

# In and around Mackay /Whitsunday Region

Local Links • December 2009

## A message from the Regional Director



2009 has been a big year for the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Mackay/Whitsunday Region.

Local staff have been working hard to deliver the Roads Implementation Program and achieve the department's vision of connecting Queensland.

Significant progress has been made on the three major projects: Forgan Bridge Replacement and Duplication Project, Joint Levee Road Project and the Bruce Highway – Farrellys Road Intersection upgrade.

The \$5.7 million upgrade to Proserpine – Shute Harbour Road was carried out with a commissioning held on Monday 14 December 2009.

Traffic signals were installed at the intersection of the Bruce Highway and Farrellys Road in Mackay as part of the intersection upgrade due to finish by Christmas.

Extensive rehabilitation was carried out on the Peak Downs Highway between Racecourse Mill and Mackay-Eungella Road.

Preparations began for the start of work on the \$7.2 million Twelve Mile Creek Bridge Replacement Project.

The Mackay/Whitsunday Region, named four bridges within the region for Q150 Celebrations. They were:

- Edmund Casey Bridge (Pioneer River Bridge)
- Cedric Andrew Bridge (Sandy Creek Bridge)
- Sidney Cotton Bridge (O'Connell River Bridge)
- John Hill Bridge (Black Waterhole Creek Bridge)

With the wet season almost here I urge drivers to slow down during wet weather and to always obey any road closure signage. Heavy rainfall can often arrive with little warning, causing the road surface to become saturated very quickly.

The best way of minimising the risk when driving in wet weather is to slow down and drive to the prevailing conditions.

The department will continue to deliver a huge program works into the new year and I would like to wish you all a safe Christmas.

**Ian Husband**  
**A/Regional Director (Mackay/Whitsunday)**



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## Forgan Bridge Replacement and Duplication Project

Work commenced on the \$148 million project in May 2008 and once completed, the new four-lane Forgan Bridge will reduce congestion on the busy commuter route.

The Forgan Bridge Replacement and Duplication Project is the largest bridge and road construction project in Mackay, and will form a vital link in the Mackay road network.

The bridge is being constructed in two stages. Works are nearly completed on the first stage, which includes the construction of two new lanes on the downstream side of the existing structure. The last deck units for stage one were placed on 16 December 2009.

Remaining works for stage one include completion of the service corridor/footpath, construction of the viewing platforms, installation of the hand rails and pavement works.

Traffic is expected to be diverted onto the completed stage one of the structure in April 2010, weather permitting.

Stage two includes the demolition of the existing Forgan Bridge and the construction of another two lane bridge to create a new four lane bridge to cross the Pioneer River.



## Proserpine – Shute Harbour Road and Beach Road Intersection Upgrade

\$5.7 million upgrade to the intersection of Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road and Beach Road was completed in early December 2009.

The project included construction of a roundabout at the Beach Road intersection as well as four-laning Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road to link the existing four-lane section in Cannonvale with the Island Drive intersection.

The new roundabout is a fantastic addition to the road network in the Whitsundays and has already improved traffic flow in the area. The project has improved efficiency for through traffic and improved safety for vehicles entering Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road from adjacent streets.

Substantial landscaping in the area has also added to the visual appeal of the intersection.

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## Bruce Highway – Farrellys Road, Schmidtke Road Intersection Upgrade



The \$12.3 million upgrade of the Bruce Highway, Farrellys Road and Schmidtke Road intersection in Mackay will be completed by Christmas 2009 with a commissioning to be held in the new year.

The jointly funded project will significantly improve safety for motorists and pedestrians by enabling safer turning movements for heavy vehicles in addition to improved traffic flow and pedestrian safety.

The project includes the installation of traffic signals, designated turning lanes, a dedicated bike lane and two signalised pedestrian crossing facilities.

In addition to these works the road was widened by nine meters to provide four lanes between Farrellys Road and Boundary Road, a central median to separate traffic and upgrades to the drainage.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads has worked with the Federal Government and Mackay Regional Council to deliver these works before Christmas.

This intersection upgrade is just one of a number of projects being funded as part of the Federal Government's record \$2.6 billion investment in the Bruce Highway, one of the longest and most important sections of the national road network.

## Joint Levee Road

This \$20 million project is occurring adjacent to the Forgan Bridge Replacement and Duplication Project and consists of the construction of a combined levee bank and a two lane road.

This road will connect Sams Road and the Kooyong intersection, providing heavy vehicles with an alternative route to the Mackay Port.

Embankment works have now been completed and is currently in its final settlement period.

Construction of the pavement, signals, kerbing and channelling, sealing and other road furniture is scheduled to commence in April 2010.

The project is due for completion in late 2010, weather permitting

