

Foreword



The Warrego Highway has long been the lifeblood of southern and south-western communities, connecting Brisbane to Charleville. It forms part of the National Land Transport Network and is the second-highest trafficked rural national highway in Queensland.

This highway can continue to play a crucial role in the economic development of our state, as growth in the burgeoning energy sector in the Surat Basin gathers pace.

By upgrading the Warrego Highway, we can help unlock the enormous economic potential of the region and capitalise on the resource-driven growth that has been forecast for Queensland over the next 40 years.

We are on the cusp of massive prosperity for our State and it is through targeted infrastructure projects like this one that we seize that opportunity with both hands and make our resource prosperity work for all Queenslanders.



An upgraded Warrego Highway will deliver wide-ranging benefits to the region and the state, including improved road safety, industry productivity and community access. It will also play an important role in strengthening regional communities to cater for future growth and generating jobs.

But it's not just about the developing resource sector. An upgraded Warrego Highway will provide substantial economic benefits to producers and livestock transporters alike, supporting the region's strong tradition of agricultural production. It will also support the *Queensland Regionalisation Strategy* to strengthen Queensland's regions.

The *Warrego Highway Upgrade Strategy* proposes major investments in upgrading the highway to transform the route into a modern, safe and efficient transport link.

Key elements of this Strategy over the next 20 years include:

- staged upgrade of the highway to motorway standard between Ipswich and Toowoomba

- construction of the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing
- increased capacity west of Toowoomba, including progressively upgrading to four lanes to Dalby
- strengthen and widen narrow pavements between Dalby and Morven
- flood mitigation works at critical locations, such as Jingi Jingi Creek, and in association with general highway upgrades
- bypasses or alternative heavy vehicle routes at or around Dalby, Chinchilla and Roma.

The Queensland Government will continue to work closely with the Australian and local governments, industry and the community, to ensure the Warrego Highway supports a progressive and prosperous future for the communities and industries of south-west Queensland.

The Honourable Anna Bligh, MP
Premier and Minister for Reconstruction

The Honourable Craig Wallace MP
Minister for Main Roads, Fisheries and Marine Infrastructure