



Australian Government

**BUILDING AUSTRALIA**



# Queensland

## Bruce Highway Upgrade – Safety Package

Infrastructure Investment Program



Connecting Australians | Enriching Communities | Empowering Regions  
**Supporting Priority Land Transport Infrastructure Projects**

### Project Scope

The Australian Government has committed an additional \$7.2 billion to bring forward new safety works on priority sections of the Bruce Highway north of Gympie. This is the single largest investment made to the Bruce Highway.

The Bruce Highway Upgrade – Safety Package will complement existing upgrades and bring forward new safety projects along the whole corridor with the initial focus on priority sections north of Gympie.

Priority sections may include:

- Maryborough to Benaraby
- Rockhampton to St Lawrence
- Bowen to Townsville
- Ingham to Innisfail

The sections have been identified due to their higher than average crash rates. The identification and prioritisation of projects under the package will be informed by the Queensland Government and the re-established Bruce Highway Advisory Council.

The package will include the following types of projects:

- Install safety barriers, wide centre lines and audio tactile line marking
- Construct wider shoulders, increase run off areas and remove roadside hazards
- Reseal and rehabilitate pavement
- Construct new overtaking lanes and rest areas
- Improve intersections, signage, sight lines and drainage

# BRUCE HIGHWAY UPGRADE - SAFETY PACKAGE



## Funding

**Total Project Cost:** \$9 billion

**Australian Government Commitment:** \$7.2 billion

**Queensland Government Commitment:** \$1.8 billion

## Benefits

The package will improve safety and resilience along the Bruce Highway. The package will prioritise areas north of Gympie with the poorest safety record to reduce the severity and frequency of crashes. Long-term funding will help manage market constraints and provide delivery certainty.

## Delivery Timeframes

Construction will commence in 2025 and is expected to be completed in 2032.

# Bruce Highway

## About the Bruce Highway

The 1,673 kilometre Bruce Highway is Queensland's major north-south corridor, connecting Brisbane to the major regional centres of Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns. The highway is critical to the movement of passengers, freight and tourists across the state and supports around 62 per cent of the population in Queensland.

The Bruce Highway carries a significant volume of traffic ranging from around 2,600 vehicles per day north of Rockhampton to around 165,000 vehicles per day north of Brisbane. Heavy vehicle traffic ranges between 600 to 23,000 vehicles per day with heavy vehicles transporting around 20 million tonnes of freight each year along the Bruce Highway.

High traffic volumes, different vehicle types, variable weather patterns and unfamiliar driving conditions creates significant safety challenges along the highway. Safety is generally lower in heavily populated areas north of Brisbane and less populated areas in regional sections north of Gympie that typically have a single, narrow carriageway with limited overtaking opportunities. This coupled with high speeds and long distances has resulted in some sections of the highway experiencing higher than average crash rates compared to similar types of highways in Australia. Given the challenging terrain and limited detour opportunities, crashes can often close the highway for extended periods increasing travel times and impacting supply chains.

## Previous Investment and Outcomes

The Australian Government has already committed over \$10 billion to improve safety, reduce congestion and boost flood resilience along the Bruce Highway. This investment has resulted in a significant improvement in safety including a reduction of crash rates of between 20 and 30 per cent along sections north of Gympie. This investment has delivered the following:

- 582 kilometres of roadside safety barriers
- 255 kilometres of wide centre line treatments
- 73 kilometres of highway duplication
- 211 protected turn lanes and intersections
- 130 new bridges
- 100 new and upgraded overtaking lanes
- 72 township upgrades and entry treatments
- 66 new and upgraded rest areas
- 8 flood immunity upgrades
- Installed new signage and audio tactile line marking
- Improve intersections, signage, sight lines and drainage

Despite these positive outcomes, further investment is required to continue safety improvements along the Bruce Highway. Further investment is also required to help meet the ambitious target set by the Queensland Government to reduce fatality crashes on the Bruce Highway by 60 per cent by 2030.

### **Current Investment and Corridors**

In addition to the \$7.2 billion in new funding for the Bruce Highway Upgrade – Safety Package, key projects along the highway include:

#### **Bruce Highway South Corridor (492 kilometres from Brisbane to Gladstone)**

**Total Australian Government Funding:** \$5.64 billion

##### **Key Projects:**

- Cooroy to Curra Section D (Gympie Bypass) – Complete – \$929.6 million
- Gateway Motorway Bracken Ridge to Pine River – In Planning – \$800 million
- Dohles Rocks Road to Anzac Avenue – In Planning – \$758.4 million
- Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway – Completed – \$711.62 million

#### **Bruce Highway Central Corridor (631 kilometres from Gladstone to Bowen)**

**Total Australian Government Funding:** \$1.57 billion

##### **Key Projects:**

- Mackay Ring Road – Under Construction – \$397.9 million
- O'Connell River to Proserpine Flood Immunity Upgrade – In Planning – \$376 million
- Mackay Port Access – Under Construction – \$280 million
- Gladstone to Rockhampton Upgrades – In Planning – \$200 million

The Australian Government's \$1.17 billion commitment to the Rockhampton Ring Road also forms part of the Bruce Highway but does not fall in the Bruce Highway Central Corridor.

#### **Bruce Highway North Corridor (550 kilometres from Bowen to Cairns)**

**Total Australian Government Funding:** \$1.85 billion

##### **Key Projects:**

- Southern Cairns Access Corridor – Complete – \$460 million
- Haughton River Floodplain Upgrade – Complete – \$295.85 million
- Townsville Ring Road – Complete – \$224 million
- Cairns Southern Access Road Upgrade – Under Construction – \$180 million

#### **Bruce Highway Safety Package (1,673 kilometres from Brisbane to Cairns)**

**Total Australian Government Funding:** \$1.35 billion

##### **Key Projects:**

- Safety Package – Under Construction – \$808.38 million
- Overtaking Lanes – Completed – \$324.73 million
- Black Spots, Rest Areas and Safety Upgrades – Under Construction – \$175.21 million
- Road Operations Improvement – Under Construction - \$44.81 million