Gateway Motorway, Bracken Ridge to Pine River 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 Gateway Motorway, Bracken Ridge to Pine River 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 Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). It protects the environment by regulating activities that may impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).

MNES within the local area near the Gateway Motorway, Bracken Ridge to Pine River 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 (for example, 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 Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is undertaking to minimise and manage impacts.

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

HAVE YOUR SAY

Provide your feedback on the Public Environment Report online at

Online: https://www.yoursay-projects.tmr.qld.gov.au/gateway-motorway-bruce-highway-upgrades

Email: gmbhu@tmr.qld.gov.au

Deadline: By 5pm, Tuesday 28 July 2026

Hard copies of the report can be viewed at:

Bracken Ridge Library
77 Bracken Street, Bracken Ridge

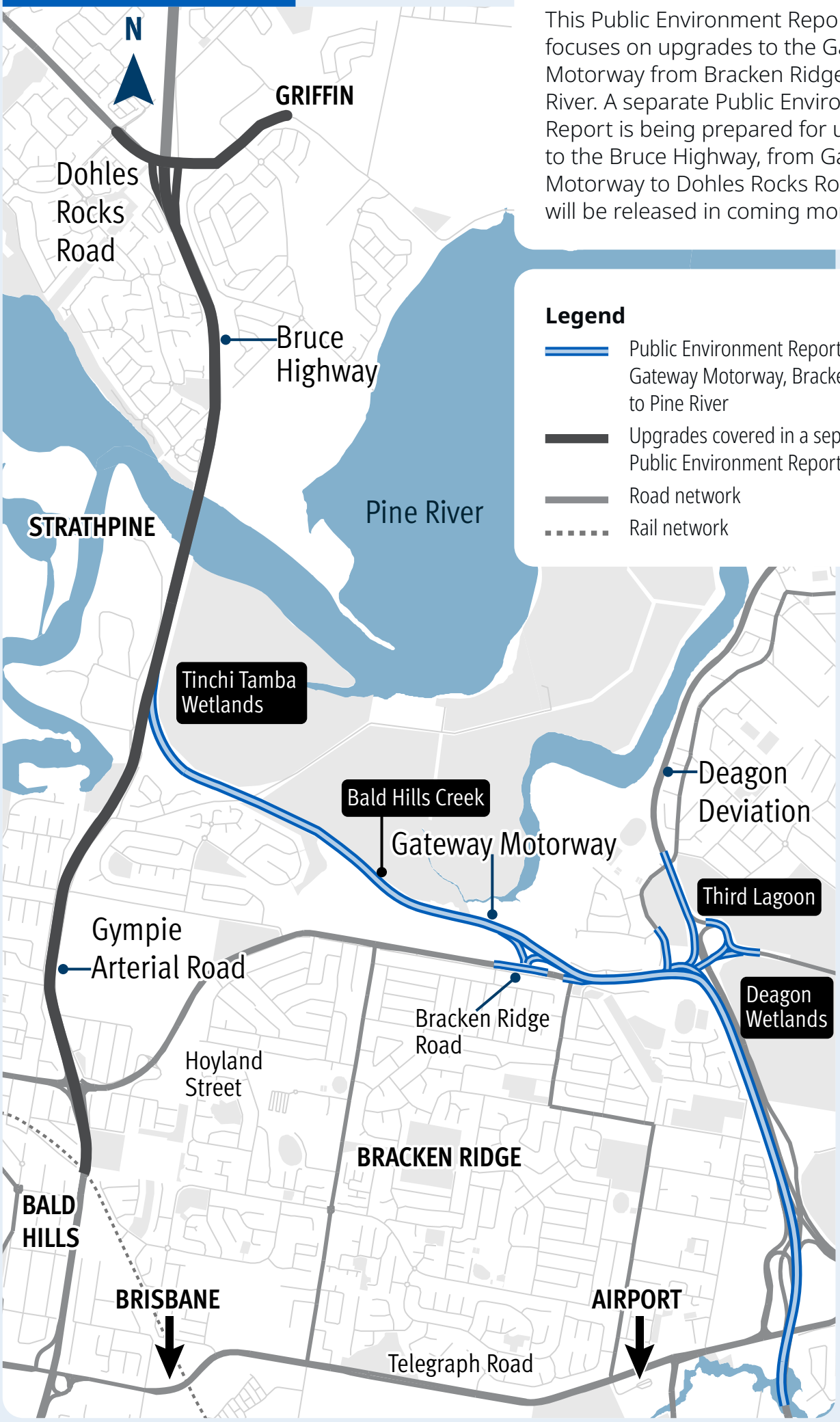
John Oxley Library
Level 4, State Library of Queensland
Stanley Place, Brisbane

