



# Bruce Highway – Tiaro Bypass

## Community update

### March 2023

### Planning complete

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has completed planning of the new four-lane Tiaro Bypass (see overleaf).

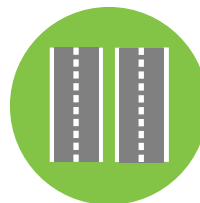
The detailed design stage will commence in March 2023 and is expected to be complete in 2024.

### Detailed design

The detailed design phase will include:

- further detailed investigations and assessments including environmental, hydraulics, noise, geotechnical, pavement, traffic and safety
- development of detailed design drawings (including drainage, lighting, signage, property accesses, public utility relocations)
- preparation of detailed cost estimates, construction drawings, and contract and procurement documents for the construction phase
- additional targeted consultation (see overleaf for details).

### Key features



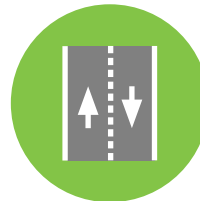
**Nine kilometres of new four-lane highway with a concrete centre median, bypassing Tiaro to the east**



**Two half-diamond, grade separated interchanges, one north and one south of Tiaro**



**Improved highway flood immunity**



**Realignment of local roads to the closest new interchange**

### Next steps



# Frequently asked questions

## What are the key objectives for the project?

The primary project objectives are to improve flood immunity, capacity and safety on the Bruce Highway. Other supporting objectives include:

- minimising economic impacts to Tiaro and helping the Tiaro community leverage opportunities from the bypass
- ensuring the design is compatible with future highway upgrade requirements
- minimising impacts on the environment
- achieving value for money.

## When will the new highway open?

Construction timeframes will be confirmed after the completion of the detailed design in 2024.

## Where exactly will the four-lanes start?

The tie-in with the existing Bruce Highway at the southern end of the project will start just north of the current Bauple Drive (northern) intersection and will connect with the existing highway north of the Wilsons Road intersection, at Tahlia Lane.

## Why aren't there additional on and off-ramps at Tahiti Road?

These ramps have been conceptually designed to be included at a future date when traffic volumes increase enough for them to be economically justified.

## How will the bypass affect the amount of traffic travelling through Tiaro?

It is estimated 10,000 vehicles travel on the Bruce Highway through Tiaro each day. It is predicted that this will reduce by around 80 per cent when the bypass is open.

## Will the flooding situation be improved for Tiaro?

Yes. While flooding issues will not be eliminated, there will be additional travel options and reduced waiting times during major flooding on the highway at Tiaro as a result of the bypass. You can contact the project team to find out more about future travel options during different flood events in Tiaro.

## Will the Bauple Drive intersection with the Bruce Highway be upgraded to improve safety?

Yes. Bauple Drive will be realigned to connect to Tahiti Road at the new interchange. There will be safer access to Tiaro and the Bruce Highway for Bauple Drive motorists.

## Will noise impacts be considered for residents?

Yes. TMR considered potential noise and visual impacts on nearby residents when selecting the highway alignment, and will undertake detailed investigations into potential noise impacts as part of detailed design.

This will be done in accordance with the *Transport Noise Management Code of Practice*. You can find the Code of Practice and further information about managing noise impacts on the TMR website ([www.tmr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au)) or contact the project team for a copy.

## Will there be fauna crossings?

Yes. The exact number and locations are still being confirmed, but there will be several access culverts which have been identified as dual use with fauna crossing culverts.

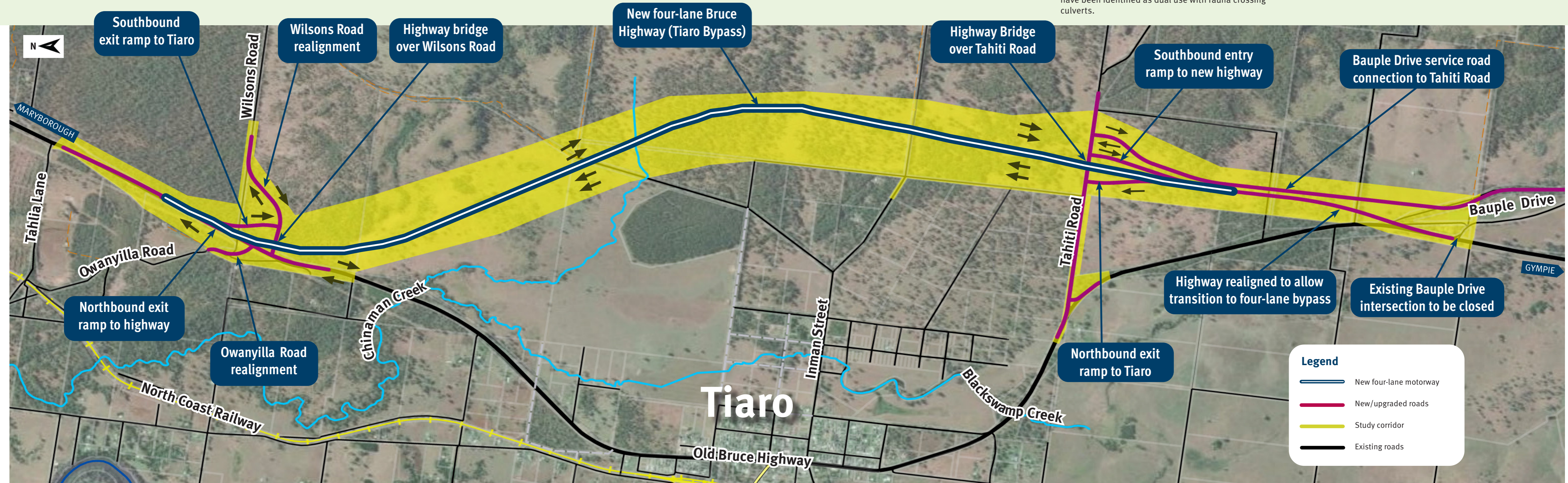
## Will there be fauna fencing?

