

A message from the Regional Director



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

It's been a busy few months with the completion of Stage One of the Bundaberg Ring Road and the first of two major upgrades to the Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road.

Stage One of the \$100 million Bundaberg Ring Road was completed in June, with the 7.4km section between Goodwood Road and Bargara Road now open to traffic. Since the opening, I've received positive feedback from members of the community about the project and I'm sure I will receive a lot more when the project wraps up later this year.

In July, the first of two major projects to upgrade Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road between Dundowran Road and Pialba-Burrum Heads Road was also completed. Construction will begin again soon to upgrade a second section of the road between Torbanlea-Pialba Road and Dundowran Road. It involves the construction of a roundabout connecting the Torbanlea-Pialba Road and Booral Road intersections and 1.5km of four-lane road.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank motorists for their continued patience and support throughout the construction of various projects around the region. I urge everyone to continue to drive safely and remember that safety around roadworks is your responsibility too.

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 our website on www.transportandmainroads.qld.gov.au.

Doug Wass
Regional Director
Bundaberg Office
Wide Bay/Burnett Region

Out and about in Bundaberg

Bundaberg Ring Road project

Stage One of the \$100 million Bundaberg Ring Road project is complete, with the section between Goodwood Road and Bargara Road now open to traffic. It included the construction of 7.4km of a new 10m wide bitumen sealed road and four new bridges.

Construction of the ring road began in November 2007 and the opening of Stage One signifies that the end is near and motorists can look forward to driving the full length of road.

Stage Two involves the construction of 6.9km of a new 10m wide bitumen sealed road from the Isis Highway to Goodwood Road. Motorists can expect to be driving the full length of road in a few months time, weather permitting.

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

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 the new FE Walker Street overpass



Main Roads Local Links

Bundaberg–Miriam Vale Road

Construction is progressing well on a \$3.8 million project to upgrade Bundaberg–Miriam Vale Road between the Booloongie Road and Moorlands Road intersections.

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.

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



Southern Queensland Accelerated Road Rehabilitation Program (SQARRP)

Works to replace the timber bridges at Wagners Gully on Bundaberg–Gin Gin Road, Littabella Creek and Mullet Creek on Bundaberg–Miriam Vale Road and Gregory River on the Isis Highway have been completed.

The Yandaran Creek and Cockatoo Creek bridges are scheduled for completion in late 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 give greater flood immunity. They will also assist in managing future freight and traffic demands.

The timber bridges are being replaced as part of the SQARRP, a Department of Transport and Main Roads bridge upgrade initiative.



Replacement works continue on Two Mile Creek bridge

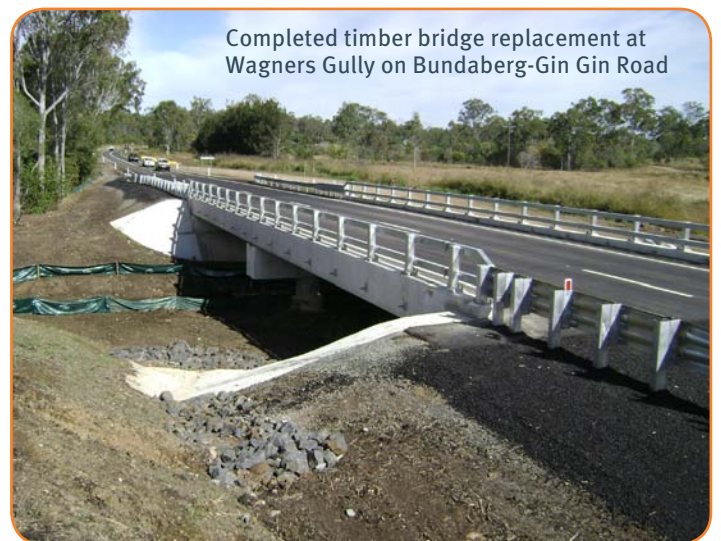
Two Mile Creek bridge on Kalpower Road

Motorists can look forward to improved safety and flood immunity when works to replace the Two Mile Creek timber bridge near Kalpower are completed in September 2009, weather permitting.

The \$4.3 million project involves replacing the existing timber bridge with a reinforced concrete structure. The new three-span bridge will be wider and higher for improved safety and greater flood immunity.

It will be constructed on a new alignment and the approaches to the bridge will be upgraded to increase the visibility of oncoming vehicles.

Works to replace the bridge began in February 2009.



Main Roads Local Links

Out and about in Gympie

Bruce Highway upgrade (Gympie)

Construction has started on Stage Three of the \$70.8 million Bruce Highway upgrade through Gympie.

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

Stage Three works will involve:

- » signalising the Cross 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.



Bruce Highway upgrade (Cooroy to Curra)

Preliminary work on Section B of the Bruce Highway upgrade between Cooroy and Curra has started.

The project will be constructed in four sections.

- » 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

Preliminary works consist of fencing and building dams for the supply of water during construction.

The major earthworks package for Section B is expected to be awarded in late August/early September 2009. It is anticipated that construction of this section will be completed in 2012.

Out and about in the South Burnett

Boyne River and Boondooma Creek timber bridge replacements

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 recently commenced.

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. Both bridges are expected to be completed in early 2010, weather permitting.

Out and about in the North Burnett

Gladstone–Monto Road

Works to seal various sections on the Gladstone–Monto Road are now complete.

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 the Fraser Coast

Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road project

Construction is complete on an \$11.5 million project to upgrade Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road between Dundowran Road and Pialba–Burrum Heads Road.

The strengthened road surface will provide a smoother driving surface and safer travelling conditions for more than 7000 vehicles that use the road each day.

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

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@transportandmainroads.qld.gov.au