

Bruce Highway – Cooroy to Curra

Section C: Traveston to Woondum

Project update

February 2018

New highway complete ahead of schedule

Motorists are now enjoying four new lanes of the Bruce Highway between Traveston and Woondum months earlier than initially anticipated.

The \$384 million state and federal funded Section C is the third link to be constructed of the 62km upgrade of the Bruce Highway between Cooroy and Curra. Thanks to effective project planning, spot on construction staging and favourable weather conditions for the majority of 2017, the project was completed ahead of schedule.

Construction commenced in March 2016, traffic was switched to the new 10.5km highway on 9 November 2017 and all finishing work is now complete.

This key transport infrastructure upgrade for the region has celebrated a number of milestones:

- Bulk earthworks were completed in July 2017 with 2 million cubic meters of earth moved. CPB Contractors enlisted a fleet of scrapers, dump trucks up to 50 tonne, and excavators up to 110 tonne that, at peak times, moved approximately 25,000m³ of earth, equal to 10 Olympic size swimming pools, each day!
- To enable excavation of hard rock, eight low impact blasts were required at three locations.
- Large concrete “Super T” girders were placed on bridges over Traveston Creek, Kybong Creek, Tandur Road and Cobbs Gully. The girders are up to 35m long and weigh 84 tonne each.
- Creek diversions at Traveston, Kybong and Jackass Creeks and Cobbs Gully were completed and opened to water flow.
- Fauna-proof fencing was installed along the length of the new highway.
- It is anticipated that during the construction of the project, Section C delivery has generated 426 jobs.

The department would like to thank you for your patience during construction.

Fast facts

- Construction commenced in March 2016.
- New section of highway opened to traffic in November 2017.
- 8.8km of new four-lane highway and 1.7km of two lane connections have been built.
- 13 new bridges have been constructed at seven locations (four over waterways, three over roads).
- Bridges have involved the pouring and placement of 120 concrete piles.
- 76,000 tonnes of asphalt pavement has been laid.
- 34 new culverts, up to 2.1m in diameter, have been installed under the new highway.
- Woondum and Tandur roads have been realigned to enable the new highway to pass over via new bridges.
- Four permanent creek diversions have been completed.
- 2 million cubic metres of earth has been moved between cut to fill.
- 14.2 kilometres of fauna fencing has been installed to help prevent koala and other fauna accessing the new highway.

Key project features

Key features of Section C include:

- divided 4-lane highway constructed to motorway standard, on a new alignment between Traveston and Woondum, with a posted speed of 110km per hour
- connections at Woondum to link the new Bruce Highway to the existing Bruce Highway. These have been designed 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.



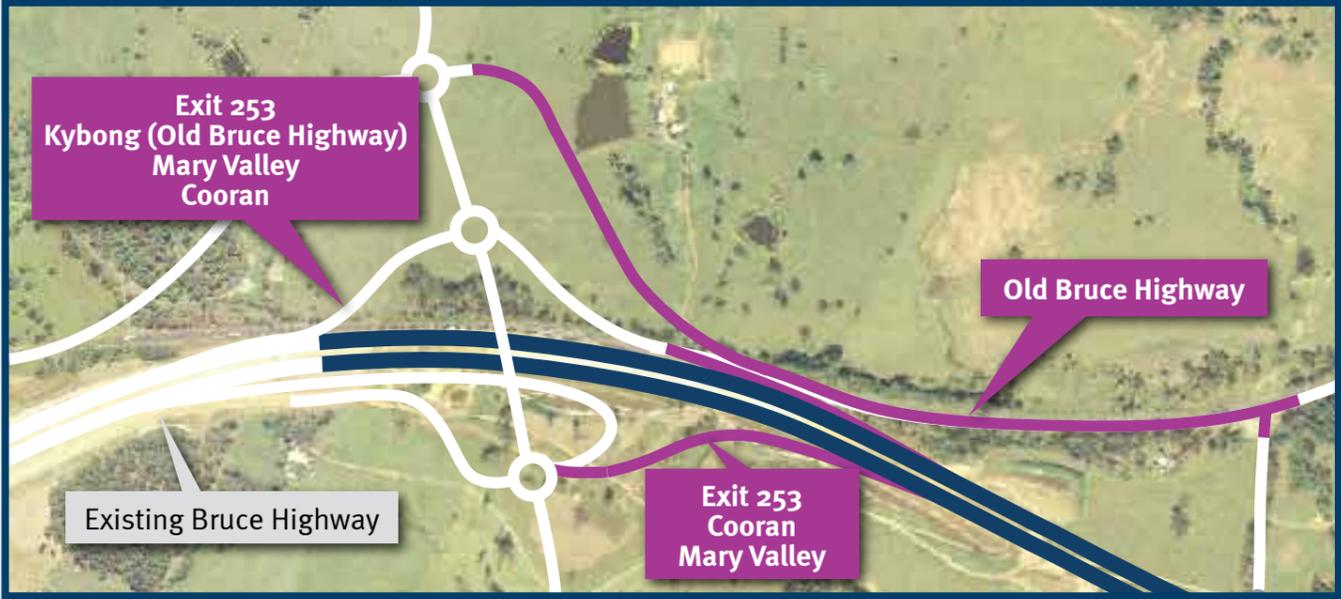
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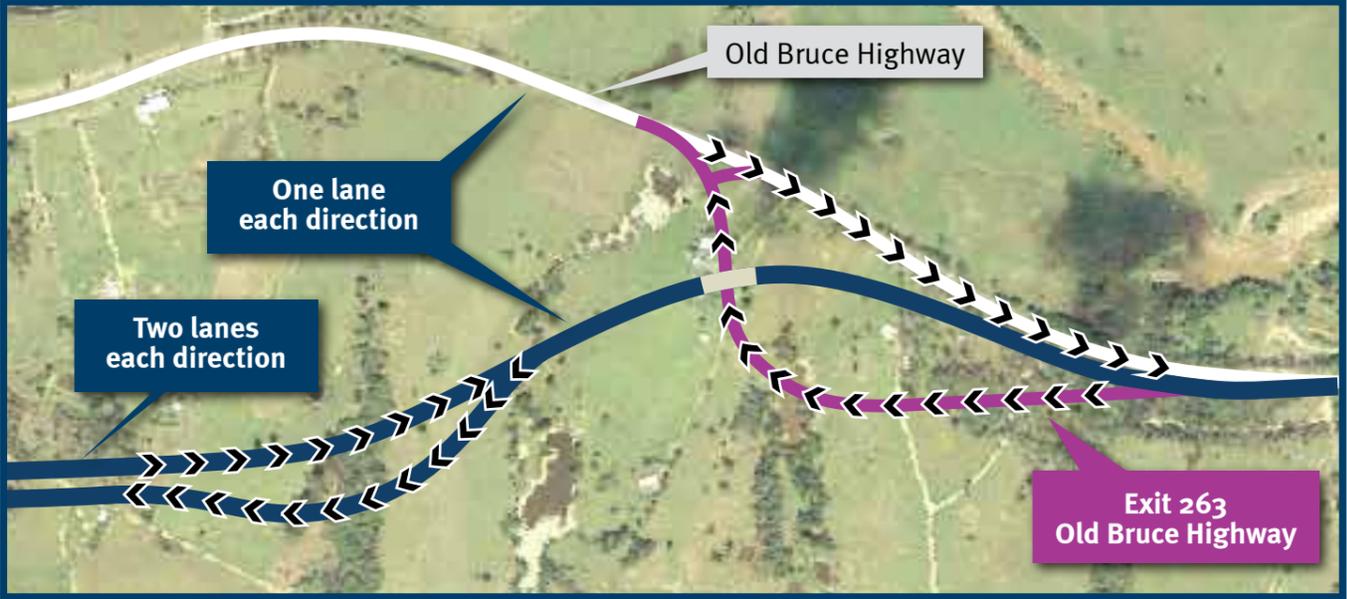


