

Sunshine Motorway, Mooloolah River Interchange Upgrade

Improving safety, congestion and connection

July 2023



Artist's impression





The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has released a design layout for the Sunshine Motorway, Mooloolah River Interchange (MRI) Upgrade. The MRI is the key to unlocking several significant road and rail projects, and will deliver a safe, efficient and effective network to meet the current and future transport needs of the Sunshine Coast.

A design layout has been developed for the entire MRI Upgrade project. It considers community feedback received during project planning, as well as a range of technical, design and on-site investigations undertaken over the last 18 months. TMR thanks the community and key stakeholders for feedback and helping shape this significant infrastructure upgrade.

The MRI Upgrade project will provide new north-south connectivity between Maroochydore, Birtinya, Caloundra and southern growth areas.

It is the first step towards several significant road and rail projects in the region and is the trigger for major infrastructure transformation on the Sunshine Coast.

The Australian and Queensland governments have jointly committed \$320 million in funding, on a 50:50 (federal:state) basis, for design and construction of the first stage of the MRI Upgrade project.

Stage 1

Stage 1 will deliver:

- a new road overpass to provide a more direct and efficient connection from Nicklin Way to Brisbane Road at Mooloolaba
- a new local road connection between Karawatha Drive at Mountain Creek and Brisbane Road at Mooloolaba.

These new connections will significantly improve safety by separating local traffic from high-speed motorway traffic and reducing traffic weaving.

The Stage 1 works need to be delivered first to enable construction of the project's future stages.

Funding is required to progress future stages to construction. Please refer to the design layout overleaf for further details.

Project background

Between 2007 and 2010, extensive planning and community consultation for an upgrade of the Sunshine Motorway at the Mooloolah River was undertaken as part of the Multi-Modal Transport Corridor (MMTC) study.

Significant community feedback was received and considered by TMR, with design variations explored and further consultation taking place. This focused on the new connection over the Mooloolah River.

In 2014, the MRI Upgrade project was established, which focused on refining the design. The updated design included a new, largely land-based alignment for the Mooloolah River crossing with a series of bridge structures over the waterway. This solution significantly reduced the environmental impacts to the Mooloolah River and was more cost effective.

Detailed planning was then undertaken for the MRI Upgrade, with a planning layout released for community feedback in July and August 2021. Community feedback was invited again in March and April 2022.

Community feedback prompted the redesign of proposed access changes to the Brisbane Road service road at Mooloolaba. The refined design for this section of the project was announced in April 2023 and removed any impact to Neerim Park.



Environmental management

Environmental management and conservation is a high priority for TMR. TMR has been liaising with key stakeholders and the Australian and Queensland governments to discuss environmental issues, share information and ensure legislative requirements are met and, where possible, exceeded.

Through this consultation, many aspects of environmental management have been considered in the design layout and will be included in construction methods for the project. TMR will continue to listen to and work with local environmental stakeholders to ensure best practice is achieved.

TMR will also continue to work closely with the traditional owners of the land, Kabi Kabi First Nation People.



Road traffic noise

TMR understands road traffic noise is of interest to many people who live near the project and recognises the need to consider noise reduction measures. The provision of noise reduction measures is determined in accordance with TMR's Transport Noise Management Code of Practice.

In order to effectively predict noise levels, TMR uses a noise model which has been calibrated for Queensland conditions to predict likely noise levels in an area. The model assumes moderately adverse wind velocities and takes into account current and projected traffic volumes, topography, road surfacing type and other contributing factors.

Noise modelling has been carried out as part of the design process to predict future road traffic noise impacts. This modelling has identified a number of potential sites requiring new or upgraded noise barriers (as shown in the design layout). One of the quietest road surfaces available, open-graded asphalt, will also be used on the Sunshine Motorway, Brisbane Road and the new connection with Karawatha Drive to ensure noise levels are reduced to the greatest extent possible.



Community feedback

More than 250 items of feedback were received via the online engagement platform, email, post and phone during the consultation periods for the planning layout.

Key feedback themes related to design suggestions, road traffic noise impacts, active transport provisions, property impacts, traffic congestion, timing of the upgrade, environmental impacts, visual amenity changes and road user safety.

This valuable feedback has been reviewed and considered during the development of the design layout.



Early works

Early works for the MRI Upgrade project started in May 2023.

