

## Grafton Bridge project update

January 2016

**The NSW government is funding the additional crossing of the Clarence River at Grafton. Early work started in January 2015 and this update outlines progress being made on the project and upcoming work.**

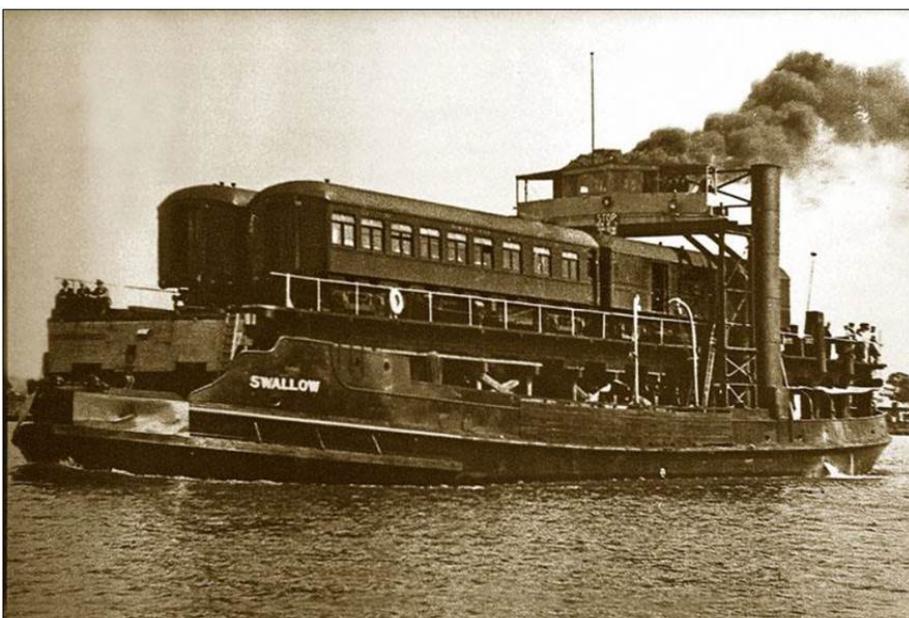
Roads and Maritime Services is delivering this project, which involves building an additional bridge 70 metres downstream from the existing road and rail bridge. The project will also include upgrading parts of the road network in Grafton and South Grafton to connect the new bridge to the existing road network.

### Starting the new bridge and approaches

Happy New Year - 2016 is a big year for the Grafton Bridge project. Three companies were shortlisted last year to design and build the project and tenders were received before Christmas. The team is currently evaluating these tenders and an announcement will be made in the second quarter of the year.

Once the contractor is selected, they will submit their construction environmental management plans and prepare for major work to start in the second half of the year. The bridge and new road network is expected to be open to traffic in 2019.

### Did you know?



#### 1926 – 2016

How travel across the Clarence River has changed in the last 90 years. This year work will start on a second bridge at Grafton, but before the first bridge was built crossing the river was very different.

The Swallow (seen left) and Induna steamships transported train carriages across the river for the NSW Government Railways.

The ships loaded and unloaded the trains and stock near the current Boral Quarry in Grafton

and at a site slightly downstream of the existing railway line on the South Grafton side of the river. The remains of the two wharfs were identified in the archaeological survey during the environmental assessment.

The heritage listed remains of the Induna shipwreck are located beside the southern bank of the Clarence River, about 140 metres upstream from the existing bridge. To ensure the site is preserved a 15 metre exclusion zone will be implemented around the site during construction.

## Property acquisition

Property acquisition is almost complete, out of the 27 private properties needed for the project, 22 are now either owned by Roads and Maritime or contracts have been exchanged, with negotiations continuing on the remaining properties.

The project team will work with the contractor and residents to determine timeframes and process for removing the buildings.

## Field investigations

### Floor level surveys

Work continues to update the flood model to take into account the new bridge. Detailed surveying work is taking place at a number of properties across Grafton, South Grafton, Waterview Heights and Seelands to build on the data previously collected.

A floor level survey collects data on the existing floor heights of residences and buildings. This data is then used to help inform flood modelling analysis and to better understand how water may flow during a flood event once the bridge is built.

A Flood Mitigation Report will be published shortly and detailed consultation will take place with all affected property owners.

### Levee work

In order to maintain the existing flood protection within the Grafton and South Grafton levee system minor work will be taking place at certain low sections of the levee system.

The project team are consulting with affected property owners to explain the extent of this work. Work on the levee system is likely to start shortly after the contractor is appointed and before work on the bridge starts.

### Plant and wildlife surveys

Further plant and wildlife surveys are currently taking place to build on the surveys completed during the environmental assessment. These studies will identify the species within the project area and inform the environmental management plans ahead of construction.

## For more information

**Phone:** 1800 633 332

**Email:** [graftonbridge@rms.nsw.gov.au](mailto:graftonbridge@rms.nsw.gov.au)

**Post:** Greg Nash, Senior Project Manager, PO Box 546 Grafton 2460.

### Keeping you informed

With work about to start, how do you want to receive updates about the project and what information is important to you?

Please take a few minutes to complete a short online survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GraftonBridge>

