

# In and around Wide Bay/Burnett Region

Local Links • December 2010

## A message from the Regional Director



Welcome to the December edition of **Local Links** – a newsletter aimed at providing you with up-to-date information on road activities and projects in the Wide Bay/Burnett.

What a busy year it has been for the Bundaberg and Gympie offices. Looking back, the Wide Bay/Burnett has had some major achievements.

In 2009-10, we have:

- constructed 11 concrete bridges
- installed 3 sets of traffic signals
- constructed 33 km of new road
- enhanced 109 km of roads
- rehabilitated 62 km of pavement
- resealed 842 km of bitumen
- repaired 88 bridges – major works on 28.

As Regional Director, I am proud of the work all Transport and Main Roads employees do in the region and pleased that 2010 has been another successful year for the department.

As the end of the year approaches, please remember to drive safely as there will be increased traffic on the roads and sometimes people can be in too much of a hurry to start their holidays and take unnecessary risks.

It is a good idea to take advantage of the Driver Reviver sites operating over the holiday season and have regular breaks when driving to avoid fatigue and to assist in staying alert.

Also remember that you can phone 13 1940 or visit [131940.qld.gov.au](http://131940.qld.gov.au) to check traffic conditions on the state-controlled road network and also report road crashes.

For further information on any road projects in the region, log on to [www.tmr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au), email [bundaberg.office@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:bundaberg.office@tmr.qld.gov.au) or [gympie.office@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:gympie.office@tmr.qld.gov.au), or phone 1300 728 390\*.

On a final note, I would like to wish everyone a safe and merry Christmas and a happy new year.

**Doug Wass**

**Regional Director (Wide Bay/Burnett)**

**Bundaberg office**

## Out and about in Bundaberg and the Burnett

### Isis River Bridge replacement

A jointly-funded state and federal government project started in November this year to replace the 54-year-old Isis River Bridge on the Bruce Highway, south of Childers.

The Bruce Highway plays a significant role in providing freight movement and access to north Queensland, with about 7200 vehicles travelling on the bridge each day.

A number of incidents at or near the bridge in 2009 have renewed calls from the community, local media and local government to replace the bridge.

The new bridge is a state and federal government priority, and to ensure it is constructed as soon as possible, the department has accelerated the project.

When constructed, the new bridge will stand almost seven metres higher than the existing bridge and will be located on a new and improved road alignment. A strengthened road surface will also provide a smoother driving surface for motorists.

Local property owners have been contacted about access improvements. New signage, guardrails and lighting are also included in the project.

Motorists will continue to use the current Isis River Bridge during construction, which is expected to be completed by September 2011, weather permitting.



Isis River Bridge to be replaced

## Out and about in the Fraser Coast

### Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road

Works are well underway to upgrade a 3.6 km section of the Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road between Torbanlea–Pialba Road and Dundowran Road.

The new roundabout connecting the Booral Road and Torbanlea–Pialba Road intersections to Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road is quickly taking shape.

The realigned approaches from Booral Road and Torbanlea–Pialba Road are also progressing well and expected to be completed over the next few weeks.

Motorists will also soon be switched from the western side of the roundabout to the eastern side of the roundabout to allow construction works to advance.

Bulk earthworks to widen the Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road are nearing completion. Pavement gravel to strengthen the road will be placed in the near future.

The widening and strengthening works will form part of the 1.5 km upgrade to four lanes from the existing Booral Road intersection to north of Dundowran Road.

The installation of conduits and roadside light pole bases is also underway.

When finished, the strengthened road will minimise road surface failures and provide a smoother driving surface for motorists using the busy road connecting Maryborough to Hervey Bay.

The \$17.1 million project is expected to be completed in early 2011, weather permitting.



Clearing the way for the new Booral Road approach



New Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road roundabout

## Out and about in Gympie

### Bruce Highway (Cooroy to Curra)



Traffic now using the new section of the Bruce Highway

#### Traffic switched on new section of Bruce Highway

Good progress on Section B (Sankeys Road to Traveston Road) of the Bruce Highway upgrade continues to be made, with traffic switched onto a new two-kilometre section of highway at Federal, on 10 November 2010.