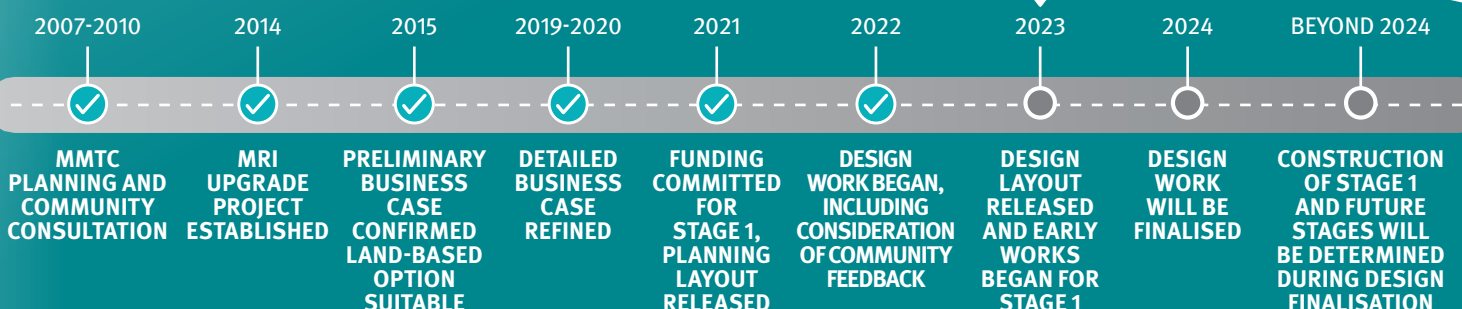
These works will make the site construction-ready and involve:

- property demolitions
- land preparation works
- service relocations for electricity, water and telecommunications
- settlement of soft soils.

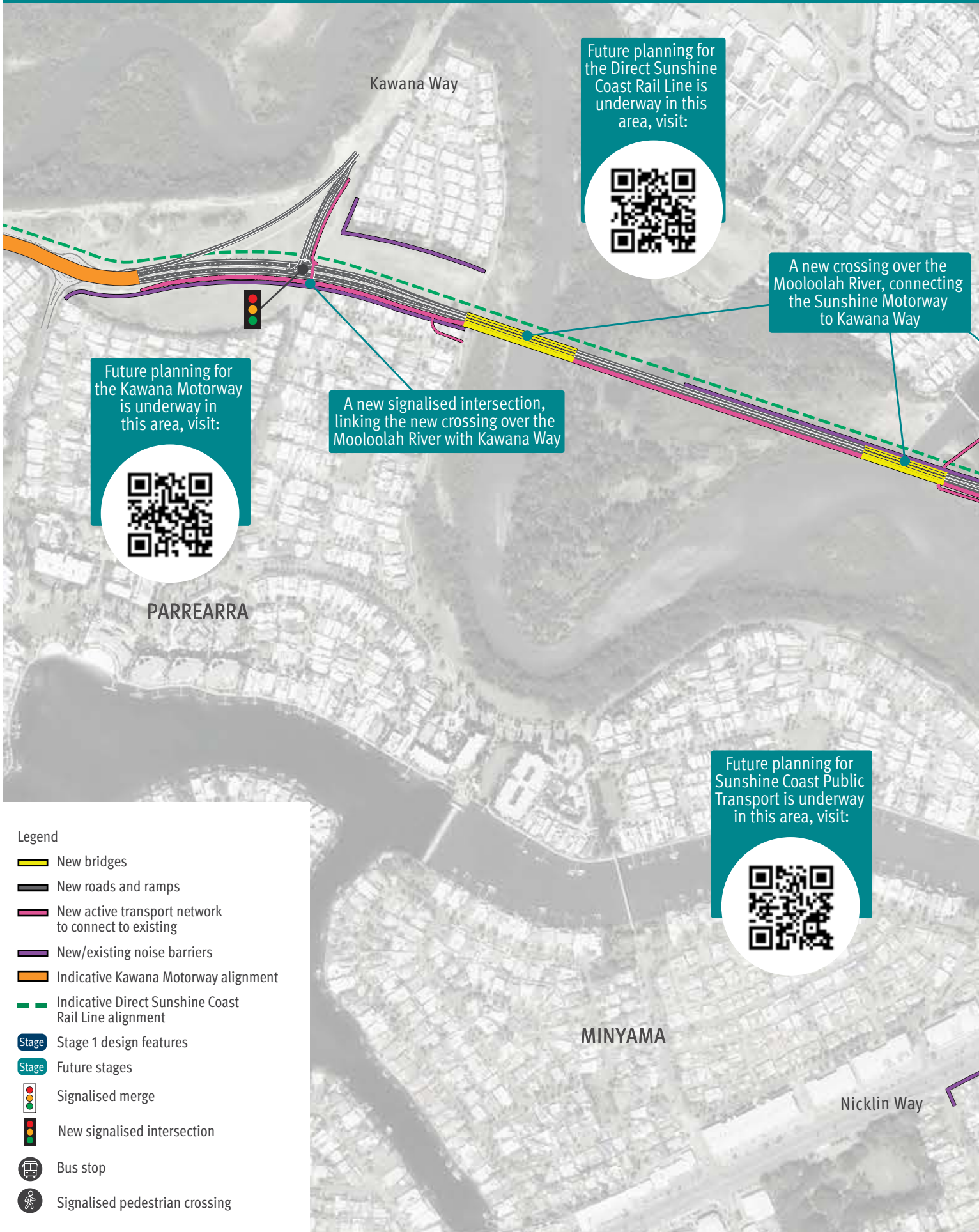
TMR will continue to update the community and stakeholders as the project progresses.

