



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 47963
Your ref: A1060864

23 March 2023

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3843-22, lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Stephen Andrew MP, Member for Mirani on 21 February 2023 about the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) design for Rockhampton–Yeppoon Road, Yeppoon Road Upgrade project.

The Yeppoon Road Upgrade project is part of the Australian and Queensland governments' 10-year Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) corridor investment. The ROSI initiative aims to ensure key freight roads efficiently connect agricultural regions and ports, airports, and other transport hubs and provide better access for tourism, mining and other sectors.

Based on consultation undertaken by TMR since 2019, the identified community priorities for this road are to increase capacity and network efficiency, improve local access and improve road safety, with a particular focus on the Artillery Road/Dairy Inn Road intersection.

The scope and design of the Yeppoon Road Upgrade align with these priorities. The project will duplicate 5.6 kilometres of Rockhampton–Yeppoon Road to four lanes between Ironpot and Hedlow Creek and upgrade intersections at Artillery Road/Dairy Inn Road, Iron Pot Road and Cabbage Tree Creek Road. A key priority for the project is removing the cross-road movements from Artillery Road to Dairy Inn Road providing safe turnaround points, which will be critical when the carriageway is duplicated.

An independent review of the Yeppoon Road Upgrade project design options was undertaken in late-2021. This review considered factors including crash mitigation, connectivity, performance, traffic volume and movements, projected growth, flooding, resumption, design life and costs. This multi-criteria analysis confirmed the recommended restricted crossing U-turn arrangement, including protected right-turn access into Artillery and Dairy Inn roads, was the highest performing intersection option.

In addition, the Royal Automobile Club of Queensland's Road Safety unit and engineering professionals from Livingstone Shire Council's Infrastructure unit have reviewed the final design. The professional opinion of all qualified independent parties is that the approved design will improve safety at the intersection and is the preferred option to a roundabout in this rural speed environment.

A roundabout at this location is not supported due to the conflict between low volume traffic numbers on the side roads and the high traffic volumes on the Rockhampton–Yeppoon Road commuter route. Current traffic volumes on this section of the Rockhampton–Yeppoon Road range between 10,700 and 11,600 vehicles per day, which includes 1000 heavy vehicles.

Traffic modelling undertaken in 2018 to inform the planning phase, and again in July 2021 during the design phase (to ensure currency), does not indicate high traffic volumes on the side roads now or in the design life of the project (to 2042). Most traffic movements out of the side roads during peak morning periods turn left to either Rockhampton (from Dairy Inn Road) or left for Yeppoon (from Artillery Road). The return trip movements into the side roads during the afternoon peak period are consistent with (but slightly lower than) the morning peak and will benefit from significant protected storage (between 23 and 28 cars) in the wide centre median.

The traffic modelling indicates that through traffic movements from the side roads are the minority of the turn-outs (with 14 vehicles undertaking the through movement from Dairy Inn Road in the morning peak, and 10 vehicles undertaking the through movement from Artillery Road in the afternoon peak). These vehicles will use the U-turn facility located 800 metres to the west of Dairy Inn Road to access Artillery Road or travel to Yeppoon (northeast), or the U-turn facility located 685 metres to the east of Artillery Road to access Dairy Inn Road or travel to Rockhampton (southwest). The U-turn facilities have capacity storage for 10 and 15 cars respectively and are designed to accommodate the turning movement of the B-double design vehicle.

TMR has recently completed information sessions in Yeppoon (23–25 February 2023) and Rockhampton (9–11 March 2023), providing the broader community an opportunity to view the final design and speak with a member of the project team. These sessions were well attended by community members, who were receptive to the technical advice provided by project engineers that informed the design decisions.

