

OCTOBER 2011



Additional crossing of the Clarence River at Grafton

The RTA is seeking your comments on the *Preliminary Route Options Report - Part 2* by Tuesday 22 November 2011.

The report assesses the 25 preliminary route options within five strategic corridors against issues and constraints identified in Grafton and surrounds.

The next step will be to reduce the 25 preliminary route options down to one or a few options in each corridor. These options will be called the short list.

Community input will be part of the short-listing process.

Background

The NSW Roads and Traffic Authority is working with the community to identify a preferred location for an additional crossing of the Clarence River at Grafton.

The local community has been advocating for a second crossing for many years to reduce congestion and traffic delays over the existing bridge, in particular during morning and afternoon peak periods.

In June 2011, the RTA published the *Feasibility Assessment Report* that describes the assessment undertaken by the RTA on the 41 suggestions identified following the community consultation from December 2010 to March 2011.

25 preliminary route options in five strategic corridors were identified for further engineering and environmental investigation.

The RTA will next short-list the best option(s) within each of the five corridors. This process will be documented in the *Preliminary Route Options Report*.

The RTA does not have a preferred option at this stage. We will work with the community to examine the 25 preliminary route options and their issues transparently with the community.

Short-listing process

Preliminary Route Options Report - Part 1

In August 2011, background papers on issues to consider when planning an additional crossing of the Clarence River at Grafton were published.

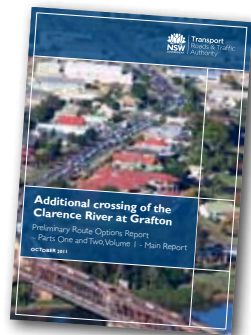
The *Preliminary Route Options Report - Part 1*, (August 2011) describes the existing environment in Grafton and South Grafton and the issues and constraints relevant to an additional crossing.

Community information and feedback sessions were held over two days – Monday 22 August, from 2-4pm and 6-8pm, and Tuesday 23 August, from 10am-12pm. Members of the project team provided information to residents.

Comments were invited by Tuesday 30 August 2011 and are addressed in the *Preliminary Route Options Report - Parts 1 and 2*, (October 2011).

Preliminary Route Options Report – Parts 1 and 2

The *Preliminary Route Options Report – Parts 1 and 2*, (October 2011) is on the project website or contact the project team for a copy.



The report contains an assessment of the 25 preliminary route options against the issues and constraints identified in Part 1. The criteria used to assess the 25 preliminary options are based on the project purpose and objectives.

Comments on the report are invited by **Tuesday 22 November 2011** by emailing graftonbridge@rta.nsw.gov.au, or writing to PO Box 546, Grafton NSW 2460.

Next, the RTA will conduct an evaluation workshop with participants from the community and stakeholders to consider each of the 25 preliminary route options. Further details are outlined overleaf.

Reaching the short-list

Community comment, outcomes of the evaluation workshop, and technical investigations undertaken to date will help identify the best option(s) within the five strategic corridors. These options will be called the short-list of route options.

Evaluation workshop

A two day evaluation workshop is being planned for November 2011.

The workshop will discuss the options within each of the five corridors to gain a shared understanding of which options provide the best balance across social, environmental, economic, engineering and cost issues.

The workshop will consider the community and stakeholder issues and the outcomes of the technical, environmental and other specialist studies.

The workshop will include participants from the local community, government agencies, Council, the transport industry and environmental, business and other stakeholders.

Community participation in the evaluation workshop will:

- Ensure that community views and values are taken into account.
- Ensure the process is transparent and accountable.
- Ensure the community is involved and understands the process.

You are invited to nominate to participate in the workshop by completing the enclosed form and returning by **Monday 14 November 2011**.

Community members who nominate will be required to attend the briefing on **Tuesday 15 November 2011**, where the workshop participants will be selected and their roles and responsibilities explained in greater detail.

Community members participating in the workshop are not required to represent anyone but themselves. They participate as individuals, examining the issues.

Traffic modelling

The strategic traffic model is now able to better predict traffic volumes likely to use each of the 25 preliminary route options and approach roads. The model covers the Grafton, South Grafton, Junction Hill, Clarenza and Waterview areas.

The model now includes additional traffic counts collected in June 2011 and updated population forecasts from Clarence Valley Council and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. More information on the traffic model is available in the *Preliminary Route Options Report*.

