

Environmental management

December 2019

Bruce Highway Upgrade – Cooroy to Curra Section D: Woondum to Curra

The Bruce Highway Upgrade – Cooroy to Curra project involves a 62km upgrade and realignment of the Bruce Highway. Section D: Woondum to Curra (C2CD) is the final section to be constructed and will provide a new 26km upgrade and realignment of the highway between Woondum and Curra. Including interchange works and tie-ins to existing roads means 30km of new highway will be constructed for C2CD.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) recognises the importance of maintaining a region's character, surrounds and economic value through the natural environment. TMR aims to leave a positive legacy of environmental management through the many programs put in place for C2CD.

TMR engaged a range of environmental experts, consultants, academics, wildlife groups and state and federal government agencies to inform the design and environmental management approach for the C2CD project. Collaborative outcomes include:

- A Koala Monitoring Program (KMP) developed with input from local environmental and koala action groups.
- Koala detection dogs have been used to identify and monitor koala activity at specific locations and may continue to be used as part of the KMP before and during construction.



Koala scat (poo) detection dogs have been utilised on several sections of the Cooroy to Curra upgrade.



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- Licensed fauna spotter-catchers will be engaged prior to and during vegetation clearing.
- Over 300 hectares of land in the Gympie region will be protected and maintained to support native flora and fauna, such as the Koala and Black-breasted Button-quail.
- A propagation and translocation program for protected plants Pineapple zamia and Slender milkvine involves translocating the plants out of the highway corridor, along with propagating seedlings for planting in offset areas.
- Cat's claw creeper control program using local weed control experts and working with local property owners to control the spread of the weed using chemical and biological agents (bugs). TMR is providing funding to local Landcare groups, the Mary River Catchment Coordination Committee and Gympie Regional Council to continue the work already being undertaken to control the spread of this noxious weed.
- Fauna fencing will be installed at relevant locations along the highway, and 14 fauna crossings will be provided. These include four dedicated fauna crossings at identified fauna corridors such as state forest. They will be fitted with structures like logs and rocks called 'fauna furniture' to encourage and assist wildlife to safely use the crossings. 10 bridges and culverts will also act as crossings.
- Environmental management actions that address the mitigation of construction impacts will be put in place. This includes erosion and sediment controls, and post construction improvements such as native revegetation and landscaping along the alignment.



The Slender milkvine



Slender milkvine being translocated

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