

Pacific Motorway (M1) – Exit 49 Pimpama northbound off-ramp safety works

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

September 2018

The Department of Transport and Main Roads will be undertaking works at the Exit 49 northbound off-ramp at Pimpama to improve safety for motorists.

What works will be done?

Works at the northbound off-ramp will include:

- Creating additional capacity on the northbound off-ramp at the entry to the interchange. By extending the width of the off-ramp corridor, more vehicles can be accommodated on the off-ramp, mitigating queueing back onto the M1 shoulder.
- Installation of traffic signals (roundabout metering) at both the Yawalpah Road and Rifle Range Road roundabouts. This technology is designed to control the flow of traffic at peak times.
- Closure of the layaway area near the Rifle Range Road roundabout to increase the safety for motorists entering the roundabout.

Why are these works required?

During peak periods there is significant congestion and queuing on the northbound off-ramp at this interchange. This results in vehicles backing-up onto the motorway and queuing along the M1 shoulder to avoid the through-traffic travelling at high speeds. The northbound off-ramp at Exit 49 is controlled by a roundabout which directs traffic to adjacent residential developments and across the motorway. This roundabout becomes heavily congested during peak periods resulting in queuing on the off-ramp, which is a safety risk to motorists.

When will works take place?

The works are scheduled to begin in late September 2018 and will be completed by the end of 2018, weather and site conditions permitting. Major work will take place from 7pm through to 4am. This is to ensure that peak periods for the M1 and the off-ramp are not impacted in any way during the works. Some minor works will be undertaken during the day.

What impacts will there be during this time?

Impacts during this time may include: off-ramp closures, lane closures, detours and speed reductions. Traffic control will be in place during the active work period. Residents and motorists may experience noise and delays during this time. Please adhere to all roadworks signage and speed limits and follow the instructions of the traffic controllers for your safety.

Why do you have to close the additional entry to the Rifle Range Road roundabout?

The layaway area currently on the side of the off-ramp will be removed completely in order to ensure enough width to include the additional widened lane, from the entry, to the off-ramp.

This removal will also ensure the safety of motorists entering the Rifle Range Road roundabout from the off-ramp by removing this conflict point.

How does roundabout metering work?

The roundabout metering signals use smart technology to communicate with traffic detectors embedded into the road surface. The sensors detect the speed and volume of the off-ramp traffic flow, and then communicate with the signals to help maximise off-ramp traffic flow.

As traffic conditions approach congestion, the roundabout signals communicate with each other and moderate signal timings to begin managing the flow of traffic on the off-ramp, thereby keeping the off-ramp flowing at an optimal rate for as long as possible.

The roundabout signals will generally only operate during high-demand periods, such as the morning or evening peaks, when traffic flow on the off-ramp and roundabouts approaches maximum capacity, or in response to an incident or bad weather. At all other times, when there are free flowing conditions, the ramp signals do not operate.

How much will these interim works cost?

The Department of Transport and Main Roads has committed \$1.5 million to undertake interim works to the Pacific Motorway (M1) Exit 49 Pimpama northbound off-ramp.

When will the rest of the interchange be upgraded?

The Department of Transport and Main Roads is continuing to work towards a longer term solution for the Exit 49 interchange which will improve traffic congestion at the interchange and adjacent network. This long term project is currently in the planning phase.

What other works are taking place in the local area?

City of Gold Coast (council) are currently completing underground works on Yawalpah Road, Pimpama between Dixon Drive and Cunningham Drive. These works are not related to the Exit 49 off-ramp works. Rifle Range Road and Attenborough Road are also council roads.

What else is being done to address congestion on the M1?

TMR has a program of works totalling more than \$2 billion for upgrades along the M1. Upgrades on the northern end of the M1 include the M1/M3 Gateway Merge which is currently in construction and future upgrades between Eight Mile Plains and the Logan Motorway which are currently in planning.

Along the central section of the M1 various interchange projects are in planning including upgrades to Exits 38 and 41 at Yatala North and South, Exit 45 at Ormeau, Exit 49 at Pimpama and Exit 57 at Oxenford.

Along the southern end of the M1, construction is underway on the Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes upgrade and planning is progressing for the Varsity Lakes to Tugun upgrade.

For further information on the M1 Upgrade program, go to www.tmr.qld.gov.au and search (1) Projects (2) Pacific Motorway (M1) Upgrade Program.

Who can I contact for more information?

For information on the Exit 49 upgrade, go to www.tmr.qld.gov.au and search (1) Projects (2) Pacific Motorway Exit 49 interim works.

TMR South Coast Office can be contacted on (07) 5563 6600 or southcoast@tmr.qld.gov.au. For traffic updates please contact www.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au or call 13 19 40.