

July 2020

Bruce Highway (Townsville - Ingham)

Hechts Road to Easter Creek Safety Upgrade Project

About the project

Construction of the \$29.17 million Bruce Highway (Townsville - Ingham) Hechts Road to Easter Creek Safety Upgrade Project is due to commence early-August 2020. The Australian and Queensland government funded project will provide pavement widening, intersection upgrades, a new service road and overtaking lanes on the Bruce Highway between Hechts Road and Easter Creek at Bambaroo.

The construction of the overtaking lanes will be 100% funded by the Australian Government under the Bruce Highway Overtaking Lane Program with a total value of \$12.2 million.

The remaining \$16.97 million will be jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments on an 80:20 basis.

The projects form 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.

Project time-frames

- Construction start: Early-August 2020
- Anticipated construction completion: Late-2021 (weather permitting)

Construction hours

Normal hours of works will take place from 6 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday and 7 am to 5 pm on Saturdays.

Some out of hours works and night works may also be required. Where this is the case, those directly affected will be notified in advance and advised about the impacts.

Construction impacts

As with most road upgrade projects, there will be construction related impacts within the immediate project area, such as detours, lane closures, traffic delays and access changes.

The Hechts Road to Easter Creek project will be constructed across multiple locations within the project area. The contractor will be undertaking works in all areas of the project footprint simultaneously in order to deliver the project on time.

There will be an increase in heavy vehicles and machinery in the area during working hours. Noise, vibration and dust associated during construction can be expected.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads is committed to the effective communication of these impacts during construction and will work with the contractor to minimise these impacts on residents, businesses and road users.

Project works

The Hechts Road to Easter Creek Safety Upgrade Project will deliver:

- Highway duplication and overtaking lanes
- Wide centre line treatment
- Rehabilitation of existing pavement
- Upgrades to several intersections to include dedicated turn lanes
- New service road



Benefits

- Improved travel times for Bruce Highway users
- Improved safety at a number of intersections
- Additional overtaking opportunities
- Improved visibility and access for property owners
- Reduced risk of head on collisions for motorists

Project scope

Hechts Road to Yuruga Road

- Pavement widening and Wide Centre Line treatment
- Northbound and southbound overtaking lanes between Little Gin Creek and Waterview Creek
- Intersection safety works on the following intersections
 - Catastis Road
 - Scrubview Road
 - Jourama Falls Road
 - Yuruga Road
- Construction of a new service road on the eastern side of the Bruce Highway, south of the Bambaroo Junction

Yuruga Road to Easter Creek

- Pavement widening and Wide Centre Line treatment

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How will traffic conditions change during construction?

Road users should expect varying travel delays during the Hechts Road to Easter Creek project. While every effort will be made to minimise the impact on road users, motorists are encouraged to plan their journey and to allow extra time.

During construction, road conditions will frequently change, road users can expect:

- lane and road shoulder closures
- road detours
- narrowed lanes
- width and speed restrictions
- short duration of traffic stoppages
- 'switches' between traffic lanes
- changing road surface levels.

Hinchinbrook Shire Council waste pick-up

During this work, residents are advised to leave their bins for collection at their property boundary, where the project team will move them to a location to be emptied, and return them after they have been emptied.

Vegetation removal

A number of trees, shrubs and other vegetation have already been removed in preparation for the Hechts Road to Easter Creek project. However, more vegetation will need to be removed to allow for construction of the new traffic lanes, overtaking lanes and new service road.

In accordance with all required approvals, only those trees necessary to allow construction of the project are being removed.

Any vegetation removed will be mulched on site and retained for landscaping.

Will there be any changes to the current speed limit?

To ensure the safety of road users and roadworkers, the speed limit may be reduced to 40 km/h through the immediate work zone and 60 km/hr as required in other areas.

There will be times when no work is taking place on or close to the road, such as on weekends and public holidays. Maintaining a consistent speed limit during the project reinforces to motorists that they are, at all times, driving through a construction zone and should be aware of potential risks, including changed traffic conditions, roadside hazards or loose gravel and debris on the road.

All road users are reminded that roadwork speed limits are enforceable and they should continue to obey roadwork signs and traffic controllers. Keeping a safe distance between you and other vehicles, and from traffic barriers, construction equipment and roadwork crews is recommended.

Once complete, the speed limit on the Bruce Highway between Hechts Road and Easter Creek will be reinstated to 100 km/hr.

Will access to my property change?

Access to properties will be maintained during the project, however, there will be temporary access changes for some residents and businesses during construction. The Department of Transport and Main Roads will liaise directly with those affected.

Some property accesses within the project zone will require reconstruction as part of these works. The Department of Transport and Main Roads will liaise directly with those affected to confirm access location and design features.

Stay informed

For more information about the Bruce Highway (Townsville - Ingham) Hechts Road to Easter Creek Safety Upgrade project:

- Register for electronic project updates by sending an email to engagement.northern@tmr.qld.gov.au and providing your name, address, contact phone number and email address/es.
- Visit the Department of Transport and Main Roads website, go to the 'Projects' section and view the Bruce Highway widening, intersection upgrades and overtaking lanes (Bambaroo) web page.

Contact the project team

Phone: 1800 625 648

Email: engagement.northern@tmr.qld.gov.au

Other information can be found

Website: <https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects>

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