A chain wire fence is currently proposed, with dimensions to be confirmed during the detailed design phase.

## What is the Tiaro Community Working Group's (TCWG) role in the project?

The TCWG's role includes working with TMR to provide input into the design to help the Tiaro community minimise economic impacts of, and leverage opportunities from, the Tiaro Bypass. The TCWG has also worked with Fraser Coast Regional Council on a community plan for Tiaro, to help realise its social and economic potential.

The TCWG's involvement is in addition to, not in place of, TMR's consultation process with the broader community.



# Consultation feedback

Consultation will be ongoing throughout detailed design. All feedback is considered and balanced against other considerations such as project objectives, budget, outcomes of technical investigations, road safety considerations and requirements of the broader community.

Broad consultation activities undertaken during the planning phase are summarised below. In addition to these activities, TMR has met with a number of other stakeholders throughout the development of the design including elected representatives, directly impacted landowners and representatives of local community groups.

Date	Consultation activity
February 2019	Project update and feedback form distributed to Tiaro, Bauple, Talegalla Weir and Owanyilla communities seeking feedback on the two options under investigation (bypass and existing highway upgrade). TMR published the update on the project webpage and prepared media materials. The project was discussed in regional newspapers and on local radio.
November 2019	Project update distributed explaining the bypass decision and the consultation process moving forward, and inviting residents to nominate to join the Tiaro Community Working Group (TCWG). TMR published the update on the project webpage and prepared media materials. The project was discussed in regional newspapers, television media, social media and on local radio.
February 2020	Presentation to the Tiaro Chamber of Commerce and community members.
March 2020 to July 2021	<p>The TCWG was formed and commenced regular meetings and workshops with TMR and Fraser Coast Regional Council (FCRC) to provide input into the bypass design on behalf of the community, and to develop a community plan for Tiaro.</p> <p>The TCWG was formed in response to widespread community concern in Tiaro about economic impacts from the bypass.</p> <p>Consultation with the TCWG has been in addition to, not in place of, broad community consultation, which involved keeping the community informed of progress and seeking feedback on the draft design for the bypass, once it had been developed.</p>
May and June 2020	Environmental interest group briefings.
September 2020	<p>Project update distributed to Tiaro, Bauple, Talegalla Weir and Owanyilla communities presenting the highway alignment within the bypass corridor study area, explaining how the alignment had been selected, and advising of the next steps for the project.</p> <p>TMR published the update on the project webpage and prepared media materials. The project was discussed in regional newspapers, television media, social media and on local radio.</p>
November 2020	Environmental interest group briefings.
December 2021	<p>Project update distributed showcasing the draft concept design, providing contact information for feedback and enquiries and committing to a public display.</p> <p>TMR published the update on the project webpage and prepared media materials. The project was discussed in regional newspapers, television media, social media and on local radio.</p>
June 2022	Public meeting in Bauple.
June to August 2022	Meetings with state emergency service providers (ambulance, police and fire and rescue) and heavy vehicle industry representatives (including Canegrowers Association).
July 2022	Community information sessions held on 22, 23 and 24 July 2022.
December 2022	Public meeting in Bauple.

Community feedback	TMR response to feedback
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project objectives and overall scope are well supported.</li> <li>• The two connection points are well supported (instead of a single interchange).</li> <li>• Impacts on Tiaro businesses dependent on passing trade is still a concern, but there is strong support for the efforts made by TMR, Fraser Coast Regional Council (FCRC) and the Tiaro Community Working Group (TCWG) to minimise these impacts. This includes TCWG input into the design, the development of the Tiaro Community Plan and the development of a Tiaro Bypass sign strategy.</li> <li>• There is strong support for the safety improvements delivered by the project (including for local roads and the highway).</li> <li>• There is a preference for a full interchange at Tahiti Road as a means of improving access to Tiaro during flood events and for some stakeholders, providing direct access to the bypass for Bauple.</li> <li>• There are concerns about future amenity, access and noise issues for adjacent and nearby landowners, which will need to be investigated further in the detailed design phase.</li> <li>• There are concerns about efficient access to Bauple during emergencies (to be investigated further during the detailed design phase) and maintenance of the service road.</li> <li>• Bauple community members would like direct access to the bypass, and requested further information to demonstrate the service road was the best, safest, value for money option.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepared Frequently Asked Questions (see overleaf) to help explain design decisions and respond to common questions.</li> <li>• Met with Bauple community representatives to explain alternative options investigated and why the service road was included in the project scope.</li> <li>• Committed to additional consultation with landowners in relation to noise, amenity and access issues as part of detailed design investigations.</li> <li>• Committed to investigating an emergency access arrangement for Bauple.</li> <li>• Committed to additional consultation to try to address concerns about maintenance of Bauple Service Road following construction.</li> <li>• Feedback from the community on the draft design informed TMR of community concerns and provided avenues for further investigation during the detailed design phase.</li> </ul>

## Upcoming consultation



Ongoing consultation with Tiaro Community Working Group and Fraser Coast Regional Council about signage strategy and heritage offset strategy



Ongoing consultation with directly impacted and adjacent landowners



Ongoing consultation with environmental interest groups regarding mitigation for environmental impacts



Ongoing consultation with emergency services providers regarding emergency services access arrangements



Ongoing consultation with Bauple Progress Association regarding concerns about the Bauple service road (particularly drainage and maintenance)

## For more information



Project webpage:  
[www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Tiaro](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Tiaro)  
 Email: [tiarobypass@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:tiarobypass@tmr.qld.gov.au)



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