

MEDIA STATEMENT

27 February 2019

Major milestone reached in range realignment

A critical works component to the Peak Downs Highway at Eton Range has been completed, bringing the major infrastructure upgrade closer to completion.

Works were completed on the major reinforced embankment, which when the project is fully completed, will widen a section of the crossing to two lanes in each direction.

Transport and Main Roads Regional Director Dave Grosse said the milestone was a major achievement for the \$189.2 million, jointly funded upgrade.

"The Eton Range Realignment Project involves widening the existing crossing in some parts and introducing a split roadway for the remaining sections with a partial realignment," Mr Grosse said.

"Once completed, this project will deliver a safer range crossing by separating opposing traffic lanes, providing more overtaking opportunities, and introducing measures to help control approaching and departing speeds.

"Heavy vehicles will also benefit from the improved gradient and split road, improving both safety and efficiency on the crossing."

Mr Grosse said the main embankment completion was particularly important, given the technical and challenging nature of its construction.

"The reinforced embankment measures 780 metres long and 45 metres tall at its highest point," he said.

"At the start of construction, some of the geology encountered was different to what was considered in the original design, and this required additional investigations and redesigns.

"Eton Range was also hit by Cyclone Debbie in March 2017, which damaged the road embankment and required single-lane closures while repairs were undertaken.

"Both of these have contributed to a delay in the original delivery date, but with the main embankment completed, the most challenging part of the project is now behind us.

"With this major milestone completed, there will be a few temporary traffic switches over the next few months, and works will ramp up on finishing the remaining realigned sections."

Overall project works are expected to be completed in late 2019, weather permitting.

For more information about the project visit tmr.qld.gov.au/etonrange

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Image below: The Eton Range Realignment Project's main reinforced earth embankment in January 2019.

