

MEDIA STATEMENT

26 November 2018

Tenders open for Central Queensland overtaking lanes

Tenders have opened for three new overtaking lanes on the Bruce Highway, between Sarina and St Lawrence in Central Queensland.

The works package is part of the Australian and Queensland governments' Bruce Highway Upgrade Program to improve safety, flood resilience and capacity on the national highway between Brisbane and Cairns.

Transport and Main Roads (TMR), Regional Director, Central Queensland, Dave Grosse said the new overtaking lanes were fully funded by the Australian Government to help improve safety and efficiency on the key transport route.

"Between 2500 and 3500 vehicles use the Bruce Highway between St Lawrence and Sarina daily, with many motorists making their way between the regional centres of Mackay and Rockhampton," Mr Grosse said.

"These new overtaking lanes will provide more opportunities for motorists to safely overtake and reduce the likelihood of people taking risks, especially when following trucks, buses and caravans.

"The \$10.95 million package includes one southbound overtaking lane at Kalarka Road, one northbound overtaking lane at Mosquito Creek and a southbound overtaking lane south of Carmila."

Mr Grosse said the overtaking lanes would enhance the safety measures already on this section of the Bruce Highway.

"There are currently 15 overtaking lanes on the Bruce Highway between Mackay and Rockhampton, which include eight northbound and seven southbound overtaking lanes," Mr Grosse said.

"There's also about 150 kilometres of wide centre-line treatment on this section.

"This treatment increases safety by creating a greater distance between opposing directions of traffic, providing additional space when motorists are passing cyclists or stationary vehicles and providing better visibility of oncoming traffic when overtaking.

"Tenders for the overtaking lane package opened in early November and will close in early December 2018.

"Tender award is expected to take place in early 2019, with construction to start later next year."

An average of 18 jobs will be supported over the life of the project.

Prospective contractors can view the project details and apply to tender for the project on the E-Tender website at www.hpw.qld.gov.au/bas/eTender/Default

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