

# MEDIA STATEMENT

3 December 2019

## Eton Range blasts ahead after traffic switch

The last construction stage on the \$189.26 million Eton Range Realignment Project is in full swing, following a major traffic switch on the Peak Downs Highway.

In late October, traffic was moved onto the new downhill lanes to allow for works to progress on the uphill sections.

Transport and Main Roads Central Queensland Regional Director Dave Grosse said the temporary switch was an important construction milestone as certain works could not continue until traffic was moved.

"Once the downhill lanes were opened to traffic, the project team started excavating the previous roadway and progressing with remaining works on the uphill lanes," Mr Grosse said.

"As part of this process, blasting started in mid-November to pre-split the rock and make it easier to excavate, and this will continue into the new year.

"To date, 31 blasts have been completed on the project.

"Other works activities to complete the uphill lanes will include stabilisation works and additional road building."

Mr Grosse said although the project was still in progress, motorists may have already experienced a difference with the temporary switch.

"The new section which opened to traffic is less steep than the previous road, and has specially designed curves at the top of the range to help control speed," he said.

"The final upgrade will deliver a four-lane crossing, with two lanes heading towards Mackay and another set of lanes bound for Nebo.

"The lanes will be separated into a split road to improve safety and reduce the need to close both traffic directions during the movement of oversize vehicles or incidents."

The project is expected to be completed in August 2020, weather permitting.

To subscribe for project updates, contact the TMR Mackay office on 4951 8555 and for more information on the project, visit [www.TMR.qld.gov.au/etonrange](http://www.TMR.qld.gov.au/etonrange).

## ENDS

November 2019 drone footage is available at the link below:

<https://owncloud.tmr.qld.gov.au/public.php?service=files&t=a94ff8dde0608ecab311391112b24dc7>  
Password: Etonrange2019

**Media contact: TMR Media Unit, 3066 7060**