

MEDIA STATEMENT

8 April 2022

Significant damage keeps hinterland roads closed

The Gold Coast Hinterland's Gold Coast-Springbrook and Beechmont roads have been hardest hit by record rainfall and will remain closed until safe.

Emergency works are being undertaken to clear the enormous amount of debris caused by large and dangerous landslips, and embankment failures, and to stabilise the areas.

Transport and Main Roads South Coast Regional Director Paul Noonan said while it was too early to confirm when roads could reopen, safety would remain paramount.

"The initial clean-up is our first priority before we can assess what reconstruction works will be needed," Mr Noonan said.

"Reconstruction will be incredibly challenging and technically difficult given the steep hinterland terrain and sheer extent of damage.

"Heavy rainfall across the area in late March exacerbated February's damage on Beechmont Road, causing the road to slip further down the hill and severely undermine the emergency sidetrack that was in place.

"A massive landslide on Gold Coast-Springbrook Road left the road cut off, and we need to clear it and ensure it is stable before opening."

Mr Noonan said motorists should prepare for lengthy closures and detours.

"Our teams are working hard to provide access as soon as they possibly can," he said.

"With Beechmont Road closed between Bottletree Lane and North Road, detours are in place so residents can access their properties - those below Brushbox Road enter via Nerang-Murwillumbah Road and above Brushbox Road enter via Beaudesert-Nerang Road (Canungra).

"While Gold Coast-Springbrook Road is closed between Neranwood Park and Pine Creek Road, the alternate route is west of Springbrook via Pine Creek Road.

"As soon as we know more on when the roads may reopen, we will let residents and motorists know."

Mr Noonan said the record rainfall events resulted in landslips, embankment failures, road and bridge damage and hazards across the south coast region, including on:

- Lamington National Park Road, Springbrook

- Mount Lindesay Highway at Jimboomba Creek Bridge and Palen Creek
- Tomewin Mountain Road, Currumbin Valley
- Tamborine Mountain Road, Tamborine
- Beaudesert-Boonah Road, Wyaralong
- Maroon Dam Road, Maroon
- Nerang-Murwillumbah Road
- Beaudesert-Nerang Road
- Beaudesert-Beenleigh Road.

"Hazards have been cleared, sites stabilised, and potholes repaired to make these roads safe for motorists," he said.

"Further restoration works will be needed right across the region once damage assessments and detailed planning is complete.

"We understand the impact on people living in these areas and thank the community for its patience while we manage our natural disaster response."

Mr Noonan continued to urge all motorists to drive to the conditions and obey all road safety signs.

"Unfortunately, we are seeing some reckless motorists and bike riders trying to access areas that are simply unsafe, and we appeal to them to not put their lives at risk," he said.

Assistance will be provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

For more information on road conditions, call 13 19 40, go to www.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au or download the QldTraffic app.

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