

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

27 January 2024

**Routh Creek Bridge expected to reopen next week**

- Routh Creek Bridge is expected to reopen to traffic by 31 January 2024, weather and construction conditions permitting.
- The bridge sustained significant flood damage over the weekend of 20 January 2024 with the Gulf Developmental Road cut in both directions from Georgetown to Mount Surprise.
- Repair works began on Tuesday 23 January with earthworks and bridge pavement repair ongoing from Wednesday 24 January.

Routh Creek Bridge is expected to reopen to traffic by 31 January 2024, weather and construction conditions permitting.

The Routh Creek Bridge sustained significant flood damage over the weekend of 20 January 2024 with urgent inspections and repairs of being conducted by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) and Etheridge Shire Council.

Currently, the Gulf Developmental Road (GDR) is cut in both directions from Georgetown to Mount Surprise, with no viable alternative route available for road users.

Repair works began on Tuesday 23 January, with ESC crews removing damaged guardrail and preparing the bridge for repair.

Crews began earthworks and repairing the bridge pavement from Wednesday 24 January.

Once opened it is expected that single lane and speed restrictions will apply on Routh Creek Bridge, which will be open to all general mass limit vehicles such as semi trailers, truck and dogs, and road trains.

Excess mass vehicle operators must apply for a permit through the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator at [www.nhvr.gov.au/about-us/nhvr-portal](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/about-us/nhvr-portal)

For up-to-date information about works on the state-controlled network call 13 19 40 or visit [www.QLDTraffic.com.au](http://www.QLDTraffic.com.au).

Assistance will be provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

**Quotes attributable to Transport and Main Roads Acting Regional Director, North Queensland Ross Hodgman**

“Our inspectors and the work crews from ESC are working tirelessly to reopen Routh Creek Bridge.

“There is no viable alternate route for road users who depend on the bridge in their daily lives.

“Works include removing a damaged embankment, constructing a new rock foundation and bridge pavement.

“We had hoped for an earlier opening date but expected wet weather conditions may make create unsafe working conditions.

“TMR thanks road users for their patience as we repair the damage to the road network suffered in the wake of ex Tropical Cyclone Jasper and recent monsoonal flooding.”

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