

In and around Wide Bay/Burnett Region

Local Links • May 2010

A message from the Regional Director



Welcome to the May 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 Region.

It's been a busy start to the year with a number of major projects underway in the region and more about to start over the next month or two.

I'd like to remind motorists that as the region works to upgrade the state-controlled road network, road conditions may change so please remember to drive to the conditions and obey all road instructions.

Earlier this year, the Mary River Bridge near Tiaro on Mungar Road was closed to all traffic following wet weather which caused structural damage to the bridge.

I would like to thank the Tiaro community for their ongoing patience and cooperation while the Department of Transport and Main Roads works to repair the bridge.

A big thanks also to the members of the two RoadTek bridge crews who have been working six days a week to accelerate the repairs and reopen the bridge to traffic as soon as possible.

The design for a new Isis River Bridge and improved approaches on the Bruce Highway, south of Childers is well underway with construction expected to begin as early as late 2010. When constructed, the new bridge will be about seven metres higher, two metres wider and on a new and improved alignment.

The department is committed to keeping the Wide Bay and Burnett communities informed on the progress of these projects. If you have any enquiries or would like further information on these projects, I encourage you to contact the Bundaberg or Gympie offices.

Doug Wass
Regional Director
Bundaberg office
Wide Bay/Burnett

Out and about in Bundaberg and the Burnett

Elliott Heads Road and Sims Road intersection

Bundaberg motorists can look forward to safer travelling conditions when a project to upgrade the Elliott Heads Road and Sims Road intersection is completed in June 2010, weather permitting.

The \$482 000 project is funded by the Safer Road Sooner Program, a strategy aimed at reducing Queensland's road toll through smart targeted investment in better road infrastructure.

It involves constructing a separate right-turn lane for motorists turning into Sims Road from Elliott Heads Road enabling safer turning movements at the intersection, and also improved traffic flow.

The existing road surface will be widened and additional lighting will be installed to improve the visibility of the intersection at night.

During the upgrade, the intersection will operate under changed traffic conditions. The Department of Transport and Main Roads will make every effort to minimise the impact on motorists and the community.

Traffic control will be in place to assist with the traffic changes. The department thanks motorists for their patience and cooperation during construction.

Bundaberg Regional Council will carry out the project on behalf of the department.



Intersection to undergo improvements

Out and about in the Fraser Coast

Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road

Construction of the \$17.1 million upgrade of Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road is progressing with the majority of the site cleared and grubbed with topsoil removed.

The project team is doing its best to advance the works however recent wet weather has resulted in unfavourable site conditions which has caused minor delays.

Some bulk earthworks have been completed and the excavation works for a major culvert on the new Booral Road alignment to Maryborough–Hervey Bay Road is almost complete.

Overall the project involves widening and strengthening a 3.6km section of road between Torbanlea–Pialba Road and Dundowran Road.

The department will also realign the existing Torbanlea–Pialba Road with the Booral Road intersection with a new roundabout as part of the project.

The introduction of a roundabout will not only improve the safety of motorists using the intersections but also improve traffic flow in all four directions.

The strengthened road will also minimise road surface failures and provide a smoother driving surface for motorists using the busy road connecting Maryborough to Hervey Bay. The project is expected to be completed in early 2011, weather permitting.

Mary River Bridge on Mungar Road

Work to repair and reopen the Mary River Bridge, one kilometre west of Tiaro on Mungar Road, is on target to be completed by the end of June.

The bridge was closed following wet weather earlier this year which resulted in damage not only to the surface of the bridge but also underneath.

Repair work had already been programmed to start on the bridge in June however damage caused by the recent rain resulted in more extensive works.

To reduce the impact on road users and local businesses, works were fast tracked and two bridge repair crews have been working six days a week to accelerate the repairs.



Out and about in the Gympie

Bruce Highway (Cooroy to Curra)



One of Queensland's highest-priority road infrastructure projects, the Bruce Highway (Cooroy to Curra) upgrade, has celebrated a major milestone this month with construction reaching the half-way mark on the bulk earthworks package for Section B (Sankeys Road to Traveston Road).

The Cooroy to Curra upgrade is a massive undertaking that will ultimately replace 61km of the Bruce Highway – and the construction statistics for Section B, the first section to be built, are impressive.

