

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

05 April 2024

**Road realignment to improve safety at Booroobin**

- Design is complete for a project that will improve safety on a steep and winding 600-metre section of Maleny–Stanley River Road known as Pigsty Hill.
- The project will realign the road so there are less curves. It will also widen lanes, widen and seal shoulders, improve roadside drainage and provide a safer roadside environment.
- Construction is expected to commence in April 2024, and be complete by early-2025, weather and construction scheduling permitting.

Works to realign a 600-metre section of Maleny–Stanley River Road just east of Mears Lane at Booroobin to help improve safety are set to begin this month.

This winding section of road, known locally as Pigsty Hill, is located on a steep incline on the edge of the Bellthorpe Range and has a significant crash history, especially involving motorbike riders.

The jointly funded project aims to reduce the frequency and severity of crashes to improve safety and reduce road trauma for all road users.

Design is complete to realign the road so that five curves, including two tight curves, currently within this road section are reduced to three gradual curves that are easier and safer to navigate.

The realignment will provide a safer roadside environment as the road will no longer run adjacent to the steep edge of the range and roadside hazards will be removed.

The project will widen lanes and widen and seal shoulders to provide more room for motorists through this road section and roadside drainage will also be improved.

A large section of trees and vegetation will be removed within the road reserve to accommodate the realignment in challenging terrain. Detailed environmental investigations, including ecological surveys, have been completed to inform the design.

During clearing activities, a qualified arborist will supervise to ensure impacts on remaining vegetation are minimised. Fauna spotter catchers will also be on site during clearing to protect and, where required, relocate wildlife identified during the works. The current road will be rehabilitated and replanted with native trees and vegetation.

This \$9 million safety project is funded on a 50:50 basis, with the Australian and Queensland governments each committing \$4.5 million. It is being delivered as part of the Road Safety Program, a \$511.5 million program of works estimated to support an average of 700 direct jobs over the life of the program.

Construction is expected to commence in April 2024, and be complete by early-2025, weather and construction scheduling permitting.

More information will be shared with the community as the project progresses.

**Quotes attributable to Department of Transport and Main Roads – North Coast Region, Regional Director Mr Scott Whitaker:**

“This safety project will make a major difference for all road users who travel this section of Maleny–Stanley River Road, including residents and tourists, passenger vehicles, motorbike riders and bike riders.

“Realigning the road will eradicate the tight bends currently within this stretch of road and move the road further away from the steep drop-off, making Pigsty Hill easier and safer to navigate.

“Wider lanes and wider sealed shoulders will provide more room and enable motorists to move further off the road when required, helping to reduce crash risk.

“The improved road standard will also support an increase in the speed limit along this stretch of road from 60km/h to 80km/h following completion of the project, to align with the speed limit on the rest of Maleny–Stanley River Road.

“We would like to thank the Booroobin community and those who travel this road regularly for their patience while we prepare for construction to progress this vital safety improvement project.”

**ENDS**

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