

Name of meeting:	Business Liaison Group (south)
Location of meeting:	Grafton bridge project site office
Meeting facilitator:	Fulton Hogan
Date:	Tuesday, 10 April 2018 Time: 6pm to 8pm
Attendees:	Representatives of businesses on Iolanthe, Spring and Through streets, the Grafton Chamber of Commerce, RMS and Fulton Hogan
Subject:	New Grafton bridge project

MEETING MINUTES

The Business Liaison Group (south) reviewed the draft charter and were provided with an overview of the project and proposed upcoming construction. The project team answered questions in a group environment and individually. The following table comprises the group's questions and the project team's answers.

	The BLG (south) accepted the draft charter
Q.	How much wider are you going to make Iolanthe Street?
A.	It won't change much – about one metre wider.
Q.	During heavy rain, Iolanthe Street is underwater.
A.	There will be additional drainage and new storm water mains. There will be incremental improvements and changes including new culverts.
Q.	During construction, while you have two lanes of traffic, you will have trouble getting cars through (during heavy rain).
A.	It is something we will need to monitor during construction. One of the constraints is that we have a narrow corridor which has lots of services and we are restricted as to where we can place the storm water mains.
Q.	Have you considered a pump station?
A.	We can respond as required in rain events and will make all provisions, including traffic control, if required.

Q.	Will the road construction help the flooding?
A.	We are not raising the road by much. We are restricted by how much fall there is between the Iolanthe Street area and the river. We are required not to make it worse and improve it if we can.
Q.	Are the drains in Through Street completed? At the moment, you have a culvert near businesses and it's a metre and a half deep – is this the finished product?
A.	We are aware of concerns raised by a business owner and are in discussions with Clarence Valley Council.
Q.	Are you running the sewer down Through Street? Can you do it while everything is being constructed?
A.	This would be additional scope but we will make a note of that and raise it with Council.
Q.	Will the intersection of Iolanthe and Spring streets still have the same access to the highway?
A.	We are maintaining the same level of service at the Gwydir Highway and improving the level of service for access to the highway at the new intersection near Bunnings. With the Iolanthe and Spring streets intersection, to make it safe we have been unable to facilitate a right out onto the highway.
Q.	What provision do you have for signage with the Spring/Iolanthe streets changes?
A.	We have an example of temporary signage later in the presentation. We are producing a signage plan to ensure there is advanced notice for motorists on the highway.
Q.	When you are working on Iolanthe Street, will the median be in place?
A.	No, not until Pacific Highway traffic is switched onto the Woolgoolga to Ballina upgrade and the Gwydir Highway roundabout is in place.
Q.	Will there be signage for truckies and trailers? It is mostly grey nomads and out of town

	people who park along Iolanthe Street.
A.	We are looking at signage to let drivers know there will not be parking on Iolanthe Street when construction starts.
Q.	I remember last Christmas it was flooded on Iolanthe Street and under the viaduct. Does that mean everyone will have to sit there until the water subsides?
A.	When there is a heavy rain event, we will do everything we can to manage traffic. The levee has been raised which will help with water issues.
Q.	We have issues where within an hour there can be a downpour and it floods.
A.	We can't fix the flooding but it will be helped incrementally. Call the 1800 number. It is always manned and we always have an emergency crew on-call during holiday periods.
Q.	With the new tie-in to the highway, all you are doing is moving the heavy traffic problem during holiday periods further down the road.
A.	There will be heavy traffic but there are much longer deceleration and acceleration lanes with the new Pacific Highway tie-in. It will be a far more efficient intersection than the current Iolanthe/Spring streets intersection. It will separate a series of conflicting traffic movements at this intersection and getting a gap in the traffic will be much easier.
Q.	Who is responsible for the traffic issues when there is a holiday issue – is it council, RMS, the police?
A.	All along the Pacific Highway, we have plans for managing traffic during peak periods. We will do the same here.
Q.	Can't you just employ some traffic management people during these times?
A.	We can certainly consider that. We will develop a management plan for those peak traffic times and traffic control may be part of that.

Q.	If people can't get in or get out, they won't come to the area.
A.	We will provide more detail at the next meeting about exactly what the arrangement is of the new tie-in to the Pacific Highway.
Q.	Will you still be able to turn right into Spring Street from Iolanthe Street?
A.	Yes
Q.	Will you supply signage to show access?
A.	We will work with you to develop signage for businesses.
Q.	Is the median strip down the middle of Iolanthe Street negotiable?
A.	The median strip is there to ensure the safety of pedestrians in the ultimate arrangement. It's the same arrangement as Prince Street in Grafton.
Q.	When you say a pedestrian crossing, do you mean a marked crossing?
A.	Yes, it will have traffic lights only activated by pedestrians.
Q.	Where is the signage going? Will it be at the intersection?
A.	We will work with businesses in regards to the signage. We want to make sure it stands out because there is a lot of other signage on the highway about construction work.
Q.	The concern we have is, if people miss the initial signage, they will not go around a roundabout and local streets to come back.
A.	We understand that. We also have started a dialogue with RMS about making the changes on GPS so motorists also are alerted that way.

Q.	Long term, the median strip will be a problem – people are lazy. They won't travel to a roundabout to turn around and come back. It will cost businesses customers.
A.	It is not a great distance and, if they are after something to eat, they would have to travel a lot further south before reaching other food venues.
Q.	I am concerned about the pedestrian traffic lights. It is a busy road with heavy vehicles and the traffic could back up because of the lights.
A.	The traffic lights will be timed and there will be sensors. It will be adjusted through the RMS Traffic Management Centre, in busy times such as holiday periods.
Q.	Have you done a cost analysis of a pedestrian footbridge versus lights?
A.	We don't have the space. A footbridge has a large footprint.
Q.	Are there any parking areas – even if they have to walk a block?
A.	There is an opportunity to put parallel parking along the one-way area on what will be the old Pacific Highway which connects to the shared user path.
Q.	When will that one-way area be open?
A.	Once Pacific Highway traffic is switched onto the Woolgoolga to Ballina upgrade.
Q.	Any reason why the new bridge is only two lanes?
A.	It can be opened to four lanes in the future when traffic volumes warrant it.
	Meeting concluded at 7.30pm. Next meeting to held in late June.

