

Safe roads and roadsides



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‘...we drove from Brisbane to Cairns in both 2015 and 2016 and experienced the wide centre line treatments. They provided both practical safety enhancement and a perception of a safer road environment. To the point that sections with the unsealed shoulders and no wide centre line feel unsafe.’ Private citizen.

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‘...accidents are due to third party erratic and irritated drivers not being able to overtake.’ Transport operator.

Safe roads and roadsides are designed and built to be more forgiving and account for human error. If a driver makes a mistake, forgiving road infrastructure can significantly reduce the chance that it will result in a fatality or serious injury.

Key actions to deliver Safe roads and roadsides on the Bruce Highway and broader road network:

1. Continue to deliver the existing Bruce Highway Upgrade Program (2013–14 to 2027–28)
2. Deliver new priorities identified in the new *15-year Vision and Action Plans for the Bruce Highway*, including major capacity upgrades and targeted safety upgrades, such as wide centre line treatments with audio tactile line marking, overtaking lanes, intersection upgrades, intelligent transport system technology and other safety treatments.



WCLT at Etna Creek, 20 km north of Rockhampton.

Wide Centre Line Treatment (WCLT) and Audio Tactile Line Marking (ATLM)

By 2030–31, rural highway single carriageway sections of the Bruce Highway will be upgraded to include WCLT and ATLM. WCLT and ATLM are specifically targeted at reducing cross-centreline crashes. WCLT widens the existing centre line format up to one metre apart, giving visible separation between drivers and on-coming vehicles.



Alligator Creek Bridge to Alligator Creek Road intersection upgrade, south of Townsville (June 2021).

Priority intersection upgrades

Priority intersection upgrades, including providing turning lanes, signalling and grade-separating intersections are effective treatments to improve the control and flow of vehicles and other road users such as pedestrians and bike riders, to reduce crashes. Safer intersections improve the safety of traffic entering and exiting the highway.



Palm Creek narrow bridge.

Widening narrow bridges

Along with the WCLT, narrow bridges (less than 8.4 metres wide) within these stretches of single carriageway rural highway will be widened to improve safety for all traffic, particularly heavy vehicles. Wider bridges allow for safer two-way passage across a bridge.



Gordonvale overtaking lanes, south of Cairns.

Additional overtaking lanes

New and upgraded overtaking lanes will support more efficient and safer travel on single carriageway sections. Overtaking lanes are effective at allowing road users to safely overtake slower vehicles and ensure a better road user experience.

The existing Bruce Highway Upgrade Program (2013–14 to 2027–28), being delivered in partnership with the Australian Government:

Major Bruce Highway upgrades between Brisbane and Cairns delivered as at 31 December 2023 include:

- Six-laning between Caloundra Road and the Sunshine Motorway and between Caboolture Bribie Island Road and Steve Irwin Way
- Cooroy to Curra, Sections A, B and C
- Yeppen Flood Plain Upgrade (south of Rockhampton)
- Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade
- Mackay Ring Road Stage 1
- Sandy Gully Bridge Upgrade, near Bowen
- Haughton River Floodplain Upgrade, midway between Ayr and Townsville
- Townsville Ring Road – Stages 4 and 5
- Cattle and Francis Creek Upgrade, south of Ingham
- Cairns Southern Access Corridor – Stages 1, 2, 3 and 4

Targeted road safety improvements delivered as at 31 December 2023:

- 239 km of new Wide Centre Line Treatment (WCLT)*
- 98 new overtaking lanes
- 195 protected right-hand turns and 32 signalised intersections
- 120 new bridges
- 35 new and 30 upgraded rest areas
- 479 km of roadside safety barriers
- 72 township entry treatments

* In addition, 667 km of WCLT and 430 km of Audio Tactile Line Marking (ATLM) have been delivered on the Bruce Highway under other programs.

Planning and delivery of other key major projects and targeted road safety improvements progressing as at 31 December 2023:

- Smart Motorways (Stage 2) – Pine River to Caloundra
- Six-laning between Caboolture – Bribie Island Road and Steve Irwin Way
- Cooroy to Curra, Section D: Woondum to Curra Tiaro Bypass
- Rockhampton Ring Road
- Gateway Motorway to Dohles Rocks Road
- Dohles Rocks Road to Anzac Avenue upgrade
- Anzac Avenue to Uhlmann Road upgrade
- Cairns Southern Access Corridor – Stages 5 (Foster Road upgrade intersection)
- Tiaro Bypass



Caboolture-Bribie Island Road to Steve Irwin Way (Exit 163), bridge works at King Johns Creek (August 2021).



Road closed near Tiaro (January 2013). The Tiaro Bypass will improve safety and flood immunity.



Rockhampton Ring Road artist's impression.



Cairns Southern Access Corridor (Stage 3), Edmonton to Gordonvale, South Castlereigh Road (May 2021).