

# Southport–Burleigh Road upgrade works

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

October 2015

## What is happening along Southport–Burleigh Road?

The Queensland Government through the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), has committed \$104 million to improve Southport–Burleigh Road to cater for current and future traffic volumes on the Gold Coast.

The upgrade of Southport–Burleigh Road (locally known as High Street, Ferry Road, Bundall Road and Bermuda Street) will start at the intersection of North Street in Southport, and end just south of Rudd Street in Broadbeach Waters.

The key feature of this project will be the creation of three traffic lanes in each direction for the majority of the 8km section.

The project will also provide an off-road shared cycle and pedestrian pathway along the eastern side from North Street in Southport to the Nerang River Bridge in Bundall.

There will be improvements made to bridges and intersections along the route.

Consistent and improved road surfacing will also be a benefit of the completed project.

## Are these improvements part of any other improvements across the Gold Coast?

Yes. TMR is delivering a \$160.7 million package of road network improvement projects to cater for current and expected future traffic volumes on the Gold Coast.

As part of these works, Southport–Burleigh Road (High Street, Ferry Road, Bundall Road and Bermuda Street), Labrador–Carrara Road (Olsen Avenue, Currumburra Road and Ross Street) and Nerang–Broadbeach Road (Gooding Drive roundabout and Hooker Boulevard) will be improved.

These works provide long term benefits to the community by increasing the road network capacity and improving traffic flows across the Gold Coast.

Delivery of these projects will also help ensure the Gold Coast road network is in good shape ahead of the Commonwealth Games in 2018.

## Where are the upgrades taking place along Southport–Burleigh Road?

### North Street to Vespa Crescent

- works include the addition of a third through lane both north and southbound, achieved by removing parking lanes
- changes to traffic movements at intersections and signalisation of the intersection with Winchester Street, Yacht Street, Cotlew Street East and Skiff Street and Shaw Street
- intersection improvements include:

- Winchester Street: Signals will be installed with all existing movements maintained including the northbound dedicated right turn lane to turn into Winchester Street
- Yacht Street: Signals will be installed and U-turns permitted for northbound traffic
- Cotlew Street East and Skiff Street: existing left turn into Cotlew Street East from northbound on Bundall Road will now be a signalised turn with access to Cotlew Street East only on green signal
- Shaw Street: this intersection will be signalised with all existing movements maintained.
- revised line marking and signage
- bridge upgrades.

#### **Vespa Crescent to Fremar Street**

- works include the addition of a third through lane, achieved by removing the parking lanes, reconfiguration of intersection alignment, revised line marking and signage.
- Further upgrades to the intersection at Salerno Street and Ashmore Road to ease congestion and increase traffic flow.

#### **Fremar Street to Rudd Street**

- works include the addition of a through lane both north and southbound, achieved by removing the parking lanes and narrowing the centre median
- a new slip lane from Southport–Burleigh Road northbound into Darnay Road westbound and revised line marking and signage.

### **Why are these upgrades happening?**

The upgrade to Southport-Burleigh Road will provide long term benefits to the community by increasing the road network capacity, improving traffic flows and easing congestion across the Gold Coast.

### **Did you consult with the community?**

TMR officers began community consultation immediately following the project being approved and announced on 18 June 2015 with more than 12,000 residents, businesses and interested parties receiving a copy of the Gold Coast Road Network Improvement brochure.

In addition, local businesses were door knocked and onsite meetings commenced with directly impacted residents.

### **What are the benefits of the project?**

There are many benefits to the upgrade of Southport-Burleigh Road;

- Improved traffic flow and capacity along Southport–Burleigh Road to meet current traffic demands while also catering to future traffic needs. Provide an off-road shared cycle and pedestrian pathway from North Street in Southport to the Nerang River Bridge in Bundall.
- Make improvements to intersections, signal coordination and bridges.
- To both improve and gain consistency of the road surface across 8 kilometres of Southport–Burleigh Road.

- Delivery of these projects now will help ensure the Gold Coast road network is in good shape ahead of the Commonwealth Games in 2018.

### What is the timing of the project?

The Southport–Burleigh Road upgrade will be completed in three separate packages;

**North Street – Vespa Street** – Tenders have now closed for this section. A contractor is due to be awarded shortly. Construction is expected to begin in November 2015.

**Vespa Crescent – Fremar Street** – Tender is expected to go to market early 2016 with early works for public utility relocation expected to begin in the first quarter of 2016. Full construction on the project will begin in mid-2016

**Fremar Street – Rudd Street** – Tender was released to market on 8 October 2015. Construction is expected to begin in early 2016..

