Background

The Bruce Highway is a critical strategic link for the state of Queensland, providing connectivity to coastal and regional towns from Brisbane to Cairns.

The section of Bruce Highway north of Rockhampton not only serves as the national highway, but is also the only arterial road to service industrial, commercial and residential developments in the vicinity of Parkhurst.

The need for the Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade was first identified in the Bruce Highway Action Plan 2012 and is also identified as a medium-term priority in the Fitzroy River Floodplain and Road Planning Study, as part of the Rockhampton Ring Road.

In 2016, the Australian Government announced $121 million for Stage 1 of the Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade. This is a jointly funded project with the Queensland Government and focuses on addressing safety and capacity issues identified on the Bruce Highway, approximately seven kilometres north of the Rockhampton CBD.

At completion of the Rockhampton Northern Access design phase in August 2018, it was confirmed that the Stage 1 funding ($121 million) was sufficient to deliver the highway duplication and associated works between Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road and Ramsay Creek. To maximise construction efficiencies, the Australian Government approved accelerating an adjacent project to upgrade the Bruce Highway and Terranova Drive intersection. This will see the Bruce Highway four laning extend 4.9 kilometres north of Rockhampton, linking to the existing overtaking lanes at Glenlee.

The Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade Project will traverse the northern suburb of Parkhurst and Glenlee with medium density residential to the east and light industrial to the immediate west.

Project scope

Through the North Rockhampton suburbs, the Bruce Highway is currently a two-lane highway with multiple sign-controlled intersections and private entrances providing access to the adjacent residential and industrial areas.

The combined $157 million Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade and Terranova Drive intersection project scope will deliver:

- Construction of two new Bruce Highway lanes and reconstruction of existing lanes between Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road and Terranova Drive.
- Replacement of existing and construction of new bridge structures crossing Limestone Creek and Ramsay Creek.
- Realignment of Boundary Road, west of the Bruce Highway.
- Raised centre median to separate northbound and southbound traffic.
- Intersection upgrades at Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road, Boundary Road (South), Boundary Road (North), Olive Street, Stirling Drive and Terranova Drive.
- Construction of service roads to access industrial and commercial land west of the Bruce Highway.
- Public transport, cycle and pedestrian footpaths within the project extents.
- Relocation of public utilities and services into a single services corridor (where possible). This includes undergrounding of the Rockhampton Regional Council water main which runs parallel to the Bruce Highway through Parkhurst.
- New drainage structures, road lighting and resurfacing of the highway within the extent of the project.
Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade – Construction Plan

Map section 1

Map section 2
Project delivery

In November 2018, the Department of Transport and Main Roads awarded the Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade construction contract to McIlwain Civil Engineering Pty Ltd and SGQ Pty Ltd joint venture.

Civil construction works will commence with construction of new northbound bridge structures at Limestone Creek and Ramsay Creek, along with the new Boundary Road alignment to the west of the Bruce Highway. Through 2019, construction of two new northbound lanes will progress on the Bruce Highway along with the northern and southern service roads to provide connection to adjacent industrial land. Following this, works will commence on the new roundabout at Stirling Drive, the southbound bridge structures at Limestone and Ramsay Creek, and finally construction of the two new southbound lanes from Terranova Drive to Yeppoon Road.

Key activities for construction in 2019-20 are detailed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 construction activity</th>
<th>2020 construction activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Construction of new northbound bridge structures at Limestone Creek and Ramsay Creek.</td>
<td>Bruch Highway traffic lane construction (Ramsay Creek to Terranova Drive)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Realignment of Boundary Road</td>
<td>Terranova Drive intersection upgrade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Highway service roads construction</td>
<td>Bruce Highway southbound traffic lane reconstruction (Yeppoon Road to Ramsay Creek)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Highway northbound traffic lane construction (Yeppoon Road to Ramsay Creek)</td>
<td>Stirling Drive roundabout construction</td>
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Bruce Highway Services Corridor

Motorists travelling north of Rockhampton will have seen works commence to relocate public utilities/services including gas, telecommunication, NBN and most notably the undergrounding of the water pipeline which runs parallel to the Bruce Highway.

One of the key initiatives to come from planning and design activities for the Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade is to locate public utility services into a single corridor where possible, as part of the project.

In the future, this approach will mean reduced impact on the Bruce Highway when maintenance work is undertaken on these services and also provides certainty for service providers when planning future upgrades to these networks.

Fitzroy River Water commenced site works in March 2017 to underground the northern water pipeline. The above-ground pipeline has been replaced with a new Ductile Iron Concrete Line (DICL) pipe and positioned within the identified service corridor. The pipeline has been tested and commissioned, with supply switched to the underground infrastructure in January 2019. Works to remove the above-ground pipeline will be undertaken in February 2019.

How do I receive construction updates?

The Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade project team will be providing regular project updates throughout construction.

To receive up-to-date information on the project over the next 18 months, you can register your contact details by contacting:

Email: community@rnajv.com
Phone: 0448 981 129