

MEDIA STATEMENT

29 March 2023

New Gympie Bypass interchange connecting local network

Construction on one of Queensland's highest-priority roads has reached a major milestone with one of three new interchanges being built as part of the Bruce Highway Upgrade – Cooroy to Curra, Section D (Gympie Bypass) project now complete.

- Once complete, the new interchange will connect Flood, Noosa and Penny Roads to the new bypass.
- The bridge over the new highway is open to the local network, however the new highway on and off-ramps will stay closed until the bypass opens.
- Some changes were required to the local road network to connect to the new highway.
- The new bridge over the bypass is part of an interchange called 'Flood Road Interchange', previously known as 'Penny Road Interchange'.
- The interchange is within the southern contract, delivered by the Bielby BMD Joint Venture (BBJV).

The speed limit of 40km/h on sections of Flood Road and Noosa Road will remain in place for some time to allow safe construction of the new Bruce Highway alignment and accesses to private properties.

We encourage motorists to observe the speed limit, obey all road signs, and always consider the safety of construction crews.

The project is being delivered under two construction contracts, with works underway since October 2020. The \$1 billion project is due for completion late 2024, weather permitting.

The Gympie Bypass is jointly funded on an 80:20 basis, with the Australian Government contributing \$800 million and the Queensland Government \$200 million.

For more information about the project, visit [Bruce Highway Cooroy to Curra Section D | Department of Transport and Main Roads \(tmr.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/bruce-highway-cooroy-to-curra-section-d)

For up-to-date information about traffic changes, visit [Road Condition Information - QLDTraffic](https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/road-condition-information-qldtraffic)

Quotes attributable to Transport and Main Roads Southern Queensland Regional Director Bill Lansbury:

"The \$1 billion investment in this critical infrastructure project is estimated to support an average of 570 direct jobs over the life of the project.

"Investment in projects like this across Queensland gives Australians the safe road connections they need and deserve while creating jobs and unlocking economic growth – for the broader Wide Bay and Sunshine Coast regions in this case.

"This project is taking shape I'm excited to see the progress with this interchange bridge opening.

"This project will save lives, enhance the commuter experience and freight efficiency, and improve flood immunity for the Gympie region.

"The new bypass is designed to withstand a one-in-100-year flood event – but let's hope we never experience that. The major flood of March 2022 was well below our new highway pavement and bridge levels, proving we're building this new highway right.

"This project has endured several challenges since we turned the first sod in September 2020. I'm extremely proud of the efforts of the contractors and all involved in rebuilding and getting on with the job."

Quotes attributable to the Mayor of Gympie Regional Council Glen Hartwig:

"The new Flood Road Interchange is a welcome addition to the regional network and will improve connectivity for local road users.

"Gympie Regional Council is supportive of the Bruce Highway upgrade. I've been vocal about the benefits this major infrastructure project brings to the region, both during construction and once complete.

"The new highway will improve Gympie's connections both north and south while removing heavy vehicles that currently haul freight through town. It will also enable us to get resources and supplies in major flood events.

"I'm happy to see the Flood Road interchange open up the local network in Mothar Mountain, connecting Flood, Noosa and Penny roads."

ENDS

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