Since major construction began in October 2009, more than 2.5 million cubic metres of earth have now been moved.

Altogether, five million cubic metres of earth will be cut and filled as part of the first construction package, which is equal to half the size of nearby Mount Cooroora in Pomona.

On average, around 35,000 cubic metres of earth a day were shifted over the first four months of the project, with the one million cubic metre milestone passed in February this year.

To do this, contractor Abigroup Construction Pty Ltd mobilised a massive fleet for the bulk earthworks, including seven D11 dozers, 25 scrapers and 12 dump trucks and several 125 tonne excavators.

Controlled blasting to remove hard rock has also been underway on the project since March this year, and will continue throughout the next three months.

Very few projects by the department to date have involved such extensive blasting and earthworks.

Once complete, the Section B upgrade will provide a safer alignment that is clear of the Mary River floodplain and above a one-in-100 year flood level.

Work on the second construction package involving a two-kilometre deviation of the highway at Federal began earlier this year, and is expected to be completed in late 2010.

The full 12km Section B upgrade is expected to be completed in 2012, weather permitting.

Out and about in the North Burnett

Eidsvold–Theodore Road

Works to progressively upgrade a 77.4km section of the Eidsvold–Theodore Road is continuing with bridge repairs and the replacement of timber culverts underway.

The \$16.9 million project, funded over four years, will allow farmers and transport operators with permits to use B-Doubles between Eidsvold and Defence Road.

Upgrade works at Morrow Creek, about 22km from Eidsvold, are almost complete. Once complete, the existing sidetrack will be removed restoring two-lane access to motorists on the bridge.

The bridge crew will then move on to Thistle Creek, about 63km from Eidsvold to undertake similar bridge works.

Timber culverts, about 58km west of Eidsvold will also be replaced with reinforced concrete box culverts.

As the department works to progressively upgrade Eidsvold–Theodore Road, the road conditions will continue to change at various locations. Please remember that safety around roadworks is your responsibility too.



Maryborough–Biggenden Road

Motorists travelling on the Maryborough–Biggenden Road can look forward to improved safety and a smoother ride with construction about to begin on a new concrete bridge project at Degilbo Creek, just east of Biggenden.

The \$6.6 million bridge project will provide immediate benefits to motorists with a new alternative route being constructed around the bridge worksite.

The existing timber bridge is currently limited to one lane, so the first stage of this project will be to construct a two-lane sidetrack to help restore the efficiency of the road.

Shortly after, work crews will begin to replace the timber bridge with a new three-span reinforced concrete structure that will stand 1.7 metres higher than the current bridge, reducing the likelihood of future road closures due to flooding.

This project also includes improvements to the approaches on either side of the bridge to provide a smoother and safer driving surface for road users.

RoadTek, has been awarded the contract for the project which is expected to be completed in late 2010, weather permitting.

Out and about in the South Burnett

Traffic signals in Kingaroy

The installation of a new set of traffic signals on the Bunya Highway in Kingaroy at the Youngman and Markwell streets intersection is expected to be completed by the end of May 2010.

The \$425,000 project will provide a safer crossing for the local community and visitors to Kingaroy. Works include:

- reshaping the traffic islands
- reconfiguring the line marking
- pedestrian ramps and
- tactile ground sensory indicators to assist the sight impaired.

A \$650,000 project to install a second set of signals at the Avoca and Youngman streets intersection is expected to start in mid 2010, weather permitting.

Speed reduction at Blackbutt, Kilkivan and Goomeri

New 50km/h speed limit signs have been installed along the D'Aguilar Highway through the central business district (CBD) of Blackbutt and on the Wide Bay Highway through the CBD's of Goomeri and Kilkivan, to improve safety for all road users.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads conducted speed reviews to determine the suitability of existing speed limits through these towns.

When determining speed limits, the department takes into consideration a number of aspects, such as pedestrian activity, visibility and road conditions.

As an outcome of the speed review the speed limits were reduced from 60km/h to 50km/h.

This change will not only increase safety for motorists travelling on the highway each day but also pedestrians who cross to and from the shopping precincts.

Contact us

If you would like any 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
- Visit the department's website at www.tmr.qld.gov.au