Bruce Highway (Gateway Motorway to Dohles Rocks Road) upgrade

Public Environment Report
– public comment period open.

Key benefits for the community

- Improves safety
- Improves network efficiency
- Increases capacity

The Queensland Government has prepared a Public Environment Report for the Bruce Highway (Gateway Motorway to Dohles Rocks Road) upgrade as part of the assessment process under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

EPBC Act

The EPBC Act is administered by the Australian Government's National Environmental Protection Agency (National EPA). It protects the environment by regulating activities that may impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).

MNES within the local area near the upgrade include threatened species (such as Koala, Grey-headed flying fox and Water Mouse), threatened ecological communities, wetlands of international importance (for example, Ramsar wetlands), and migratory bird species (such as, the Latham's Snipe).

Public Environment Report

The Public Environment Report contains information about the upgrades, its relevant impacts on the MNES under the EPBC Act and outlines the mitigation measures the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is undertaking to minimise and manage impacts.

The report follows the National EPA guidelines and includes detailed and technical information to comply with the EPBC Act.

This fact sheet provides a summary of the key information outlined in the Public Environment Report and how you can provide your feedback for consideration as part of the EPBC Act approval process.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Provide your feedback on the Public Environment Report

Online: www.yoursay-projects.tmr.qld.gov.au/gateway-motorway-bruce-highway-upgrades/bruce-highway-gateway-motorway-dohles-rocks-road-stage-2

Email: gmbhu@tmr.qld.gov.au

Post:
Department of Transport and Main Roads
PO BOX 70,
Spring Hill QLD 4004

Comment period from 17 November 2026 to 14 December 2026.

Hard copies of the report can be viewed from the 17 November 2026 at:

Bracken Ridge Library
77 Bracken Street, Bracken Ridge

State Library of Queensland (John Oxley Library)
Stanley Place, South Brisbane

Project benefits

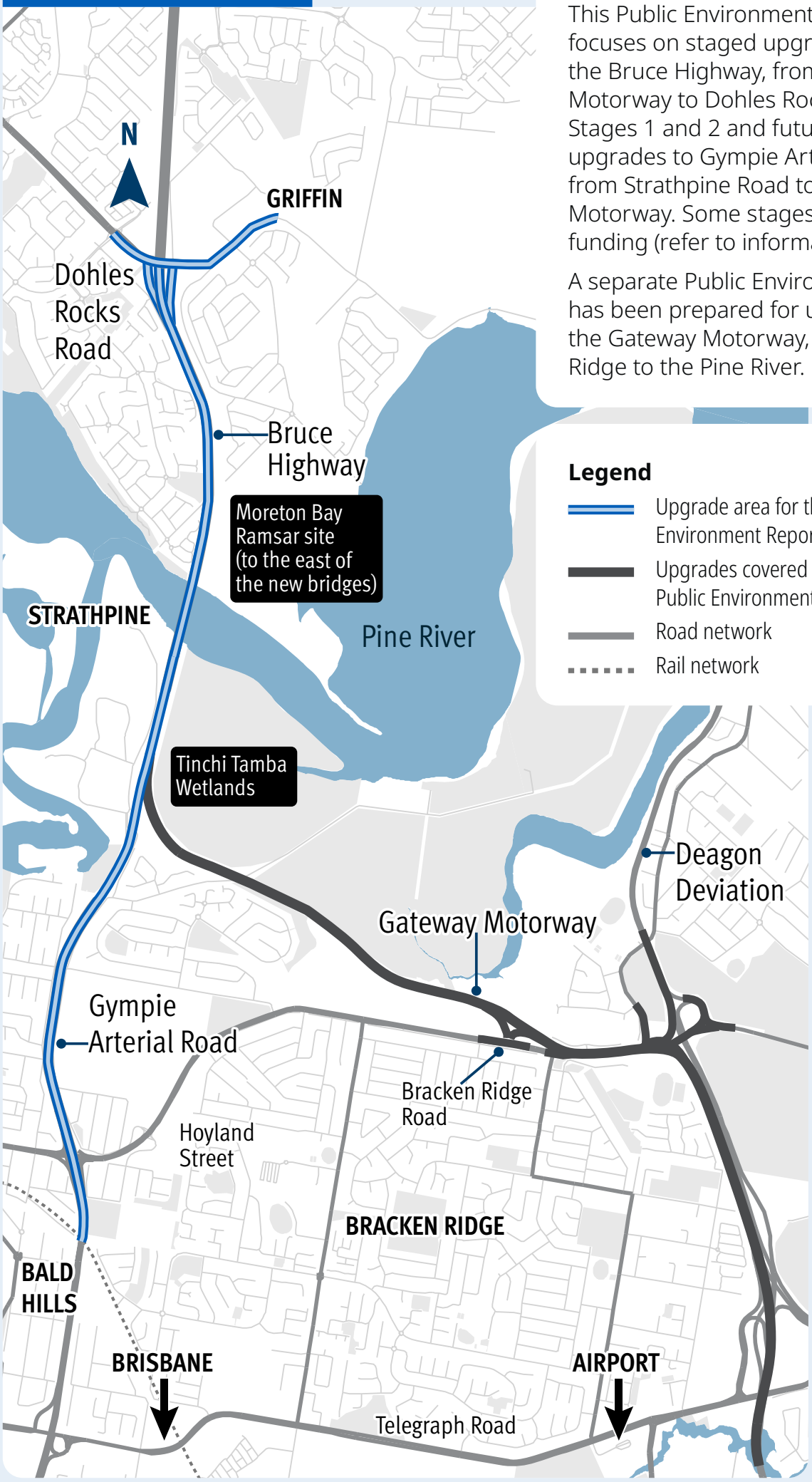
- Safer, more reliable journeys
- Shorter travel times

