



Grafton bridge project update

September 2015

The NSW Government is funding the \$210 million additional crossing of the Clarence River at Grafton. Early work started in January and this update outlines progress being made on the project and the approved concept design.

Roads and Maritime Services is delivering this project, which involves building an additional bridge 70 metres downstream from the existing road and rail bridge. The project will also include upgrading parts of the road network in Grafton and South Grafton to connect the new bridge to the existing road network.

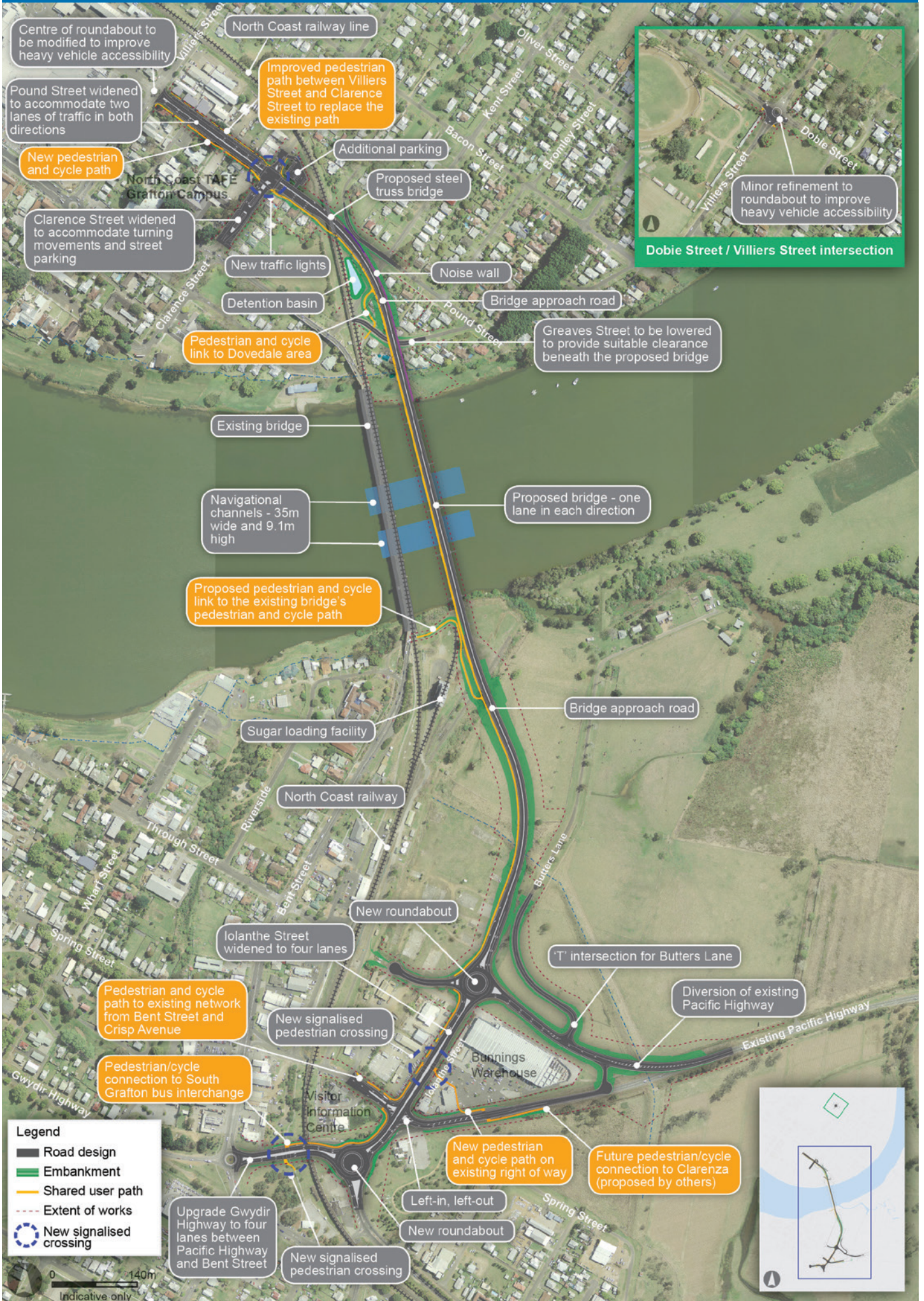
Charles Street (Gwydir Highway) upgrade

The upgrade of Charles Street between Bent Street and the Pacific Highway to four lanes is progressing well and is expected to be open to traffic by October 2015, weather permitting. During September there will be some out of hours activities to complete the paving of the eastbound carriageway. Affected residents and business owners will be consulted with directly. Once paving has been completed in mid-September eastbound traffic will be switched onto the slow lane. The westbound traffic will remain the same. The two inside lanes will be closed while the central median and pedestrian refuge is built.

