

# In and around Mackay/Whitsunday • September 2009

### A message from the Regional Director



The Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) has a large program of works taking place in the Mackay/Whitsunday Region. Recent accomplishments include the opening of the new Hospital Bridge in April and completion of the Mackay-Bucasia Road duplication in July. With construction well underway on many other projects, this is an exciting time for motorists.

Mackay/Whitsunday is a growth region and the government is investing in road and transport infrastructure to support this

growth. The region will benefit from a \$149 million road program in 2009-10, sustaining more than 1500 jobs.

The three major projects (Forgan Bridge replacement and duplication, Joint Levee Road and Bruce Highway-Farrellys Lane intersection upgrade) are progressing well. Other projects such as the \$5.7 million upgrade to Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road are underway. The department is also progressively undertaking a series of Safer Roads Sooner projects in partnership with RoadTek, to improve safety for all motorists using state-controlled roads.

Over the past few months many of you may have been involved in the Q150 celebrations. Queensland has come a long way since being declared a state in its own right by Queen Victoria in 1859. Our 150th anniversary year is an opportunity to take stock, reflect, think ahead and move forward. DTMR has been renaming bridges across Queensland to celebrate this historic event. In the Mackay/Whitsunday Region, we have four bridges to rename.

- » The new Hospital Bridge on Glenella Connection Road
- » Sandy Creek Bridge on Homebush Road
- » Blackwaterhole Creek Bridge on the Peak Downs Highway near Eton
- » O'Connell River Bridge on the Bruce Highway south of Proserpine

After receiving more than 200 nominations, the panel met last month to decide on a short list of names to submit to the Honourable Craig Wallace MP, Minister for Main Roads. When the Minister has made the final decision, the names will be announced and new signage will be installed at each bridge.

The Mackay/Whitsunday Region will continue to deliver a huge program of works to provide the Region with a road network to service current and future needs.

For more information, telephone 07 4951 8555 or log on to [www.transportandmainroads.qld.gov.au](http://www.transportandmainroads.qld.gov.au).

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### Forgan Bridge Replacement and Duplication Project

Work on the \$127.9 million replacement and duplication of the Forgan Bridge over the Pioneer River is progressing well.

The Forgan Bridge is being completed in two stages. Stage One involves the construction of the first two lanes on the new bridge. Once this stage is completed, traffic will be diverted onto the new bridge and the next stage will begin. Stage Two consists of the demolition of the existing bridge and the construction of the two upstream lanes.

Nearly all of the 56 liners for Stage One have been driven and over half are now poured. All piling works are expected to be completed by the end of this year.

We are committed to engaging with the community about the project. A regular e-newsletter with updated information is available. To subscribe, send an email to [forganbridge@transportandmainroads.qld.gov.au](mailto:forganbridge@transportandmainroads.qld.gov.au).



# Main Roads Local Links

## Joint Levee Road

This \$14.2 million project is adjacent to the Forgan Bridge Replacement and Duplication Project and consists of the construction of a combined levee bank and a two-lane road.

This road will connect Sams Road and the Kooyong intersection, providing heavy vehicles with an alternative route to the Mackay Port.

Embankment works are nearly finished and construction of the road pavement will start after the embankment settlement period is over, in about four months. The project is due for completion in mid-2010, weather permitting.



Aerial view of Joint Levee Road

## Completed Projects

### Hospital Bridge at Pioneer River

A family open day was held on the new \$42.9 million Hospital Bridge before it was opened to traffic on 29 April 2009, with about 10 000 people enjoying the many stalls and activities.

The official opening was performed by Minister for Main Roads Craig Wallace MP, Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Rural and Regional Queensland and Member for Mackay Tim Mulherin MP, Councillor Col Meng, Mayor of Mackay Regional Council and Member for Whitsunday Jan Jarratt MP.

The project involved the construction of a new concrete bridge over the Pioneer River to replace the old low-level timber bridge. The new bridge has increased flood immunity and improved movement of traffic around Mackay.

The new bridge also moves traffic away from the front of Mackay Base Hospital, providing safer access for emergency vehicles and a quieter environment for patients. The bridge will be named as part of the Q150 Bridge Naming Project later this year.

Family day on new Hospital Bridge



Vintage cars are first over the new bridge



Official opening of the new bridge



## Mackay-Bucasia Road

The \$17.5 million duplication of the Mackay-Bucasia Road to four lanes between Phillip Street and Holts Road was commissioned on 9 July 2009.

The Honourable Craig Wallace MP, Minister for Main Roads, Ms Jan Jarratt MP, Member for Whitsunday and Councillor Col Meng, Mayor of Mackay Regional Council participated at the event.

With the growth of the Northern Beaches over recent years, about 18 000 vehicles a day now travel on Mackay-Bucasia Road. Motorists are now experiencing a safer, smoother ride when travelling between Mackay and the Northern Beaches.

Commissioning of Mackay-Bucasia Road



Mackay-Bucasia Road



## Marian-Hampden Road

All major construction work on this \$3.1 million project was completed on 3 August 2009.

The upgrade included widening the road surface to increase safety for the 2100 vehicles using the road every day.

The road caters for the local community, the cane industry and the growing number of heavy vehicles using it as an alternative route around Mackay.



Completed Marian-Hampden Road

## Contact

For more information on Mackay/Whitsunday you can:

- » call the Mackay district office on +61 7 4951 8555
- » email [mackay.office@mainroads.qld.gov.au](mailto:mackay.office@mainroads.qld.gov.au)
- » or visit our website [www.mainroads.qld.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.qld.gov.au)