

MEDIA STATEMENT

28 June 2019

Ease off accelerator through Bruce Highway roadworks

Motorists are reminded that reduced speed zones have been introduced on the Bruce Highway south of Townsville, while safety improvement works are underway.

The 80km/h speed limit, which extends from Mount Elliot through to Greenacres, was introduced in May as construction had started on both the Haughton River Floodplain Upgrade and Mailman Road to Mackenzie Creek safety works.

Transport and Main Roads Director-General Neil Scales reminded drivers of the need to slow down at all times – not just during active construction hours.

"We've received feedback that drivers think the reduction from 100km/h to 80km/h only applies while works are happening," Mr Scales said.

"I want to stress that is not the case. The 80km/h speed limit is in place, and enforceable, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Even if the hard-working construction personnel aren't here, their plant and equipment still is in place.

"Given the roadside excavations, there's a greater risk if motorists aren't paying attention and veer off the highway.

"That's why the speed reduction is also in place outside of construction hours. It's for your safety, and that of our workers."

Mr Scales noted that, while the 80km/h zone was in place from the Cape Cleveland turn-off through to the Greenacres service station, sections of the roadworks had even lower speed limits in place during active construction.

"Currently, as part of the Haughton River Floodplain Upgrade project, we're clearing the area at Hodel and Upper Haughton Roads which will eventually be a highway overpass," he said.

"We're also pre-loading fill embankments at the northern section of the project to allow the ground to settle before construction starts.

"And, under the Mailman Road to Mackenzie Creek safety works, we're clearing vegetation and upgrading property driveways to make access to the highway safer for residents.

"While we're on site working in these areas, some sections of the highway will be reduced to 60 or 40 kilometres per hour. In other sections there may be intermittent traffic stops.

"Please, pay attention whenever you drive, particularly through roadworks where conditions may have changed. Obey roadside signs and adhere to the speed limit.

"Speeding saves you such an insignificant amount of time. No matter how much of a rush you're in, it's not worth it."

Both the Haughton River Floodplain Upgrade project and Mailman Road to Mackenzie Creek are jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments under the 15-year, \$12.6 billion Bruce Highway Upgrade Program.

The program will improve safety, flood resilience and capacity on the Bruce Highway between Brisbane and Cairns.

The Haughton River Floodplain Upgrade project is expected to cost up to \$514.34 million, with up to \$411.47 million committed by the Australian Government and up to \$102.87 million by the Queensland Government. The project is due to be completed in mid-2021.

The Mailman Road to Mackenzie Creek works consist of three projects, totalling \$43.04 million. In total the Australian Government will contribute \$38.36 million towards these upgrades, and the Queensland Government \$4.68 million.

For the latest road updates, visit www.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au, call 13 19 40 or use the free QldTraffic smart phone app available for iPhone and Android devices.

For further information on the projects, visit the Department of Transport and Main Roads website at www.tmr.qld.gov.au/projects.

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