

## MEDIA STATEMENT

16 September 2024

### Detailed design underway for replacement of the Biggenden rail overpass

- 70-year-old timber bridge over the disused cane railway line on the Isis Highway in Biggenden to be removed.
- Once the bridge is removed, there will be a continuous road with improved visibility for motorists, better access for freight vehicles and an improved pedestrian path.
- TMR is undertaking detailed design, and construction is scheduled to commence later in the year.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) will remove the 70-year-old timber bridge over the disused cane railway line on the Isis Highway in Biggenden to increase safety and efficiency for motorists.

The bridge crosses over the disused Mungar – Monto rail line and is the last remaining timber bridge on the Isis Highway.

TMR investigated a number of options, and the favoured solution is to construct an at-grade road, which will provide better access for freight vehicles as well as an improved pedestrian path.

The proposed upgrade will:

- improve freight efficiency by providing a road that can accommodate heavy vehicles with larger loads or dimensions
- improve visibility of oncoming traffic for motorists, particularly at the Nette Street and Edward Street intersections, reducing the risk of crashes at these intersections
- provide sufficient width for pedestrians and cyclists, including person's with a disability
- deliver safety improvements along the Isis Highway for local and through traffic
- remove a vulnerable timber bridge structure with ongoing rehabilitation and maintenance requirements
- deliver economic benefits for the region by improving freight connectivity between the Burnett and the regions of Bundaberg, Darling Downs, Gladstone, and Rockhampton.

TMR is undertaking detailed design, and construction is scheduled to commence later in the year.

A detour will need to be in place during construction and TMR will update the local community once the detour arrangements are confirmed.



This proposal has been approved for funding under the Regional Economic Futures Fund (REFF) due to its ability to deliver broader economic benefits by improving freight connectivity between the Burnett minerals region and key ports.

For up-to-date information about the state-controlled road network, check the QLDTraffic website or call 13 19 40.

**Quotes attributable to the TMR's Regional Director for Southern Queensland Bill Lansbury:**

"The Queensland Government is funding several high priority road transport planning projects in regional areas to improve road safety and transport efficiency, and boost our agricultural industry which relies heavily on a safe and efficient road network.

"The Biggenden Rail Overpass project on the Isis Highway has received \$7.5 million in funding from the Department of State Development and Infrastructure's REFF program. The REFF is a new \$200 million program which provides funding over two years (2024–25 and 2025–26) to support communities in seizing industry development opportunities presented by global decarbonisation.

"It is important that we improve access to high productivity freight loads to above B-Double constraints as currently some heavy vehicle operators have to use longer, more expensive routes. This limits economic potential, particularly for the developing North Burnett minerals region.

"With the designation of the Port of Bundaberg as a strategic port and the creation of the Bundaberg State Development Area, the Isis Highway is a significant transport route providing connectivity between the Burnett and regions of Bundaberg, Darling Downs, Gladstone, and Rockhampton from the North Burnett minerals region into Bundaberg.

"This project also aims to deliver safety improvements for local motorists, bike riders and pedestrians in an area which provides access for local and non-local traffic, and a connection to the Biggenden CBD.

"TMR will continue to keep the community informed about the project as it progresses."

For further information, please contact TMR on 1300 728 390 during business hours or email [bundaberg.office@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:bundaberg.office@tmr.qld.gov.au)

**ENDS**

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