Project timeline

WE ARE HERE



Mooloolah River Interchange (MRI) Upgrade design layout



Future planning for the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line is underway in this area, visit:



A new crossing over the Mooloolah River, connecting the Sunshine Motorway to Kawana Way

Future planning for the Kawana Motorway is underway in this area, visit:















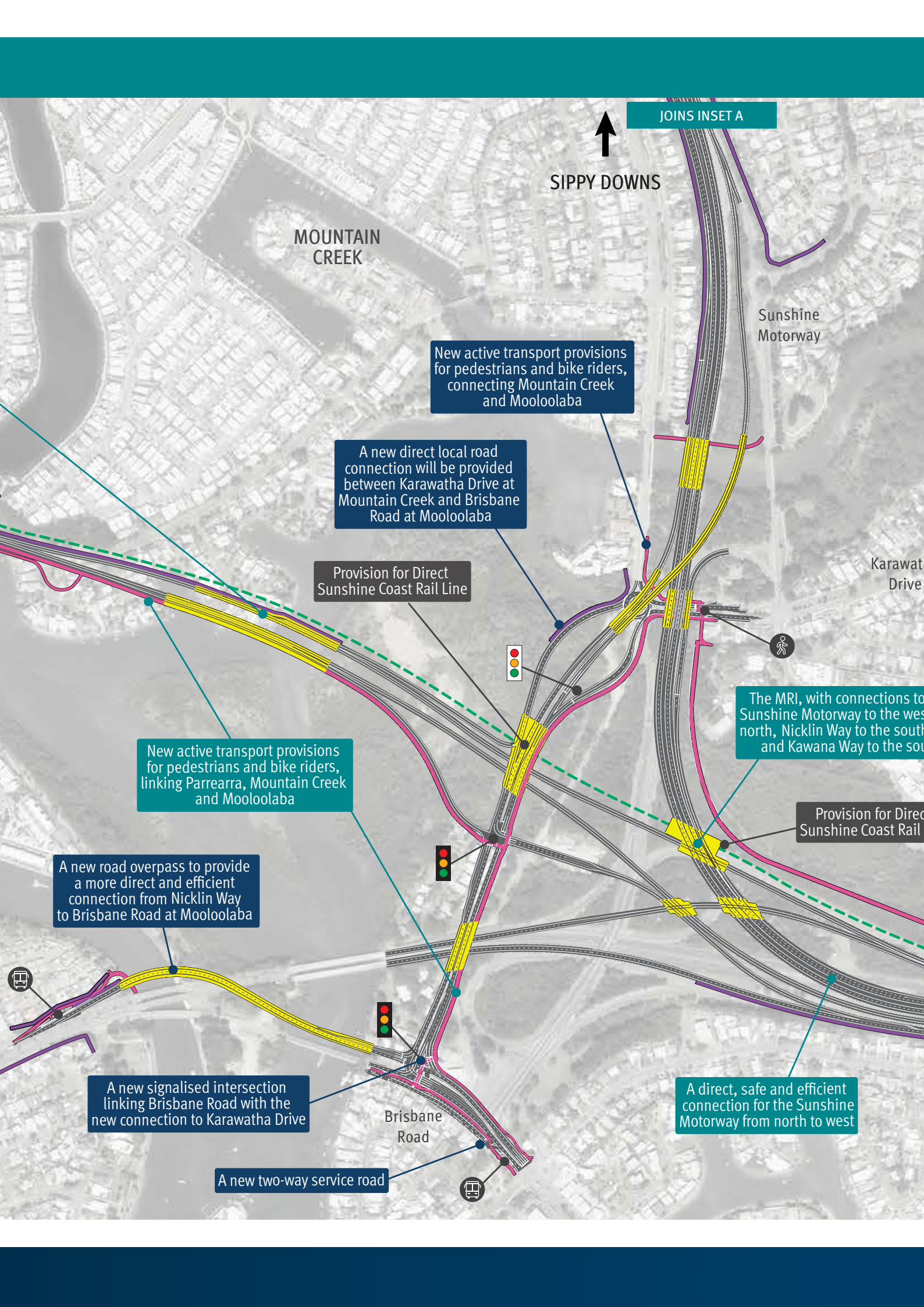
A new signalised intersection, linking the new crossing over the Mooloolah River with Kawana Way