Information and feedback sessions

There will be three sessions held at the Grafton Community Centre:

Afternoon session

2pm to 4pm Monday 14 November

Evening session

6pm to 8pm Monday 14 November

Morning session

10am to 12pm Tuesday 15 November

These are informal sessions. You are invited to drop in any time during the two hour session to talk with the project team about the *Preliminary Route Options Report* and the assessment of the preliminary route options against the project objectives.

Field investigations

Field investigations continue. The project team may require access to a number of properties to undertake further investigations including survey work, geotechnical investigations, flora and fauna studies, traffic surveys and examination of Aboriginal and/or non-Aboriginal heritage issues at various stages of the project.

A letter of request with further details will be sent to the owners of properties proposed for use in the investigations.

For more information on field investigations please view the fact sheets available on the Grafton Bridge project website www.rta.nsw.gov.au/graftonbridge

Interactive maps on the website

Interactive maps are on the project website. The maps clearly show the issues and potential constraints when planning an additional crossing. The information is from the *Preliminary Route Options Report - Parts 1 and 2*.

Constraints include:

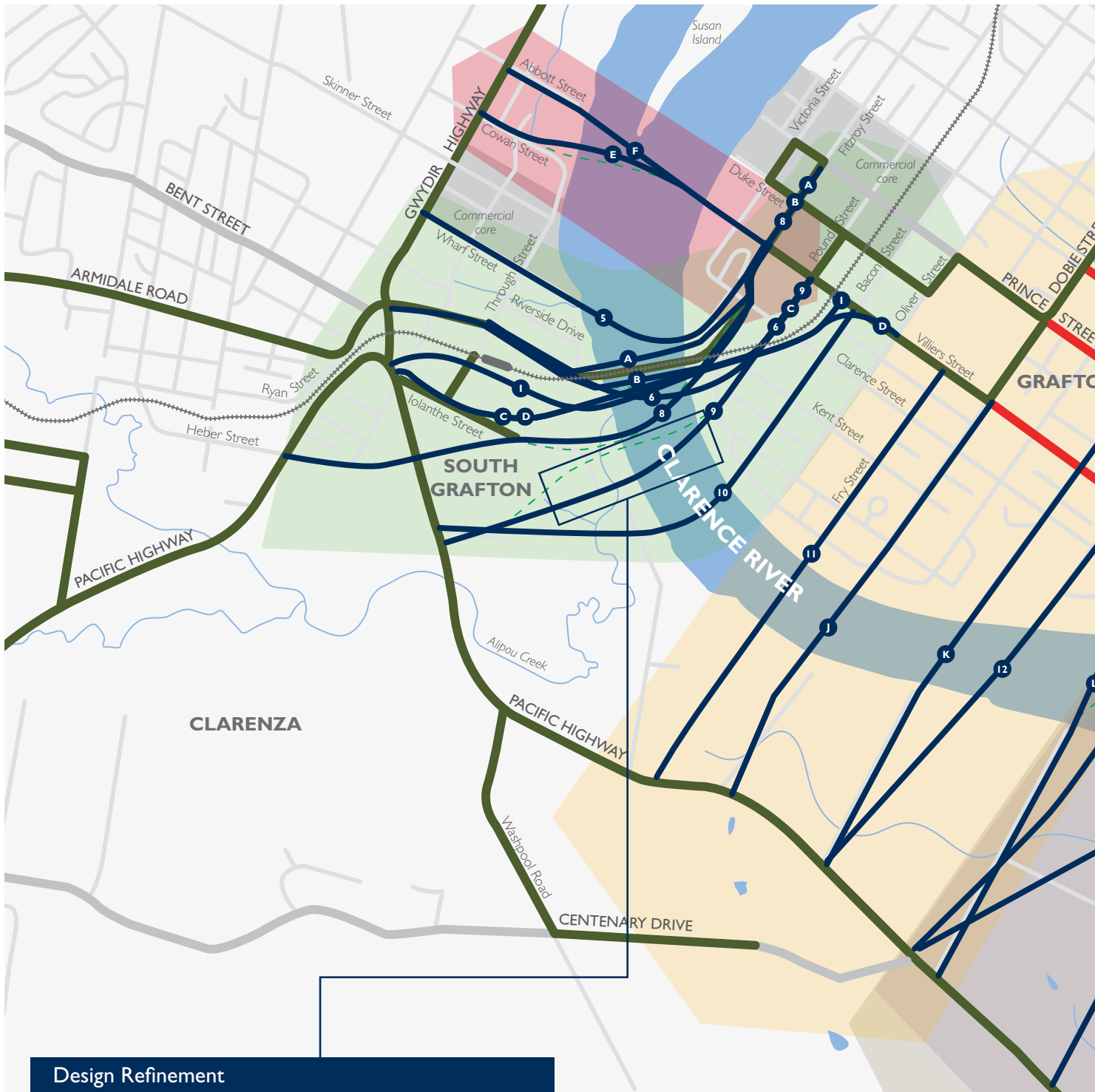
- Landscape and urban character.
- Land use.
- Social and economic factors.
- Heritage considerations.
- Ecology (native plants and animals).
- Flooding impacts.
- Services and utilities.

