

PROJECT MANAGERS UPDATE – DECEMBER 2011

Thank you to community members that have given their time to provide feedback on the project to date.

I acknowledge the uncertainty around planning for an additional crossing can cause for some people. Roads and Maritime Services is working through the assessment process to identify a recommended preferred location for the additional crossing of the Clarence River as quickly as it can while ensuring that the assessment is thorough and robust.

The short-list of options to go forward for further investigation is expected to be finalised early in the New Year.

I would also like to take the opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe time over this holiday period.

Community and stakeholder evaluation workshop

A two day community and stakeholder evaluation workshop was held on 25 and 26 November 2011.

Community comment, outcomes of the evaluation workshop and technical investigations will help identify the short list of options to go forward for further engineering and environmental investigations.

A summary of the workshop, outcomes and next steps is outlined below.

Workshop statement

Participants included 8 community and 7 stakeholder members. The group was made up of community participants from Grafton, South Grafton, Junction Hill, a road user from out of town and a river user. Community stakeholders included participants from the Clarence Valley Council, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, Grafton Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Grafton-Ngerrie LALC and the freight and public transport industries.

The workshop was lead by an independent facilitator. Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) and ARUP project team members provided background information, technical advice and support to the workshop participants.

The purpose of the two day workshop was to gain a shared understanding of which options within each corridor provide the best balance across social, environmental, economic, engineering and cost issues.

The group worked through the indicator results in the Preliminary Route Options Report – Parts 1 and 2 (October 2011) to understand how the options performed against the project objectives within each corridor.

Anticipated outcomes for the workshop were to:

- Agree on the 'best' option or options within each of the five corridors.
- Identify and record any issues or comments.

Workshop participants had the opportunity to put forward views based on the indicator results and their own knowledge and experience for discussion amongst to the group.

The group ranked the options within each of the five corridors and individual comments were noted.

Workshop outcomes

Options identified by the group as best performing within each corridor and recommended to go forward for further consideration were:

- Corridor one – option E (Cowan Street South Grafton to Villiers Street, Grafton)
- Corridor two – option A (New bridge parallel to and immediately upstream of the existing bridge connecting Bent Street South Grafton and Fitzroy Street, Grafton).
- Corridor three – option 11 (Existing Pacific Highway north of South Grafton to Fry Street, Grafton).
- Corridor four – option 14 (Existing Pacific Highway north of South Grafton to North Street Grafton via Kirchner Street).
- Corridor five – option 15 (Existing Pacific Highway north of South Grafton to Summerland Way north of Grafton, via Kirchner Street).

To view a map of these options please click on the link, [Community recommended options from the November 2011 workshop](#).

The record of the workshop will be uploaded to the website in the near future and will be included in the final *Preliminary Route Options Report*.

Process from here

The outcomes of the evaluation workshop as well as wider community comment and the technical investigations will help identify the short list of options to go forward for further engineering and environmental investigations.

Following an announcement on the short list of options, further technical investigations will be undertaken to provide more detailed information on the relative performance of the options.

Community comments will be considered at this time and, together with the investigations undertaken and the outcomes of the Value Management Workshop will input into a decision on a recommended preferred option.

Feedback on the recommended preferred option will be considered before a decision is made on the preferred option for an additional crossing.

Community involvement will continue throughout the process for selecting the recommended preferred location for an additional crossing.

For more information please contact the project team on **1800 633 332** or email graftonbridge@rta.nsw.gov.au.

Chris Clark, Project Manager