
*RACQ
Unroadworthy
Roads Survey
2020*

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Introduction

To raise awareness about the condition of Queensland's roads, the RACQ conducts the Unroadworthy Roads survey asking respondents to nominate those roads they consider to be in a poor or inadequate condition, unfit for the function they are designed to perform and not providing an acceptable level of service to the road user. This 2020 survey adds to the growing database of respondent views gathered in previous surveys conducted in 2001, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2016 and 2018.

The views expressed by respondents to the abovementioned surveys provide road user feedback on road features which complement other RACQ studies of crash statistics and technical road design information analysed and discussed in the Australian Road Assessment Program (AusRAP).

The main aims of the survey were to:

- identify the worst roads in Queensland according to members' perceptions for the purpose of lobbying government authorities for increased levels of road funding;
- establish the major deficiencies and problems associated with Queensland's road infrastructure; and
- compare results with previous Unroadworthy Roads surveys

Results from the survey will be provided to road authorities to help identify and support improvements on their road network.

Results

RACQ received:

- 1057 total responses; highlighting
- 410 different unroadworthy roads throughout Queensland

Image 1 (below) shows a heat map of locations nominated by respondents. This interactive map is available under the Unroadworthy Roads tab at <https://www.racq.com.au/cars-and-driving/representing-queensland-drivers/road-surveys-and-assessments>

Additional comments provided by respondents by road name can be found in the Unroadworthy Roads Technical Appendix available from the link above.

Image 1 – Nominated Unroadworthy Road locations (2020)

