

The Bruce Highway

More than half of Queensland's population lives and works along Queensland's coastline, with the Bruce Highway providing the primary north-south road connection.

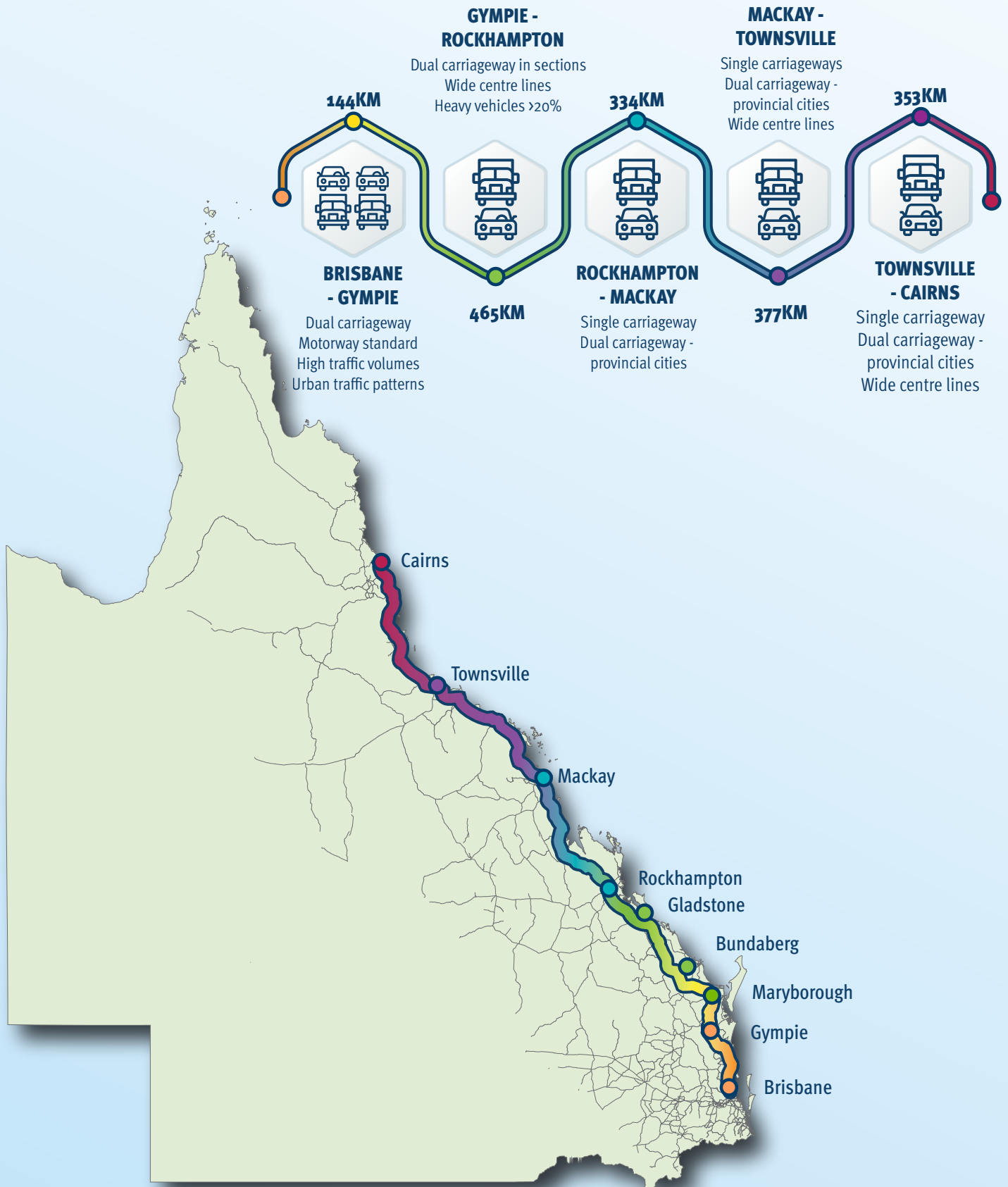


Figure 1: The various sections of the Bruce Highway.

The journey so far

In 2013, the largest road infrastructure program Queensland has ever seen commenced to improve safety, capacity and flood resilience along the length and breadth of the Bruce Highway between Brisbane and Cairns.

Starting on 1 July 2013, the Bruce Highway Upgrade Program (BHUP) was initially developed as an \$8.5 billion 10-year commitment, jointly-funded by the Australian and Queensland governments. In May 2018, the Australian Government committed an additional \$3.3 billion (based on 80:20 funding arrangements) to its existing \$6.7 billion commitment.

The Queensland Government also committed to providing an additional \$200 million each year (based on 80:20 funding arrangements) for upgrades on the Bruce Highway on top of the already provided \$1.8 billion.

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

In 2020, with the release of *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 leaders of Queensland's peak transport and industry bodies, together with regional representatives of road users, road safety and regional development experts from along the Bruce Highway, north of Gympie, to provide a state-wide perspective on Bruce Highway upgrade needs.

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



Shirbourne Road to Haughton River (August 2022).