We’re on our way

The Centenary Highway Interchange looking north

When construction commenced on the $824 million Australian Government funded upgrade of the Ipswich Motorway between Wacol and Darra, a target completion date of December 2010 was set. A number of key elements must be achieved before the project is officially complete, including:

• widening of the Ipswich Motorway from the Logan Motorway at Gailes to Jervis Street at Darra from four to six lanes, with provision for eight lanes in the future
• a major upgrade of the Centenary Highway Interchange
• new bridges over Bullockhead and Sandy Creeks and the Ipswich rail line
• new pedestrian and cyclist paths
• earthworks and bridgeworks for a new rail line from Darra to Springfield which passes through the new Centenary Highway Interchange.

As at November 2009, the upgrade was more than 75% complete. Motorists are already driving on the new westbound and eastbound carriageways of the Ipswich Motorway, and 17 of the 26 new bridges to be built are complete.

The first section of the rail embankment was delivered ahead of schedule with the remainder due for handover six months early. Thirty of the 40 major traffic changes have been completed and more than 213,000 plants have been planted.

As the milestones continue to be achieved, the completion date of the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Wacol to Darra project edges closer and closer. With good weather and hard work, the project is targeting completion in mid-2010, six months ahead of schedule.

In this issue
• finishing the race early
• the changing face of the project
• new service roads
• the new Centenary Highway Interchange
• our women are winners
• community campaigns
• new bikeways and pedestrian paths.

Key project statistics
• 364 people are currently employed full-time to deliver the project
• all 618 piles that are part of bridge foundations have been driven
• all 1.4 million cubic metres of bulk earthworks have been placed
• 284,112 of 420,000 tonnes of asphalt have been laid
• 10,000 native trees and 1.1 million native plants are being planted as part of project landscaping.

Project benefits
• improved safety on the Ipswich Motorway between Wacol and Darra
• reduced congestion
• improved and consistent traffic flow
• increased reliability and better travel times.

SAFElink Alliance
The Department of Transport and Main Roads established SAFElink Alliance to deliver the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade from Wacol to Darra.

SAFElink Alliance consists of five partners including the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Leighton Contractors, BMD Constructions, AECOM and Arup.
Service road makes travel safer

As part of the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade between Wacol and Darra, a new service road has been constructed to increase safety and facilitate movement around the new Centenary Highway Interchange.

The new two-way Ipswich Road Service Road runs parallel to the eastbound carriageway of the Ipswich Motorway. The road begins at a small roundabout near the Progress Road Interchange at Wacol and travels under the Ipswich Motorway near Wau Road and connects to Boundary Road in Darra / Richlands. The road also connects to Centenary Village at Darra.

This service road will be the new access for the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre. By constructing this new service road, slow moving vehicles entering and exiting the centre will be removed from the Ipswich Motorway, significantly increasing safety along this stretch of road.

The changing face of the project

They say a picture is worth a thousand words.

We could describe to you just how much the roads and landscape have changed in the project area but we decided to show you instead.

March 2008
The Ipswich Motorway looking east
March 2008
The Centenary Highway looking south
March 2008
The Centenary Highway Interchange looking south
October 2009

October 2009

October 2009
The new Centenary Highway Interchange

The Centenary Highway Interchange, connecting the Ipswich Motorway to the Centenary Highway, has been transformed. The map above shows the new movements within the interchange.

Local children think safety

The Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Wacol to Darra project remains committed to working closely with local schools through our community programs.

The most recent community programs, which ran during the second half of 2009, involved a colouring-in competition and a road safety awareness competition. The colouring-in competition was held for pupils from prep through to grade four. The winners of this competition were:
• 1st  Richlands State School
• 2nd  Darra State School
• 3rd  Jamboree Heights State School
• 4th  Jindalee State School
• 5th  Middle Park State School

The road safety awareness competition was open to pupils in grades five to seven. For this competition, students were asked to create a road sign conveying messages that target driver behaviour and road safety using a high impact statement or slogan partnered with a picture. The winners of the road safety awareness competition were:
• 1st  Richlands State School
• 2nd  Jindalee State School
• 3rd  Darra State School
• 4th  Jamboree Heights State School
• 5th  Middle Park State School
To meet the needs of cyclists and pedestrians, the following features will be delivered by the end of the project:

- 2.7 kilometres of cycleway
- 3.4 kilometres of shared path (pedestrian and cycle path)
- 3.5 kilometres of on road bike lanes

In late 2008, Transport and Main Roads and Brisbane City Council formed a partnership to fast-track the delivery of the Wolston Road Connection Project.

