

Coomera Connector Stage 1

(Second M1)

Stage 1 Central – Helensvale Road to Smith Street Motorway



Artist's impression: Coomera Connector looking north at Gold Coast Highway interchange

The Coomera Connector is South East Queensland's largest road infrastructure project, and will improve how we move around our neighbourhoods. The \$2.16 billion Stage 1 project, between Coomera and Nerang, is jointly funded (50:50) by the Australian Government and Queensland Government.

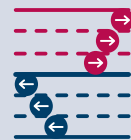
The Stage 1 Central package from Helensvale to Molendinar is currently in the design phase. This is your opportunity to provide feedback.

In January 2023, Fulton Hogan Hull McIlwain Joint Venture (FHMMJV) was awarded an early works contract to progress the design and commence early works for Stage 1 Central. Major construction is expected to start in early 2024.

Coomera Connector Stage 1 will progressively open to traffic in sections from late 2025, weather and site conditions permitting, and will be completed by 2027.



The Coomera Connector will be a high-speed motorway to future-proof infrastructure in our growing community.



Stage 1 Central is an eight-kilometre section from Helensvale Road to the Smith Street Motorway and will be built to six lanes.



Open graded asphalt road surface used for increased safety and reduced noise.



Grade-separated interchanges at Helensvale Road, the Gold Coast Highway and the Smith Street Motorway.



Working with local environmental groups to promote sustainable outcomes.





Noise mitigation

We recognise noise is a key concern for residents who live close to the Coomera Connector. To address road traffic noise, the Stage 1 Central package includes more than seven kilometres of noise barriers that will be:

1. installed on both sides of the corridor where required
2. up to a maximum height of six metres depending on the location and terrain
3. a mix of acrylic panels, painted and unpainted concrete panels in many locations to maximise natural light and improve visibility.



Artist's impression: Roadside noise barriers



Active transport network

A new four-metre-wide shared pedestrian and bike path on the eastern side of the motorway will provide opportunities for active transport. This connection is a key link in connecting South East Queensland with continuous cycle lane infrastructure.

The shared pedestrian and bike path will provide connections to key community hubs at the Gold Coast Highway and Helensvale light and heavy rail stations, Napper Road and Parkwood stations. The paths will also connect to the northern and southern Coomera Connector packages.

The new path will include a range of features such as lighting, CCTV coverage and rest areas.



Artist's impression: Active transport network

Key highlights

Responding to early community consultation, many design improvements have been made since the reference design was released in 2020. These include:

1. grade-separated interchanges at Helensvale Road, Gold Coast Highway and Smith Street Motorway
2. a shared pedestrian/bike path with connections to Helensvale and Parkwood stations
3. rest areas on the shared path including two viewing platforms
4. safety barriers, signage, noise barriers and lighting where required
5. upgrades to surrounding local roads at interchange locations.

Protecting the environment

Regulated by local, state and federal legislation, the project will ensure environmental impacts are identified and appropriately avoided, mitigated or managed.

To ensure the Coomera Connector is designed and delivered in an environmentally sensitive manner, TMR has, during the past three years, completed extensive environmental investigations along the Stage 1 corridor including:

- koala and wildlife surveys to determine habitat values for native fauna
- flora surveys to determine the presence of protected plants
- aquatic ecology surveys and water quality monitoring.

The information and data collected from these surveys has identified the measures required to meet legislative obligations and enhance environmental outcomes.



Town Centre Drive and Buckler Drive

- Buckler Drive will be realigned to remove the underpass featured in the reference design, providing connection to Helensvale light rail station and a new connection to the Gold Coast Highway on the western side of the Coomera Connector.
- A new road and bridge structure will be built over the Coomera Connector to connect Town Centre Drive to Buckler Drive.
- An extension of Sage Street bridge over the Coomera Connector is required. The Town Centre Drive bridge and Sage Street bridge will be constructed at different times to allow access to remain.



