

15-year Vision and Action Plans for the Bruce Highway

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

On behalf of members of the Bruce Highway Trust Advisory Council (BHTAC), I am pleased to recommend the *15-year Vision and Action Plans for the Bruce Highway*, commencing from 2024–25 to 2038–39 for government consideration.

I acknowledge the Queensland Government’s commitment to future-proofing the Bruce Highway by establishing the BHTAC, bringing together representatives from the state’s peak transport and industry bodies, the Local Government Association of Queensland, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) and six regional representatives.

The BHTAC members were tasked with overseeing the development of this 15-year Vision and three five-year rolling action plans for the Bruce Highway (Brisbane to Cairns), as well as the companion document the *Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan*. Our purpose was to align investment decision-making to the three key BHTAC objectives: **to unlock economic growth, build flood resilience and improve safety.**

Working alongside the Deputy Chair, Barbara Madden and our fellow 14 members, we ensured the voices of hundreds of thousands of road users who drive the Bruce Highway were heard. Whether it is a truck driver taking a break to manage their fatigue at a heavy vehicle rest stop, a business getting product to market on time, a tourist having a safer drive, or a regional resident arriving to work sooner, we have listened and considered the many ways customers use the Bruce Highway now, and their needs into the future.

Working with key stakeholders and hearing from customers, the BHTAC has sought expert advice from the BHTAC-Technical Working Group within TMR to shape this well-considered and long-term *15-year vision and Action Plans for the Bruce Highway*. It was an ambitious task to deliver, but by balancing members’ perspectives, using technical expertise and analysis and carefully considering the needs of the many types of customers that traverse the Bruce Highway every year, the result is a strong and ambitious Vision that will guide future investment in this nationally-significant highway.

It is important to recognise that substantial infrastructure upgrades are often accompanied by traffic delays along the Bruce Highway due to roadworks. The BHTAC encourages Queenslanders to always show patience and drive safely along the highway, particularly during these short-term periods and to remember the long-term benefits these upgrades will bring to local communities, businesses and visitors. Road safety is everybody’s responsibility.

Thank you to my fellow BHTAC members for their commitment to helping shape the Bruce Highway to 2038–39 and beyond to benefit all Queenslanders. Together, we worked hard to oversee the development of this document and the *Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan*. I look forward to monitoring how this Vision and Action Plans will support Queensland’s diverse economy, creating jobs and improving road safety.



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

Foreword

Consistent with our 2017 Future-proofing the Bruce policy, the Queensland Government is pleased to release the *15-year Vision and Action Plans for the Bruce Highway*, the development of which was overseen and recommended by the Bruce Highway Trust Advisory Council (BHTAC) for government consideration.

Queensland is renowned for its drive tourism experiences and the Bruce Highway, as Queensland's longest road spanning 1673 kilometres from Brisbane to Cairns, is a stand-out. For decades, as people have journeyed along the eastern seaboard, they have told stories about the varying landscapes they experienced and the communities (large and small) the Bruce Highway supports. Each and every day, this critical artery of Queensland's economy links people and places, moving freight, tourists and commuters north and south, while also connecting the significant resource and agriculture sectors to 11 coastal ports.

As part of its remit, the BHTAC invited road users and key industry stakeholders to have their say on the priorities for the Bruce Highway through a customer survey and targeted focus groups.

We commend the BHTAC for working diligently to ensure the voices of regional Queenslanders, local businesses, transport operators, tourists and those whose livelihoods depend on the Bruce Highway were heard and have been considered in development of the Action Plans.

The Australian and Queensland governments have jointly invested heavily in the Bruce Highway in recent years through progressive delivery of the Bruce Highway Upgrade Program (BHUP) 2013–14 to 2027–28.

While the current jointly funded BHUP has gone a long way to improving the Bruce Highway for all road users, there is more work to be done. This Vision and related rolling five-year Action Plans outline unfunded high priority upgrades to guide future investment in this nationally-significant corridor.

Having a future-focused *15-year Vision and Action Plans for the Bruce Highway*, which outlines where essential upgrades are planned to be delivered will ensure this vital north-south road corridor can support the evolving needs of this great state by connecting communities, creating jobs and growing our regions.

We acknowledge and thank BHTAC Chair, Peter Garske, Deputy Chair, Barbara Madden and all BHTAC members for their oversight of, and contribution to, development of this *15-year Vision and Action Plans for the Bruce Highway* and the *Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan*.

Going forward, as part of future budget processes, the Queensland Government will work closely with the Australian Government to finalise both delivery of the current BHUP and to confirm funding for the priority projects and statewide programs outlined in the Action Plans.

By working together, we can unlock economic growth, build flood resilience and improve safety on the Bruce Highway—now and into the and into the future.



The Honourable Steven Miles MP,
Premier



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