The maps include the five strategic corridors and the 25 preliminary route options.



To view the maps visit www.rta.nsw.gov.au/graftonbridge and click on the link to interactive maps.

The map below shows the five strategic corridors and the 25 preliminary route options of



Design Refinement

Option alignment as shown in June 2011 Community Update

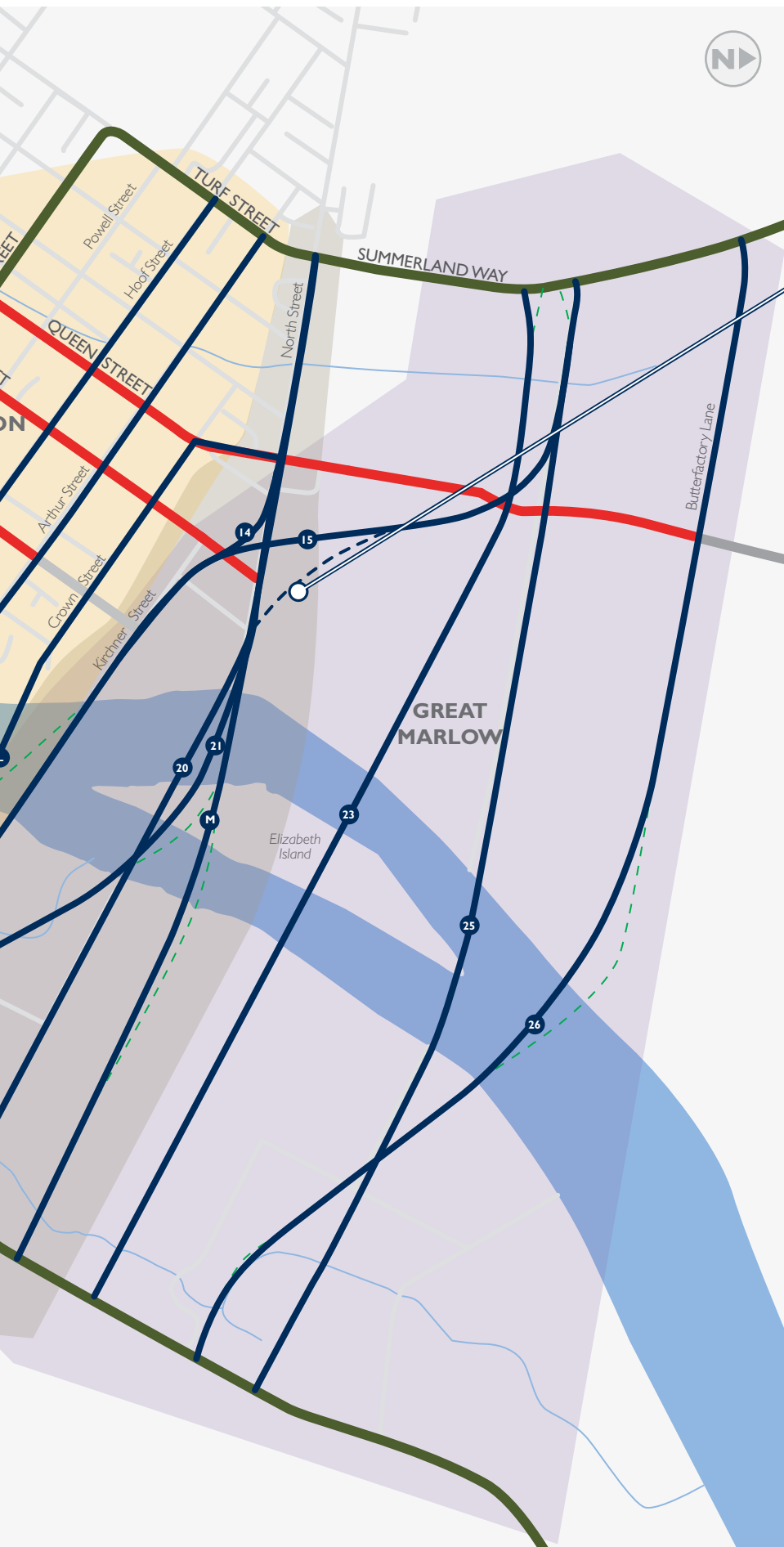
Viaduct Refined alignment Proposed bridge