Project benefits

- A second crossing is needed to provide a practical alternative to cross the Clarence River
- Will relieve current and future congestion, improve road safety for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists travelling across the river
- Cater for current and future traffic demands, including a design that removes bottle necks on either side of the river
- Provides a crossing for large heavy vehicles that are banned on the current bridge during peak periods.

Concept design and key features



Centre of roundabout to be modified to improve heavy vehicle accessibility

Pound Street widened to accommodate two lanes of traffic in both directions

New pedestrian and cycle path

Clarence Street widened to accommodate turning movements and street parking

North Coast railway line

Improved pedestrian path between Villiers Street and Clarence Street to replace the existing path

Additional parking

Proposed steel truss bridge

New traffic lights

Noise wall

Detention basin

Bridge approach road

Pedestrian and orange link to Dovedale area

Greaves Street to be lowered to provide suitable clearance beneath the proposed bridge

Existing bridge

Navigational channels - 35m wide and 9.1m high

Proposed bridge - one lane in each direction

Proposed pedestrian and cycle link to the existing bridge's pedestrian and cycle path

Bridge approach road

Sugar loading facility

North Coast railway

New roundabout

Iolanthe Street widened to four lanes

'T' intersection for Butters Lane

Pedestrian and cycle path to existing network from Bent Street and Crisp Avenue

New signalised pedestrian crossing

Diversion of existing Pacific Highway

Pedestrian/cycle connection to South Grafton bus interchange

Visitor Information Centre

New pedestrian and cycle path on existing right of way

Future pedestrian/cycle connection to Clarenza (proposed by others)

Upgrade Gwydir Highway to four lanes between Pacific Highway and Bent Street

New signalised pedestrian crossing

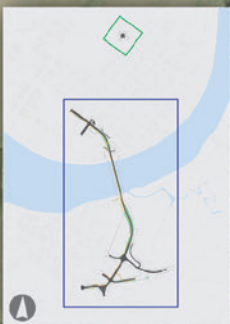
Left-in, left-out

New roundabout

Legend

- Road design
- Embankment
- Shared user path
- Extent of works
- New signalised crossing

0 140m
Indicative only



Field investigations

Flood modelling

Work is being carried out to update the flood model that was completed as part of the environmental impact statement. This new information will include:

- Detailed surveys of the existing levees in Grafton and South Grafton
- Surveys of the river bed depth
- Details relating to the pier design for the new bridge.

The result of these studies will inform the work that is needed to ensure the existing flood protection levels are maintained as a result of the new bridge. This updated flood modelling will be published shortly.

Geo-technical investigations

River and land based geo-technical activities have been carried out over the last few months. The results of these investigations will provide important information about how the new bridge and roads will be built and will feed into the final design. These investigations are now complete and the temporary river restrictions have been lifted.



Geo-tech work on the Clarence River

Land soil surveys

The project team have been carrying out land surveys at sites in Grafton that will be acquired as part of the project. These investigations are now complete and the soil samples will be tested for any signs of contamination. Remedial action plans will be developed for sites showing evidence of contamination prior to construction starting.

Utility identification

Potholing to determine locations of utility networks in Pound Street and Clarence Street were completed in July. This work will ensure we know where all utility networks are and will inform the detailed design and construction of the project.

Shortlisted contractors

In May we invited interested companies to register their interest to design and build the project. Three companies have been shortlisted and invited to submit a detailed tender.

The shortlisted companies are:

- Lend Lease Engineering
- Rizzani de Eccher Australia and Seymour Whyte Constructions Joint Venture
- Fulton Hogan Construction.

It is expected that the contract will be awarded early to mid 2016 and construction to start in late 2016.

For more information

For more information about the project please contact the project team by:

Phone: 1800 633 332

Email: graftonbridge@rms.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects

Post: Greg Nash, Senior Project Manager
PO Box 546, Grafton 2460.

Privacy

Roads and Maritime Services ("RMS") is subject to the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* ("PIIP Act") which requires that we comply with the Information Privacy Principles set out in the PIIP Act.

All information in correspondence is collected for the sole purpose of assisting in the assessment of this proposal/ delivering this project. The information received, including names and addresses of respondents, may be published in subsequent documents unless a clear indication is given in the correspondence that all or part of that information is not to be published. Otherwise RMS will only disclose your personal information, without your consent, if authorised by the law. Your personal information will be held by RMS at insert office address. You have the right to access and correct the information if you believe that it is incorrect.