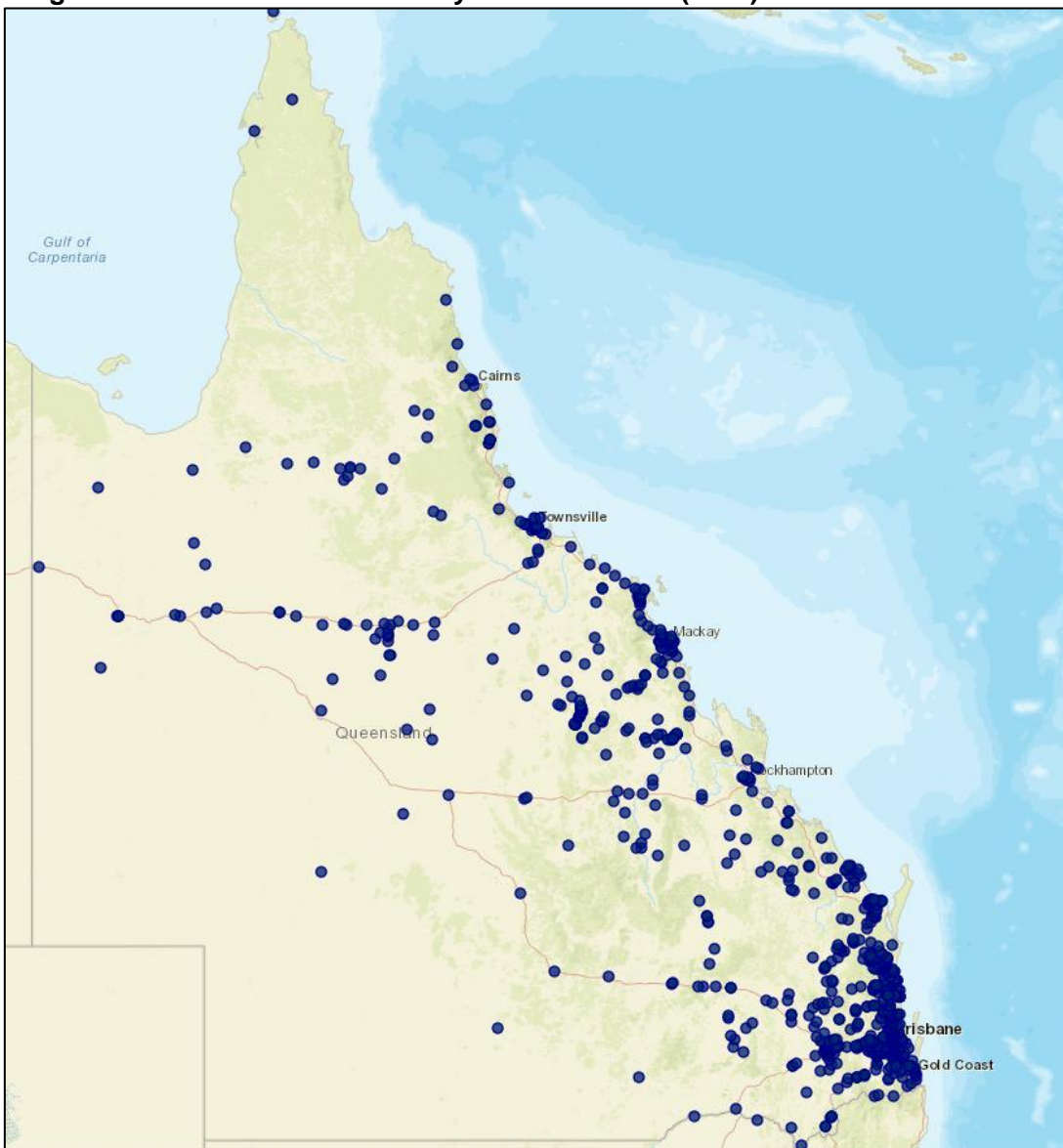




Table 1 – ‘Top 10’ roads with summary description of nominated problems

Rank	Road Name	Responses	Summary description of nominated problems
1	Kin Kin Road	82	The local community identified problems with the poor condition and low standard of the road, including highlighting safety concerns of vehicles mixing with large quarry trucks which frequent the road causing damage. Common issues raised were that it is a steep and winding road that is very narrow with poor road shoulders, a rough and slippery surface, lacks safety barriers and safe overtaking opportunities and has narrow bridges/culverts. The community would like quarry truck access reviewed and the road built to a higher standard to improve safety and provide a road suitable for the types of vehicles using it.
2	Bruce Highway	64	Respondents nominated that the Bruce Highway was rough, narrow, lacked overtaking opportunities and was prone to flooding and road damage / pot holes, especially from Rockhampton to Mackay, Mackay to Proserpine and Ingham to Cairns.
3	Beelbi Creek Road	26	Just west of Hervey Bay area, respondents were concerned that the road is unsealed and dangerous with roadside hazards and a history of serious crashes. Most nominated that it is rough with a slippery loose surface, has poor road shoulders and hazardous roadside objects and requires frequent maintenance. Respondents would like the road sealed.
=4	Brandenburg Road	25	A Sunshine Coast area road connecting Mooloolah Valley to Landsborough Maleny Road and another road where respondents were concerned it is a dangerous, very narrow unsealed dirt/gravel road with blind curves and crests a slippery surface, roadside hazards and steep embankments. Concerns were also raised with the inappropriate speed of some drivers. Respondents would like the road sealed and brought up to a higher standard of safety.
=4	Kilcummin Diamond Downs Road	25	A local road north of Clermont in Central Qld area. Respondents were concerned that the unsealed road surface is extremely rough and has large rocks/gravel which makes for an extremely dangerous, loose and damaging road surface to vehicle tyres and windscreens. The local school bus won't travel all the way due to its condition. Also nominated was its poor condition due to mining, cattle and grain heavy vehicles damaging the road requiring maintenance. Some nominated sealing as a solution.
=6	Flinders Highway	20	Respondents nominated that the Flinders Highway from Hughenden to Cloncurry was rough and has uneven, undulating and bumpy sections causing safety issues and discomfort for travellers, especially for heavy vehicles and those towing caravans. Others nominated a lack of overtaking opportunities between Townsville and Charters Towers and that the road is prone to flooding and damages easily with some deep wheel tracks in the bitumen from heavy vehicles.
=6	May Downs Road	20	Respondents were concerned that the unsealed road surface is in extremely poor condition, is rough, loose and dangerous with corrugations, pot holes and numerous crashes and rollovers. Respondents highlighted that condition issues were mostly due to mining and cattle truck use as well as nominating flooding and drainage issues and difficulty or unsafe to overtake.
=6	Yandina Coolum Road	20	Respondents identified that Yandina Coolum Road is in very poor condition, is rough, narrow, has poor road shoulders and dangerous roadsides and intersections. Some noted the significant increase in general and industrial traffic along the entire road accelerating road damage and causing congestion problems near the Sunshine Mwy. The road is not fit for purpose for the volume and types of vehicles using it, with traffic outgrowing investment in upgrades. There were nominations to upgrade the road with additional lanes and reseal the road surface to fix condition issues.
=10	Brisbane Valley Highway	16	Respondents nominated that the road is narrow, lacks overtaking opportunities and is in poor condition with bumps, pot holes and patches with poor repairs. Comments also highlighted the high volume of traffic including heavy vehicles and narrow turning lanes at intersections. Road quality and condition has not kept pace with increase in traffic.
=10	Warrego Highway	16	Respondents identified that the Warrego Highway is in poor condition, rough, pot holed, patched and not up to standard, especially from Toowoomba to Roma. Condition, safety and congestion concerns were also highlighted between Ipswich and Toowoomba while a lack of safe overtaking opportunities was common west of Toowoomba.

