7 June 2024

The Wyaga Creek floodway upgrade to improve resilience of the Gore Highway

- Construction of a 63 metre bridge started in May 2023 and is expected to be finished later this year, weather and construction conditions permitting
- The new bridge will be 1.44 meters higher than the old crossing and will significantly reduce the amount of time the highway is closed due to flooding.
- The project will improve flood immunity, traffic flow and safety on this National Key Freight Route

Construction of a new bridge to improve flood immunity on the Gore Highway between Millmerran and Goondiwindi is approaching completion.

The 63 metre bridge includes 105 reinforced box culverts to replace the existing crossing over Wyaga Creek at Kilbronae.

The new bridge will be 1.44 meters higher than the old crossing and will significantly reduce the amount of time the highway is closed due to flooding.

The new bridge is being built next to the existing highway to minimise disruption to traffic during construction. When the bridge is complete the Gore Highway will be realigned, including pavement widening and rehabilitation works on the approaches, before the old crossing is demolished.

As a result the project will also improve road safety, freight efficiency and network reliability on one of the state's most important transport links.

The rest area will be reinstated on the north side of the bridge.

The Australian and Queensland Governments have jointly funded this project to provide better services and good jobs for Queensland.

For further information about the Wyaga Creek crossing upgrade, visit <u>www.tmr.qld.gov.au</u>.

Quotes attributable to the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Catherine King

"A flood study carried out in 2016 revealed the Gore Highway is closed between Westbrook and the Leichhardt Highway for an average of 56 hours per year."

"The Wyaga Creek crossing at Kilbronae was the largest contributor to those closures at 44 hours."

"The great news is once the upgrade is complete, it will significantly reduce the average annual road closure time of the Gore Highway."

"This investment is estimated to support an average of 90 direct jobs over the life of the project."

Quotes attributable to the Transport and Main Roads Minister Bart Mellish:



"The Queensland Government is committed to driving investment for key infrastructure projects that support the state, including on the Gore Highway which is a vital link for inter and intrastate travel."

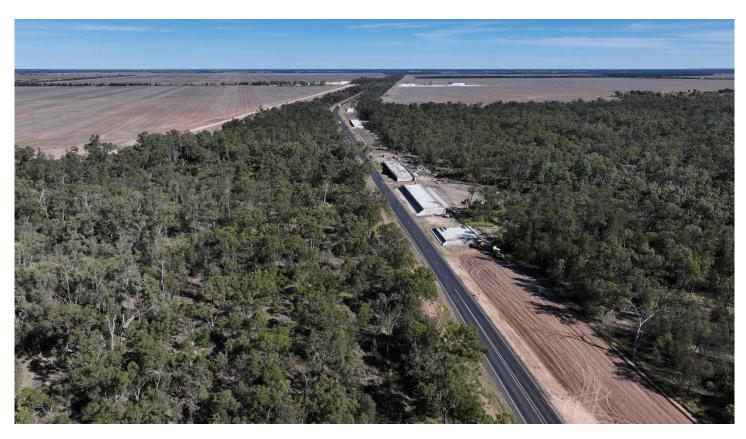
"As we've seen in recent flooding events, road closures slows down critical transport and industry and impacts our economy."

Explainer/fast fact and or further information (when required/relevant):

<u>Gore Highway (Millmerran – Goondiwindi), Wyaga Creek, upgrade floodway | Department of Transport and Main Roads (tmr.qld.gov.au)</u>

ENDS

Media contact - Minister Mellish's office



Construction is underway on the Gore Highway at Kilbronae to build a new 63 meter long bridge to cross Wyaga Creek, southerly view, drone imagery taken on 14 May 2024 (Source: TMR**)

** drone imagery approved by Andrew Pyman, TMR Chief Pilot on 20 May 2024