

BRUCE HIGHWAY:

COOROY TO CURRA SECTION B: SANKEYS ROAD TO TRAVESTON ROAD

The Bruce Highway is the main artery connecting one end of Queensland to another, and is heavily used by freight, tourists and also for local traffic. Upgrading the highway to enable safer, faster travel for long distance drivers and better meet the needs of commuters and local traffic has been made a priority by both the state and federal governments.

To meet all of these needs for the section of Bruce Highway between Cooroy and Curra in one project required clever planning and comprehensive community consultation. The Recommended Corridor Report developed by the Queensland Government for the proposed new highway corridor has been designed to meet modern motorway standards which cater for safer higher speed travel. To improve safety along this section, the reconfigured highway will be a limited access road which caters for an initial four-lane divided highway, providing two lanes in each direction with a wide central median. To meet future needs involving increased traffic volumes, provision is being made for possible extra lanes at a later date.

The proposed new corridor for the Cooroy to Curra stretch is a lengthy 61km, which has been divided into four sections for construction. The selected route has been designed to create a safer, more efficient highway with an improved flood immunity. The proposal restricts direct driveway access, maintains adequate spacing between intersections and interchanges and divides opposing lanes of traffic. The recommended corridor was developed in close consultation with the wider community, local councils and other stakeholders.

The existing Bruce Highway will remain as a local arterial road, maintain connectivity and provide access to the local roads and properties that currently have direct access to the existing highway. The connections of

existing network and local roads will be maintained by under/overpasses where feasible.

The four sections of the project are:

- Section A (Cooroy southern interchange to Sankeys Road)
- Section B (Sankeys Road to Traveston Road) - the construction priority due to safety and traffic needs
- Section C (Traveston Road to Keefton Road)
- Section D (Keefton Road to Curra) - Gympie bypass.

Construction priority has been given to Section B, with leading civil contractor, Abigroup, undertaking the complex tasks of constructing contracts one and four within this section. Section B is being completed with a budget of \$513 million and is on target to achieve a late 2012 completion, despite the extensive challenges to the works program caused by the extreme weather and flooding of early 2011.

Abigroup's works program for contract 4, the final major construction contract for Section B, includes the construction of an interchange at the Traveston end of the project; realignment of a section of Traveston Road to the east of the interchange; a new link road from the interchange west to Gympie-Brooloo Road (known locally as Mary Valley Road) including bridges over Coles Creek and the Mary River; and construction of bridges over Skyring Creek at Federal in the south.

The new interchange will be located about one kilometre south of Traveston Road and will provide access in all directions to and from the new highway and the existing Bruce Highway, which will be designated as a service road for local traffic. A section of the existing Bruce Highway, plus

the intersection with Carlson Road (north), will be realigned to connect with the new interchange.

Work also includes the realignment of a section of Traveston Road, beginning near Thomason Road to the east, which will connect Traveston Road to the new interchange. Once complete, the existing Traveston Road intersection with the highway will be closed with safer access provided via the all-directional interchange.

A new road is also being built from the new Traveston interchange, west into the Mary Valley. This new link road will improve safety at the existing Traveston Crossing Road/Bruce Highway intersection, which has previously been an accident black spot. Following the completion of the new link road, right hand turns from Traveston Crossing Road onto the Bruce Highway will no longer be allowed to ensure motorists safety. The new Mary Valley Link Road will improve access to and from the Mary Valley, particularly during periods of flooding and support local industries by providing appropriate highway access for heavy vehicles.

The Dobson Road/Gympie-Brooloo Road (Mary Valley Road) intersection will also be upgraded to improve safety. The link road will include bridges over Coles Creek and the Mary River. The Mary River Bridge will be built to the height of the upper flood plain and will have a flood immunity of about a one-in-20 year rain event. This is a vast improvement on the existing Traveston Crossing Bridge which floods frequently.

Milestones achieved on the Section B project to date have included the completion of the Skyring Creek minor diversion, which became operational in October 2011; completion of the Pier 3 and 4 columns to the twin bridges (south); completion of Abutment A to the twin bridges; completion of Pier 1 headstock on the southbound bridge; and continued excavation and construction of the upstream rock protection and topsoiling finishing works to the Skyring Creek main diversion.