Future planning for Sunshine Coast Public Transport is underway in this area, visit:



Legend

-  New bridges
-  New roads and ramps
-  New active transport network to connect to existing
-  New/existing noise barriers
-  Indicative Kawana Motorway alignment
-  Indicative Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line alignment
-  Stage 1 design features
-  Future stages
-  Signalised merge
-  New signalised intersection
-  Bus stop
-  Signalised pedestrian crossing



JOINS INSET A

SIPPY DOWNS

MOUNTAIN CREEK

Sunshine Motorway

Karawatha Drive

New active transport provisions for pedestrians and bike riders, connecting Mountain Creek and Mooloolaba

A new direct local road connection will be provided between Karawatha Drive at Mountain Creek and Brisbane Road at Mooloolaba

Provision for Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line

The MRI, with connections to Sunshine Motorway to the west, north, Nicklin Way to the south and Kawana Way to the south

New active transport provisions for pedestrians and bike riders, linking Parrearra, Mountain Creek and Mooloolaba

Provision for Direct Sunshine Coast Rail

A new road overpass to provide a more direct and efficient connection from Nicklin Way to Brisbane Road at Mooloolaba

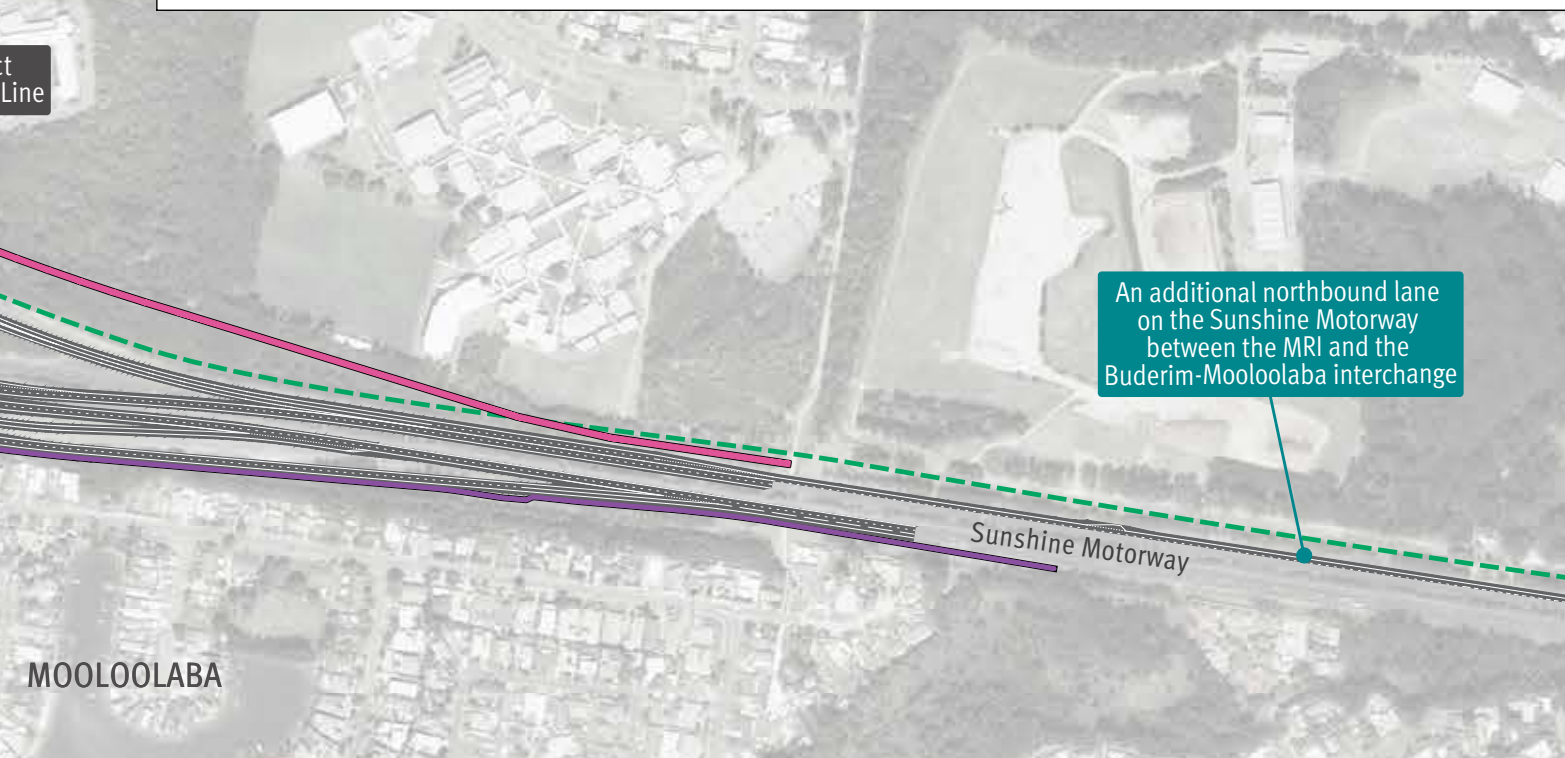
A new signalled intersection linking Brisbane Road with the new connection to Karawatha Drive

