

# In and around Fitzroy

## A message from the Regional Director



**Welcome to the October edition of Local Links for 2011, our locally focused newsletter that is aimed at providing communities in central Queensland with the latest information on road projects and activities across the Fitzroy Region.**

The installation of the next set of traffic signals in Emerald at the intersection of the Gregory Highway (Clermont Street) and Capricorn Highway (Ruby Street) is set to start in early 2012 once service relocations have begun. It is expected that traffic signals will be operational by mid-2012.

An Emerald area transport study is about to start which will look at future needs and transport options including state-controlled roads, rail, passenger transport and active transport. This study will be undertaken in close collaboration with the Central Highlands Regional Council and is expected to take about 12 months to complete.

Alister Cullen – Acting Regional Director (Fitzroy)

## Project updates

### Gracemere Industrial Access Project – Capricorn Highway

In August 2011, the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, Premier and Minister for Reconstruction, announced \$50 million funding to guarantee construction of the industrial overpass and bridge access road. The successful construction tenderer is expected to be announced in November 2011.

Over the past 12 months, Department of Transport and Main Roads, in collaboration with Rockhampton Regional Council, Queensland Rail, Department of Infrastructure and Planning and the community have undertaken community consultation, planning, design and commenced on-site preconstruction works.

Historically, development of the Gracemere–Stanwell industrial precinct has been limited due to height restrictions for vehicles crossing the electrified Blackwater rail line to access industrial land.

In June 2010, the Premier announced state funding of \$10 million to commence planning and preliminary works for an overpass to provide access to industrial land south of the Capricorn Highway, outside of Gracemere.

Construction of the Gracemere Industrial Access Project is expected to start early 2012 and expected to open to traffic early 2013, weather permitting.



## Stoney Creek Bridge realignment – Byfield Road (Capricorn Coast)



In November 2010, Transport and Main Roads began the upgrade of Byfield Road at Stoney Creek to provide improved access to the community as well as the nearby national park.

The \$6.5 million Stoney Creek project will realign a one-kilometre section of Byfield Road and construct a two-lane concrete bridge across Stoney Creek. The new two-lane bridge will be more than four metres higher than the existing single-lane creek crossing.

In August, Transport and Main Roads completed the piling works and headstock construction for the new bridge. Over the next four weeks, the new bridge deck will be installed and road realignment will be near completion. The project remains on track for completion by December 2011.

## New bridge over the Dawson River for Baralaba community

A new high-level bridge over the Dawson River at Baralaba is one step closer to being built, with Transport and Main Roads and Cockatoo Coal Limited entering into an agreement to jointly fund construction of the vital link.

The department is committing \$8 million toward the new bridge and road approaches, which is estimated to be \$16 million, with Cockatoo Coal providing the remainder.

The new higher-level two-lane concrete bridge will be 4.2 metres higher than the existing low-lying, single lane structure that was constructed in 1930. Works commenced in August this year by REED Constructions on the new structure and will involve replacing the existing bridge and improving the approaches on both sides.

For community and industry, this means fewer disruptions during the wet season, which in recent times have caused significant hardship, and will mean the bridge is less susceptible to closures during the wet season, resulting in improved access over the notorious Dawson River for both the community and for Cockatoo Coal.

It is expected that the bridge will be completed by the end of the year, weather permitting, to ensure local communities and industry can benefit from the bridge as soon as possible.

## Burnett Highway – widening works

The \$7.5 million Burnett Highway (Hodgetts to Argoon Roads) project is located between Dululu and Biloela. This project includes the widening of approximately nine kilometres of the highway to a 9 metre bitumen seal, culvert extension, property access upgrades and intersection improvement works.

Once the culvert works are complete the final overlay works and property access works can start. Stabilisation works have now started on the northern end of the project.

The project commenced in June and is being undertaken by Banana Shire Council and is expected to be completed early 2012, weather permitting.

## Transport Network Reconstruction Program (TNRP)



Central Queensland's road network received more damage than any other Queensland Government asset during recent flooding. In the Fitzroy region alone more than 900 kilometres of road require reconstruction – almost a third of the region's road network.

These works are being delivered through Operation Queenslander, the largest reconstruction effort in Queensland's history - rebuilding communities, fixing infrastructure and restoring regional economies.

In August 2011, the Premier visited central Queensland to announce Fulton Hogan and Leighton Contractors, to repair the Bruce Highway, that were awarded as part of nearly \$1 billion in road reconstruction in the region under Operation Queenslander.

These and other reconstruction works are well underway on a number of key routes including a third contractor, Civil Mining and Construction also on the Bruce Highway south of Rockhampton. In addition, RoadTek is delivering more than \$100 million worth of roadworks on the Capricorn Highway between Emerald and Rockhampton.

The department will use traffic signals, traffic controllers, single lane closures and speed restrictions as required.

As Transport and Main Roads reconstruct and reconnect the network there will be some delays to motorists. The safety of road users and road workers is the number one priority when delivering these works. Road users are urged to drive to the changed conditions and obey all signage for the safety of all road users.

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