In 2011 the gravel and bitumen seal pavements on the service road were completed; significant progress in drainage works with the installation of the majority of large pipework; completion of the major bridgeworks

milestone at the Traveston interchange Overpass, N10 deck unit installation and the commencement of piling works at Coles Creek.

Section B is due currently on track for completion in late 2012.

Abigroup is one of Australia's leading and most diverse national contractors, with 50 years of experience delivering works in building, roads, rail, water, mining services, tunnels, bridges, energy and telecommunications. To date it has successfully delivered some of the country's largest and most important infrastructure and construction projects and is poised to continue this success into the future.

ABIGROUP
GPO Box 2777
South Bank QLD 4001
t. 07 3020 8200
www.abigroup.com.au



The Bruce Highway Upgrade - Cooroy to Curra Section B:
Sankeys Road to Traveston Road, Qld



RELIABLE EXPERTISE IN THE CIVIL SECTOR

With megatonnes of earth to move for the Cooroy to Curra section of the Bruce Highway upgrade, Abigroup relied on AE Group Civil and Mining to supplement their own construction fleet with additional major plant and skilled operators for construction.

The project scope consisted of the removal of 7 Million cubic metres of material to tight time constraints. AE Group mobilised plant including PC 1100 Komatsu excavators with a fleet of 50T Rear Dump Trucks. Final trim batter work was undertaken with several PC 300-8 excavators (with GPS) providing fast efficient and pegless operations. AE graders with GPS capability were also utilised in the bulk earthworks crews for haul road maintenance and management of fills, which was accomplished by the company's skilled final trim operators.

The large volumes of material hauled through the project required the AE fleet to interact with other construction traffic extensively, which was managed without incident due to the high standards of safety awareness and attention to task management instilled in their team.

Another recent major project AE Group has completed is the South East QLD Correctional Precinct for Baulderstone Queensland. They undertook all the civil works including 900,000m² of clearing, 850,000m² topsoil removal and 1.2 Million Cut to Fill; they also constructed 5km of drainage channels, HDPE lined water retention and waste water basins, evaporation ponds and 6km of road built to Queensland Main Roads standards. In excess of 60 AE machines worked on the site.

AE Group have the manpower, machines and construction capability to undertake an extremely wide range of projects and developments across Queensland. Their core areas of operations include Bulk earthwork excavations, screening and crushing operations, subdivisions, building and construction, dam construction, civil and concrete construction, earthworks

formation, land reclamation, contaminated waste removal, quarrying, mining and plant hire.

The plant available for hire includes dozers to 100tonne; excavators to 120tonne; graders to Cat 16H; scrapers Cat 657 and Cat 631E; 50 tonne dump trucks; compactors; servicing facilities; 6WD Trucks; and crushers/ screening equipment. There is GPS control on the graders, dozers and excavators, to ensure detailed works are carried out with the utmost of accuracy and efficiency. All AE Group equipment is subject to a comprehensive preventative maintenance schedule.

Because many of AE Group's projects require a level of self-reliance in places where water, power and site amenities are extremely minimal, the company has an incredibly comprehensive range of plant for use on direct contracts. This includes a wide range of pumps, mobile office and workshop facilities, service trucks, personnel transport, loaders for plant transport, lighting tower, cranes, fuel trucks, high volume water fill point trucks, whacker packers and site generators.

AE Group are committed to maintaining extremely high levels of OH&S management, and holds third party certification for Safety (AS/NZ 4801:2001) Quality (ISO9001:2008) and Environmental (ISO 14001:2004) management systems, enabling them to deliver sound environmental outcomes and constructing quality results for clients on time, within budget and with complete reliability and professionalism.

AE GROUP CIVIL AND MINING

81 Distillery Road
Yatala QLD 4207
t. 07 3807 0633
f. 07 3807 9393
e. office@alexanderson.com.au
www.alexanderson.com.au