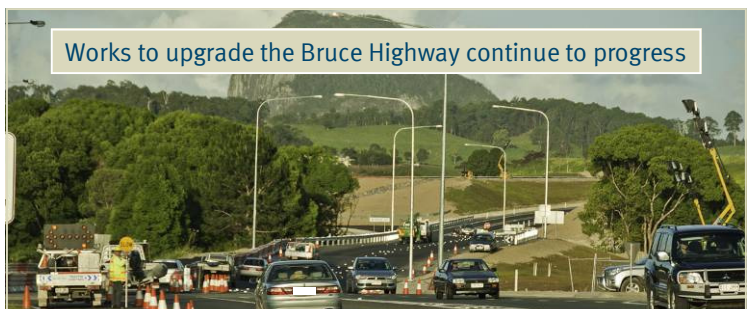
The traffic switch represents a major milestone in the highway upgrade and will allow future project work, including the construction of bridges over the existing highway and Skyring Creek, to occur without disruption to highway traffic.

For safety reasons, the new section of highway will continue to operate with one northbound and one southbound lane until the remainder of the 12 km Section B project is complete in 2012. After this, the new highway will have two lanes in each direction.

Major work started on the \$613 million Section B in October 2009 and it is currently on budget and on schedule for a 2012 completion.

When complete, the new highway will offer improved safety and efficiency, with twice the number of traffic lanes, wider shoulders, emergency stopping bays and Intelligent Transport Systems such as speed activated Variable Message Signs.

More information about the project can be found at [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/cooroytocurra](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/cooroytocurra) or by calling 1800 180 566 (*freecall Australia wide. Higher rates apply from mobile phones and pay phones*).



Works to upgrade the Bruce Highway continue to progress

## Out and about in North Burnett

### Maryborough–Biggenden Road

Work is now complete on a \$6.6 million project to replace the bridge at Degilbo Creek on Maryborough–Biggenden Road, east of Biggenden.

The new two-lane, three-span concrete bridge, which replaces the old timber structure, is almost two metres higher than the old structure and will benefit motorists during the wet season.

The approaches to the bridge have also been upgraded providing a much safer and more efficient trip for the 400 motorists who travel across Degilbo Creek every day.

Not only has the department reduced the need for ongoing maintenance costs, but it was able to sustain about 50 jobs throughout the life of the project.

This project is part of the state government's \$350 million Regional Bridge Renewal Program, which will see the replacement of around 100 old bridges throughout regional Queensland.



### Isis Highway

Motorists and heavy vehicle operators travelling on the Isis Highway between Ban Ban Springs and Coalstoun Lakes benefited from almost \$4 million in safety improvements after two projects were completed this year.

The projects involved upgrading about 5.6 km of road, improving safety and providing a smoother and wider road surface for all motorists.

Construction of the first project began in May and involved rehabilitating various sections of the highway between Quarry Hill and Ban Ban Springs to provide a sealed road width of nine metres.

The second project – an upgrade of the highway between Staib Road and Sandarra Road – involved sealing road shoulders and strengthening sections of the road, and upgrading the Isis Highway and Sandarra Road intersection.

Both projects have improved safety for the 940 motorists using the road each day, including heavy vehicle operators who make up 21 per cent of the daily traffic.

## Out and about in South Burnett

### Sandy Creek Bridge replacement

Construction to replace the old timber bridge over Sandy Creek at Nanango is well underway.

The \$1.9 million project to construct the new bridge is being carried out by RoadTek.

Works also include upgrading the approaches to the bridge and installing new guardrails which will improve safety for motorists.

A separate fibre-composite pedestrian bridge will also be constructed as part of the project.

The new Sandy Creek Bridge is expected to be completed in early 2011, weather permitting.



### Contact us

If you would like further information about projects in the Wide Bay/Burnett Region, you can:

- phone the communication team on 1300 728 390\*
- email [bundaberg.office@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:bundaberg.office@tmr.qld.gov.au)
- visit the department's website at [www.tmr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au).

*\* Cost of a local call. Higher rates apply from mobile phones and pay phones.*