

# MEDIA STATEMENT

11 February 2020

## **Bruce Highway and Shirbourne Road intersection to close**

The Bruce Highway intersection with Shirbourne Road will be temporarily closed to all westbound traffic as the Haughton River Floodplain Upgrade project continues at Giru.

The intersection and a connecting portion of Shirbourne Road will be closed to all Woodstock-bound traffic for three months from Monday 17 February until late May 2020 to allow for construction of the Bruce Highway overpass. Eastbound travel from the Bruce Highway towards Giru will be unaffected.

Once complete, the Bruce Highway overpass of Shirbourne Road will eliminate interactions between highway vehicles and cane tram traffic.

Transport and Main Roads Director-General Neil Scales said the closure was required due to the constrained conditions.

"Although the side road does not have high traffic volumes, the Bruce Highway intersection with Shirbourne Road is complex with four-way travel directions, narrow roadways and a nearby cane tramline," Mr Scales said.

"We've investigated all options and we can't, safely, drive the concrete piles which will support the structure and then build the overpass, while Shirbourne Road is under traffic.

"This constrained environment also means while overpass construction is underway, two-way traffic still cannot be accommodated.

"We therefore expect an ongoing partial closure of the intersection, allowing Bruce Highway traffic to access Shirbourne Road (eastbound). However, local Shirbourne Road traffic travelling to the Bruce Highway will need to continue using the detour via nearby Woodstock Giru Road."

Mr Scales said TMR had engaged with key users of the intersection, and those who live on Shirbourne Road, to ensure the detour was feasible.

"We made the decision to close this intersection after consulting with residents, industry representatives including cane contractors, and school bus operators who all agreed they could accommodate the closure provided a detour is in place," he said.

"While we appreciate the inconvenience the detour via Garrone Road and Woodstock Giru Road will have, I can assure all of our customers the end result will be a much safer highway and local road environment."

Mr Scales also confirmed that access for Emergency Services would be maintained throughout the closure, in the event of an emergency.

The Haughton River Floodplain Upgrade project is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments on an 80:20 basis, under the Bruce Highway Upgrade Program. The Federal Government has committed up to \$411.47 million towards the project, in addition to the State Government's commitment of up to \$102.87 million.

Five bridges will be built as part of the project, along with two overpasses, several intersection upgrades and more than 13 kilometres of Bruce Highway road upgrades.

The project is due to be completed in mid 2021, weather and construction conditions permitting.

It is expected to support an average of 544 direct jobs.

For the latest on the project, visit [www.tmr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au) and search 'Haughton'.

For the latest traffic and travel information including road conditions, call 13 19 40 or visit <https://qldtraffic.qld.gov.au/>

**ENDS**

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