

## The existing Houghton Highway bridge

The existing Houghton Highway bridge was officially opened on 20 December 1979.

Increasing traffic volumes on the Hornibrook Highway bridge by the late 1960s had prompted investigations into the construction of a new bridge across Bramble Bay.

The decision to build a new bridge was made in mid-1974. The Houghton Highway bridge was funded entirely by the Queensland Government, and was constructed by Barclay Brothers of Brisbane. Construction occurred between 1977 and 1979 and cost approximately \$8.6 million at the time.

Upon completion, the Houghton Highway bridge replaced the Hornibrook Highway bridge as the longest bridge in the southern hemisphere.

### Bridge name

James (Jim) Edward Harim Houghton was born in Sydney in 1911. He spent much of his life in Redcliffe and was elected Mayor in 1955. He held this position for nine years before resigning to become the first Member for Redcliffe in the State Parliament. He resigned from Parliament in 1979.

In 1979 the Houghton Highway bridge opened and was named in his honour.

### Interesting facts

- » The bridge is made predominately of pre-cast concrete members.
- » It is 1.6 metres higher than the Hornibrook Highway bridge.
- » The bridge includes 99 spans, each 27 metres in length, and 400 beams.
- » Each beam weighs 38 tonnes.
- » One span a week was built during construction.

### Current state of the bridge

The Houghton Highway bridge is currently undergoing routine maintenance.

Work includes:

- » repair and replacement of underdeck bridge components
- » bridge bearing maintenance.

### Future of the Houghton Highway bridge

Once the new Houghton Highway bridge is built, the existing bridge will be resurfaced with asphalt and new expansion joints installed. This will provide a smoother ride over the bridge.

### Feedback and enquiries

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