

Additional crossing of Clarence River

Planning for a new bridge in the Grafton area

COMMUNITY UPDATE NO. 4
SEPTEMBER 2003

Background

The NSW State Government has announced \$500,000 for the next stage of planning for a new bridge over the Clarence River to service Grafton.

This is the fourth community update on the progress of investigations into an additional crossing of the Clarence River.

Background

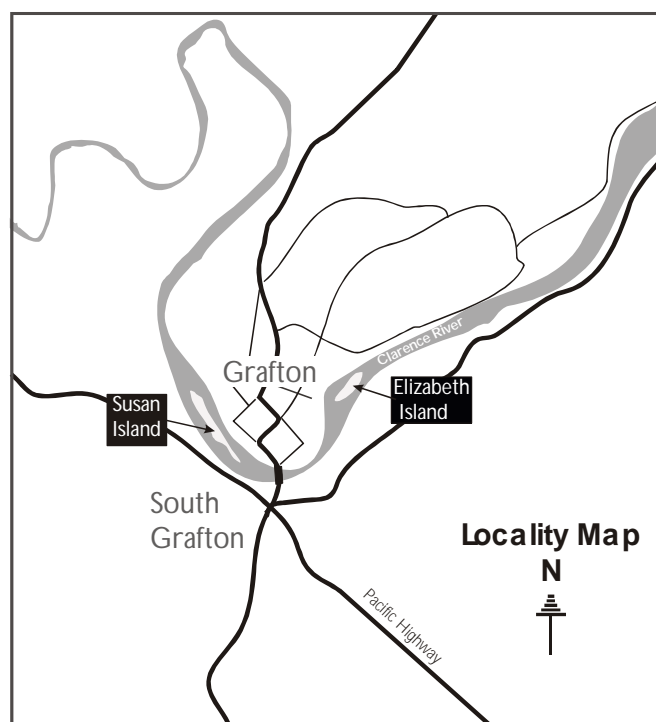
In 2001 a community campaign for a new bridge at Grafton commenced. In May 2002 a public meeting was held regarding a second crossing of the Clarence River. Following this meeting the State Government allocated \$100,000 for a feasibility study for a second crossing of the Clarence River. The feasibility study was completed in March 2003.

The study concluded that the most feasible location for an additional bridge was in the vicinity of the existing bridge in Grafton. However, even though this location appeared feasible an additional crossing at this location would still have significant impacts on the community such as traffic, social, noise and aesthetics.

The locations upstream and downstream of the existing bridge were also considered feasible. These locations would have a number of benefits including the linking of possible future growth areas. These options also had a number of adverse impacts particularly economic, social, environmental and road traffic noise.

Study area

The study area for this next step, selection of a preferred route, will extend from Susan Island to Elizabeth Island. (Refer to the map below.)



Detailed investigations

The selection of a preferred route will require additional detailed investigations. This will assist to determine the environmental and engineering impacts of a number of route options within the study area.

A message from the Minister

Planning for a new bridge over the Clarence River is an important project to address access issues for the community in and around Grafton.

The State Government is committed to working closely with the local community and ensuring everyone is invited to comment on the proposal.

I look forward to the community's involvement in this stage of the planning process.



Carl Scully
Minister for Roads

Involving the community

The project team has recently sought involvement into the next stage of investigations.

The key stakeholders in the project are residents, government agencies, business, and environment and community groups.

A Community Focus Group is being established. Community workshops will also be held to ensure that business, environmental, community groups and residents have input into the project.

Community Focus Group (CFG)

The role of the CFG will include:

- Conveying project information to and from the members' groups of interest.
- Participating in the process to develop the preferred route.

Community workshops

Alternatively, the community workshops are information sessions that provide opportunities for all community members who have nominated to attend to:

- Understand the route selection stage.
- Be informed about the progress of the project.
- Provide information to the RTA.

What happens next

The following diagram shows the process we have undertaken, where we are up to and the next steps.

Feasibility Study Completed

Decision to Proceed

Involving the Community

Consult with the Community
Establish Community Groups
Hold Community Workshops

We are
here

Develop Route Options

Identify and investigate route options
Route option design
Community Workshops

Display Route Options

Public display of route options
Community input to route options

Route Evaluation

Route Evaluation Workshop (involving the community)
Additional investigations (if required)
Route options report and recommendation

Preferred Route

Preferred Route announced.



For further enquiries:



1800 056 756



Wwww.rta.nsw.gov.au



Peter_Black@rta.nsw.gov.au



PO Box 576, Grafton, NSW 2460

Roads and Traffic Authority