

Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan

Overseen by the Bruce Highway Trust
Advisory Council



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Artwork: 'Travelling' by Gilimbaa.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land and waterways. We pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. TMR recognises those whose ongoing effort to protect and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures will leave a lasting legacy for future First Nations people.

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Foreword

The Queensland Government established the Bruce Highway Trust Advisory Council (BHTAC) as part of the *Future-Proofing the Bruce Policy 2017*. Within this policy, the government tasked the BHTAC with aligning investment decision-making to three key objectives: **to unlock economic growth, build flood resilience and improve safety**.

Under the *A Real Bruce Plan 2020* policy, BHTAC members were also tasked to oversee development of a *Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan* to help achieve the Queensland Government's ambitious target of reducing the rate of fatalities along the Bruce Highway by 60 per cent by 2030. In order to deliver on these objectives and this target, the BHTAC is pleased to present this *Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan* for government consideration.

All 16 BHTAC members—experts from the heavy vehicle, motoring, tourism, local government and agricultural industries and regional representatives who reside along the Bruce Highway, north of Gympie—are passionate about road safety and have worked hard to ensure the *Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan* addresses the issues and concerns of road users. Comprehensive customer research was conducted to understand how motorists used the Bruce Highway, what is working well and to identify those sections along the highway that should be prioritised for safety improvements.

The findings from the customer research were considered alongside technical analysis, leveraging the knowledge of TMR safety subject matter experts. Using all of this data and information, BHTAC members have received advice on the effectiveness and benefits of appropriate safety treatments during the development of this *Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan*.

Some of the life-saving investments outlined in this Bruce Highway *Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan* include:

- completing Wide Centre Line Treatment (WCLT) and Audio Tactile Line Marking (ATLM)
- widening narrow bridges
- developing a fatigue management strategy to look at upgrading and building new rest areas for heavy vehicle drivers and other road users to better manage fatigue
- adding more overtaking lanes
- upgrading intersections
- completing ring roads around major centres to separate local traffic from through traffic
- embracing new technologies both on the road and within vehicles to save lives and prevent serious injury.

The BHTAC acknowledges that road safety is everybody's responsibility and encourages all road users to remember the fatal five – speeding, drink and drug driving, fatigue, seatbelt use and distraction – when driving along the Bruce Highway.

This *Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan* should be considered alongside the companion *15-year Vision and Action Plan for the Bruce Highway*, development of which was also overseen by the BHTAC.

The BHTAC members are proud to deliver and endorse this *Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan* on behalf of the Queensland community and all Bruce Highway road users.

On behalf of the Deputy Chair, Barbara Madden and BHTAC members, I recommend this *Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan* for government consideration.



Mr Peter Garske, Chair,
Bruce Highway Trust Advisory Council.

Foreword

As part of the Queensland Government's 2017 *Future-proofing the Bruce* policy to unlock economic growth, build flood resilience and improve safety along the Bruce Highway, we established the Bruce Highway Trust Advisory Council (BHTAC) to oversee the development of the 15-year *Vision and Action Plans for the Bruce Highway*.

The 2020 *A Real Bruce Plan* policy also required BHTAC to oversee the development of a *Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan* and set an ambitious target to achieve a 60 per cent reduction in the rate of fatalities by 2030, saving on average 13 lives every year on the highway.

As a government, we are serious about reducing road fatalities and trauma. We know every crash, injury and fatality on a Queensland road has a ripple effect that impacts individuals, families and communities.

This *Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan* contains targeted safety works aligned with the Safe System approach to improve safety along the entire Bruce Highway between Brisbane and Cairns.

Chaired by Peter Garske and supported by Deputy Chair Barbara Madden, BHTAC includes representatives from the Local Government Association of Queensland, Royal Automobile Club of Queensland, Queensland Farmers' Federation, Queensland Trucking Association, Queensland Tourism Industry Council, Transport Workers Union, the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.

Under our 2020 *A Real Bruce Plan* policy, BHTAC membership was expanded to include six regionally based members, who are road users and road safety and regional development experts from along the Bruce Highway, north of Gympie.

The *National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030*, supported by the *Queensland's Road Safety Strategy 2022-31*, sets out guiding principles to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes on Queensland roads. This includes the ambitious national vision of realising zero road deaths and serious injuries by 2050.

The *Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan* builds on the safety outcomes being achieved as part of the jointly-funded Bruce Highway Upgrade Program (2013–14 to 2027–28).

The Queensland Government is pleased to release the *Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan*.

We acknowledge and thank BHTAC Chair, Peter Garske, Deputy Chair, Barbara Madden and all BHTAC members for rising to the challenge and identifying infrastructure and innovative solutions that can make the Bruce Highway safer for all road users.



The Honourable Steven Miles MP,
Premier



The Honourable Bart Mellish MP,
Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services

About the Bruce Highway Trust Advisory Council

As part of its ongoing commitment to the Bruce Highway, the Queensland Government's *Future-Proofing the Bruce* 2017 policy established the Bruce Highway Trust Advisory Council (BHTAC). The role of BHTAC was to oversee the development of a Bruce Highway 15-year Vision and three, rolling five-year Action Plans, based on an annual remit of \$1 billion per annum 80:20 funding arrangement with the Australian Government. The Vision and the Action Plans deliver on three key objectives: to **unlock economic growth, build flood resilience and improve safety**.

In 2020, with the release of the *A Real Bruce Plan*, the Queensland Government tasked the BHTAC to also oversee the development of a companion *Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan* with an ambitious target of reducing the rate of fatalities along the Bruce Highway by 60 per cent by 2030.

The BHTAC brings together all levels of government and leaders of Queensland's peak transport and industry bodies and regional representation of road users, road safety and regional development experts from along the Bruce Highway, north of Gympie, to provide a state-wide perspective of Bruce Highway upgrade needs.

The BHTAC is supported by a Technical Working Group established within the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) comprised of technical and subject-matter experts.

Bruce Highway Trust Advisory Council Membership

- Chair, Peter Garske
- Deputy Chair, Barbara Madden

Ex officio members

- Chief Executive Officer, Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)
- Group Chief Executive Officer, Royal Automobile Club of Queensland (RACQ)
- Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF)
- Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Trucking Association (QTA)
- Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC)
- Branch Secretary, Transport Workers Union Queensland (TWU)
- Director-General, Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)
- First Assistant Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA)

Regional members

- Anita Mumford
- Brian Hughes
- Elise Pearson
- Julie Boyd
- Robert Dorgelo
- Tania Dennis



Haughton River Floodplain Upgrade, Shirbourne Road intersection (August 2022).