

Walsh Street Safety & Stormwater Upgrade Project FAQ's

Why undertake this project?

The Walsh Street Safety & Stormwater Upgrade Project is an investment into pedestrian safety, functionality and resilience of Mareeba's CBD. Traffic management and pedestrian safety along Walsh Street have been an area of concern for some time.

The project will:

- Improve stormwater management by replacing the existing above-ground kerb and channel system with a modern underground piped network.
- Implement improvements identified in a 2022 traffic study to support safer, more efficient movement for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists.

What improvements will be delivered as part of this project?

- New concrete medians (centre of road) will improve safety and traffic flow along Walsh and Rankin Streets.
- Removal of the right turn from Rankin Street into the Bakery, significantly reducing conflict points at the roundabout, creating safer pedestrian access to nearby businesses.
- The reconfiguration of the pedestrian crossing will provide refuge islands for pedestrians crossing between Coles / KHub.
- The roundabout will be reconfigured to ensure long vehicles (i.e. school buses etc) have more space available to safely manoeuvre through the intersection.
- Traffic signal improvements and improved traffic flows will reduce the traffic queues on Rankin Street during peak periods.

How long will the project take to complete?

- The anticipated duration of the project is 20 weeks.
- The timeline of works is heavily dependent on delivery of supplies and favourable weather conditions.
- The project will commence at the Constance-Hastie Street intersection and conclude on Walsh Street, between Herberton and Rankin Street.
- Not all areas of the project will be impacted at the same time.

How is the project funded?

The project is partially funded through the Australian Government's Roads to Recovery (RTR) Program, the *Queensland Government's Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS)*, and Mareeba Shire Council.

How is this project going to make it safer for pedestrians?

- The upgraded pedestrian crossing on Walsh Street has been designed to provide a safer, more accessible crossing location.
- A centre median refuge island enhances safety and accessibility for pedestrians. Instead of finding a gap in two directions of traffic simultaneously, pedestrians only need to find a gap in one direction at a time.
- Visibility at night will be greatly improved with upgraded street lighting.
- Kerb buildouts and pedestrian refuges in the new roundabout will make crossing easier and provide better connections to footpaths and businesses.

How will the work improve traffic flow?

- Reconfiguration of the pedestrian crossing means that vehicles will only need to give- way to pedestrians on one side of the crossing at a time, easing congestion.
 - The exit from K-hub carpark will now be located beyond the crossing point.
 - Installation of a vehicle detection device will communicate with the traffic lights on Byrnes Street, prompting the lights to prioritise the release of traffic from the Rankin Street roundabout, particularly during peak periods such as the 3:00 pm school pickup period.
 - Installing the centre median will prevent right-turns across traffic into the opposite-side, eliminating vehicle stoppages that currently cause queuing and congestion back into the roundabouts during peak periods.
-

Will there be less carparking along Walsh Street?

- Yes, a minor reduction in parking, this is an outcome of installing safer crossing treatments.
 - The Walsh Street upgrade has been designed to improve pedestrian safety and reduce traffic congestion. This design includes replacing some existing angle parks with parallel parks.
 - Mareeba Square customers have access to free additional parking via the new carpark located in the Centre.
-

Will customers have access to all shops during construction?

- Yes.
 - Pedestrian access to businesses will be maintained throughout construction.
 - There will be changed traffic conditions, and unavoidable lane closures at times.
 - Traffic control may be required to manage vehicle movements.
 - Impacted businesses, residents and the community will be kept up to date as the works progress.
-

Will Coles Supermarket still be able to receive deliveries at the back loading dock.

- Yes, the new design still allows for Coles Supermarket to receive deliveries as they currently do, the design changes improve the overall traffic environment.
 - The pedestrian crossing will be moved closer to Rankin Street to improve visibility for motorists and pedestrians.
-

Can I still access my driveway?

- Disruptions to driveway access will be kept to a minimum wherever possible.
 - Any temporary access changes will be communicated to impacted properties.
-

Will my water or sewerage services be affected?

- The works are not expected to impact on water or sewerage services.
-

What will the vehicle detection loop do?

- The device will be placed under the bitumen to detect when traffic is backing up closer to the Rankin Street roundabout.
- The device will communicate with the traffic lights on Byrnes Street, prompting the lights to prioritise the release of traffic from the Rankin Street roundabout, particularly during peak periods such as the 3:00 pm school pickup period.

Will the flooding be improved around the Rankin Street Roundabout and the Byrnes St traffic lights?

- The new stormwater infrastructure will reduce flooding / standing water.
 - Additional stormwater pits are being constructed to capture surface water from the kerbs and divert it into an underground stormwater network.
 - This project is one stage of a larger project to improve stormwater capacity across the wider CBD - This is detailed in the Mareeba CBD Blueprint Masterplan. You can view the plan here: [Mareeba CBD Project Blueprint - Mareeba Shire Council](#)
-

Will the roundabout be closed to traffic?

- Plans are in place to keep traffic moving throughout the project.
 - The community should expect some temporary changes to traffic, including detours at times.
-

Will the street be completely closed to traffic?

- Construction will be staged and limited to one section of the road at a time with the intent of maintaining a minimum, single lane traffic flow at all times, where possible.
-

Will works on Constance Street be done in the school holidays?

- Due to contractor availability, the works required in Constance Street are unable to be fully completed in the school holidays.
 - Every effort will be made to limit impacts, and to carry out some works during the school holidays.
 - Schools, Day care centre and Bus Companies have been notified of the works.
-

Can I still access Curcio's Bakery drive-through?

- Yes.
 - Customers can access the Bakery drive-through the same way as McDonalds is accessed, via a left turn from Byrnes Street or a U -turn at the Byrnes Street traffic lights.
-

Has there been any Community Consultation about this project?

- Yes.
- Preliminary engagement with stakeholders commenced in 2018 and helped inform the concept designs.
- After investigation and assessment three sites were identified for improvement - Rankin Street/Walsh Street intersection and roundabout layout; Walsh Street traffic flow and accesses to Coles and Target (now KHub) customer car parks; and the Herberton and Constance Streets intersection
- Community engagement included face-to-face discussions with business operators, commercial property owners, and the Chamber of Commerce. Impacted residents were given the opportunity to provide feedback.
- The Herberton and Constance Streets roundabout project was completed in 2025.