

Bruce Highway

Townsville Northern Access Intersections Upgrade (TNAIU)

The \$107.65 million Townsville Northern Access Intersections Upgrade (TNAIU) project will duplicate 5.2 kilometres of the Bruce Highway north of Townsville at Black River between Veales Road and Pope Road.

Works will include:

- construction of a second bridge over Black River
- reducing the number of intersections with direct access to the highway to improve safety
- construction of three new service roads (Mt Kulburn Connection, Nora Road Extension and the Moree Road service road).

The Townsville Northern Access Intersections Upgrade is funded by the Australian and Queensland governments on an 80:20 basis.

The project is expected to commence in mid-2021 and be completed by early 2023, weather and construction conditions permitting.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the benefits of the project?

The project will greatly improve safety, efficiency and travel time reliability for the 14,000 freight and passenger vehicles that travel this section of the Bruce Highway every day.

There have been several serious crashes on this section of the highway recently, many involving head on collisions, where motorists have crossed the centreline into oncoming traffic.

The entire length of the duplication will be on separated carriageway with either a physical barrier or sufficient separation between the northbound and southbound traffic lanes, reducing the risk of these types of crashes in future.

There are several intersections and side streets with direct access to the highway. To improve safety for motorists, the number of direct accesses and intersections to the highway will be reduced, and the remaining intersections will change to a left in left out only configuration.

When motorists are entering the highway from a side street, they only need to look in one direction to merge onto the highway, thereby reducing the risk to cross two lanes of traffic coming in opposing directions.

Where can I find a project map?

The project map can be found at <https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/townsville-northern-access-intersections-upgrade>.

When will the project commence?

Detailed design has been completed and major construction works are planned to commence in mid-2021.



Australian Government

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Queensland Government

When will the project be completed?

The project is expected to be completed by early 2023, weather and construction conditions permitting.

Why am I seeing works onsite already?

In September 2020, RoadTek commenced early works on the project that are required prior to major construction. Early works will continue until the start of construction in mid-2021.

Crews have been undertaking clearing and other environmental management works to meet obligations under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* in relation to management of the Black-throated finch. Erosion and sediment control measures have been put in place around Black River to prevent runoff during the upcoming wet season and future wet weather events.

Public utility plant (PUP) works have commenced to relocate assets including telecommunications, electrical and 1.2 kilometres of the council-owned watermain.

What will be the speed limit once the project is completed?

Speed limits will be reduced during project construction. Once completed, the speed limit on the Bruce Highway between Veales Road and Pope Road will be reinstated to 100 kilometres per hour.

Who was consulted during the engagement process?

In 2018, to assist in developing a Business Case for the TNAIU project, TMR undertook preliminary engagement to identify issues that may impact on the design of the Church Road, Black River Road, Brabon Road and Mt Kulburn Drive intersections with the Bruce Highway, as well as the associated impacts on the local government road network.

TMR consulted with many stakeholders within the community including residents, Townsville City Council and local land developers.

Following completion of the TNAIU Business Case planning in late 2019, and upon receiving Australian Government funding approval in early 2020, TMR immediately commenced land resumption meetings with directly affected landholders and with landholders directly adjacent to the new service roads.

More recently, engagement has been carried out with the broader community to inform them of the project and this will continue over the next six to seven months until the commencement of the project in mid-2021. Engagement will continue throughout the duration of the project.

To stay up to date on project developments subscribe to the district's project stakeholder list by email engagement.northern@tmr.qld.gov.au or phone 1800 625 648.

Why did TMR choose a turnaround, or U-turn, lane configuration for Black River Road and Bowden Road?

The turnaround configuration is to improve the safety of intersections when the road is duplicated from two to four lanes. The reason for this change is to reduce the crash frequency and severity that occurs at T and cross intersections on multi-lane highways.

The north and south bound traffic lanes will be 24 metres apart at the turnaround points, allowing longer vehicles to safely wait in the turning lanes until it is safe to enter the highway traffic.

The dedicated turning lanes leading up to the turnaround areas will be 235 metres long with a 3.5 metre lane width, allowing turning vehicles to move out of the highway through traffic. The length of the turning lane is enough to allow B-doubles and a towing vehicles, such as horse floats, boats and caravans, to enter and safely decelerate from 100 kilometres per hour to a stop clear of the Bruce Highway traffic. Curve widening is also introduced at the end of the lane to facilitate the movement of these longer vehicles.

Were traffic signals at Black River Road / Bowden Road intersection a consideration?

During the early stages of project planning, numerous options were considered, including traffic signals. The aim of this project is to improve safety, capacity, travel efficiency and travel reliability for the more than 14,000 freight and passenger vehicles travelling on this section of the Bruce Highway each day.

Traffic signals would directly impact efficiency, without providing significant safety benefits over the unsignalised option. In turn, installing traffic signals could lead to more risk-taking behaviours and the potential for high-speed rear end crashes.

I access the Bruce Highway via Mt Kulburn Drive, what changes should I expect?

