from Cross Street to Pine Street will make the stretch of the highway safer and less congested for motorists.

Work at Pine Street intersection is continuing with one leg of the intersection closed as pavement reconstruction through the intersection is being carried out under traffic. Signals at Cross Street are nearing completion.

Stage three works involve:

- signalling the Cross Street and Jane Street intersections to improve traffic flow and safety
- constructing a left-turn lane into Cross Street for southbound highway traffic along with longer right-turn lanes for north and southbound traffic
- constructing turning lanes for traffic entering the highway from Jane Street (west)
- adding right-turn lanes for north and southbound highway traffic entering Jane Street
- constructing a longer right-turn lane for northbound highway traffic entering Pine Street
- installing pedestrian crossings at all three intersections.

It is expected that construction of stage three will be finished by mid-2010, weather permitting.



Work crew building gabion walls in Commissioner's Gully



Newly constructed southbound carriageway- looking south toward Cross St



Seal on new Southbound carriageway looking south towards Jane St.

Out and about in the North Burnett

Eidsvold–Theodore Road

Transport operators and rural producers in the North Burnett Regional Council area can look forward to B-doubles progressively using a 77.4-kilometre section of the Eidsvold–Theodore Road in the future, after a \$16.9 million state-government funding boost.

This project which will upgrade the section of road between Eidsvold and Defence Road and be funded over four years will allow farmers and transport operators with permits to use B-doubles on this section of the road.

The upgrade will improve future productivity by reducing farmers' freight costs and decreasing travel times.

The funding is a significant boost and is the beginning of works to allow the local community and farmers to obtain B-double access on this link.

The State Government will continue to identify and invest in future road projects in the Wide Bay/Burnett Region and provide a road system that will serve our state well into the future.



Contact us

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@tmr.qld.gov.au
- visit the department's website at www.tmr.qld.gov.au

Out and about in the South Burnett

Boyne River and Boondooma Creek timber bridge replacements

Construction is progressing well on a \$3.5 million project to replace the Boyne River bridge on Preston–Boondooma Road and a \$4.091 million project to replace Boondooma Creek bridge on Mundubbera–Durong Road.

Both projects involve replacing the existing timber bridges with new concrete structures to ensure long-term durability and upgrading the approaches. The bridges will also be wider and higher for improved safety and greater flood immunity.

Replacement works form part of the Regional Bridge Renewal Program. Boondooma Creek bridge is expected to be completed later this year, and Boyne Creek bridge in early 2010, weather permitting.



Construction works on the Boondooma Creek bridge



Works also continue on the Boyne Creek bridge