

**Date: April 14, 2008**

## **Project will improve road safety in Bellara CBD**

Work is about to begin to make Bribie Island's Benabrow Avenue safer for both pedestrians and motorists.

From April 21, Moreton Bay Regional Council will begin upgrading the existing median strip car park and installing pedestrian signals across four traffic lanes at Bellara to create safer access to nearby shops.

Mayor Allan Sutherland said once the work was complete, pedestrians would be able to cross Benabrow Avenue's two west-bound lanes to the car park in the centre of the road and the two east-bound lanes to the Bellara shops using independently functioning pedestrian activated signals.

The project is expected to take about three months, weather permitting, and will be constructed in stages to minimise disruption to traffic and shoppers.

The first stage will involve modifying the existing median strip car park to remove its internal roundabout and improve visibility and safety.

New pedestrian signals will then be located slightly east of the current zebra crossing. They will feature audio prompts to enhance safety for the visually impaired.

Division One Councillor Gary Parsons said the area had been a dangerous spot for some time and a number of both pedestrian and vehicular accidents had been reported over recent years.

"Residents have been crying out for this for years. This project responds to requests to make the area safer for pedestrians by improving their visibility to traffic," Cr Parsons said.

"It'll help make the CBD safer, and will help small business owners by encouraging shoppers back to the area."

Councillor Parsons said council had sought input from residents, shop owners, the Bribie Island Chamber of Commerce, police, the fire brigade and ambulance over improvement plans.

Detailed independent studies were also conducted to determine the best way of improving safety in the area.

A copy of plans detailing the refurbishment of the Bellara CBD area went on public display towards the end of last year.

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