The Mt Kulburn Drive intersection with the Bruce Highway will be changed to a left in left out only configuration. To provide Mt Kulburn Drive residents with access to the southbound carriage (towards Townsville), a connection road will be built to link Mt Kulburn Drive to the Eden Park Development.

Access to the highway is provided via Darling Road and Veales Road. Alternatively, residents can use the Bruce Highway and Mt Kulburn Drive intersection to head north and use the turnaround facility north of Black River Road.

TMR has been working with the Eden Park developers regarding the Mt Kulburn Drive connection road to ensure the timing of construction of Eden Park ties into the proposed connection road.

I access the Bruce Highway via Church Road, what changes should I expect and what is the Nora Road Connection?

Due to its crash history and proximity to the existing Black River Bridge, road users will no longer be able to enter or exit the highway at Church Road. Church Road will be closed and become a cul-de-sac.

A new local road connection will be provided by extending Nora Road to connect Church Road and Black River Road. This will provide alternative, safer access to the highway, via the Black River Road intersection. Church Road traffic will continue to have the option of using Aurora Drive to connect to Black River Road.

Nora Road is currently an unsealed road owned by Townsville City Council providing property access to several properties on Nora Road.

Once built, the Nora Road extension will be handed over to Townsville City Council as a locally controlled road.

I access the Bruce Highway via Black River Road, what changes should I expect?

Black River Road is a major local-government controlled road, which is an approved B-double access road.

Currently, motorists wanting to turn right out of Black River Road need to cross three lanes of traffic, two through lanes and one turning lane, with over 14,000 vehicles per day on the Bruce Highway approaching from both directions. This significantly limits the gaps in the Bruce Highway traffic for vehicles to safely turn right onto the highway.

The new design will separate the north and south bound Bruce Highway traffic and allow a left turn only out of Black River Road. This means motorists entering the highway from side streets will only need to observe effectively half the traffic volume, approaching from one direction only.

Those wanting to travel right out of Black River Road, can now move straight across into the 235-metre turning lane opposite the intersection to access the new turnaround facility. The turnaround facility has been designed to safely cater for all approved use vehicles on this section of the Bruce Highway, including B-Doubles, defence vehicles and cars towing horse floats, boats and caravans. To help you visualise the length of the turning lane, it can accommodate 40 standard cars or 8 b-double trucks at one time.

Access to Black River Road from the north will be provided by the turnaround provision located 235 metres south of Black River Road.

What is the new Moree Service Road?

The construction of the Moree Road service road will deliver significant safety benefits by providing alternative access to four highway fronting properties. This access road will service these private properties only and will not be providing direct access from Moree Road to the Bruce Highway. Expected traffic volumes are predicted to be less than 100 vehicles per day on this new road, with a posted speed limit of 60 kilometres per hour.

What about Bowden Road, any improvements?

The Bowden Road service road entrance will be relocated 235 metres to the north. This will allow vehicles coming out of Bowden Road to have direct access to the southbound turning lane to access the turnaround facility.

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Access to Bowden Road from the south will be provided by the turnaround provision located 235 metres north of Bowden Road.

A new barrier fence will be installed at the northern end of the Bowden Road Service Road to prevent illegal access between Bowden Road and the Bruce Highway.

Is the Ambulance emergency access point being relocated?

There will be no changes to the location of the Northern Beaches Ambulance Station.

The Ambulance Station emergency access point on the north of Black River Bridge will be retained with a connection provided between the two carriageways for an emergency vehicle turn around and northbound connection.

The TNAIU project includes the provision of emergency access U-turn points to enable emergency services to quickly navigate throughout the project area.

What about Brabon Road, any improvements?

Brabon Road is unsealed with a rail open level crossing 300 metres from the highway and will be upgraded to a left in/left out intersection only.

Will TMR be duplicating the Black River Bridge?

Yes. A new bridge will be built on the downstream (eastern) side of the existing bridge and cater to southbound traffic, while the existing bridge will be dedicated for northbound traffic.

Some upgrades will occur on the existing bridge including works on the bridge surface and columns.

Pedestrian/cycle facilities

A new pedestrian/cycle pathway will be provided on the new Black River Bridge (on the downstream side) to provide safe access across Black River.

Pedestrian/cycle paths are also provided under each side of the bridge to provide connectivity on both sides of the highway.

Both the pedestrian/cycle path alongside and under the bridge will be illuminated with pathway lighting.

The TNAIU project includes the provision of shoulders where practical to allow for on-road bicycles.

Stay connected

To remain informed about TNAIU with regular project updates, you are invited to subscribe to free and informative construction update emails.

To register for this service or to find out more about this important Bruce Highway upgrade project, please contact the Customer and Stakeholder Management team.

Web: <https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/townsville-northern-access-intersections-upgrade>

Email: engagement.northern@tmr.qld.gov.au

Phone: 1800 625 648*
During business hours Mon to Fri 8.30am to 5pm

* Call charges apply when using mobile and pay phones.

For up-to-date information on traffic conditions please visit www.QLDTraffic.qld.gov.au or call **13 19 40**