

Darling Downs rest area upgrades

Encouraging motorists to stop, revive and survive on the Darling Downs

Rest areas across the Darling Downs are being upgraded over the next few months to improve facilities and encourage people to stop and rest.

The Southern Queensland Regional Director, Kym Murphy, said the Department of Transport and Main Roads is starting work to improve motorist and heavy vehicle rest areas across the Darling Downs.

"Rest areas are important to encourage motorists to stop and take a break, which helps reduce driver fatigue and the risk of crashes on our roads," she said.

"We will be upgrading facilities such as toilets, shelters, picnic areas, parking and pedestrian pathways, to improve amenity and accessibility for all travellers.

"The program is scheduled to upgrade 18 rest areas across the Darling Downs by the end of June 2021.

"Starting with the Mary Park rest area on the Cunningham Highway at Tregony, which started works this week," Ms Murphy said.

Below is a list of the sites being upgraded across the Darling Downs:

- Mary Park rest area at Tregony, Cunningham Highway
- Gladfield Driver Reviver rest area, Cunningham Highway
- Cunningham rest areas at Thane (2 facilities), Cunningham Highway
- The Glen rest area, New England Highway
- Lions Park at Stanthorpe, Stanthorpe Connection Road
- Federation Park at Ravensbourne, Esk-Hampton Road
- Biddeston township facilities, Toowoomba-Cecil Plains Road
- Munda Reserve at Woomera (2 facilities), Cunningham Highway
- Millmerran rest area, Gore Highway
- Wyaga Road intersection rest area at Wyaga, Gore Highway
- Wyaga Creek rest area at Kilbrona, Gore Highway
- Gatton Bypass truck stop, Warrego Highway
- Richard Best Memorial Park at Warra, Warrego Highway
- Monte Cristo at Condamine, Leichhardt Highway
- Moonie Arts and Craft Centre Information Centre, Leichhardt Highway
- Brigalow Creek north of Goondiwindi, Leichhardt Highway

The impacts from the rest area upgrades will vary between sites. In some instances, rest areas will be closed during construction, however most sites will remain open with temporary facilities provided while new facilities are being installed.

Digital message boards will alert approaching road users of the status of rest areas during construction. The QLDTraffic website will also be updated to help people plan their journey.

"The safety of motorists and road workers is the department's top priority and motorists are asked to drive to the traffic conditions and obey all signage, traffic signals and instructions from traffic controllers," Ms Murphy said.

"We thank you for your patience and understanding during the delivery of these important works and apologise for any inconvenience they may cause."

The project is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments on an 80:20 basis.

For more information about the rest areas being upgraded around the Darling Downs contact the Department of Transport and Main Roads on (07) 4639 0777 or email DownsSWR.Office@tmr.qld.gov.au.

For up-to-date information on traffic disruptions, visit the QLDTraffic website at www.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au, call 13 19 40 or download the QLDTraffic app from the app store.

Media enquiries are to be directed to media@tmr.qld.gov.au