

Additional crossing of the Clarence River at Grafton Community update



Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services

OCTOBER 2012

Roads and Maritime Services is currently undertaking investigations to identify an additional crossing of the Clarence River at Grafton to address short-term and long-term transport needs.

A two-day value management workshop was held on Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 October 2012. The workshop participants recommended that options E and C be considered further as a preferred option for the additional crossing.

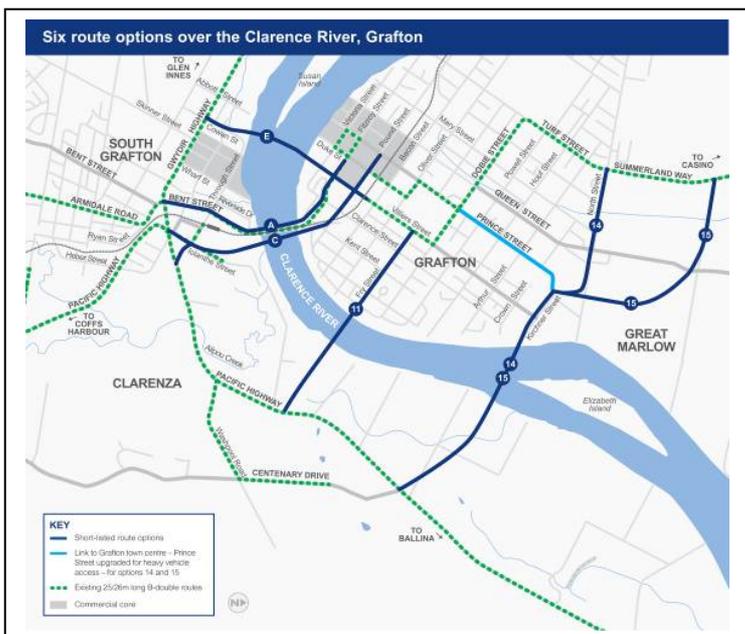
This community update provides a summary on the workshop and the outcomes.

Six short-listed route options for an additional crossing of the Clarence River were announced in January 2012.

On 10 September the *Route Options Development Report* was displayed for public comment. The report describes the preliminary concept design and the investigations undertaken by the project team for each of the six short-listed options.

Community comments on the report were received up to 12 October 2012.

The six short-listed options assessed in the *Route Options Development Report* and considered at the value management workshop are shown below.



What is the purpose of the value management workshop?

The workshop considered the six options from a wide range of perspectives. The participants evaluated the options against the agreed and weighted criteria, to determine which route option(s) could best provide a balance across social, environmental and functional issues while also taking cost and value for money into consideration.

Who participated in the workshop?

The workshop was led by an independent facilitator from the Australian Centre for Value Management (ACVM).

Workshop participants included:

- seven community participants, including a participant that lives on or near each of the six route options and a regular user of the existing bridge;
- six agency and industry stakeholders, including participants from Clarence Valley Council, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, Grafton Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Grafton-Ngerrie LALC, the freight haulage industry and NSW Police and Emergency Services;
- six project team and RMS representatives.

Technical advisors were also present.

Roads & Maritime Services

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How were the route options evaluated?

At the two day workshop, participants:

- Discussed the project purpose and objectives,
- Considered the criteria to assess the options,
- Listed their assumptions for the project,
- Considered and agreed each of the six options against the criteria,
- Recommended preferred option(s).

What were the key outcomes of the workshop?

The workshop participants recommended that options E and C be considered further by RMS as the preferred option for the additional crossing.

The participants found these two options to be the most balanced options against the functional, social and economic, environmental and cost criteria.

The participants agreed that options A, 11, 14 and 15 were the least preferred options because they do not perform as well as the options E and C against the workshop criteria.

The workshop participants found it difficult to decide between options E and C because:

- Option C was considered the best performing option assessed against functional criteria (safety and transport efficiency).
- Option E was considered the best performing option when assessed against potential impacts on the natural and built environment.
- Both options E and C performed equally well against social economic criteria.
- Both options E and C are of similar cost.

The group agreed that if option E was selected, further consideration needs to be given to improving the road safety and transport efficiency of the option.

The group agreed that if option C was selected, consideration needs to be given to reducing the potential environmental impacts of the option.

A report on the workshop will be published online in early November 2012.

What happens next?

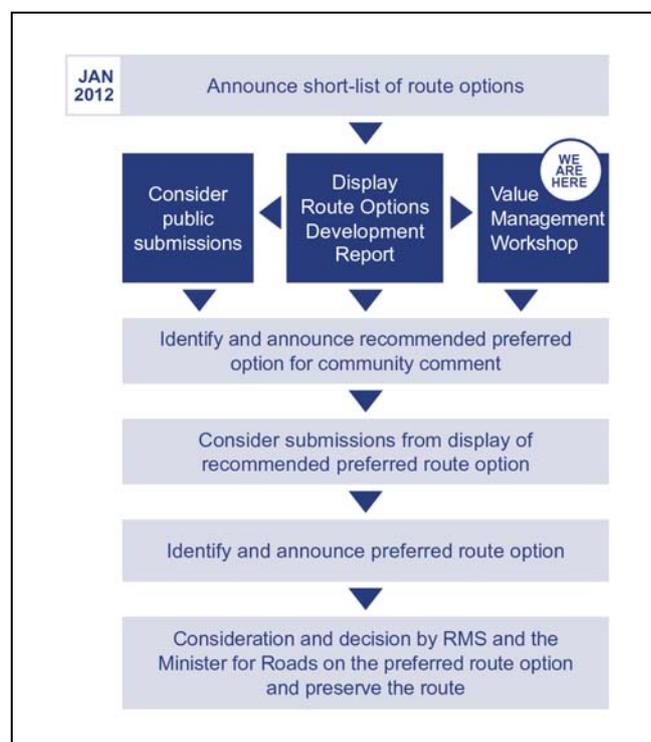
The workshop findings are not a final decision. A preferred option has not yet been selected.

The

- outcomes of the value management workshop
- wide community comment received during the display of the route options and
- outcomes of the technical investigations undertaken will help identify a recommended preferred option.

The recommended preferred option is scheduled to be released by the end of this year and community feedback will be invited. This feedback will be considered before a final decision is made on the preferred option early next year.

The process to identify the preferred option is shown in the flowchart below.



Need more information?

Contact the project team

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