Refinements to some of the 25 preliminary route options have been undertaken.

For example, preliminary route option 9 has been refined to identify where viaduct structures would be required over the flood plain, and to allow for a single horizontal curve across the river, for simpler construction of the bridge.

See the *Preliminary Route Options Report*, (October 2011), chapter 6 and appendix 4 for more details.

Options that have gone forward for short-listing.



Possible future extension of the preliminary route options to the Summerland Way north of North Street.

KEY

- 25 preliminary route options
- Option alignment as shown in June 2011 Community Update
- Link to CBD - Road upgraded for heavy vehicle access:
 Villiers Street - options K and 12
 Prince Street - options L, 14, 15, 20, 21 and M
 Queen Street - options 23, 25 and 26
- 25/26 m long B-Double routes
- Corridor 1 (Upstream of the existing bridge) - options E and F
- Corridor 2 (Adjacent to the existing bridge) - options 5, A, B, C, D, I, 6, 8, 9 and 10
- Corridor 3 (Downstream of the existing bridge) - options I, J, K, 12 and L
- Corridor 4 (Pacific Highway - North Street connections) - options 14, 20, 21 and M
- Corridor 5 (Pacific Highway connections, north of North Street - Summerland Way) - options 15, 23, 25 and 26

NOTE: All options connect to the 25/26 m long B-Double route at each end.

Process to identify a preferred location

A preferred option for an additional crossing of the Clarence River will be identified from the short-list of route options. The recommended preferred option will be displayed prior to the decision by the RTA and the Minister for Roads on the preferred route.

The process to identify a preferred location for an additional crossing is shown in the flow chart below.

