



**Pacific Highway Upgrade
Brunswick Heads to Yelgun
Community Liaison Group Meeting No. 19
1 November 2006**

Attendees:

Greg Milham
Robert Rosen
Colin Tarbox
Pauline Millington
Tony Stupka
Sue Stirton
Jack Taylor
Kathy Norley-Farmer
Frank Mills
Gillian Secombe
Don Armstrong
Barry Hutton

Will MacDonald (Abigroup)
Mark Sabolch (Abigroup)
Wendy Dooley (Abigroup)
Kelly McNellee (Abigroup)

Peter Borrelli (RTA)

Apologies: Malcolm Murray, Patricia Warren, Trevor Watts,
Bill Gardyne, Dave Purdy and Ron Holmes.

1.0 Welcome

Members of the CLG were welcomed at the site office before leaving for the Site Tour of the Brunswick River Service Road Bridge.

2.0 Brunswick River Service Road Bridge Site Tour

Will MacDonald lead the CLG through the construction area and up to the bridge deck. Following Will MacDonald's talk on the construction of the bridges, CLG members participated in a discussion, with Will answering several questions on different aspects of the construction.

3. Agenda

Meeting reconvened back in the meeting room at 6.42pm after a short break.

3.1 Apologies

Trevor Watts, Patricia Warren, Malcolm Murray, Bill Gardyne, Dave Purdy and Ron Holmes tendered apologies prior to the meeting.

3.2 Written comments received on previous meeting notes

Wendy Dooley advised the following via Patricia Warren's email: -

"Item 4 Discussion: Rest Area Information Signage regarding Brunswick Heads. Edit and pick up on the photograph 'Morning Cast' that won the 2006 Simple Pleasures Photographic competition. The photographs are currently for sale. Reason: The notes as they read apply to the whole of the 'Simple Pleasures' campaign in Brunswick Heads. Given the controversial nature of the Simple Pleasures campaign you would appreciate the need to specifically identify what in that generic campaign may be appropriated to the Yelgun Signage.

"Also, I strongly support the formation of a CLG sub-committee on the Yelgun issue and would ask that my name be put on that committee."

The meeting discussed the information and agreed to delay any further discussions until Rachel Sadler from the RTA presented her draft designs and ideas, most likely at the next CLG meeting. Formation of a sub committee which could include input from the Yelgun community, was also delayed until this information was presented.

It was agreed that Robert Rosen would approach the photographer regarding the availability of the "*Morning Cast*" photograph and if OK he would E-Mail the photograph to Peter Borrelli (E-Mail address peter_borrelli@rta.nsw.gov.au). If RTA used the photograph they would need to acknowledge the photographer.

3.3 Outstanding Actions from the Previous Meeting

3.3.1 Capricornia Channel

Brett Lee was to investigate this matter further within Council. As Brett was not present at the meeting it was agreed that the matter would be held over until the next meeting.

3.3.2 Road Signage Billinudgel

This was also agreed to be held over to next meeting due to Brett Lee's absence.

Wendy Dooley noted that the exit sign for Billinudgel which had previously been obstructed by vegetation had now been cleared.

3.3.3 Marshalls Creek

Repairs have been made to the road surface eliminating hazard.

3.3.4 Shara Boulevard Advanced Warning Signage

Will MacDonald was to investigate advance warning signs. Will reported that the Project Team had investigated traffic flow in the area of concern. It was noted that all the permanent signposting design for that area had now been implemented. It was

also noted that traffic seemed to be getting used to the new entrance and no further complaints or accidents had been reported. Will advised the meeting that the Project Team would keep an eye on the situation.

3.3.5 Rajah Road

Wendy Dooley advised that since the last traffic switch to some new work, pavement conditions in the area had improved. Two members advised that there was still a traffic hazard (bump / dip) east of the entrance to Rajah Road where a drainage line had been laid across the road. Will MacDonald to assess and fix the problem. Wendy also advised that a lighting tower had now been placed at the intersection to assist motorists.

3.3.6 Coolamon Scenic Drive

Brett Lee had previously made a request to look into the condition of this road where it passed over the new works. The recent sealing works on this section appeared to have worked well. No further complaints have been received.

