

MEDIA STATEMENT

08 May 2024

Access to Peak Downs Highway restored

- The Peak Downs Highway near Caval Ridge Mine is open again thanks to a newly built two-kilometre sidetrack
- The temporary route minimises delays and ensures safe passage while work continues to repair the damaged overpass

Access to the Peak Downs Highway near Caval Ridge Mine has been restored after extensive works to build a sidetrack were completed today.

The highway was temporarily closed in this location in late April after the Caval Ridge Mine overpass was extensively damaged by a low loader transporting an excavator on the mine haul road.

The two-kilometre, fully-sealed temporary sidetrack will minimise delays and ensure a safe passage for all road users until work to reinstate the damaged overpass to safe condition progresses.

Extensive activities to build the sidetrack included earthworks, embankment works, paving and sealing, linemarking, installation of road signs, guardrails, temporary fencing and anti-gawk screens and establishing accesses for mine vehicles.

Traffic control, including signals, and reduced speeds will be in place.

Motorists are urged to continue to drive to the conditions and observe the direction of traffic control and signage.

Intermittent, minor delays can be expected.

In the meantime, works to replace the bridge span and reinstate the overpass to a safe condition are progressing.

Quotes attributable to Queensland Transport and Main Roads Regional Director, Central Queensland, Dave Grosse:

"The Queensland Government understands the impact of the temporary closure of the Caval Ridge Mine overpass on the Peak Downs Highway and assures road users and the community we have worked with the mine operator to build the sidetrack and restore safe access as quickly possible.

"The highway was temporarily closed to ensure the safety of road users and site workers while the area was made safe, damage assessments were undertaken and the sidetrack was built.

"The Department of Transport and Main Roads is now continuing to work with the mine operator to prioritise the safe removal of the excavator and low loader and reinstate the overpass to a safe condition.

"Reconnecting communities as quickly and safely as possible is our driving focus as we deliver these significant emergent works and I thank everyone for their patience."

For up-to-date information on road conditions and to plan your journey, call 13 19 40, visit <https://qldtraffic.qld.gov.au> or download the QLDTraffic app.

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