

Pacific Motorway (M1) – Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill upgrade

Frequently Asked Questions

September 2019

Why is the Pacific Motorway (M1) – Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill being upgraded?

The Pacific Motorway (M1) is the primary road transport route connecting New South Wales and the Gold Coast and Logan cities with metropolitan Brisbane. The M1 caters for long-distance travellers, residents, commuters, commercial vehicles, buses, tour operators and international and domestic tourists. The Australian and Queensland Governments are progressively upgrading the motorway, and work is now underway on increasing capacity on the section between Eight Mile Plains and the Logan Motorway.

The M1 Pacific Motorway is operating at its capacity limit. Forecast urban and industrial growth will further stretch existing infrastructure as Brisbane, Logan and Gold Coast swell to accommodate almost one million new residents by 2041. A projected 80 per cent increase in the national freight task over 20 years will intensify this effect.

The route between Eight Mile Plains, where the Gateway Motorway merges with the Pacific Motorway, and the Logan Motorway is one of the busiest sections of the M1. The overarching M1 North upgrade program is guiding the upgrade and widening of this 16-kilometre section through three stages.

- Stage 1 of the M1 North upgrade program is the M1/M3 Gateway Merge upgrade which is currently in construction.
- This project currently under detailed development is Stage 2 of the M1 North upgrade program between Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill upgrade.
- Stage 3 of the M1 North upgrade program is Daisy Hill to Logan Motorway and is currently in early planning phase.

Stage 2 – Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill will continue from the construction of Stage 1 M1/M3 Gateway Merge. This project is expected to increase both capacity and safety on the M1, as well as upgrade service roads to ensure local traffic keeps flowing.

Who uses the Pacific Motorway?

More than 150,000 vehicles use the motorway through the stretch between Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill each day. Most are commuting to and from work in Brisbane's inner city and major industrial and enterprise clusters around Brisbane's port and airport, south-west suburbs and along the M1 into the Gold Coast. Commercial vehicles and freight account for about 40 per cent of motorway traffic, with 12,000 heavy vehicles passing through the corridor daily.



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Will the upgrade make the M1 Pacific Motorway safer?

Safety and congestion are two key drivers for the upgrade. Severe congestion – particularly during peak hours – is undermining travel efficiency, reliability and safety. Narrow shoulder lanes, closely spaced interchanges and undesirable sight distances heighten safety risks and widen the impact of incidents. Crashes during peak hour can affect cars seven kilometres downstream and add more than an hour to trips. Bus services through the area are regularly impacted, with congestion factored into public transport timetables. (Public transport near the project area is primarily bus-based.)

What is the cost of the upgrade?

The Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill project is estimated to cost \$749 million.

Who is funding the upgrade?

The Queensland and Australian Governments.

What will the upgrade include?

The Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill project upgrade will include:

- 8.5 kilometres of northbound motorway widening, incorporating:
 - five lanes between the Paradise Road on-ramp and the Logan Road off-ramp
 - four lanes between the Logan Road off-ramp and Lexington Road on-ramp
 - five lanes between the Lexington Road on-ramp and the Gateway Motorway off-ramp
 - merging to three lanes north of the Gateway Motorway off-ramp
 - construction of new Lexington Road on-ramp
 - repurposing of the Fitzgerald Avenue off-ramp to busway
 - closure of the Sports Drive on-ramp
 - Smart Motorway technologies for the extent of the works including well as ramp metering at the Lexington Road on-ramp and Paradise Road/Loganlea Road on-ramp
 - modifications to the old Pacific Highway to provide four lanes in some sections and cycle facilities.
- 1.1 kilometres of southbound motorway widening, incorporating:
 - extension of the four lanes from Rochedale Road off-ramp to Springwood Road overpass, merging into the existing three lanes at the Logan Road overpass.

What stage is the project at?

The Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill project is currently in the design phase of the project lifecycle.

When will construction commence?

Construction on this project is expected to begin in early 2020. A rolling schedule of construction is expected and the Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill Project will begin at the completion of the M1/M3 Gateway merge project.

What are the benefits?

This project will provide many benefits to the travelling community, such as:

- \$28.3 million in travel time reliability benefits. Helping to get you to your destination on time.
- Reducing congestion and supporting faster peak hour travel in this area.
- Ensuring local travel networks are upgraded to efficiently take traffic away from the motorway.
- Increasing travel time reliability for freight and inter-regional transport.
- A greatly expanded walking and cycling network, giving you more choice for active travel.
- Supplying a more reliable bus service with the extension of the busway and new bus station facilities.

How many jobs will be created?

It is estimated the M1 Pacific Motorway (M1): Eight Miles Plains to Daisy Hill project will support an average of 721 direct jobs over the life of the project.

Are land resumptions required?

To provide an improved and safer road network for the community, it is sometimes necessary for the department to acquire additional land for construction purposes.

The department tries to avoid impacting private property wherever possible, but resumptions cannot be avoided in all cases. All land required for this project has now been acquired.

Why are you removing the on-street parking on the Pacific Highway?

The on-street parking must be removed to avoid any further property resumptions in this area. To widen the Pacific Highway and increase capacity in this area, a portion of land was resumed from property owners approximately eight years ago. This land is owned by the Department of Transport and Main Roads and will now be utilised as road corridor for the widening.

To replace on street parking at this location, further property resumptions would be required. The department does not resume property for parking, only for road assets required. The majority of commercial properties along the Pacific Highway have off street parking to cater for customers.

When will the rest of the motorway be upgraded?

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has developed an M1 North upgrade program (Gateway to Logan Motorway), to address congestion issues along the northern end of the M1. This upgrade is being delivered in strategic priority stages as funding becomes available:

- Stage One: M1/M3 Gateway Merge – currently in construction phase and due for completion in early 2020.
- Stage Two: Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill M1 upgrade – this project is currently in the design phase with construction expected to begin soon after the completion of the M1/M3 Gateway merge upgrade .
- Stage Three: Daisy Hill to Logan Motorway M1 upgrade – early planning phase.

For an overview of additional projects being delivered along the M1 corridor, refer to the TMR website under Projects/Pacific Motorway M1 upgrade program or see the attached map titled “Pacific Motorway (M1) upgrade projects”.

Will the busway be extended as part of the upgrade?

The extension of the South East Busway from Eight Mile Plains through to Springwood will be completed as part of the stage 2 upgrade. An additional bus station facility adjacent to School Road at Rochedale will be constructed along with new park-n-ride facilities (400+ vehicles).

How can I get more information?

The project is offering a free email and SMS text message traffic alert service for this upgrade to ensure residents and motorists are kept up to date with progress on the upgrade as well as to be aware of when traffic conditions change during construction. If you would like to register for either or both services, please email your details to eightmileplains@tmr.qld.gov.au

Phone: 1800 549 664

Email: eightmileplains@tmr.qld.gov.au

Web: www.tmr.qld.gov.au