- Q.** Regarding the Yelgun Rest area signage – will there be any input from the Yelgun community?
- A.** Whilst not specifically related to Yelgun, as noted above, RTA is currently preparing a draft of the signs and will further discuss this at the next CLG meeting. Also as noted above, RTA will consider having a specific sub-committee for the signs if there is enough interest.

4. Construction Update and Upcoming Works

Construction Update

- New section of service road, north of Rajah Road is nearing completion. The recent traffic switch to this new section assists in relocating traffic clear of the construction area. The focus at present is to complete the rest of the Service Road Bridge, switch the traffic onto this area and then complete the adjacent section of the Highway.
- Concreting of the Tweed Street roundabout had been completed and sealing works have begun on the southern bypass sections.
- Finishing works including asphalt on the Brunswick River bridge deck, have begun on the Service Road Bridge.
- Concrete paving has commenced near Banana Road. Need to complete the concrete paving at the southern end of the service road traffic switch and then concentrate on the longer runs between STP Access and Billinudgel. A photo of the CRCP through cut 7 was also shown.
- Landscaping is progressing with a lot of revegetation works now underway.
- A view from the new pedestrian bridge was also shown.

- Demolition works have begun on the existing Overflow bridge at Marshalls Creek. Piling works have recommenced at Marshalls Creek following the demolition of the existing bridge. Piling works will shortly recommence for the new Marshalls Creek Overflow bridges (once demolition of the old existing structure is complete) and is scheduled to be completed mid December 2006.
- Q.** What is happening at the moment to the Brunswick Heads Nature Reserve access road entrance – when will it re-open? – At the same time as the traffic switch?
- A.** A proposal had been forwarded to the RTA seeking approval to close the Access Road to the general public during the working week (Monday to Friday) in the short term to allow construction works to proceed as quickly as possible, and reopening the access on the weekends. All stakeholders would be consulted with and if agreeable the Project Team would go ahead with this suggestion. Left in – Left Out access to the Nature Reserve would be from the Service Road on completion of the Local Service Road.
- Q.** When in December will the traffic switch to the new Local Service Road occur?
- A.** The Project Team has not yet locked down a date, however it is expected to be before Christmas.
- Will explained that there are now two major traffic milestones left to achieve on the project: The traffic switch on to the Brunswick River Local Service Road and the Opening the completed Pacific Highway Upgrade to traffic.

Upcoming Works

- Brunswick River (Southern) Service Road Switch. Nightworks have been scheduled for placement of asphalt on the tie-ins. No disruption to local residents is expected from this work.
- The Northbound Off-Load Bridge at the Yelgun Interchange (Yelgun Interchange Bridge No. 1) will require out of hours works for the concrete deck pour. At this stage expected to be on 10 November 2006. The CLG were advised that this was the last major concrete pour and the schedule had been arranged to take advantage of the lower temperatures at night to pour the concrete. Noise would not be an issue. All residents who may be affected by the works would be notified accordingly. Due to their distance away from the works there were not expected to be any problems for the adjacent residents. The CLG raised no objection to this proposal.
- Concrete pours for the Billinudgel Pedestrian Overpass Bridge are expected to be complete in January 2007 with pedestrian railing and protection screens to be fitted thereafter to complete the structure.
- Concrete paving is ongoing and advancing quickly throughout the project. Paving will continue through until a few weeks before opening of the Upgrade.

Will gave a quick review of how the paver operates. Members raised no objections to the upcoming paving works.