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Public Environment Report – map



This Public Environment Report focuses on staged upgrades including the Bruce Highway, from the Gateway Motorway to Dohles Rocks Road Stages 1 and 2 and future potential upgrades to Gympie Arterial Road, from Strathpine Road to the Gateway Motorway. Some stages are subject to funding (refer to information overleaf).

A separate Public Environment Report has been prepared for upgrades to the Gateway Motorway, from Bracken Ridge to the Pine River.

Legend

- Upgrade area for this Public Environment Report
- Upgrades covered in a separate Public Environment Report
- Road network
- Rail network

Project background

The Bruce Highway in north Brisbane and southern Moreton Bay Region is currently experiencing severe traffic congestion, with traffic expected to increase by more than 50 percent by 2041. Upgrades are critical to cater for increasing travel demands and improve safety on this vital section of the National Highway.

Staged upgrades

The upgrade to the Bruce Highway from the Gateway Motorway to Dohles Rocks Road has been split into stages, in accordance with available funding.

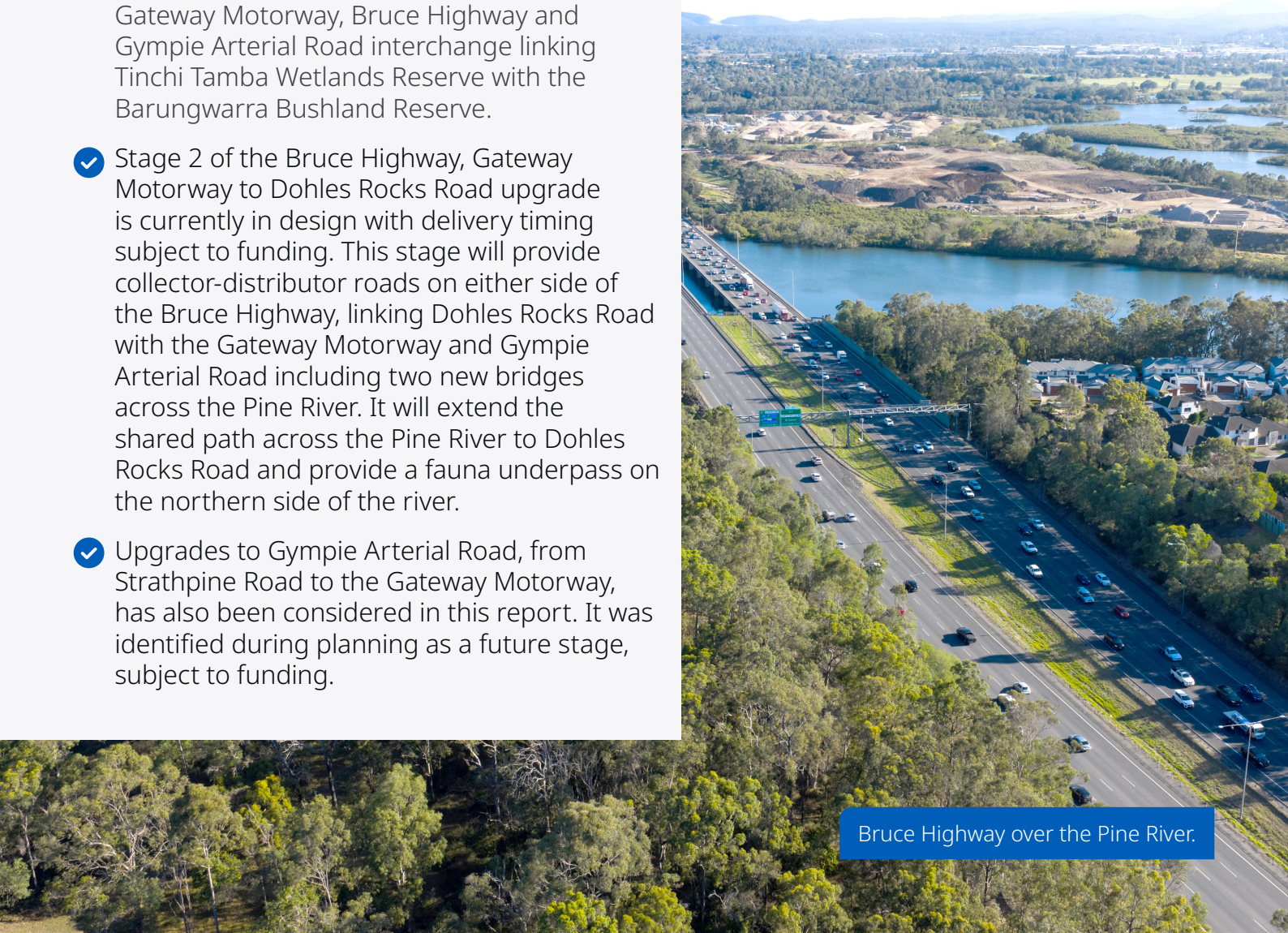
- Stage 1 is being delivered in conjunction with upgrades to the Gateway Motorway, Bracken Ridge to Pine River. This stage is funded and currently in design, progressing to construction. It will provide upgrades to the Bruce Highway interchange with the Gateway Motorway and Gympie Arterial Road, south of the Pine River.