The Palaszczuk Government is delivering its seventh record transport and roads infrastructure program in a row, as detailed in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2022–23 to 2025–26*, which outlines \$29.7 billion in investment over the next four years and is estimated to support an average of 25,200 direct jobs over the life of the program. Of this, \$1.525 billion is committed across TMR's Central Queensland Region/Fitzroy District, estimated to support an average of 1380 direct jobs over the program's life.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Enc (1)

Yeppoon Road Upgrade Project

The Queensland Government is upgrading the Rockhampton–Yeppoon Road to increase safety, improve efficiency, and increase route capacity to accommodate future growth in traffic volumes from increased economic activity in the region.

Stakeholder and community feedback during 2020–21 identified the top priorities for community and industry, these included:



Road safety (particularly at Dairy Inn Road/Artillery Road intersection)



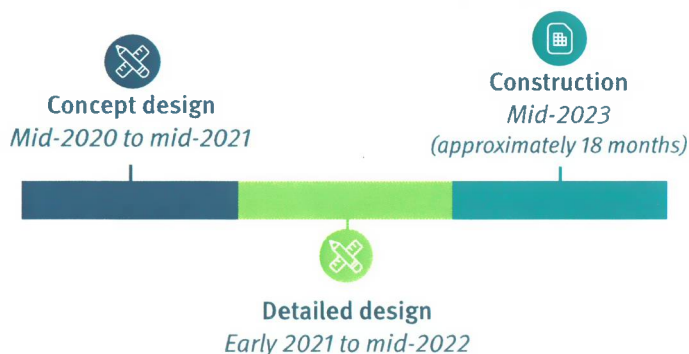
Local access and connections



Network reliability and efficiency

This valuable feedback influenced the scope and design of the Yeppoon Road Upgrade project to achieve an outcome that will improve road safety for all road users.

Project timeline



Key objectives

The Yeppoon Road Upgrade will:

- widen to four lanes between Ironpot and Hedlow Creek
- rationalise private accesses onto Rockhampton–Yeppoon Road
- realign Old Byfield Road connection onto Artillery Road
- provide left-in and left-out access at both Artillery Road and Dairy Inn Road
- construct U-turn facilities east and west of the Artillery Road and Dairy Inn Road intersection with protected right turns into Artillery Road and Dairy Inn Road
- include extensive storage and deceleration facilities at the protected right turns into Artillery Road and Dairy Inn Road
- provide through movements from side roads with the use of a modified left-out U-turn combination that has extensive vehicle storage and deceleration facilities
- upgrade the Cabbage Tree Creek Road and Iron Pot Road intersections with dedicated protected left and right turn lanes
- incorporate safe roadway design including recoverable batters, barriers (guardrails) and clear zone clearing
- provide a 2.5m wide shoulder to facilitate on-road bike riding.