*Please note that scheduled timing is site and weather dependant.*

### Will on-street parking be removed?

A key objective for TMR is to provide an integrated transport system that supports the safe, efficient and reliable movement of people and goods. The department's priority is to provide and maintain a road network that assists with this objective.

Whilst on-street parking is not a factor in meeting this objective the department considers provision for on-street parking, provided it does not impact on traffic flows and is consistent with the parking strategies of the City of Gold Coast (CoGC).

The majority of the Southport–Burleigh Road upgrade has been designed within the current road footprint to minimise additional land requirements. This design does include the complete removal of the majority of on-street parking for the 8km's of Southport–Burleigh Road. The removal of most of the on-street parking will remain permanent at project end.

Information about alternate parking options, including loading zones is available from the City of Gold Coast's [City Parking page](#).

### Was a clearway considered?

During the planning phase for the Southport–Burleigh Road upgrade, the department investigated the option to install a clearway. A clearway is only effective when the peak time for traffic is clearly defined, allowing the additional lane (or third lane) to be used as parking during the off-peak times.

Southport–Burleigh Road has reached capacity with traffic counts showing a consistent flow of vehicles throughout the day. Approximately 3600 vehicles per hour travel Southport–Burleigh Road during the morning and afternoon peaks. Outside of these peak periods, there is only a slight decrease in the traffic volume to approximately 3200 vehicles per hour. Due to the high number of vehicles that travel Southport–Burleigh Road, the installation of a clearway does not adequately address the current traffic flow and congestion issues.

## Will my property access change?

Southport–Burleigh Road property access impacts will be assessed on a case by case basis, however the project team will contact you should your property be directly affected at any time.

## What are the benefits for pedestrians and cyclists?

The Queensland Government has a long-term transport plan which aims to develop a sustainable transport system in south east Queensland. With this in mind, the Southport-Burleigh Road network upgrade will include an off-road shared cycle and pedestrian pathway from North Street in Southport to the Nerang River Bridge in Bundall.

During construction, pedestrians and cyclists should be extra vigilant and keep their personal safety top of mind when using Southport–Burleigh Road. During the works some sections of Southport–Burleigh Road will be closed with traffic control in place to direct and divert traffic.

Pedestrians and cyclists can subscribe to the free [SMS text message](#) service to get regular updates on changing traffic conditions for this project. Alternatively, you can receive traffic updates to your email address. Register for either or both services at [SouthportBurleighRoad@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:SouthportBurleighRoad@tmr.qld.gov.au) or call the project team on (07) 5563 6600 (standard call costs apply).

## Road Traffic Noise

TMR acknowledges that road traffic noise is recognised as a concern for many people living adjacent to or near arterial roads that have high traffic volumes.

TMR manages road traffic noise in accordance with the [Environmental Protection Act 1994](#) and the [Transport Noise Management Code of Practice Volume 1 – Road Traffic Noise November 2013](#). The Act and the Code of Practice sets out standard processes for dealing with the effects of road traffic noise on properties adjacent to state-controlled roads.

TMR will carry out road traffic noise monitoring prior to construction starting on the Southport–Burleigh Road upgrade. After the project has been completed, TMR will again carry out noise monitoring to assess whether noise levels have changed.

Should a requirement then be identified, this location will be added to the list of state-controlled roads that meet mitigation requirements. This list is prioritised depending on budget, total roadwork programs and other considerations. Funding for any noise mitigation treatments has not been allocated and is not a part of this project.

## Are land resumptions required?

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

TMR tries to avoid private property impacts wherever possible but resumptions can sometimes be required.

A number of homes are in the process of being resumed for this project and TMR has already contacted the impacted home owners. No further resumptions are proposed for this upgrade.

## What is the cost of these road upgrades?

The upgrade to Southport–Burleigh Road has a total funding commitment of \$104 million. This includes costs related to concept planning, contract administration, designs, public service utility relocations, resumptions, construction, and inspection of construction works.

## How will traffic conditions change during construction?

To ensure the safety of roadwork crews and road users, new traffic arrangements will be put in place during construction of the Southport-Burleigh Road upgrade.

This means that road conditions will frequently change, including:

- narrow lanes and shoulder closures
- ‘switches’ between traffic lanes
- altered lane merges
- full lane closures
- reduced speed limits
- short duration traffic stoppages

The speed limit on Southport–Burleigh Road will be reduced at various locations during construction. Outside of construction zones Southport–Burleigh Road will retain existing speed limits with the exception of Bermuda Street. The current posted speed limit of 70km/h will be permanently reduced to 60km/h at the completion of the project.

While there may be times when there are no roadwork crews onsite, reduced speed limits will remain in place due to narrowed lanes, unfinished road surfaces, and so on. If you cannot see a road worker, it does not mean you can increase your speed – there may still be hazards.

