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MEDIA RELEASE

Gladstone-Benaraby Road Upgrade

Roadworks will start on the Gladstone-Benaraby Road next week to improve safety along a hazardous stretch of the road.

Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) Chief Operating Officer, Mr John Tumbers, said GAWB was undertaking the works valued at \$550,000.00 on behalf of the Department of Transport and Main Roads as a condition of approval for the organisation's Offline Water Storage Facility, which will be built on land adjacent to the works.

"GAWB has received approval to construct an Offline Water Storage Facility and Standby Pump System adjacent to Gladstone-Benaraby Road," Mr Tumbers said.

"When complete, the Offline Water Storage Facility will provide reserve storage capacity to allow GAWB access to perform critical maintenance works at the Awoonga Dam.

"However, as part of that approval, we are first required to upgrade the Gladstone-Benaraby Road and Skyring Hill Road intersection, which Golding Contractors will commence next week"

"Locals will tell you of the many near misses along this stretch of road, with poor visibility to the south and no turning lanes, so this upgrade is a great outcome for the community.

Mr Tumbers said the 3,600 daily users of the Gladstone-Benaraby Road should be prepared for some minor delays while works are conducted.

"Construction will start late next week and take approximately 16 weeks to complete," Mr Tumbers said.

"During that time the speed limit along this 400m stretch of road will be reduced and traffic control will be in place.

"Two-way traffic will be maintained during the peak traffic hours of 7am to 9am and 3pm to 7pm, but single lane traffic may be required outside those hours for some works."

Local resident, Glen Doran said he had personally witnessed what could have been a potentially fatal accident along the stretch of road and experienced several near misses.

"I witnessed my next-door neighbour's car rear ended, shooting her car into oncoming traffic, which in turn nearly had the oncoming traffic collide with my vehicle as I waited to turn left," Mr Doran said.

"The next vehicle south-bound was a fully loaded car carrier who only just managed to pull up without further adding to the collision, which would have been disastrous.

"There have been too many near-misses on that stretch of road to count; you need to be watching the vehicles behind you for quite a distance to make sure they are going to go around you as you are pulling up to the intersection.

"Multiple times I've had to continue down and pull off at the boat ramp due to the other drivers not paying attention.

Once complete, the intersection will have dedicated turning lanes from the north and south and increased visibility to the south.

More information on the Gladstone-Benaraby Road intersection upgrade and the Offline Water Storage Facility can be found on GAWB's website.

Ends.

For more information, please contact:

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