



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon David Borger MP

Minister for Roads

Minister for Western Sydney

18 February 2011

COMMUNITY INVITED TO GRAFTON BRIDGE MEETINGS

Roads Minister David Borger announced the RTA will be holding community meetings for Grafton residents and businesses in March to provide an update of the current planning of the Clarence River second crossing.

Mr Borger said to accommodate the whole community, the update and information meetings will be held in the afternoon and evening on Thursday 3 March and Wednesday 16 March at Grafton Community Centre, 59 Duke Street, Grafton.

The meetings will be held between 1pm and 3pm and between 6pm and 8pm.

"The 3 March meetings will present and discuss feedback on the second river crossing received from the community in the past three months," he said.

"This will include the feedback we received for identified preferred crossing options, preliminary discussions on how shortlisted route options will be developed and details of upcoming phone surveys which invite further community comment.

"The meetings held on 16 March will be a forum for the community to receive more information and discuss existing Grafton traffic conditions including heavy vehicle routes," Mr Borger said.

Bob Higgins, RTA regional manager, said members of the community asked the February 2010 preliminary options for a second bridge be reconsidered.

"I appreciate local residents raised concerns about the overall consultation process and we take these issues seriously," Mr Higgins said.

"In response we distributed postal surveys to 8,000 local households and businesses, and held displays in December last year and February this year.

"We received 430 survey responses up to the closing date of 8 February 2011.

"The survey response was very strong and I thank all those who sent in their ideas and opinions. The RTA has published a summary of the key issues and themes from the postal survey on the project website www.rta.nsw.gov.au/graftonbridge," Mr Higgins said.



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The existing crossing of the Clarence River at Grafton was opened to traffic in 1932. It is a combined rail and road bridge.

The crossing carries an average weekday volume of 27,000 vehicles.

For more information please visit www.rta.nsw.gov.au/graftonbridge, phone 1800 633 332 (toll free), email graftonbridge@rta.nsw.gov.au or mail to PO Box 546, Grafton, NSW 2460.

Media contact: Chris Sealey, 0408 415771