

PROJECT MANAGERS UPDATE - MARCH 2011

Thank you to everyone that attended the community forums held in the afternoon and evening, of 3 and 16 March 2011, at the Grafton Community Centre.

The 3 March 2011 forums discussed:

- Community feedback from the postal survey.
- Methodology to short list community suggestions.
- Development and delivery of the telephone survey.

The 16 March forums discussed:

- Traffic, including the current heavy vehicle movements.
- Project objectives.
- Methodology to short list community suggestions.

Each of the sessions were filmed so anyone can see what was discussed. The recordings from the 3 March forums are available on the Community involvement page of this website, with the recordings from 16 March to follow shortly. The presentations to the forums are available on the public information page of this website and meeting notes will also be made available shortly.

At the 16 March forums, GTA traffic and transport consultants were invited to present on the heavy vehicle study. The Heavy vehicle study report and a summary fact sheet, are available on the on the public information page of this website, by contacting the project team or visiting the Pacific Highway Office, 21 Prince Street, Grafton.

I also invited comments on the project purpose and/or project objectives at the forums. If you wish to comment, I would appreciate if you could send this though before Monday 4 April by:

- Email: Graftonbridge@rta.nsw.gov.au
- Phone (toll free): 1800 633 332
- Writing to: Chris Clark, PO Box 546, Grafton NSW, 2460

The full report on the community feedback from the postal survey in the December 2010 community update will be available around the end of March.

At the 3 March 2011 forums we discussed three possible methods to identify a recommended preferred route option from the 41 suggestions received from the community. At the 16 March forums I announced that method two had been selected. Method 2 is to:

- Group suggestions into corridors and check feasibility of suggestions.
- Identify best preliminary route option(s) within each corridor.
- Identify recommended preferred option.

More information on Method 2 is in the presentations to the forums. Feedback from the forums about information that will assist in evaluating the community suggestions will be used during the assessment process.

A map of the community suggestions is available on the public information page/community surveys.

As we move forward through the assessment process we will keep you informed and invite your input at key milestones.

I'm also pleased to report the telephone survey has gone well, with phone calls completed on Monday 21 March. It involved a survey of 500 randomly selected participants. The telephone survey took around 12-15 minutes and invited participants to rank the importance of issues identified from previous consultation.

To support the residential telephone survey, a separate business survey is being planned for the near future. The business survey will be an online survey to give all local business the opportunity to participate. The Grafton Chamber of Commerce will distribute the survey through their database of members and forward the results to the independent company engaged to carry out the survey. Businesses not included on the Chamber's database are welcome to participate by contacting the project team and registering their interest.

These surveys will help gauge the broader views of residents and businesses regarding the additional crossing of the Clarence River. The results of the surveys will be presented to the community at the next forum proposed for May. Details of this forum will be available closer to the date.

If you require any further information or have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us to phone, email or letter.

Chris Clark, Project Manager

Phone 1800 633 332 (toll free) Email: graftonbridge@rta.nsw.gov.au