

November 2020

Bruce Highway  
Cairns Southern Access Corridor

## Stage 4: Kate Street to Aumuller Street Project

### New bridge and lanes open

Inbound traffic on the Bruce Highway (Ray Jones Drive) travelled across the new bridge at Chinaman Creek for the first time on 1 September 2020. The new bridge and lanes between Ruth Street and Aumuller Street provide a smoother ride for the 37,000 daily motorists using this section of the Bruce Highway.

Construction of this three lane bridge began in September 2019 with piling works. Bridge completion is a major milestone for the jointly-funded \$123.7 million project.

More than 100 deck units make up the backbone of the structure and were lifted into place in May 2020.

[Click here](#) to watch a time-lapse video of the deck unit installation.

Site Engineer (Zone 1), Luke Duncan said, "personally the most challenging part of the bridge construction process was creating stable platforms for the cranes needed to install the bridge decking units. The ground conditions at Chinaman Creek are very soft and challenging to address."

The new three lane bridge initially opened with two lanes until further works along the inbound lanes of the Bruce Highway (Ray Jones Drive) are complete.

Construction of the bridge took an estimated 21,000 man-hours, 438 cubic metres of concrete, 73 piles and 104 bridge decking units.

Focus now shifts to widening the outbound section of the Bruce Highway (Ray Jones Drive) from two to three lanes including the addition of a third lane to the outbound bridge at Chinaman Creek.

The \$123.7 million project is jointly-funded on an 80:20 basis, with the Australian Government committing up to \$98.96 million, and the Queensland Government committing up to \$24.74 million.

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



The new bridge opened with two lanes on 1 September 2020.



Site Engineer (Zone 1), Luke at the underside of the new Chinaman Creek inbound bridge.

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



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## New active transport for Cairns commuters

The new three-lane inbound bridge includes an off-road shared pathway providing bike riders and pedestrians a safer, more direct route into Cairns City. The new pathway follows the Bruce Highway (Ray Jones Drive) between Ruth Street and Aumuller Street.

The new shared pathway also opened on 1 September 2020 and will connect to a 20 kilometre network of planned pathways once completed. This network will stretch from Gordonvale to Cairns City as part of the Bruce Highway – Cairns Southern Access Cycleway and the Bruce Highway—Cairns Southern Access Corridor—Stage 3: Edmonton to Gordonvale Project.



*The shared pathway is complete between Ruth and Aumuller Streets.*

## Outbound bridge to get a third lane

Outbound motorists on the Bruce Highway (Ray Jones Drive) switched onto the old inbound bridge on 24 September 2020. This switch allows the outbound bridge to be widened to three lanes with bridge decking installation beginning early October 2020.

Piling work for the outbound bridge have already been completed with headstock placement ongoing. After outbound bridge works are completed the old inbound bridge will be demolished.



*Piling work is complete on the outbound bridge.*

## Lights to go live at the intersection of Kenny and Draper Streets

Draper/Kenny Streets roundabout was recently excavated and temporarily repaved in preparation for upgrading the roundabout to a signalised intersection.

The traffic signals are expected to be turned on late 2020, weather permitting.

A single outbound slip lane was opened in June 2020 from Kenny Street to Draper Street with the second opening on completion of the signalised intersection.

Completion of this signalised intersection will be a significant milestone for the project.



*The intersection of Kenny Street and Draper Street is nearing completion.*

# Aumuller Street intersection challenge

Upgrading old roads and intersections can be a complex challenge. Senior Project Engineer Paul Goodger said, "the underlying ground conditions and the large number of ground services has made upgrading the busy Aumuller Street intersection a challenge."

"Crews have worked through five stages of night and weekend works to get the work done to minimise the impact on Cairns motorists."

Completion of the Aumuller Street intersection upgrade is expected early 2021, weather permitting.



Senior Project Engineer, Paul at the Aumuller Street works.

# Landscaping

Landscaping contractor BAMA Services, a 100 percent Indigenous Owned company were engaged to complete the landscaping and create barriers for sensitive natural habitat close to the project. At the end of works 40,000 trees, shrubs, understory plants, ground covers and turf will be installed along the alignment.

BAMA Services was selected for their local knowledge, making recommendations for both plants and materials best suited to the challenging conditions in Far North Queensland. The team started planting early May 2020 and is on track to complete works by the end of 2020.



BAMA Services landscaper staking a tree near Aumuller Street.

# Comport Street works progress

The inbound lanes of the Bruce Highway (Comport Street) between Aumuller Street and partly to Fearnley Street are being widened. Inbound traffic has been diverted to allow for widening works to occur. These changes to traffic conditions are expected to remain in place until late 2020, weather permitting.



Comport Street inbound has been shifted to allow for widening works.

# Stay connected

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