The **Bruce Highway** was knocked off the top spot in this year's survey (see Table 1) however, as a proportion of total responses received, the Bruce Highway has dropped substantially since the 2011 survey indicating that Federal and Queensland Government investment in the \$8.5 billion, 10-year, Bruce Highway Upgrade Program (2013-2023) has improved the quality and standard of the road. This program has been extended to \$12.6 billion over 15 years to June 2028 with a Bruce Highway Trust Advisory Council tasked with developing rolling 5-year action plans over the next 15 years.

The **Warrego Highway** has also received significant investment in the past 5 years to widen, install overtaking lanes, improve drainage and flood immunity and rehabilitate sections, but there is still much to do to improve the safety, quality and standard of the highway. It jumped up to equal tenth position in this year's survey (was thirtieth position in 2018).



Most nominated problems

As shown in Table 2 below, the top five problems were 'Rough surface' (74% of responses), followed by 'Poor shoulders' (53% of responses), 'Narrow road/lanes' (50% of responses), 'Lack of overtaking opportunities' (35% of responses) and 'Tight curves/Blind crests' (29%).

Respondents were able to nominate more than one problem on a road.

Table 2 – Most nominated problems

Problems	# Responses
Rough surface	778
Poor shoulders	557
Narrow road/lanes	525
Lack of overtaking opportunities	366
Tight curves/blind crests	302
Slippery/loose surface	270
Flood prone	259
Narrow bridge/culvert	248
Poor road markings	236
Poor drainage	188
Poor or inadequate road lighting	159
Poor or no guardrails	159
Hazardous roadside objects	158
Vegetation or objects block visibility	134
Poor signing	113
Steep grade	91



Historical ranking of problems

The top four problem responses in 2018 ('rough surface', 'poor shoulders' and 'narrow road/lanes') were the same for all previous surveys (2001, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2016 and 2018), as shown in Table 3 below.

'Rough surface' has topped the list in all surveys while 'poor shoulders' regained second place in this year's survey with 'narrow road/lanes' dropping to third.

A lack of overtaking opportunities was not included as a road problem option in the 2001 survey but was suggested by respondents within the 'problem description' area of the survey form. Hence it was added into all surveys since 2001 and has received the fourth highest number of nominations since 2005.

A lack of overtaking opportunities is a frustration for motorists and becomes more prevalent as traffic volumes rise.

Table 3 - Ranking of problems by survey year

Problem	RANK						
	2001	2005	2008	2011	2016	2018	2020
Rough surface	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Poor road shoulders	3	2	2	2	3	3	2
Narrow road/lanes	2	3	3	3	2	2	3
Lack of overtaking opportunities	N/A	4	4	4	4	4	4

'Top 30' List of roads with number of responses to identified problems

Table 4 below lists the top 30 nominated roads and the number of responses to each individual problem listed on the survey form. The full list of nominated roads are provided in the Unroadworthy Roads Technical Appendix.