Rockhampton–Yeppoon Road, Yeppoon Road Upgrade Project

Legend

— New guardrail

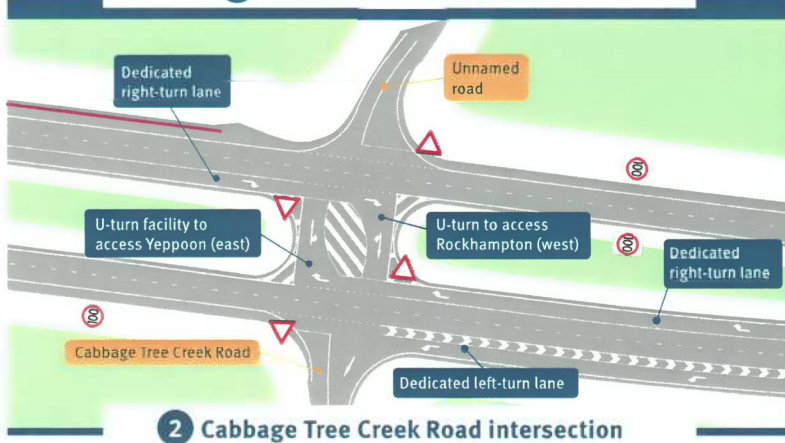
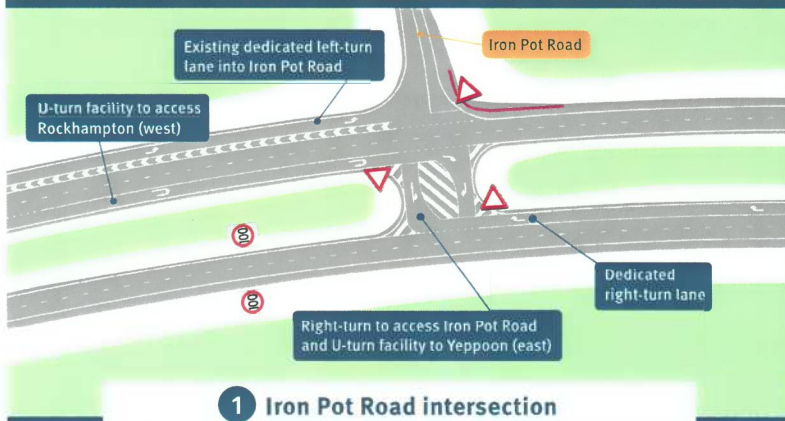
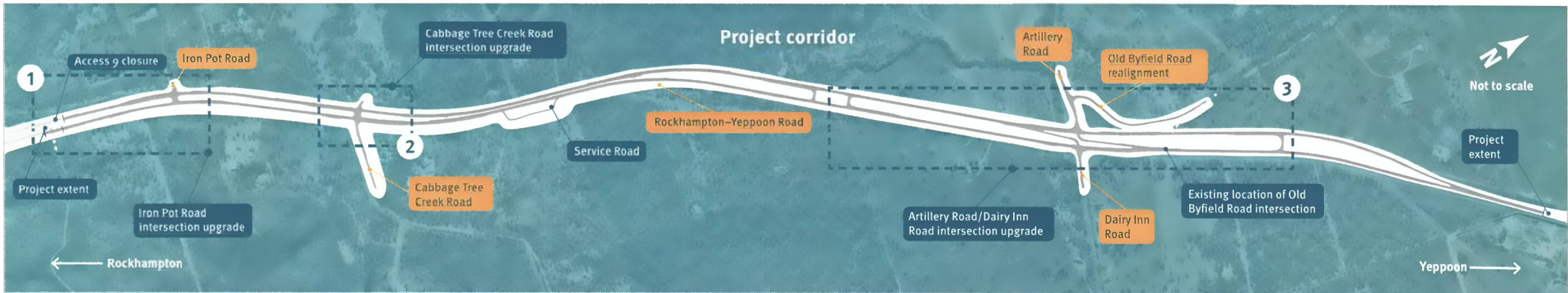
1 Iron Pot Road intersection

2 Cabbage Tree Creek intersection

3 Artillery/Dairy Inn Roads intersection

▽ Give way sign

● Stop sign





Rockhampton–Yeppoon Road, Artillery Road
and Dairy Inn Road intersection

Yeppoon Road upgrade benefits



Increases safety



Improves network efficiency



Increases capacity



Improves traffic flow



Contributes to regional growth



Improves flood immunity

What to expect during construction

Construction is expected to commence on the Yeppoon Road upgrade in mid-2023.

During construction, reduced speeds, reduced lane widths and some delays can be expected by motorists travelling on Rockhampton–Yeppoon Road and surrounding local roads.

Some construction noise can also be expected. The project team will endeavour to keep noisy activities within reasonable hours however night-time construction works may also be required.

The project team will inform the community ahead of disruptive works to ensure that people can make informed decisions about expected impacts, take alternative travel routes, and make allowances for extended journey times.

Every effort will be made to minimise impacts on residents and motorists travelling on Rockhampton–Yeppoon Road and local roads throughout construction.

TMR appreciates your patience during the construction of this important infrastructure upgrade.

Stay informed and register for updates



www.tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/yeppoon-road-upgrade-project



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