



**James Bidgood**  
Member for Dawson



**Tim Mulherin**  
Member for Mackay

## Joint News Release

### MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL AWARDED ROAD MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

The Federal and State Governments today announced the awarding of a \$2.1 million contract to Mackay Regional Council to help maintain various state-controlled roads and sections of the Bruce Highway across the region.

Federal Member for Dawson James Bidgood and State Member for Mackay Tim Mulherin said the 12- month contract would improve travelling conditions and safety for all road users.

“This funding will allow Mackay Regional Council to complete routine maintenance on about 170 kilometres of National Highway and 500 kilometres of state-controlled roads in the area this financial year,” Mr Bidgood said.

“The Federal Government is providing Queensland with nearly \$100 million in 2009-10 for maintenance of the National Network, of which \$88 million is to be spent on the Bruce Highway.

“This funding is another example of the Federal Government’s continued commitment to improving the safety of the Bruce Highway.”

Mr Mulherin said the Bligh Government had established an employment commitment with local governments, which helped retain locally based roadwork crews in the regions.

“It makes sense to give these maintenance contracts to the regional councils, as they have locally-based people, equipment and materials available to them,” Mr Mulherin said.

“Having local staff with the skills, expertise and knowledge to maintain these roads in their own area also helps keep these skills in the local community, as well as providing the best value for the Government’s funding.

“Local people working on local roads are a key factor in our success in keeping the road network maintained within the budget available.”

Mr Mulherin said these works would help maintain the safety and efficiency of state-controlled roads within the Mackay/Whitsunday Region.

“I would like to thank motorists for their continued cooperation during maintenance works and urge all motorists to continue to observe road work signage,” he said.

**Media enquiries: Mr Bidgood’s office – 4944 0662  
Mr Mulherin’s office – 4957 8422**