

MEDIA STATEMENT

21 July 2020

Zip merges to improve Cairns traffic flow

Cairns drivers are set to benefit from a new merging system designed to improve safety and traffic flow.

Transport and Main Roads Regional Director (North Queensland) Sanjay Ram said zip merges would be implemented across Cairns to make merging from two lanes into one safer and more efficient.

“Zip merging is a safe and efficient method of lane changing during medium to heavy traffic,” Mr Ram said.

“Drivers simply follow a lane until it ends and then merge to the other lane in turns, like a zip, giving way to any vehicles in front of them.

“Zip merging can create shorter traffic queues, prevent lane blocking and provide a more consistent speed and safer road environment.”

Mr Ram said zip merges would be implemented at up to 16 locations across Cairns including points on the Bruce Highway, Captain Cook Highway and Cairns Western Arterial Road.

“The works will involve replacing yellow 'Left Lane Ends' signs with 'Form 1 Lane Zip Merge' white signs,” he said.

“Line marking at the merge points will also be changed to remove the painted arrows and continuity lines to reflect a zip merge.

“Work have started and are expected to be completed by the end of this month, weather permitting.”

Cairns Regional Council General Manager for Infrastructure Services Bruce Gardiner said Council were also making the change on several local roads.

“We will be implementing the zip merges at the following six sites:

- Hardy and Foster Road roundabout
- Moody Street west of Pease Street
- Draper Street near Hartley Street
- Spence Street near Fearnley Street
- Gatton Street both sides of Aumuller Street
- Redlynch Intake Road at Michael Angelo Drive.”

For more information on merging, visit <https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/safety/rules/road/lanes>. Zip merging is shown under option 2.

For up-to-date information about road works across the state, call 13 19 40 or visit www.QLDTraffic.qld.gov.au.

ENDS

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