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

All road users are urged to subscribe to the free [SMS text message](#) service to get regular updates on changing traffic conditions for this project. Alternatively you can receive traffic alerts to your email address.

Register for either or both services at [SouthportBurleighRoad@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:SouthportBurleighRoad@tmr.qld.gov.au) or call the project team on (07) 5563 6600 (standard call costs apply).

## Why is the speed limit reduced even when works aren't being undertaken?

When carrying out road upgrades such as Southport–Burleigh Road, TMR must ensure the upgrade design meets current road engineering and safety standards. This includes consideration of sight distances, roadside hazards, crash history, traffic volumes, etc.

While it may appear that the road conditions warrant a higher posted speed limit, changed traffic conditions (lane width, pavement condition) require a reduced speed.

The department sets speed limits in accordance with Part 4 of the [Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices](#).

By following this process, road users can be confident that speed limits are being set in a consistent manner across the state and can have confidence that they are an appropriate limit in normal driving conditions.

## What can residents expect during construction?

Construction on Southport–Burleigh Road will be carried out in stages at various locations along the route. Residents are advised that crews will not be consistently working in the one location throughout the construction period. There will be a number of crews, working in a number of locations, at any given time.

While the project team will make every effort to minimise noise and disruption, a combination of both day and night works will need to be undertaken for the duration of the projects. Due to the size of the project and the timeframes involved, there is no alternative to this schedule.

The project team is committed to keeping everyone informed with timely and accurate information to minimise disruption to neighbouring communities. Advance notice will be provided to residents via letterbox flyers or face-to-face meetings when work is approaching your area. You will also be contacted if or when access is temporarily disrupted or changed.

Residents are also urged to register their email address to receive electronic project updates such as progress against milestones, timeframes, upcoming works and the like. Alternatively a free SMS text message service is available for updates on traffic conditions during construction.

Register for either or both services at [SouthportBurleighRoad@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:SouthportBurleighRoad@tmr.qld.gov.au) or call the project team on (07) 5563 6600 (standard call costs apply).

## What environmental protections are in place?

TMR is committed to managing its road network in a manner that optimises environmental outcomes for natural, social and built environments. The department uses a range of environmental expertise to develop detailed management plans to ensure all of its road projects are environmentally sustainable.

For these road upgrades, an Environmental Impact Assessment was undertaken during the planning stages. At construction stage, an Environmental Management Plan will be developed and implemented, addressing aspects such as the management of native flora and fauna, as well as measures to minimise construction impacts such as noise and dust. This plan ensures that contractors working on this project comply with current environmental legislation and industry best-practice.

## Can I claim compensation for lost trade or loss of home value?

As a state government department, TMR is lawfully authorised to carry out roadworks to improve the road network for the benefit of the whole community.

These road network upgrades are necessary to improve the efficiency of transport routes throughout the Gold Coast and therefore will also be of future benefit to both residents and business operators in the area.

The department is always mindful of the impacts of roadworks and does everything that can be reasonably expected to minimise inconvenience to residents, commuters and adjacent businesses. The department does not compensate either residents for loss of property value or businesses for loss of trade resulting from roadworks.

The project team is committed to keeping everyone informed with timely and accurate information to minimise disruption to the community, including local businesses. Advance notice of disruptive works will be provided to both residents and business operators via works notifications, face-to-face meetings, website updates, electronic signage and traffic control measures.

The department recommends that all stakeholders, be that residents, commuters or businesses register their email address to receive electronic project updates such as progress against milestones, timeframes, upcoming works and the like.

Alternatively a free [SMS text message](#) service is available for updates on traffic conditions during construction.

Register for either or both services at [SouthportBurleighRoad@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:SouthportBurleighRoad@tmr.qld.gov.au) or call the project team on (07) 5563 6600 (standard call costs apply).

## How can I get more information or keep up-to-date?

Southport-Burleigh Road residents will receive a letterbox flyer if there is to be any impact to their property or access requirements during construction.

Motorists will be advised of changed traffic conditions via static and electronic roadside signage, or can phone 13 19 40 or visit [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au) for up-to-date information on traffic disruptions.

Members of the public can subscribe to receive free [SMS text messages or email traffic alerts](#) when road and traffic conditions change during construction.

An email stakeholder group has also been established for those who wish to receive project information updates such as progress against milestones, timeframes, upcoming works and the like.

For any questions or comments about the design and construction of these works, or to register for the above services, contact the project team on:

Phone: During business hours: 07 5563 6600 (standard call costs apply)  
Email: [SouthportBurleighRoad@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:SouthportBurleighRoad@tmr.qld.gov.au)  
Web: [www.tmr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au)  
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