

PLANNING OUR FUTURE

The Gympie Region Planning Scheme

Bruce Highway Upgrade Response Fact Sheet

The State Government is in the final stages of completing the Bruce Highway Upgrade from Woondum to Curra which will change how residents and visitors move through the region.

These changes are expected to include:

- Time saving trips along Bruce Highway between points north and south of Gympie
- Reduced peak hour traffic volumes through town by between 31 per cent and 34 per cent
- New access routes to the town centre, with impacts to pedestrian and road networks

With reduced through-traffic, Gympie is likely to see improved amenity and safety, but reduced business and tourism.

This fact sheet outlines the intended response to the State Government's Bruce Highway Upgrade project, as part of the Planning Scheme Review.

What does the highway upgrade have to do with the planning scheme?

The new highway route will change the way traffic and people move through Gympie, which may require changes to roads and intersections, parking, and traffic management in local streets. We have the opportunity to improve conditions for cars, pedestrians, and cyclists. Therefore, it is important to consider these changes in the broader planning for our region.

What is council's role?

This is a State Government project, and many of the new connections into Gympie will use State roads. Therefore, council's role is to identify issues important to our community and collaborate with the State Government, through Department of Transport and Main Roads, to minimise the impacts and enhance opportunities for our Region.

Specifically, Council has identified the following issues as being important to the Gympie community, to focus advocacy to Department of Transport and Main Roads.

1. Flood Road interchange

Council recommends that the State Government undertake the following needed road and traffic improvements:

- Flood Road is upgraded to reflect its role as a heavy vehicle route.
- Hall Road railway overpass bridge is upgraded for two-way traffic and heavy vehicles, and for access in a flood event.
- Sight distances are improved at the Noosa Road / Brisbane Road intersection.

2. Gympie interchange

Council recommends that the State Government prioritise the corridor from the new Gympie Interchange to the existing Bruce Highway, including:

- Direct and safe route from the Gympie interchange to the town centre and on to the current Bruce Highway.
- Minimise the impacts upon heritage value from any works.
- Support and preserve safe movement for pedestrians and cycling.
- Optimise landscaping and street trees.

3. Curra Interchange

- The proposed Curra industrial area is developed to take full advantage of the connection to the new highway interchange.

4. Walkability, pedestrian, and active transport connections

- Safe walking and active transport should be consistently available, connecting points of interest and local services, with the existing Bruce Highway corridor as a priority.
- This area will constitute the long-term supply of industrial and employment land for the region.

5. Entry points, wayfinding, and landscaping

- Landscaping and wayfinding methods will be used to enhance the ease and comfort of travelling through town.
- On-highway wayfinding on the Woondum to Curra section should be consistent with that provided elsewhere on the highway upgrade.

6. Lot configuration of surplus land

- Request Department of Transport and Main Roads to work with Council to resolve the future use and configuration of land no longer needed once the project is completed.

7. Land use and zoning along the old highway

- Traffic along the existing Bruce Highway through Gympie is expected to change once the upgraded highway section is open.
- A review of land uses along the 'by-passed' highway, within the Gympie urban area, will be undertaken by Council once the new highway is completed.

Have your say

Council is currently seeking feedback on the intended approach to industrial development, along with a range of other issues, to inform the Planning Scheme Review.

Visit www.gympie.qld.gov.au/planning-our-future to find out more about the Gympie Regional Council Planning Scheme Review Project and provide feedback on a range of important topics until 23 July 2023.

