

MEDIA RELEASE

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Greater Whitsunday Alliance calls to flood proof the Bruce Highway

In the lead up to the federal election, Greater Whitsunday Alliance (GW3) will be lobbying both sides of government to flood proof the greater Whitsunday stretch of the Bruce Highway.

GW3 has called for both sides of government to commit to the upgrade of the Bruce Highway after flooding and road closures across the Whitsunday region this week.

The flooding along the Bruce Highway left the Whitsunday Coast airport and sections of the road at Goorganga and Hamilton Plains submerged in flood waters, stranding tourists and bringing critical supply chains to a standstill.

GW3 CEO Garry Scanlan said road connectivity is not only important from a safety perspective but its's also a fundamental economic driver in our region.

Mr Scanlan said it was not acceptable road freight with regional community supplies is delayed and the tourism sector disrupted due to the regular rain events that occur in the tropics.

“The closure of the Bruce Highway at Goorganga Plains the cancellation of flights from Whitsunday Coast Airport due to flooding highlights the critical need for flood mitigation funding to upgrade the national highway in the Whitsunday region.

“GW3 is urging the State and Federal Governments to make flood mitigation funding a priority to ensure this globally recognised region is not isolated in the future,” he said.

Mr Scanlan said that it is vital to ensure all weather road access for safety and to move road freight to major communities including Proserpine, Airlie Beach and Bowen.

The Bruce Highway covers 450km in the Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday region, with approximately 10,500 vehicles travelling the highway daily at Proserpine.

“The economic and reputational damage from these widely published closures cannot be underestimated,” Mr Scanlan said.

Greater Whitsunday Alliance is the region's peak, independent economic development body committed to making the Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday region strong for generations.

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