

### A message from the Regional Director



Welcome to the December 2008 edition of Main Roads' Local Links newsletter – aimed at providing you up-to-date information on activities within the Wide Bay/Burnett region. The region continues to work hard to deliver a program of road infrastructure for the local community.

Thank you for taking extra care while driving through road works. By slowing down, obeying traffic signs and adding extra time to your journey, not only do you make it to your destination safely but you also make sure our road workers can keep their eyes on the job and not the road.

As Regional Director for Main Roads in the Wide Bay/Burnett region, I am proud of the work all Main Roads employees do in the region and pleased that 2008 has been another successful year for the department.

If you are driving the roads over the holiday season, please remember to drive safely as there will be increased traffic on the roads and sometimes people can be in too much of a hurry to start their holidays and sometimes take unnecessary risks. It is a good idea to take advantage of the Driver Reviver sites operating over the holiday season and have regular breaks to avoid fatigue and to assist in staying alert.

Also remember that if you are heading to Brisbane you can phone 13 19 40 to check traffic conditions along the way and also report road crashes.

For further information on any road projects in the Wide Bay/Burnett region, log on to [www.mainroads.qld.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.qld.gov.au), email [bundaberg.office@mainroads.qld.gov.au](mailto:bundaberg.office@mainroads.qld.gov.au) or [gypmie.office@mainroads.qld.gov.au](mailto:gypmie.office@mainroads.qld.gov.au), or phone 1300 728 390. Until next year, I hope you have a safe and happy holiday season.

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



### Bundaberg engineer represents Queensland in Europe



**Main Roads Bundaberg Traffic Engineer Samantha Green represented Queensland in Europe in September as part of the Austroads Young Professionals Study Tour for 2008-09.**

The two-week tour entitled 'Road Safety: Achieving Ambitious Road Safety Targets' gave 10 Australian engineers the chance to learn from key road safety personnel in Europe.

During the tour, she studied sites of road significance including a 'Vision Zero demonstration site' in Lillehammer, Norway and the Volvo Safety Centre in Gothenberg.

Sam is now back in the office preparing a detailed travel report which she will present to the department.

# Main Roads Local Links

## Out and about in Bundaberg

### Bundaberg Ring Road project

Construction is well underway 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.

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 March 2009, weather permitting, with traffic using the new 14.3km road by the end of 2009.



Placement of girders on the FE Walker Street overpass

### Kennedy Bridge

In late October 2008, Bundaberg's iconic Kennedy Bridge was load limited to 42.5 tonnes, as part of work to preserve the bridge for future generations.

While the bridge remains in a safe condition, Main Roads structural experts have advised it would be in the best interest of the longevity of the bridge if the heaviest vehicles were removed, which are B-Double vehicles.

Main Roads departmental officers have engaged with transport operators and advised them of the load restrictions and the approved route to use in place of the Kennedy Bridge.

The department asks the community to assist them in preserving the Kennedy Bridge as a piece of Queensland's history.

## Bridge replacements in Bundaberg

Works to replace the Gregory River bridges on Goodwood Road and the Isis Highway, the Littabella Creek, Mullet Creek, Cockatoo Creek and Yandaran Creek bridges on Bundaberg–Miriam Vale Road and Wagners Gully Bridge near Gin Gin are progressing well.

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

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 increase flood immunity. They will also assist in managing future freight and traffic demands.



## Did you know?

- » Kennedy Bridge is Bundaberg's oldest bridge. It is heritage-listed and the oldest steel truss road bridge in Queensland.



Kennedy Bridge, Bundaberg

# Main Roads Local Links

## Out and about in the Fraser Coast

### Boat Harbour Drive project

The \$11.5 million state-funded Boat Harbour Drive upgrade from Hunter Street to McNally Street is on schedule and expected to be completed by the end of this year, weather permitting.

The project involves the construction of four lanes from Hunter Street to McNally Street and eight intersection upgrades including two new sets of traffic signals at Taylor Street and Banksia Park Drive.

