

# MEDIA STATEMENT

8 December 2021

## Wet weather causes bypass closures

The two eastbound lanes of the Toowoomba Bypass between Charlton and Helidon will be temporarily closed for repairs tomorrow (9 December).

Transport and Main Roads Southern Queensland Regional Director Bill Lansbury said while the bypass was not damaged, sections of shotcrete batter protection had dislodged during the recent wet weather.

"Our contractor Nexus noticed movement in the batter protection on Friday and immediately closed an eastbound lane as a precautionary measure," Mr Lansbury said.

"Geotechnical experts have inspected the site to ensure its safety.

"The movement is due to a build-up of water in the natural material sitting behind the shotcrete.

"Nexus was on site and able to respond immediately, with the public's safety the highest priority."

Nexus Infrastructure's CEO James Thewlis said it planned to start the preliminary stages of the complicated removal works today (Wednesday).

"Because of the height and steepness of this cutting, we plan to excavate behind the damaged shotcrete before breaking it up into smaller pieces which are easier to remove," Mr Thewlis said.

"We are taking the highly cautious approach of closing both eastbound lanes while carrying out the works, in the unlikely event the material dislodges and slides downhill further."

Heavy vehicles travelling eastbound will need to detour through Toowoomba tomorrow (Thursday), on the same routes used before the bypass was built.

Drivers with vehicles larger than a B-Double will be required to breakdown their vehicle combination at Charlton before travelling through Toowoomba.

Mr Lansbury said the safety of motorists and road workers was the department's top priority.

"We know how much this short closure will impact the heavy vehicle industry and the Toowoomba community and ask for their patience while the works are carried out," he said.

"This is going to be a long, wet summer and I ask all Queenslanders to drive to the conditions, obey all signs and instructions from our hard-working traffic controllers, and of course, if it's flooded – forget it."

For the most up-to-date information on road conditions and closures, visit the [QLDTraffic website at www.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au](http://www.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au), call 13 19 40 or download the *QLDTraffic* app.

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