Respondents also had the opportunity to provide specific comments about the problem with each road they nominated. These additional comments are provided in the Unroadworthy Roads Technical Appendix.

Table 4 - 'Top 30' List of roads with number of responses to identified problems

Rank	Road Name	# Responses	Nominated Problems															
			Rough Surface	Narrow road / lanes	Poor shoulder	Lack of overtaking opportunities	Flood prone	Tight curves / blind crests	Poor road markings	Poor drainage	Slippery / Loose surface	Narrow bridge / culvert	Poor or inadequate road lighting	Hazardous roadside	Poor signing	Poor or no guard rail	Objects block visibility	Steep grade
1	Kin Kin Road	82	67	77	72	39	27	71	19	12	24	60	23	19	8	36	17	34
2	Bruce Highway	64	45	20	23	30	26	9	20	15	6	11	10	4	11	3	4	-
3	Beelbi Creek Road	26	26	12	22	9	7	13	12	13	26	2	16	15	11	10	9	1
4	Brandenburg Road	25	22	20	15	4	2	21	8	6	24	3	7	6	2	17	7	15
5	Kilcummin Diamond Downs Road	25	25	4	11	10	2	3	4	5	19	7	2	9	2	3	6	-
6	Flinders Highway	20	15	11	11	11	9	2	3	-	2	13	3	1	-	2	-	1
7	May Downs Road	20	20	10	13	6	13	5	7	11	19	13	7	9	2	6	2	-
8	Yandina Cooloom Road	20	15	10	11	8	5	5	3	3	1	5	2	3	1	4	8	1
9	Brisbane Valley Highway	16	15	8	12	11	2	1	2	3	1	3	3	-	1	5	-	-
10	Warrego Highway	16	12	6	4	10	1	-	2	-	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	1
11	Peak Downs Highway	15	15	10	11	13	4	4	4	1	2	5	2	2	2	1	2	-
12	D'Aguilar Highway	12	7	3	4	7	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
13	Leichhardt Highway	12	12	10	9	6	3	4	4	5	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	-
14	New England Highway	12	5	6	5	5	1	4	1	1	-	4	1	1	-	-	2	1
15	Cunningham Highway	11	7	2	6	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	1
16	Wellcamp Westbrook Road	10	8	10	9	4	-	2	6	-	6	-	1	1	5	-	-	1
17	Gregory Developmental Road	9	9	7	7	4	2	2	2	-	2	5	-	2	1	1	1	-
18	Gulf Developmental Road	9	6	9	7	7	2	1	4	2	2	3	1	2	1	2	-	-
19	Hughenden Muttuburra Road	9	9	2	4	2	6	1	1	5	5	-	1	2	1	1	-	-
20	Capricorn Highway	8	7	3	4	3	2	-	1	3	1	2	1	-	-	1	-	-
21	Ipswich Boonah Road	8	8	-	3	6	3	3	1	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-
22	Mount Lindesay Highway	8	8	3	2	2	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	2	-	-
23	Bribie Island Road	7	-	5	5	5	4	-	-	2	1	2	3	-	1	2	1	-
24	Brisbane Road	7	-	2	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	-
25	Fitzroy Developmental Road	7	6	4	6	1	5	2	3	4	3	5	-	3	1	2	3	1
26	Maleny Kenilworth Road	7	7	7	7	5	1	2	1	1	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
27	Maryborough Hervey Bay Road	7	4	1	3	2	3	1	1	1	2	1	3	-	-	1	-	-
28	Obi Obi Road	7	6	6	6	3	2	7	1	3	7	1	1	5	1	5	2	7
29	Arthur Street	6	-	1	2	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	6
30	Kilkivan Tansey Road	6	6	6	6	5	2	5	4	3	3	5	-	-	1	2	-	1