

MEDIA STATEMENT

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Design contract awarded for Rockhampton Ring Road

Jacobs SMEC Design Joint Venture has been announced as the successful contractor for detailed design on Rockhampton Ring Road as progress continues on the \$1 billion project.

Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) Director-General Neil Scales said the milestone was key to keeping Central Queensland moving efficiently.

"This project is providing jobs and income in Central Queensland, and supporting Rockhampton's continued development as well as boosting productivity and fostering economic growth," Mr Scales said.

"Significant infrastructure projects like this improve road safety and support the region's economy by improving freight efficiency, flood resilience and the capacity of the Bruce Highway.

"The Rockhampton Ring Road will also strengthen connectivity between key employment, leisure, tourism and residential growth areas of the city and the wider region."

Mr Scales said the contract award demonstrated the project was now moving from the planning phase into the detailed design phase, which was expected to continue until the end of 2021.

"This is a significant project with 17.4 kilometres of new road, including 6.5 kilometres of bridging, to be built through the Fitzroy River floodplain," Mr Scales said.

"Detailed design for the Rockhampton Ring Road will be a challenge. A large part of the project footprint is in the Fitzroy River floodplain. Jacobs SMEC Design Joint Venture will need to manage multiple interfaces with other highways, the local road network, private properties as well as ensuring connectivity to the city.

"Jacobs SMEC Design Joint Venture combines the capacity of both multinational engineering firms with other local design and environmental companies. The joint venture has strategies to involve other Rockhampton-based companies in accordance with the Queensland Procurement Policy (2019), ensuring opportunities for local employment."

Mr Scales said additional project activities were continuing in step with the detailed design phase to further progress and keep stakeholders and the community informed.

"The important task of consulting with property owners impacted by land requirements within the project's footprint is ongoing and we will continue to engage with the community throughout the development phase," he said.

"As part of this next phase, community consultation will be undertaken on the detailed design throughout 2021."

The Bruce Highway Rockhampton Ring Road is being funded on an 80:20 basis with the Australian Government contributing \$800 million and the Queensland Government contributing \$200 million.

This project is part of the 15-year, Bruce Highway Upgrade Program, a \$12.6 billion program of works to improve safety, flood resilience and capacity from Brisbane to Cairns.

The program is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments, with the Australian Government contributing \$10 billion and the Queensland Government contributing \$2.6 billion.

Works on the Rockhampton Ring Road are proposed to take place from 2022 to 2026.

Visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au/rockhamptonringroad to find out more about the Rockhampton Ring Road project.

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