

Environmental impact statement display

Roads and Maritime Services has prepared an environmental impact statement and concept design for a new bridge over the Clarence River at Grafton. The environmental impact statement is now on exhibition by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. This community update provides an update on the project and details on the public exhibition.

The environmental impact statement describes the proposal and provides an assessment of potential impacts and measures that will be put in place. The environmental impact statement also includes a detailed description of how the project may be built and how it would function once it is built.

Community comments are sought by 19 September 2014 and should be sent to the Department of Planning and Environment (see back page for details).

Project need

The additional crossing of the Clarence River at Grafton project is needed to:

- Provide a practical alternative to road users for crossing the Clarence River at Grafton. The existing bridge is the only bridge crossing for travelling between Grafton and South Grafton. The nearest alternative is about 41km east of Grafton in Maclean.
- Relieve congestion on the existing bridge which currently operates at capacity during peak periods.
- Provide an additional crossing that is not constrained by narrow lanes, kinks or travel restrictions for large heavy vehicles.
- Respond to the forecast traffic demand across the Clarence River.

- Improve road safety for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists travelling across the river.

Background

The community has been advocating for an additional crossing over the Clarence River at Grafton for many years.

Roads and Maritime has carried out technical and environmental investigations and consulted with the community to identify a preferred route for an additional crossing of the Clarence River at Grafton. The proposal would address short-term and long-term transport needs.

The preferred route was announced in April 2013. In November 2013, a preliminary concept design was displayed for community comment. A summary of comments is available on the project website at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/graftonbridge.

Roads and Maritime is seeking approval to the additional crossing of the Clarence River at Grafton under Part 5.1 State significant infrastructure of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The proposal is being assessed as a state significant infrastructure project by the Department of Planning and Environment.

Exhibition of the Environmental impact Statement

The public exhibition will be held from 20 August 2014 to 19 September 2014.

During this period, the Environmental Impact Statement will be available at display locations listed below and via the Department of Planning and Environment's website at:
www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au

Display locations

Members of the community can read the environmental impact statement at:

- Roads and Maritime Services Regional Office, 76 Victoria Street, Grafton
- Roads and Maritime Services Pacific Highway Office, 21 Prince Street, Grafton
- Clarence Valley Council, 2 Prince Street, Grafton
- Clarence Valley Council, Maclean office foyer, 50 River Street, Maclean
- Maclean Library, Stanley Street, Maclean
- Grafton Library, 126-144 Pound Street, Grafton.

Staffed displays

The Roads and Maritime project team will be available to provide information on the proposal at staffed displays.

When: Wednesday 3 September 2014, from 4pm-7pm

Where: Grafton Community Centre, Duke Street

When: Thursday 4 September 2014, from 9am-12pm

Where: South Grafton Club, Level 1, Wharf Street

Community members are welcome to drop in, view the display material and talk to members of the project team.

To provide feedback

Please provide your written submission by 19 September 2014.

Submissions can be made online at:
www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au (go to Grafton bridge project)

or sent to:

Director, Infrastructure Projects, Department of Planning and Environment,
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001

All submissions received will be placed on the Department of Planning and Environment's website in accordance with the department's privacy statement.

Next steps

Following the exhibition period, the Department of Planning and Environment will provide Roads and Maritime with a copy of the submissions.

A report detailing any proposed changes in response to submissions received will be made available on the Department of Planning and Environment's website.

To contact the Roads and Maritime Grafton bridge project team:

Phone: 1800 633 332

Visit: www.rms.nsw.gov.au/graftonbridge

Email: graftonbridge@rms.nsw.gov.au

Write to: Adam Cameron, Senior Project Development Manager, PO Box 546 Grafton 2460