

Grafton Bridge project update

November 2016

The NSW Government is funding the \$240 million additional crossing of the Clarence River at Grafton. This update outlines progress being made on the project and upcoming work.

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 also includes upgrading parts of the road network in Grafton and South Grafton to connect the new bridge to the existing road network.

Roads and Maritime has engaged Fulton Hogan to design and build the new bridge. Fulton Hogan is currently refining the project's detailed design and preparing an Urban Design and Landscape Plan, which is expected to be displayed for community feedback in late 2016.

Construction has now started with major work to start on the bridge expected to start in early 2017.

Recent activities

Survey, geotechnical and utility investigations

Additional survey, geotechnical and utility investigations are being carried out. These investigations have provided more detailed information about ground and river conditions needed to complete the project's detailed design. These activities are expected to be complete by late 2016.

Environmental

The project has started installing environmental controls. These include:

- Temporary fencing around heritage sites and sensitive vegetation areas to ensure they are protected during construction
- Skink fencing to ensure habitat is retained for the Three-toed Snake Tooth Skink
- Nest boxes along the project alignment to provide alternative hollows for wildlife
- Water and dust monitoring to gather data before major work starts
- Erosion and sediment controls at bridge approaches to prepare for work starting on the earthwork embankments in late 2016.

Environmental monitoring will be carried out to understand the existing environmental conditions. The project will work towards managing impacts as close as possible to existing background conditions. Monitoring will continue during the construction phase.

Upcoming activities

Establishing site compounds

There are a number of site compounds proposed as part of the upgrade. Sites will vary in size and function and their locations are still being finalised.

The main compound will be at the corner of Duke and Pounds Street, Grafton. This compound will make use of the existing buildings and include office space, amenities, parking and storage facilities. It will also be the location of the project's community display centre.

Property condition inspections

Property condition inspections will be carried out on public utilities, structures and buildings adjacent to the project. These inspections are a precautionary measure before major work starts. If you are eligible for a condition inspection you will be contacted by the project team before major work starts in your area.

Removal of properties and structures

Removal of properties and structures within the project boundary is planned to start in early November 2016. Work involves assessing the individual sites and reclaiming recyclable materials, removing the structures with appropriate equipment and cleaning up the site. This work is expected to be complete in late 2016.

Vegetation clearing

Vegetation clearing within the approved project boundary will start in Pound Street later this month. This work will involve removing vegetation necessary for construction. There may be short delays to traffic on local roads while this work occurs. The community will be informed about any traffic delays or other impacts.

Flood mitigation work

The Hydrological Mitigation Report is now available on the website, along with a short video and fact sheet to explain the work to minimise the flood impact of the new bridge. Work to re-level sections of the Grafton and South Grafton levee system is planned to start in November 2016. The work will occur in stages and will start in South Grafton. The project team will contact the affected property owners to coordinate access.

Interactive website

A new interactive website has been developed, which includes new animations and videos about the project. This is to enable the community to see what the new bridge and road network will look like when it is complete. The website will be continually updated with new visual tools to understand the construction of the project.

You can access the site from the project website www.rms.nsw.gov.au/graftonbridge and by clicking the computer icon as seen to the right.



For more information

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