



A message from the Regional Director

2007 was a very busy year for district staff in the Central West Region the last year.

Work continued on the 430 km Jericho-Yaraka-Windorah Rail Line replacement project and the sealing of the Boulia-Birdsville link.

Sealing was completed on the Longreach-Windorah link and of the section of the Aramac-Torrens Creek Road in the Central West Region. This marks the half-way point of the sealing.

A new concrete bridge at Blackall was completed in September 2007, replacing a very old timber bridge. The new structure is not only stronger and more robust than the old bridge, but is significantly higher. During the flooding around Blackall in early 2008 the Blackall to Isisford road reopened at least one week earlier than would have been the case with the old bridge.

As part of the Safer Roads Sooner program we sealed a second overtaking opportunity on the Morney-Birdsville Road. These 5-6 km sections of seal allow drivers to overtake slower trucks on the link, which is otherwise unsealed. Before these were built motorists could be stuck in the dust behind road trains for over an hour.

In 2008 we are continuing work on both the Jericho-Yaraka-Windorah project and on the Boulia-Birdsville link. Significant work will also be done on the Bedourie-Windorah link, with the Diamantina and Barcoo Shire Councils providing most of the funds on this link.



Bedourie-Windorah Link



Barcoo River Bridge - Blackall

An additional overtaking opportunity will be built on the Morney-Birdsville Road starting at the Morney intersection. As local governments are the primary suppliers of road construction and maintenance to Main Roads in the Central West, we will be working closely with the new Regional Councils to ensure a smooth transition and continuation of our program delivery.

Eric Denham
Regional Director
Barcaldine District Office
Central West Region



Sealing the Aramac-Torrens Creek Road

Safer Roads Sooner

\$550,000 for Safer Roads

Minister for Main Roads and Local Government Mr Warren Pitt announced Barcaldine and the Central West will receive \$550,000 under the Safer Roads Sooner program.

State-wide, \$55,425 million will be spent on 88 new Safer Roads Sooner projects and two new mass action programs to improve safety for road users.

In Central Western Region, projects include:

- » \$150,000 in 2009/2010 for fatigue management measures on the Diamantina Developmental Road in Diamantina Shire. Works include installing rest-area facilities.
- » \$250,000 in 2009/2010 for safety improvements, including sealing and delineation on the Kennedy Developmental Road in Winton Shire.
- » \$150,000 in 2009/2010 for fatigue management measures on the Kennedy Developmental Road (Poddy Creek area) in Winton Shire. Works include installing rest-area facilities."

Project updates

Tree of Knowledge – Barcaldine Main Street Upgrade

Main Roads Minister Warren Pitt announced Main Roads involvement in the Tree of Knowledge redevelopment in Barcaldine.

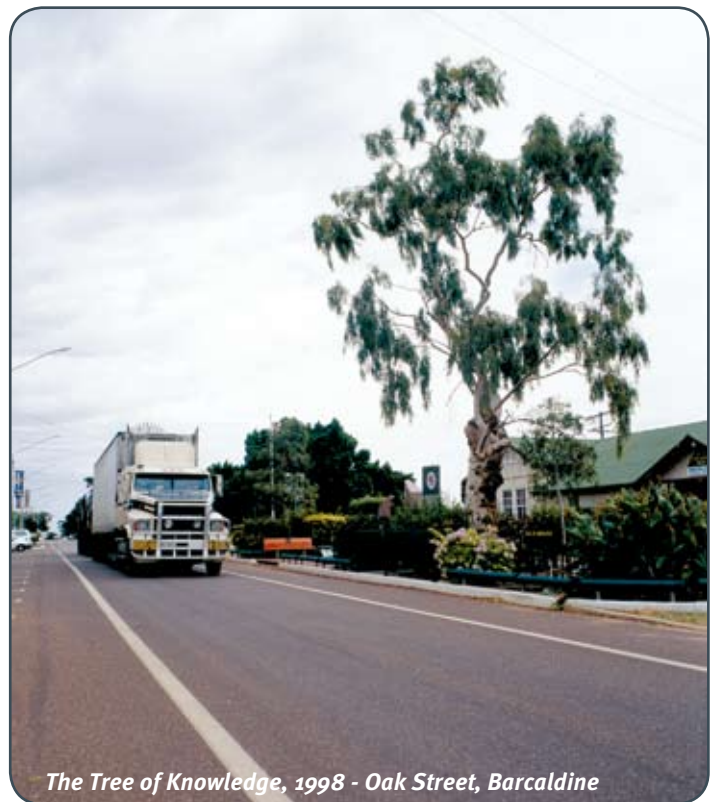
The Tree of Knowledge is an important part of Australia's political development and history, as it was the meeting place for the shearers during their unsuccessful strike in 1891. This eventually led to the formation of the Australian Labor Party. The Tree of Knowledge was included on the National Heritage List in December 2005. The tree was poisoned and officially declared dead in 2006.

As a project partner in the redevelopment, Main Roads will fund the roadworks on Oak Street to accommodate Barcaldine Regional Council's memorialising of the iconic Tree of Knowledge.

The project will incorporate resurfacing work as well as improving the road's alignment to the east of the memorial. The new configuration of through lanes will also improve safety for pedestrians and tourists.

This section of Barcaldine's main street is part of the Capricorn Highway and carries on average over 2,000 vehicles per day, including 10% heavy vehicles.

The estimated completion date is the May Day weekend in 2009, with an official opening during the Tree of Knowledge festival.



Contact

For more information you can:

- » contact the Barcaldine district office on +61 7 4651 2777
- » visit our website www.mainroads.qld.gov.au