For further information, or if you require translation or support services to access the documentation, please contact the project team on **1800 607 755** (9am – 5pm Monday to Friday).

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.

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Public environment report – map



This Public Environment Report focuses on upgrades to the Gateway Motorway from Bracken Ridge to Pine River. A separate Public Environment Report is being prepared for upgrades to the Bruce Highway, from Gateway Motorway to Dohles Rocks Road, and will be released in coming months.

Legend

- Public Environment Report: Gateway Motorway, Bracken Ridge to Pine River
- Upgrades covered in a separate Public Environment Report
- Road network
- Rail network

Project background

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

The upgrade will provide:

- additional lanes on the Gateway Motorway
- an improved motorway curve and consistent 100km/r motorway speed at Bracken Ridge
- staged improvements to the Bruce Highway interchange with Gateway Motorway and Gympie Arterial Road, south of the Pine River.

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, Deagon Wetlands and near the Moreton Bay Ramsar Site (Third Lagoon).

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 developing options for the upgrade. The option progressed involves widening the existing Gateway Motorway road corridor on either side. This approach minimises impacts to the surrounding environment (when compared to creating a new road corridor) while also balancing land impacts to private property to accommodate the upgrade.

Project benefits

- Safer, more reliable journey
- Shorter travel times



Image: Gateway Motorway at Bracken Ridge.

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.



Image: Koala.



Image: Water mouse. Source: © Mackay Region Natural Environment



Image: Grey-headed flying foxes.

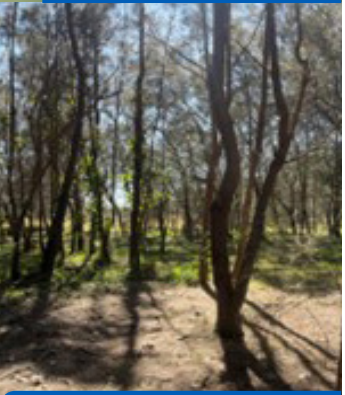


Image: Coastal Swamp Oak .

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 motorway to accommodate the road widening.	✓ › Habitat quality improvement 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 motorway 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 community (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



Image: Latham's Snipe.



Image: Third Lagoon, Deagon Wetlands Reserve.

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.
Third Lagoon - part of Moreton Bay Ramsar site, wetland of international importance Third Lagoon, part of Moreton Bay Ramsar site, is located next to Bracken Ridge Road and Deagon Deviation in Brighton. The Gateway Motorway upgrade involves minor works on Bracken Ridge Road adjacent to Third Lagoon and Deagon Wetlands. All works will remain within the existing road corridor and will not directly impact Third Lagoon.	✓ › 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 the project planning, TMR has identified other local plants and animals that may be impacted by the upgrades and will work to minimise impacts.

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 DCCEEW. Once approved, the report will again be made publicly available.

DCCEEW 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.**

tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/gateway-motorway-bracken-ridge-to-pine-river-upgrade

Stay up to date

Search on tmr.qld.gov.au: 'Gateway Motorway, Bracken Ridge to Pine River upgrade'

Email: gmbhu@tmr.qld.gov.au

Call: 1800 607 755

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

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