- Q.** What are the machines that work with the concrete paving with the rollers used for?
- A.** Two machines are used with the concrete paver –the 1st being a Placer / Spreader which is used to place and evenly spread the wet concrete over the steel reinforcement and the 2nd is the Texturing / Curing Machine which is used to apply a curing compound on the concrete to prevent cracking. This machine also carries a large roll of plastic, which if required, can be rolled out if rain is likely to damage the fresh concrete.
- Brunswick River Bridges. Works have now commenced on the southbound bridge.
- Q.** What is happening to the old Brunswick River bridge over Christmas?
- A.** The bridge will remain in place, however for safety and security reasons it will be fenced off and no access will be available to the public. We will be clearing out the rock platforms early in the new year and demolishing the bridge following completion of this.
- Out of Hours stitch pours were scheduled for November / December for the Northbound Bridge. The CLG were advised that these pours would be similar in method to those undertaken for the Service Road bridge, starting in the early morning to take advantage of the cooler temperatures. Three were scheduled, northern and southern ends, and finally the mid stitch pour. The first stitch pour is scheduled for 17 November 2006 commencing at 5.00am. The CLG agreed to this proposal and noted that the initial pours worked well.
 - Night asphalt works have also been scheduled for the area from Rajah Road to just south of Brunswick Heads Road (Tweed Street) for the period 20 November to 7 December 2006. This is to allow the placement of asphalt work with the intention to get the southern section of the Brunswick River Service Road open prior to Christmas (weather permitting) and will avoid the heavier traffic flow times on the highway. Mainly small equipment would be involved producing noise only marginally noisier than the normal background traffic. Affected residents would be notified if works progressed accordingly. The CLG raised no objections to this proposal.
- Q.** How is the schedule running - are we on schedule?
- A.** We are very tight for time.
- Q.** Will there be any works over Christmas?
- A.** No, Will MacDonald advised that the site would close down on 22 December 2006 and reopen 8 January 2007. During this period, only emergency crews would operate as required. The 1800 freecall number would also be staffed

over the break and will be available to members of the public wishing to contact the project team.

5. General Business

Wendy Dooley reported further from Patricia Warren's email.

"Congratulations to whoever chose the patterned / textured design. I have had a number of very positive comments about the appearance of the wall and appreciation that by avoiding a plain cement surface we, who are left here, may have avoided a graffiti space. This project is endeavouring to turn engineering into art."

Q. Will the noise walls have a similarly textured design rather than plain surfaces?

A. As the noise walls serve a different function a different pattern will be used.

Patricia also suggested that any commemoration signage use names of people who actually worked on the construction and not the Politician of the day. Similar was suggested for the Brunswick River Bridge.

Greg Milham noted that the traffic changes through Billinudgel have been mostly well received. Some people however, are using the shoulder areas for long term parking which is causing some problems for the businesses. It was commented that the names of the owners were not known, suggesting that they come from outside the area and leave their vehicles there during the day. It was asked if Abigroup could do something about this. Most businesses in the loop are happy, with one business commenting that they received six extra customers in the first week of the new road arrangements.

As dust was also becoming a problem for businesses further west along Wilfred Street it was asked if Abigroup could hose this area as well.

Discussion progressed regarding the source of water being used for dust suppression in these areas. It was suggested that if the water already contained sediment that the effort to spray the dust for the road was negated by dust being again left on the road via the water when it evaporates. Mark Sabolch advised that generally water was used from the collection basins near Tunnel Road and that some sediment could be siphoned up if the water levels get too low. Essentially this water is spring water fed in from the local water table.

Will MacDonald noted that ideally on hard surfaces, a road sweeper is the better alternative. It was then asked if a sweeper could clean this area rather than water carts. Will advised he would look into it.

Q. What is happening with run off water being collected in the basin at Yelgun rest area?

A. From time to time it is being used by RTA for hand watering of the adjacent landscape planting.

- Q.** Where are things up to with the historic site marker for Hainsville?
- A.** RTA is still working on draft and hopes to present it at the next CLG meeting.
- Q.** What is happening with the Sleepy Hollow rest area and their use by heavy vehicles? Also will there be a connection off the Yelgun roundabout, and who will it work?
- A.** Peter Borrelli advised that the rest area at Sleepy Hollow would be closed to heavy vehicles following the establishment of the Yelgun Rest Area. Peter also advised that there will be separate service road. The Tweed Valley Way will be connected and the existing Mango Road Intersection on the Highway would be removed.

Tony Stupka advised the meeting that he had received further letters of complaint regarding the noise levels in the Yelgun Valley. Tony advised that a letter is being written from the local Progress Association. Wendy Dooley offered to copy the letters and pass all onto Dave Purdy at the RTA who was handling this matter as part of the Yelgun to Chinderah project.

- Q.** Are there any new developments regarding the proposed service station at Shara Boulevard and access to the freeway?
- A.** No, there will be no direct access from the service station to the freeway.

5.1 Confirm date for next meeting.

The next meeting was confirmed as 7 February 2007.

5.2 Close

Meeting closed at 7.30pm.