Meet Baxter the koala scat detection dog

TMR has commissioned the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) to undertake research to find out how we can better counter-balance the impact from infrastructure projects to koalas and the grey-headed flying fox. The research program includes TMR funding two koala scat detection dogs, one of these dogs is Baxter, who has just graduated from training and is now onsite working.

This innovative program will run for five years and will inform TMR of factors that need to be considered when designing land offsets for projects like Section C.

The USC team, including Baxter, are out searching for koala scats (droppings) so they can analyse these scats, along with other data they collect in relation to koalas and the grey headed flying fox. The research is focussed in and around Gympie, particularly in and around the Cooroy to Curra highway corridor.

For more information on what the research team is doing, go to www.blog.tmr.qld.gov.au or choose ‘Section C’ and ‘Land offset research’. Baxter also has his own blog post at www.blog.tmr.qld.gov.au

Upcoming work in early 2017

- Bulk earthworks to be completed.
- Girder will be installed on Jackass Creek bridge, Woondum Road overpass and the Woondum Interchange, then all 13 bridge structures will be completed with girders and bridge deck units in place early in the new year.
- Constructing pavements (asphalting) on the main alignment will commence.

How can I find out more?

For further information about the Bruce Highway Upgrade – Cooroy to Curra, please visit the project website or contact the project team.

Free call: 1800 180 566* – this number will connect you to a project officer in Gympie.

* Free call from anywhere in Australia. Call charges apply for mobile phones and payphones. Check with your service provider for call costs.

Email: brucehwy@gov.qld.gov.au

Website: www.tmr.qld.gov.au/cooroytocurra

Write to: Bruce Highway Upgrade – Cooroy to Curra

Reply Paid 64

PO Box 383

Gympie Qld 4570

Want to receive regular email updates?

Future project and construction updates for Section C will be via email. If you would like to sign up for the email updates, please email the project team at brucehwy@gov.qld.gov.au

Key project features

Section C will deliver approximately 10.5km of highway on a new and improved alignment.

The existing Bruce Highway will remain as an alternative route for local road users wishing to travel between Traveston and Gympie. Key features of Section C include:

- divided 4-lane highway on a new alignment between Traveston and Woondum, with the ability to be upgraded to 6-lanes in the future
- on and off ramps at Woondum to connect the new Bruce Highway to the existing Bruce Highway. These have been designed to be upgraded in future to accommodate Section D: Woondum to Curra (the Gympie bypass) of the highway upgrade
- bridges over major waterways at Traveston Creek, Kybong Creek, Cobbs Gully and Jackass Creek
- overpasses at Tandur Road and Woondum Road.

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Section C: Traveston to Woondum alignment

Protecting the environment

- Habitat features (for example logs) were collected during clearing and will be reused as permanent habitat for fauna.
- In total 152 temporary sediment basins will be installed on site to assist with sediment control. As the project progresses, the basins will be decommissioned and rehabilitated where required.
- Construction is underway on two dedicated fauna crossings that will run under the new highway, providing connectivity and habitat areas on each side.
- The project is undertaking an innovative ‘passive’ floccing process using gypsum, in preparation for any predicted rain events which proactively assists in the treatment of dirty run off water.
- The project is undertaking a land offset research program.