

New Grafton bridge project update

The NSW Government is funding the \$240 million new Grafton bridge. This update outlines progress being made on the project and upcoming work.

Significant progress continues to be made in the Clarence River, with a number of marine piles completed. The project team continues to work with river users to reduce impacts during the project. In particular, we worked closely with the committee of the Grafton Bridge to Bridge ski race, which was held on the October long weekend, to ensure the successful running of this event.

Since the previous project update in July a number of project milestones have been achieved.

Embankment foundation treatment

The treatment of soft ground in South Grafton is continuing. Soft ground treatments are part of the construction of the embankments and the approaches to the north and south of the Clarence River. The soft ground treatment work involves over constructing the

road embankments with earth fill to compress the soft ground layers until they become firm enough to hold the approach roads. Monitoring instruments have been installed along the embankments to monitor movement of the embankment. Work can commence at areas where the settlement has met the design targets. This includes the final road elements such as drainage culverts and pavement construction.

Utilities and Services

Sheet piling for the Greaves Street pump station has been completed. Excavation and concrete work for the pump station is underway.

Utilities relocation is progressing well, with ducting and conduit installation work complete in Grafton.



Aerial photo looking south towards land and marine piling, soft soil work and pre-cast facility.

Piling

The new bridge will have a total of eight piers and two end abutments. Of the eight piers, five will be built in the Clarence River and three on land. The five Clarence River marine piers will have two, 3 metre diameter foundation piles constructed below each pier. The land piers will each have three foundation piles below each pier. Both land and river piling is continuing with land piers completed on the north and south side of the river. Abutment piling will continue after settlement of the approach embankments has reached design targets.

Fifteen land piles and 10 marine piles will be built for the project, with some up to 30 metres deep. Piling in the river will continue to progress north across the river as each of the five piers are completed.



Piling hammer vibrating a steel casing into place

South Grafton pre-cast facility

Foundations for the pre-cast facility north of Through St in South Grafton have been poured and security fencing erected around the site. Precast moulds for the bridge segments are due for delivery by the end of October and the first segment is expected to be cast in early November.

The bridge segments will be produced at the pre-cast facility and delivered by trucks along a corridor to the temporary jetty, where they will be loaded onto the barge for transportation to each of the marine pier locations.



Panorama taken from the north side looking south across existing road and

Closure of Kent Street

Kent Street has been permanently closed to through traffic between Pound and Fitzroy streets. The closure is necessary as this section of Kent Street will form part of the new bridge embankment. Access for pedestrians and cyclists will be maintained, but there may be some diversions.

New heavy and high vehicle truck routes introduced in Grafton

Heavy and high vehicle truck routes have been implemented to allow trucks to enter the work site on the northern side of the Clarence River. Up to 60 trucks a day carrying fill, gravel and asphalt will be required to travel to the northern side of the project via the heavy vehicle truck route.

Heavy vehicles will travel to site via Summerland Way, Villiers, Pound and Kent streets. Occasionally high vehicles will be required to travel to the northern construction area. They will travel to site via Villiers, Bacon and Kent streets to avoid the low rail viaducts.

Tree removal in Clarence Street

Mango trees on the western side of Clarence Street have been removed to enable widening of the street to accommodate turning movements and street parking. The removal of the trees also allows the installation of paving of the gravel shoulder on the western side of the street.



and rail bridges

NAIDOC Day

The Grafton bridge project team joined the NAIDOC Family Fun Day celebrations at the Grafton Showground to talk about the project's progress and job opportunities. More than 100 visitors attended the information display during one of the largest NAIDOC day celebrations ever held in the Clarence Valley.



Mavis and Barry Green talk to Grafton bridge project team member Rachel at the NAIDOC Family Fun Day in Grafton

Future Fest

The project team took part in the My Future Fest youth careers day held in August at the North Coast TAFE in Pound Street, with about 70 young people visiting the new Grafton bridge display.

School tours

Students studying construction at South Grafton High School were given a bridge site tour by the project team in September and had the chance to talk to managers and engineers overseeing the project.

Head Industrial Technology teacher David Youman said tours to the site rounded out the construction training of local Clarence Valley students who are studying for Certificate II qualifications in construction while undertaking their HSC.

Team members delivered a project update and talked about the technology being used on the project and the planning and management processes used during construction.

Students from Grafton Public School also toured the site as part of geography studies they have been doing throughout the year. Focusing on 'factors affecting their local area' the students spoke to project members about environmental considerations, employment opportunities, benefits of the project and flood management considerations.



Pouring the concrete slab for the pre-cast facility

Upcoming activities

Key construction activities include planned for the rest of the year:

- continuing utility relocation
- start placement of pavement gravels in South Grafton
- continuing drainage work
- continue construction of the southern and northern approach embankments
- continuing piling work and pier construction in the river
- completing foundation work for the new Pound Street rail viaduct
- start manufacture and placement of bridge segments
- continue building the Greaves Street pump station
- start upgrading Bridge Street, Butters Lane and Through Street
- extending the temporary jetty on the south bank of the Clarence River.

Community information session

Members of the project team will be available to discuss the project at Grafton Shoppingworld on 25 October from 12 - 3pm. This provides everyone with an opportunity to get an update on construction activities and to ask any questions about the progress of the bridge.

Community feedback on new road levels

The project team recently called for feedback on the proposal to adjust some road levels around Grafton to accommodate the new bridge. No submissions were received prior to the deadline of 06 October, 2017. The project team will proceed with implementing the new road levels as proposed. They can be viewed at the Community Display Centre or on the project's website.

Where do I find out more information?

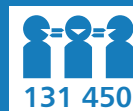
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