- Stage 1 also includes active transport provisions and a fauna connection under the Gateway Motorway, Bruce Highway and Gympie Arterial Road interchange linking Tinchi Tamba Wetlands Reserve with the Barungwarra Bushland Reserve.
- Stage 2 of the Bruce Highway, Gateway Motorway to Dohles Rocks Road upgrade is currently in design with delivery timing subject to funding. This stage will provide collector-distributor roads on either side of the Bruce Highway, linking Dohles Rocks Road with the Gateway Motorway and Gympie Arterial Road including two new bridges across the Pine River. It will extend the shared path across the Pine River to Dohles Rocks Road and provide a fauna underpass on the northern side of the river.
- Upgrades to Gympie Arterial Road, from Strathpine Road to the Gateway Motorway, has also been considered in this report. It was identified during planning as a future stage, subject to funding.

Environmental considerations during planning

Protecting Queensland's unique natural environment has been a key focus during project planning. The upgrade is adjacent to the Tinchi Tamba Wetlands and near the Moreton Bay Ramsar site.

During the project planning phase (2020 to 2024), comprehensive investigations were undertaken to understand the local natural environment and potential impacts from the upgrade – both during construction and in the long-term.

Given the environmentally sensitive areas close to the project area, the natural environment was an important consideration when planning for the upgrade. However, due to the constrained nature of the existing road corridor, some impacts to the environment are necessary to accommodate the works.



Bruce Highway over the Pine River.

Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) near the project area

A key component of the Public Environment Report is assessing potential impacts from the upgrades on nearby MNES and identifying mitigation measures to be implemented. The following MNES have been identified near or within the project area.



Koala.



Water Mouse. Source: © Mackay Region Natural Environment.



Grey-headed flying foxes.



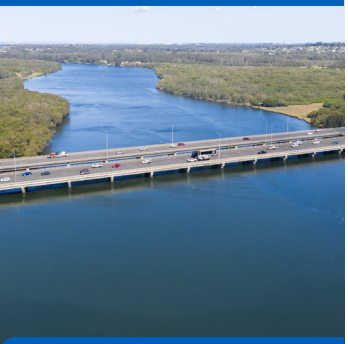
Subtropical Eucalypt Forest.

Project impacts	Planned mitigation
Koala – threatened species The upgrades will involve removing some Koala habitat next to the existing motorway to accommodate the road widening.	✓ › Fauna underpasses and exclusion fencing to support fauna connectivity. › Offset planting in the wider regional area. › During construction, undertake pre-clearing surveys and sequential clearing with fauna spotters and catchers on the ground. › Install fauna fencing when works start to prevent fauna accessing the road corridor.
Water Mouse – threatened species The upgrades will involve removing some habitat used by the Water Mouse next to the existing highway adjacent to the Pine River to accommodate the road widening.	✓ › Habitat improvement at a site in the wider regional area. › During construction, undertake pre-clearing surveys and sequential clearing with fauna spotters and catchers on the ground.
Grey-headed flying fox – threatened species The upgrades will involve removing some habitat used by Grey-headed flying foxes next to the existing highway to accommodate the road widening.	✓ › Ensure no barbed wire is installed as part of the upgrades (which is a hazard to flying foxes). › Offset planting in the wider regional area. › Revegetate where suitable with flowering species to support flying foxes foraging long-term. › During construction, undertake pre-clearing surveys and sequential clearing with fauna spotters and catchers on the ground.
Threatened ecological communities The upgrades will involve removing some habitat from a threatened ecology communities (Subtropical Eucalypt Forest and Coastal Swamp Oak) next to the existing motorway to accommodate the road widening.	✓ › Offset planting in the wider regional area.

Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) near the project area



Latham's Snipe.



Pine River bridges.

Project impacts	Planned mitigation
Migratory birds Migratory birds, such as Latham's Snipe, are known to use habitat within the local vicinity for foraging.	✓ › The project will implement best practice lighting design principles, where installed lighting will be directed only toward the road to minimise impacts to migratory birds.
Pine River - part of Moreton Bay Ramsar site, wetland of international importance The design will not have any direct impacts on the Moreton Bay Ramsar site. The new bridges will be constructed to the west (upstream) of the Ramsar site boundary and will run parallel to the existing bridge to minimise the disturbance footprint.	✓ › During construction TMR will undertake water quality management actions such as surface water and groundwater monitoring. › Erosion and sediment controls will be implemented to prevent sediment and runoff from entering waterways.

Other local plants and animals

TMR recognises the areas surrounding the project are home to many local animals and plants. However, as the EPBC Act focuses on federally listed MNES, the Public Environment Report primarily assesses potential impacts to these matters.

As part of project planning, TMR has identified other local plants and animals that may be impacted by the upgrades and will work to minimise impacts on them.

Next steps

Following the public comment period, TMR will consider all feedback received and incorporate it in the final Public Environment Report to be approved by the National EPA. Once approved, the report will again be made publicly available.

The National EPA will then assess the upgrades under the EPBC Act and make a decision as to whether they can proceed. If approved, specific conditions will be set for TMR to follow.

For further information on the upgrades – including key features, staging, and timing, **scan the QR code.**

www.tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/bruce-highway-brisbane-gympie-gateway-motorway-to-dohles-rocks-road-upgrade-stage-2-detailed-design

Stay up to date

Search on tmr.qld.gov.au:
Bruce Highway Gateway Motorway Upgrades

Email: gmbhu@tmr.qld.gov.au

Call: 1800 042 949
(9am – 5pm Monday to Friday)

Post:
Department of Transport and Main Roads
PO Box 70,
Spring Hill, QLD 4004

For further information, or if you require translation or support services to access the documentation, please contact the project team.

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