Queensland Government

Section C: Layout



Traveston interchange



Connections at Woondum to the new and old Bruce Highways for access to and from Gympie

Legend

- New Bruce Highway
- Upgraded connections
- Existing roads
- New bridges

Traffic changes for local road users

There are important changes to the way you access the Bruce Highway:

- Completion of the new four lanes of the Bruce Highway means the original Bruce Highway becomes a service road and will be called the Old Bruce Highway. It will take some time for GPS navigation systems to reflect this change. Signage is in place to direct motorists accordingly.
- You will continue to use the Old Bruce Highway for access to Traveston Crossing Road, Wilcox Road, Tandur Road, Lobwein Road, Gresham Road, Woondum Road and Mullaly Road.
- Northbound motorists will need to take Exit 253 to the Mary Valley, just south of Traveston Road, to access the Old Bruce Highway.
- Southbound motorists will need to take Exit 263 at Woondum to access the Old Bruce Highway.
- Please call 13 19 40 or visit www.QLDTraffic.qld.gov.au before travelling for up-to-date information on traffic conditions.





A safer journey for highway and local traffic

This new section of the Bruce Highway will bring significant benefits to road users as well as the communities along the highway, including:

- a safer highway and local road network
- reduced travel time
- increased resilience to flooding
- increased reliability of the network during flooding events
- improved freight efficiency.

The upgrade features a number of safety design elements, including:

- a new and improved alignment
- four-lane divided carriageway that meets motorway standards
- continuous concrete barriers to separate opposing traffic
- access to the new highway via grade-separated interchanges only (no local road or private property accesses)
- increased transport capacity – four lanes instead of two
- increased flood immunity – designed for 1-in-100 year flood
- CCTV technology runs the length of the highway to help manage the road network.

An award-winning commitment to environmental management

The project's commitment to environmental excellence was recognised with the project being awarded the 2017 International Erosion Control Association - Environmental Excellence Award announced in September.

Throughout the construction phase, the project team worked collaboratively to develop a number of innovative solutions to erosion and sediment control. Examples include minimal clearing to install temporary sediment basins ahead of the earthworks phase; modifications to the sequence of construction of the waterway diversions to reduce the duration and disturbance footprints of the works in sensitive riparian zones; early installation of clean water drains; and the use of drone technology to survey erosion and sediment control measures and the progress of rehabilitation works.

Some of the project's other key environmental features:

- TMR commissioned the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) to undertake research into finding out how we can better counter-balance the impact from infrastructure projects to koalas and the grey-headed flying fox. This included funding two koala scat detection dogs for Sections C and D of the Cooroy to Curra upgrades. In a program that will run for a further four years, the dogs identify scats (droppings) in and around Gympie which are then analysed at the USC. The data, along with other research, will be used to inform future land offsets for projects like Section C.
- Construction of a 14.2km long fauna fence adjacent to the new highway. This will help prevent animals such as koalas and kangaroos from crossing the new highway.
- To help animals safely cross under the highway, two large fauna crossings have been constructed underneath the new highway using large concrete culverts.
- Local waterways have been protected from the potential impacts of construction through the development and maintenance of 102 temporary sediment basins. These were constructed to accommodate all stages of construction (clearing through to revegetation).
- Landscaping work commenced early in the project – as soon as work areas were complete, revegetation work was undertaken to help improve drainage, stabilise the ground and minimise dust.