The new road surface will be suitable for the expected growth over the next 15 years.



*Boat Harbour Drive upgrade*

### Maryborough – Hervey Bay Road project

Works to upgrade Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road from the Dundowran Road intersection to Pialba–Burrum Heads Road intersection are 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.

Part of the project includes the planting of 1500 trees to offset the environmental effects of removing vegetation to widen and strengthen the existing road. The revegetation site is approximately 2.5km from the roadworks, in an area remote from future development needs.

The road project is scheduled to be completed in May 2009.



*Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road upgrade*

### Boundary and Booral Roads intersection upgrade

Construction of the \$2 million project to upgrade the Boundary and Booral Roads intersection is now complete.

The intersection upgrade included a new separate left-turn lane and a separate right-turn lane from Booral Road into Boundary Road. It also included the installation of right and left-turning lanes from Boundary Road to Booral Road.

The works will improve the safety and efficiency of the intersection, located in the Booral area.



# Main Roads Local Links

## Out and about in Gympie

### Bruce Highway Upgrade (Gympie)

The Bruce Highway upgrade through Gympie is a \$70.8 million project which involves upgrading 3.4km of the Bruce Highway from south of Centro Way to Pine Street.

Stage one of the upgrade was successfully completed five months ahead of schedule in November 2007. Despite heavy rainfall earlier this year, construction of stage two is on schedule and expected to be completed by early next year.

Design for stage three is nearing completion and includes improvements to two major intersections at Cross and Jane Streets. Construction of stage three is expected to start by mid 2009 and finish by mid 2010.

Minister Pitt visited the site of Stage two in October this year during his visit to the Gympie District Office and praised staff for the high quality of the work completed to date on the project.

### Bruce Highway Upgrade (Cooroy to Curra)

Main Roads recently completed a joint state and federal strategic planning study, which has identified the corridor for an eventual 65km upgrade of the Bruce Highway between Cooroy and Curra. This upgrade would improve safety and also deliver reduced travel times.

The Federal Government has committed an initial \$200 million to what will be a multi-billion dollar project.

Detailed planning has already started, and in the next few months preparatory design work will start in order to clarify the project's scope.

### Bruce Highway (Cooroy to Gympie) Intelligent Transport Systems

Main Roads is currently working to install \$2.8 million in joint federal and state funded intelligent transport between Cooroy and Gympie.

Variable message signs are expected to be in place by early next year, with more advanced warning technology to follow. When complete, the system will act to reduce crashes by recognising particular types of driver behaviour and displaying automated messages warning against, for example, speeding or tailgating.

The system will also warn about wet road conditions, traffic congestion, crash sites and other potential hazards.



*Aerial photo, looking north along the Bruce Highway through Gympie*



*Stage 2 of the Bruce Highway upgrade through Gympie looking north towards the Monkland Street intersection*



*Warren Pitt, Bellerø construction worker, Lawry O'Brien (District Director, Gympie District Office), Mark Turton (Project Manager, Bellerø constructions) taken at the Monkland Street intersection, on site of Stage 2 of the Bruce Highway upgrade through Gympie*

## Main Roads Local Links

### Out and about in Gympie

#### Gympie-Woolooga Road Planning Study

In July this year, Main Roads commenced a strategic planning study on Gympie-Woolooga Road between Power Road and Ramsey Road. The planning study investigated options for improving safety and efficiency at the Power Road and Ramsey Road intersections with Gympie-Woolooga Road.

Following community consultation, the department developed a number of planning options which will be assessed in the coming weeks. All options include a four-lane upgrade of the road, signalised intersections at both Power and Ramsey roads and pedestrian and cycle facilities.

At present, there is no funding in the department's Roads Implementation Program for construction of an upgrade on this section of road.



### Out and about in North Burnett

#### Isis Highway (between Quarry Hill and Ban Ban Springs)

Upgrade works to the Isis Highway are underway to improve safety for motorists and to increase the efficiency of freight movement through the area.