A direct, safe and efficient connection for the Sunshine Motorway from north to west

A new two-way service road

Brisbane Road

Inset A - Mountain Creek



* Preliminary design layout. Please note minor refinements may be made a



is required during the detailed design process.



Design work

TMR started design work for the MRI Upgrade project in January 2022 and has developed the design layout during the preliminary design phase.

Preliminary design work has involved a wide range of technical activities, including:

- road and bridge engineering
- geotechnical, hydrological and drainage investigations
- environmental and cultural heritage studies
- property acquisitions
- electrical and Intelligent Transport System design
- service infrastructure investigations
- sustainability and innovation considerations
- active transport and community connectivity design
- other rail and road infrastructure project considerations.

The project design will be finalised during the detailed design phase which is underway and expected to be finished in early 2024. The detailed design phase involves developing working drawings and specifications suitable for construction. The construction program will also be determined during this phase.



Key benefits

- Improved average peak period travel speeds on the Sunshine Coast resulting in faster and more efficient travel throughout the region.
- Better connectivity to improve north-south travel and access to key economic, employment, health and residential centres.
- A new direct connection between the Sunshine Motorway and Kawana Way.
- Better local access via a new road link between Karawatha Drive in Mountain Creek and Brisbane Road in Mooloolaba.
- Improved safety for motorists including significant reduction in existing traffic weaving issues.
- An additional northbound lane on the Sunshine Motorway between the MRI and the Buderim-Mooloolaba interchange.
- Improved active transport opportunities through the inclusion of new shared pedestrian and bike rider facilities for more direct connections.



View project visuals

Visit www.yoursay-projects.tmr.qld.gov.au/mooloolah-river-interchange to view:






- fly through visualisation
- before and after sliders
- artist's impressions of the design layout.



SCAN HERE FOR PROJECT DETAILS AND VISUALS



LEGEND

-  Sunshine Motorway, Mooloolah River Interchange Upgrade
-  Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line
-  Proposed rail extension
-  Sunshine Coast Public Transport
-  Kawana Motorway

**Alignments are indicative only.*



SCAN HERE FOR MRI PROJECT PAGE

www.yoursay-projects.tmr.qld.gov.au/mooloolah-river-interchange

Integration with other key road and public transport projects

TMR is planning a Sunshine Coast transport network which supports multiple modes, including the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line, Kawana Motorway and Sunshine Coast Public Transport projects.

Visit our website for further details about these initiatives:
www.yoursay-projects.tmr.qld.gov.au/sunshine-coast-major-projects



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