

Transport & Main Roads, Paul Lucas

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New Blackbutt Bridge Safer

Work will start this month April on a fibre composite bridge to improve safety at Blackbutt, south-east of Yarraman.

The \$697,000 project is one of two fibre composite bridge projects in southern Queensland during 2005 and 2006 to enable the Department of Main Roads to trial this new technology.

Acting Main Roads Minister Tony McGrady said the existing ageing timber bridge over Taromeo Creek on the western side of Blackbutt township would be replaced with a new, wider concrete and fibre composite bridge.

"This project will improve safety on this key transport link from Ipswich through to the South Burnett," he said.

"Some 2400 vehicles pass through this section of the D'Aguilar Highway each day, about 400 of which are heavy vehicles.

"The existing timber bridge was built in 1942 and is no longer suitable for the volume of traffic, especially the heavier freight vehicles using this road."

The new bridge will be 10 metres wide with two traffic lanes each 3.5 metres wide. The bridge to be replaced is 7.9 metres wide.

Wagners CFT Manufacturing P/L has been contracted to construct the bridge, with work due to finish in July 2005.