Smith Street Motorway interchange

- A grade-separated interchange with a northbound on-ramp and southbound off-ramp from the Coomera Connector will provide connection with the Smith Street Motorway.
- The existing Pacific Motorway (M1) Exit 66 on and off-ramps to Smith Street Motorway will remain in their current location, with new bridge structures allowing the Coomera Connector to pass underneath.



Napper Road and Parkwood park 'n' ride

- Access to the Parkwood park 'n' ride car park from Smith Street will be reconfigured.
- Additional car parks will be provided at Parkwood park 'n' ride station with new pick up and drop off locations for bus connections, taxi/ride share and kiss 'n' ride passengers.
- The active transport path will provide local connections to Napper Road, Parkwood station and continue south on the eastern side of the Coomera Connector.



Ridgevale Drive

- Upgrading the existing bridge along Ridgevale Drive and providing a new bridge over Coomera Connector provides vehicle and pedestrian access across the Coomera Connector and less impact than rebuilding this bridge over the existing rail line.
- The upgrade will include an active transport ramp into Ridgevale Park and connect with local footpaths in The Shores.
- A fauna corridor will be maintained alongside The Shores on the eastern side of the Coomera Connector with a fauna passage provided under Ridgevale Drive and wildlife corridor underpass south of Urangan Court.



Gold Coast Highway interchange

- A grade-separated interchange with both north and southbound on-ramp and off-ramps from the Coomera Connector will provide connection with the Gold Coast Highway.
- Two signalised traffic intersections along this section of the Gold Coast Highway (a reduction from three signalised traffic intersections outlined in the reference design).
- The existing Gold Coast Highway bridge will be widened.
- The shared pedestrian and bike path will continue along the eastern side of the Coomera Connector, providing local community access to Helensvale light and heavy rail stations and shopping precinct.
- Improved connectivity with local footpaths and parklands.



Artist's impression: Coomera Connector traffic lanes, the southbound off-ramp to the Gold Coast Highway and the shared pedestrian and bike path.

Project Timeline

2019

Options Analysis phase

2019-2020

Initial Stage 1
community consultation

2021

Business case finalised

Late 2022

Public Environment
Report released

Early 2023

Detailed Design
commenced and
early works

Early 2024

Design released and
enabling works

Early 2024

Construction
commences



Artist's impression: Coomera Connector looking north at Gold Coast Highway interchange

Minimising disruption

TMR and its contractors are committed to keeping everyone informed of construction activities. Depending on the impact, advice to residents will be provided through:

- letterbox flyers
- face-to-face meetings
- email traffic alerts
- SMS text messages, or
- regular project e-news updates.

We aim to provide timely and accurate information of the upcoming construction works to local residents. This will assist you to make plans that best suit your individual circumstances and help you to mitigate the impacts of the works. FHHMJV has developed a Communication and Engagement Strategy to ensure a consistent and proactive approach to managing impacts during the design and construction phases of Stage 1 Central. The strategy includes:

- an overview of the project
- who has an interest in the project
- FHHMJV's communication and engagement approach.

To view and provide feedback on FHHMJV's Communication and Engagement Strategy please contact the project team.

Contact us

Contact the project team for further information, to provide feedback and to register for regular Stage 1 Central email updates.

For more information

Phone: 1800 568 978
(select option 2)

Email: coomeraconnector@fhhmjv.com.au

Web: tmr.qld.gov.au/coomeraconnector

Scan the QR Code to go directly to the Coomera Connector web page.



Interpreter and accessibility services

March 2024

Interpreter service: **13 14 50**

TTY/voice calls: **13 36 877 (ask for 13 23 80)**

Speak & Listen: **1300 555 727 (ask for 13 23 80)**

SMS relay: **0423 677 767 (ask for 13 23 80)**

Email: helpdesk@relayservice.com.au (ask for 13 23 80)

13 QGOV (137468)

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