The \$1.8 million project involves resurfacing a 5.1 kilometre section of the highway between Quarry Hill and Ban Ban Springs, improving existing line marking, drainage signage and guide posts.

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

The upgrade is expected to be completed by the end of 2008, weather permitting.

### Vic Olsen Bridge Upgrade

Work on a \$7.35 million project to replace the old Vic Olsen timber bridge is nearing completion with the new bridge expected to be open to traffic before the end of the year.

Construction of the new concrete bridge commenced in December 2007, shortly after a 24 tonne load limit was placed on the existing bridge as a result of its deteriorating structural condition.

The existing timber bridge was originally constructed in 1942 and has been used regularly by heavy vehicles carting construction material from the Moy Pocket Road quarry.

The load limit, which will not apply to the new bridge, meant heavy vehicles travelling from the nearby quarry had to take an alternative route via Kenilworth-Skyring Creek Road.



### New concrete Crooked Creek bridge now open

The replacement of Crooked Creek bridge, located on the Burnett Highway north of Goomeri was recently completed.

Crooked Creek bridge is one of several timber bridges located on the Burnett highway currently being upgraded as part of the *Southern Queensland Accelerated Road Rehabilitation Program (SQARRP)*.

The program is replacing 31 older timber bridges with new concrete structures to better meet current and future freight demands in southern Queensland.

Two new concrete bridges over Nangur Creek and Widgee Creek are currently under construction and expected to be completed by early next year.

## Out and about in South Burnett

### Bridge replacements in the South Burnett

Two new concrete bridges are under construction near Murgon as part of a Main Roads initiative to accelerate the replacement of highly trafficked wooden bridges across southern Queensland.

The bridges at Unnamed Creek and Kratzman's Gully are located about 20 kilometres north of Murgon on the Murgon-Gayndah Road.

The upgrade involves replacing the existing timber structures with reinforced concrete bridges to improve safety for motorists, increase flood immunity levels and cater for the current and growing traffic volumes.

The bridge replacements form part of the \$126.5 million Southern Queensland Accelerated Road Rehabilitation Program (SQARRP).

### Load limits lifted on South Burnett bridges

Four bridges along Kingaroy-Burrandowan Road have had their load limits lifted in November following extensive bridge rehabilitation and strengthening works.

Routine inspections identified four bridges including the Boyne River Wiedens, Ironpot Creek, Sandy Creek and Boyne River as needing strengthening works.

The rehabilitation works were prioritised and all bridges are now back to full operation.

With the load limits lifted, all traffic will be able to resume travelling across the bridges as normal, including heavy vehicles.



## Safety around roadworks

**Roadworks can be hazardous for roadworkers and road users. Accidents happen when roadwork signs and speed limit signs are ignored.**

10 safety tips to get through roadworks:

- » Look out for roadworkers – they may be hidden from your view.
- » Slow down – roadwork speed limits apply at all times.
- » Drive carefully – you may be liable for damage to your own and other vehicles.
- » Follow roadworkers' instructions – they keep you safe from harm.
- » Expect the unexpected – watch for vehicles entering or leaving the work area.
- » Obey all signs – it's the law.
- » Keep a safe distance from other vehicles, traffic barriers, construction equipment and roadworkers.
- » Plan ahead – allow extra time for unexpected delays.
- » Get into the correct lane in good time and stay there – unnecessary weaving causes accidents.
- » Be patient – we're building better and safer roads for the future.



## Contact

For more information on Main Roads:

- » call the communications team on 1300 728 390
- » call the Bundaberg district office on +61 7 4154 0200
- » email [bundaberg.office@mainroads.qld.gov.au](mailto:bundaberg.office@mainroads.qld.gov.au)
- » email [gympie.office@mainroads.qld.gov.au](mailto:gympie.office@mainroads.qld.gov.au)