

A message from the Regional Director



Happy New Year and welcome to the first edition of Local Links for 2009 – a newsletter aimed at providing you up-to-date information on activities and road projects in the Wide Bay/Burnett region.

With a successful year behind us, we are now focusing on the year ahead and how we can continue to deliver better roads in Wide Bay/Burnett. Some of the major projects scheduled for the next 12 months include:

- » an \$18 million project to upgrade Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road between Torbanlea Road and the Dundowran Road intersections. The project includes four-laning 1.5km of road and the construction of a roundabout connecting Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road, Torbanlea Road and Booral Road.
- » a \$3.8 million project to widen Bundaberg–Miriam Vale Road, between north of the Booloongie Road intersection to the Moorlands Road intersection, with a new bitumen sealed surface on an improved alignment.
- » a \$1.3 million project to upgrade the Walker and Branyan streets intersection to improve safety and traffic efficiency at the roundabout.
- » completing the construction of the \$92 million Bundaberg Ring Road.

This year will be a significant year for Bundaberg with the completion of the Bundaberg Ring Road later in the year. The ring road is the single biggest road investment made in Bundaberg and I have no doubt it will assist in alleviating traffic on the existing road network, saving a considerable amount of time for road users.

Here at Main Roads, we are committed to keeping the community informed about road projects in our region. 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 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 and new signage and overhead lighting.

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



Looking north to Chapel Road - shoulder widening and drainage works

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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.

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.

Traffic is expected to be using the new 14.3km road by August 2009, weather permitting.

Timber bridge replacements

Work to replace seven timber bridges near Bundaberg is progressing well with all seven bridges expected to be completed by July 2009, weather permitting.

The four bridges being replaced on Bundaberg-Miriam Vale Road include the Littabella Creek, Mullet Creek, Yandaran Creek and Cockatoo Creek bridges.

The Gregory River bridges on Goodwood Road and the Isis Highway will also be replaced as will the Wagners Gully Bridge on Bundaberg-Gin Gin Road.

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 provide greater flood immunity. These bridges 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.



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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 progressing well with work expected to be completed early this year.

Traffic signals at the Bruce Highway/Monkland Street intersection were re-phased in early January to support the improvements.

More than 30,000 motorists a day are expected to benefit from the Monkland Street intersection upgrade which has included widening Monkland Street to incorporate four through lanes and separate left and right turn lanes. Bruce Highway traffic will also benefit from right and left turn lanes at the Monkland Street intersection on top of the existing four lanes for through traffic.

Once work on the Monkland Street intersection is complete, construction will focus on the Bruce Highway/Channon Street intersection where traffic signals will be installed along with designated turning lanes.

The traffic signals at the Channon Street intersection will be synchronised with the traffic signals at Monkland Street to improve traffic flow. A closed circuit TV camera will also be installed near the Little Channon Street intersection so traffic flow can be monitored remotely.

Design for stage three is now complete 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.



Stage two of the Bruce Highway Upgrade through Gympie looking north towards the Monkland Street intersection



Aerial photo of construction works on stage two of the Bruce Highway Upgrade (Gympie)



Minister Warren Pitt, Bello construction worker, District Director for Gympie Lawry O'Brien, Bello Constructions Project Manager Mark Turton at the Monkland Street intersection

Bruce Highway Upgrade (Cooroy to Curra)

Main Roads has completed a joint state and federal strategic planning study which identified the corridor for an eventual 61km upgrade of the Bruce Highway between Cooroy and Curra. This upgrade will improve safety and also deliver reduced travel times.

Detailed planning and preparatory design work will continue in 2009 to clarify the project scope and get it construction ready, pending confirmation of funding.

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

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

Main Roads is currently working to install \$2.8 million in joint federal and state funded intelligent transport infrastructure between Cooroy and Gympie as part of an innovative research project aimed at improving safety on the Bruce Highway in this area.

The ITS project will include a research and development component to assess the influence of automatic messages on driver behaviour and safety. In the initial stages, the Variable Message Signs (VMS) will be used to display routine driver safety messages while the necessary hardware and software is developed to add intelligence to the system. When fully functional, the ITS will be able to automatically choose and display an appropriate message to target drivers doing the wrong thing, such as speeding. The system will also warn about wet road conditions, traffic congestion, crash sites and other potential hazards.

The VMS are expected to be in place by June this year, with the more advanced warning technology to follow.

Out and about in Gympie

Vic Olsen Bridge Upgrade

A \$7.35 million project to replace the 66 year old Vic Olsen bridge with a new concrete structure was completed late last year.

The bridge opening was particularly good news for truck drivers from the nearby Moy Pocket Quarry who had been taking a minimum 14km detour after load limits were placed on the old bridge as a result of its deteriorating structure.

Main Roads would like to take this opportunity to thank motorists for their patience during the construction period.

Gympie-Woolooga Road Planning Study

Planning to investigate options for upgrading Gympie-Woolooga Road between Power Road and Ramsey Road is now complete.

Planning commenced in July 2008 and following community consultation a number of options were developed. The recommended option includes 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.

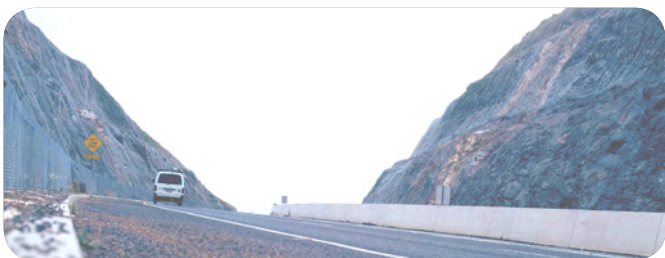
New concrete Crooked Creek Bridge now open

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 this year.



Out and about in South Burnett

Work to replace the Unnamed Creek bridge and its approaches, on the Murgon-Gayndah Road north of Murgon, is nearing completion and expected to be completed in March 2009, weather permitting.

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.

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



Out and about in North Burnett

Burnett Highway

Motorists travelling along the Burnett Highway will soon experience a safer journey, with Main Roads upgrading a section of road between Gayndah and Monto.

The \$400,000 project involves sealing the shoulders on a section of the highway east of Fox Creek, improving signage and installing a guardrail.

The project is scheduled for completion in May 2009, weather permitting.

Contact

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

- » phone the Communication Team on 1300 728 390
- » email bundaberg.office@mainroads.qld.gov.au