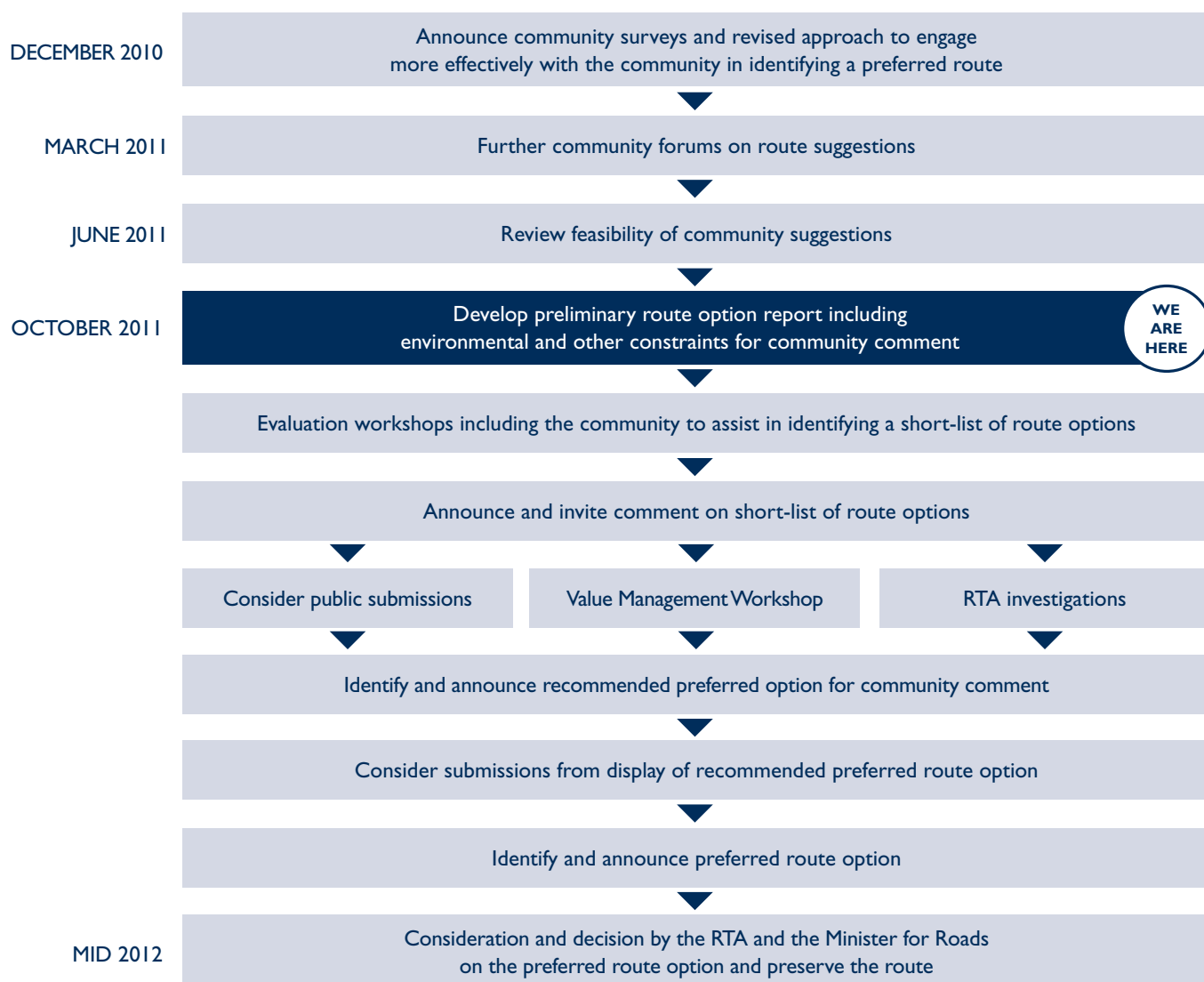
Contacting the project team

Your input is important. To contact the project team, your correspondence should be sent to:

Chris Clark, RTA Project Manager
PO Box 546, Grafton NSW 2460

or visit the shop front at the Pacific Highway office for more information.

21 Prince Street, Grafton NSW 2460
(opposite the Westpac Bank)
Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.



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Nomination to attend the evaluation workshop

Prior to nominating, please carefully consider your suitability based on the following self assessment criteria:

- Ability to commit the necessary time (you cannot substitute other people if you can't make it) to:
 - A pre workshop briefing planned for **Tuesday 15 November 2011** from 6pm to 8pm at **Grafton Community Centre**.
 - Day one of the evaluation workshop planned for **Friday 25 November 2011 from 9am to 4pm** (lunch included).
 - Day two of the evaluation workshop planned for **Saturday 26 November 2011**. (Day two will only go ahead if the outcomes are not achieved on day one).
- You represent yourself and participate as an individual.
- You agree to contribute within the agreed structure of the workshop.
- You acknowledge there will be a diversity of views and agree to allow all participants to contribute equally.
- You give a genuine commitment to achieving the best outcome.
- You agree with common courtesy and treat others with respect throughout all dealings.
- You are either:
 1. A property owner, residential or business owner/tenant within Grafton/South Grafton/Clarence or Junction Hill or
 2. A regular bridge or river user.

Outcomes from the meeting will be reported back to participants as part of the release of the Final Preliminary Route Options Report.

Nominations close Monday 14 November 2011.

I hereby nominate myself to participate in the evaluation workshop.

I am a property owner, resident or business owner/tenant within one of the following areas (please tick).

- South Grafton
- Clarenza
- Central Grafton north east of Dobie Street
- Central Grafton south west of Dobie Street
- Junction Hill

I am a regular bridge or river user

- Bridge user
- River user

I am able to commit my time for the pre workshop briefing on Tuesday 15 November from 6pm-8pm, and the evaluation workshop on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 November 2011 from 9am to 4pm.

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mobile Number: _____

Please indicate best phone number/time to contact me. _____

Email address: _____

For further information or to speak to a member of the project team, please call 1 800 633 332 (toll free).

To mail this form fold along the dotted lines and seal with clear tape.

Mail your completed form (no stamp required) to the address below.

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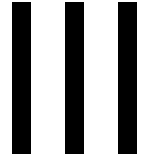
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Authority

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GRAFTON NSW 2460

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