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SHORT LIST FOR SECOND RIVER CROSSING ANNOUNCED

Six shortlisted route options for the second crossing of the Clarence River have been announced.

Nationals MP for Clarence, Chris Gulaptis said the investigations and community consultation carried out has resulted in shortlisted options for the upgrade.

“Six options have been identified as the most viable for the second crossing, and further investigation of these options is now under way,” Mr Gulaptis said.

The options were selected after thorough evaluation of factors including social and environmental, engineering, land acquisition and traffic and transport requirements.

Mr Gulaptis said community and stakeholder feedback and consultation was also a key decider in the shortlisted options.

The six options are:

- option E - Cowan Street, South Grafton to Villiers Street, Grafton
- option A - parallel to and immediately upstream of the existing bridge connecting Bent Street, South Grafton and Fitzroy Street, Grafton
- option C - junction of Pacific Highway and Gwydir Highway, South Grafton to Pound Street, Grafton
- option 11 - existing Pacific Highway north of South Grafton to Fry Street, Grafton
- option 14 - existing Pacific Highway north of South Grafton to North Street Grafton via Kirchner Street
- option 15 - existing Pacific Highway north of South Grafton to Summerland Way north of Grafton, via Kirchner Street

Details of the options are in the Preliminary Route Options Report (December 2011) available on the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) website.

Mr Gulaptis said five of the options are the same as those recommended by the November 2011 community and stakeholder evaluation workshop.

“It is great to see we have similar preferred route options, it means we can move forward with the planning knowing we have consulted the community and have their interests considered,” Mr Gulaptis said.

“Future planning will now move along quickly and will include direct communication with property owners, staffed information days, stakeholder workshops and comprehensive information displays.

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“The project team will also be contacting property owners who could potentially be directly affected by one or more of the options.”

A preferred option is expected to be identified in mid 2012.

For more information on the report detailing the Preliminary Route Options Report and the six preferred route options visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au/graftonbridge, phone 1800 633 332 (toll free) or email graftonbridge@rta.nsw.gov.au.

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