

MEDIA STATEMENT

24 October 2018

Drone helps Silver Link reach gold standard in safety

The safety of local road workers has significantly improved over the last 18 months thanks to the use of drone inspections on the Burdekin Bridge.

Since February 2017, workers on the historic bridge (known to locals as the Silver Link) have been using a drone to capture high-quality footage of hard-to-reach places, including the underside of the bridge and internal surfaces of the concrete piers.

Previously, inspections were carried out by workers climbing difficult to access areas of the bridge.

Spanning the Burdekin River, the one-kilometre Burdekin Bridge serves as a vital part of the Bruce Highway, linking vehicles and trains between Ayr and Home Hill.

RoadTek General Manager Bill Lansbury said the drone was a huge leap forward in road worker safety and provided efficiencies for the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

“We are always looking for how we can use emerging technologies to improve the way we work across the state,” Mr Lansbury said.

“It’s fantastic this drone technology not only provides us with excellent quality data and footage, but it also helps protect the lives of our local road workers.

“The drone footage is extremely useful in quickly determining technical requirements and the exact details of maintenance work needed.

“Images can be recorded and viewed onsite – or sent to others for review, allowing for a more effective and efficient response to maintenance.”

Transport and Main Roads will continue to assess the drone’s effectiveness at the Burdekin Bridge, with a view to use the technology elsewhere in Queensland.

ENDS

Media contact: TMR Media Unit, 3066 7060