This project involved constructing the missing link between Wacol Station Road and Wolston Road at Sumner. The connection project, fully funded by the Brisbane City Council, was delivered by the SAFElink Alliance as an extension of the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Wacol to Darra project.

Construction commenced in January 2009 and took only 10 months to complete. The opening ceremony was held on 9 October, with Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman cutting the ribbon to officially open the new connection.
Our women honoured for their work

The Wacol to Darra project team is dedicated to training all employees and providing them with the skills to grow and achieve in their chosen fields.

In September, two women from our project team won awards at the 2009 National Association of Women in Construction award ceremony.

Rebecca Childs, a civil engineer and project area manager was awarded the Achievement in Construction (Civil Works) award.

“If I can be a good role model and help girls who have doubts about a career in the industry, that’s a really good thing,” Rebecca said.

Civil engineer and area manager Sarah Stante was also recognised for her accomplishments, winning the Achievement in Construction (General / Building) award.

SAFElink Alliance Manager Martin Wood said women make a significant contribution in the construction industry.

“I am delighted that the outstanding work by these women has been recognised. I encourage women considering their future careers to think about the opportunities that the construction industry provides,” he said.

To discover more about construction opportunities for women, check out the National Association of Women in Construction website at www.nawic.com.au.

Giving back to the community

The Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Wacol to Darra project team is committed to contributing more to the community than just a safer and improved road network. The project team participates in ongoing fundraising events and makes voluntary donations to various charities as well as supporting initiatives which assist local groups and organisations.

In the last few months alone, the project team has:
- held a cupcake day to raise money for the RSPCA
- initiated a food drive for needy families, with a u/te full of food being donated to the Inala Family Support Centre
- supplied a temporary replacement mini-bus to the Sumner Park St Vincent de Paul’s depot after their bus was stolen
- mentored and supported Centenary State High School and Forest Lake College students as part of their Young Achievement Australia (YAA) participation
- held various fundraising activities to raise money for Angel Flight Australia - approximately $8000 will be donated to fund a software upgrade for the charity
- proudly supported the 2009 Darra Festival
- supported the Jindalee Rotary Club’s Anti-Graffiti Group with over $10,000 worth of equipment to assist them with their fight against vandalism in the local area
- planned for a community mural to be painted on local bridge walls, based on community feedback.
Transforming the Western Corridor

The Ipswich Motorway Upgrade from Wacol to Darra is just one part of a wider transformation of the Western Corridor. Many projects are now underway to improve road and public transport infrastructure through this corridor and from day to day the landscape is changing. Since the last newsletter, the face of the project has transformed considerably. The photos below demonstrate just how much the landscape has changed between Wacol and Darra as this upgrade moves towards completion by mid-2010.

Centenary Highway looking south at Sumner

Ipswich Motorway looking west at Wacol

Ipswich Motorway looking east at Wacol

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SMS updates: www.westerncorridorsms.qld.gov.au
Visit the website to receive free project updates direct to your mobile phone.

Other major projects in the area

Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Ipswich/Logan Interchange
Phone: 1800 703 093
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Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Dinmore to Goodna
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Ipswich Motorway Upgrade Planning Study: Darra to Rocklea
Phone: 07 3137 8344
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Darra to Springfield Transport Corridor (Road and Rail)
Phone: 1800 887 464
Email: info@horizon.incite.com.au

Corinda to Darra Rail Upgrade
Phone: 1800 680 385
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Progress Road Interchange Planning Study
Phone: 1800 823 711
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For general information on all Western Corridor transport projects phone 1800 013 189

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