

Coomera Connector Stage 1

(Second M1)

Stage 1 North – Shipper Drive to Helensvale Road



Artist's impression: Hope Island Road.

The Coomera Connector is South East Queensland's largest road infrastructure project and will improve how we move around our neighbourhoods. The \$2.16 billion Stage 1 project, between Coomera and Nerang, is jointly funded (50:50) by the Australian Government and Queensland Government.

In November 2021, Acciona Georgiou Joint Venture (AGJV) was awarded an early works contract to progress the design and commence early works for Stage 1 North, from Shipper Drive, Coomera to Helensvale Road, Helensvale.

Design

During the design phase, some changes and improvements were made. These include:

- local connection points for the active transport shared path
- location of the rest area on the shared path
- upgrades to surrounding local roads at interchange locations.

An updated design is included in the centrefold.

Key highlights



The Coomera Connector will be a high-speed motorway.



Stage 1 North will be four lanes with future widening into the centre median to six lanes.



Open graded asphalt road surface used for increased safety and reduced noise.



Stage 1 North will include the construction of six new bridge structures.



Working with local environmental groups to promote sustainable outcomes.





Artist's impression: Noise fence treatment.

Design update



Shipper Drive interchange

Until future stages of the Coomera Connector are built, Shipper Drive will be the end point and will be the main direct access route to the Coomera Connector in the north. The Stage 1 North package will:

- realign and widen Shipper Drive to four lanes between Foxwell Road and Waterway Drive
- convert the existing roundabout at Foxwell Road and Shipper Drive to a fully signalised intersection
- construct a signalised intersection on Shipper Drive (between Oaky Creek and Foxwell Road).



Coomera River bridge

The new Coomera River bridge is almost one kilometre long, from the overflow on the north bank, across the Coomera River and over Hope Island Road and Saltwater Creek.

The section over the Coomera River will be built at a height similar to the existing rail corridor bridge and will meet all design requirements as outlined in the Maritime Safety Queensland's Beacon to Beacon Guides (www.msq.qld.gov.au/Beacon-to-Beacon-Guides/Gold-Coast-guides).



Artist's impression: Coomera River bridge (north bank).



Noise mitigation

We recognise noise is a key concern for residents who live close to the Coomera Connector. To address road traffic noise, the Stage 1 North package includes almost four kilometres of Noise barriers that will be:

- installed on both sides of the corridor between Saltwater Creek and Helensvale Road and across parts of the Coomera River bridge
- up to a maximum height of six metres depending on the location and terrain
- a mix of clear and coloured acrylic panels in many locations to maximise natural light and improve visual amenity.

Noise barrier locations and heights are now being finalised and AGJV will soon contact adjacent property owners to discuss in further detail.



Artist's impression: Active transport path.



Active transport network

A new four metre wide shared pedestrian and bike path on the eastern side of the motorway will provide active transport opportunities that have previously been unavailable.

The shared path will provide connections to key community hubs at Shipper Drive, Beattie Road, the new Hope Island train station, Condamine Crescent, Monterey Keys, Rosswood Park and Helensvale Road.

Based on community feedback and to improve safety and amenity, the rest area has been located on the northern side of the river.



Artist's impression: Helensvale Road interchange (background) and active transport path (foreground).



Saltwater Creek Reserve

Saltwater Creek Reserve and the car parking area will be temporarily closed, and the amenities block demolished to make way for construction activities in this area. Access to Saltwater Creek will still be available from the southern bank via River Downs Park.

AGJV will work with City of Gold Coast to reinstate the park towards completion of the project.



Warrego Way pedestrian underpass

For safety reasons, the rail underpass between Warrego Way and Westpark Court in Helensvale will permanently close.

To keep this access under the rail line, new motorway and interchange ramps would require a 100-metre-long and angled tunnel that would create an unsafe environment for active transport users and the neighbourhood. A safer option is to use the existing path on Helensvale Road.



Helensvale Road interchange

Helensvale Road is the end point of Stage 1 North and the start point for Stage 1 Central. AGJV will build the on-ramp and off-ramp on the northern side of Helensvale Road and the Coomera Connector over Helensvale Road. The on-ramp and off-ramp on the southern side will be constructed as part of the Central package.

An interchange at Hope Island Road was ruled out as it required realigning the Coomera Connector, resulting in significant land resumptions and potential flooding issues.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) will continue to work with City of Gold Coast on impacts of the Coomera Connector to the local road network, including Helensvale Road.

There are several aspects of the project that are fixed and unchangeable in order to meet various guidelines and specifications.



Road corridor

Comprehensive investigations during the planning and business case phases determined the most appropriate location for the Coomera Connector. The corridor was gazetted between March 2016 and March 2019.



Road design

Lane widths, speed limits, lighting, materials, signage and bridges must adhere to strict engineering and safety standards. This ensures the Coomera Connector is safe and suitable for all road users.



Environment

Regulated by local, state and federal legislation, the project will ensure environmental impacts are identified and appropriately avoided, mitigated or managed.



Noise

Based on noise monitoring and modelling, noise reduction measures are determined by TMR's Transport Noise Management Code of Practice.



Vegetation

Guided by TMR and City of Gold Coast standards, plant species will support local biodiversity and meet design requirements such as providing headlight and noise barrier screening, minimising maintenance, reducing weeds in water courses, and improving local amenity.

In early 2023, further opportunities for input on urban design features will be provided to ensure that residents continue to be involved in the final design of the Stage 1 North package.



Artist's impression: Saltwater Creek abutment (eastern side of Coomera Connector motorway).

Contact us

Communication and engagement

AGJV has developed a Communication and Engagement Strategy to ensure a consistent and proactive approach to managing impacts during the detailed design and construction phases of Stage 1 North. The strategy includes:

- an overview of the project
- who has an interest or is impacted by the project
- AGJV's communication and engagement approach.

To view and provide feedback on AGJV's Communication and Engagement Strategy email AGJV at coomeraconnector@ag-jv.com.au or call on 1800 568 978 and select Option 1.

Keep informed

Contact the project team for further information, to provide feedback and to register for regular Stage 1 North email updates.

Phone: 1800 568 978 (select option 1)

Email: coomeraconnector@ag-jv.com.au

Web: tmr.qld.gov.au/coomeraconnector



Scan the QR Code to go directly to the Coomera Connector web page.



Interpreter and accessibility services

Interpreter service: 13 14 50

TTY/voice calls: 13 36 77 (ask for 13 23 80)

Speak & Listen: 1300 555 727 (ask for 13 23 80)

SMS relay: 0423 677 767 (ask for 13 23 80)

Email: helpdesk@relayservice.com.au (ask for 13 23 80)

Q1 2023

13 QGOV (13 74 68)

www.tmr.qld.gov.au | www.qld.gov.au

Coomera Connector Stage 1 North

Stage 1 has been identified as a priority for the northern Gold Coast region. Stage 1 North is the first stage to be delivered and provides a vital alternative to the M1, particularly across the Coomera River.

- Legend**
- Coomera Connector Stage 1 North
 - Helensvale Road interchange upgrade
 - Shipper Drive interchange upgrade
 - Shipper Drive / Foxwell Road upgrade
 - Coomera Connector future stages
 - Maintenance access track
 - Active transport shared path
 - Noise wall (indicative)
 - On road bike path crossovers

