

Cairns Southern Access Corridor (Stage 3), Edmonton to Gordonvale



A total transport solution is being undertaken to provide long-term improvements to traffic flow and road safety through reducing congestion, highway travel time and improving road access.

A 10.5km upgrade and duplication of the Bruce Highway between Edmonton and Gordonvale is being delivered. The project is Stage 3 of the Cairns Bruce Highway Upgrade Master Plan released in 2010.

This project will deliver significant safety improvements along this section of the Bruce Highway, which is the busiest 2-lane section of the Bruce Highway between Brisbane and Cairns.

Under the 15-year, \$13 billion Bruce Highway Upgrade Program, the department is continuing to invest in safety, flood resilience and capacity upgrades along the Bruce Highway between Brisbane and Cairns.

Benefits

- Improves safety
- Increases capacity
- Improves network efficiency
- Increases traffic flow
- Reduces peak hour congestion
- Better road access
- Contributes to regional growth
- Better active transport

Key Features

- Duplication of all existing 2 lane sections of the Bruce Highway between Edmonton and Gordonvale to 4 lanes.
- A new alignment for the Bruce Highway to the eastern

side of the existing highway between Petersen Road and Warner Road.

- A new signalised intersection at Petersen Road and upgraded signalised intersections at Draper Road and Riverstone Road.
- Over 10km of new service roads to remove local trips from the highway.
- Realignment and upgrade of 4.5km of the Queensland Rail North Coast Line to accommodate the duplicated highway.
- Removal of multiple at grade rail crossings and upgrade of boom gates at other crossings.
- New road and rail bridges at Wrights Creek and Stoney Creek.
- New Bruce Highway road overpass south of Maitland Road connecting Pine Creek-Yarrabah Road and Maitland Road.
- Relocation of existing cane rail lines at locations to accommodate the duplicated highway.
- Gabay Gubudala pedestrian overpass south of Draper Road, a new pedestrian underpass north of Draper Road and pedestrian path on the Menmuny Overpass overpass south of Maitland Road.
- Luke Azzopardi Cycleway, a dedicated off-road high-speed cycleway from Riverstone Road to tie into the existing pathway at Thompson Road.
- Several intersections and direct accesses to the existing Bruce Highway will either be partially closed or removed to improve traffic flow and increase road safety on the highway.
- Changes to the highway completed through this project will allow the posted speed to be 100km/hr from north of the Draper Road intersection to south of Petersen Road intersection.



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Current Status

A critical piece of Far North Queensland's biggest and most complex road and rail infrastructure project has been officially commissioned, marking the final step towards the completion of the project.

The \$535 million Bruce Highway – Cairns Southern Access Corridor (Stage 3) – Edmonton to Gordonvale project is delivering long-term improvements to traffic flow and road safety through reducing congestion and highway travel times, and improving road access and active transport networks.

The commissioning of the Menmyny Overpass, which spans 141 metres, is a significant milestone for the project.

The opening in August provided safe access to the highway – north, south, east and west.

Construction of the 10.5-kilometre section of newly duplicated and upgraded Bruce Highway between Edmonton to Gordonvale – the busiest two-lane section of Bruce Highway between Cairns and Brisbane – began in May 2020.

More than 200 million hours of work has been undertaken on the project and involved more than 300 local suppliers and contractors.

In addition to upgrading and duplicating the highway, the project will also deliver:

- A new intersection and two upgraded intersections
- More than eight kilometres of upgraded local roads (8.9 kilometres)
- New road and rail bridges at Wrights Creek and Stoney Creek

- Cycleway bridge at Collinson Creek
- 10.4 kilometres of cycleway
- Twenty-seven kilometres of drainage
- Three new pedestrian crossing facilities, including a pedestrian overpass
- A rail track upgrade and realignment of 4.5 kilometres of the Queensland Rail North Coast Line

The \$535 million Edmonton to Gordonvale project is funded by the Australian and Queensland governments under the Bruce Highway Upgrade Program, with the Australian Government committing \$428.01 million and the Queensland Government \$106.99 million.

The project will fully open to motorists by the end of August 2023, with remaining minor works to be completed in September 2023.

Project Timeline

November 2017	Building Queensland business case approved
December 2017	Reference design released
October 2018	Early Contractor Involvement commenced
October 2019	Contract awarded to John Holland Seymour White AECOM Joint Venture
October 2019	Design works commenced
Mid-2020	Preliminary construction commences
Late 2020	Design completion
Mid-2023	Construction completion, weather permitting



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