



Constructing Australia's Future

**Pacific Highway Upgrade
Brunswick Heads to Yelgun
Community Liaison Group Meeting No. 21
4 April 2007**

Attendees:

Colin Tarbox
Don Armstrong
Pauline Millington
Tony Stupka
Sue Stirton
Jack Taylor
Kathy Norley-Farmer
Frank Mills
Barry Hutton
Malcolm Murray
Trevor Watts
Gillian Secombe

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

Peter Borrelli (RTA)

Apologies: Brett Lee (BSC), Bill Gardyne, Ron Holmes (RTA), Robert Rosen, Trevor Watts, Greg Milham and Patricia Warren

1.0 Welcome

Meeting opened at 6.33pm.

1.1 Agenda

Welcoming the CLG, Wendy gave a brief outline of the agenda.

2.0 Apologies

Patricia Warren, Robert Rosen, Bill Gardyne, Brett Lee (BSC), Ron Holmes (RTA) and Trevor Watts were noted as apologies for the meeting.

2.1 Written Comments Received on Previous Meeting Notes

A member of the public raised a question regarding the type of landscaping planned for the entrance to the northern end of Balemo Drive. Urban plantings in this area include a mixture of tubestock and advanced trees. The progress with landscaping will be included in the Landscaping Update and Finishing Presentation later in the meeting.

2.2 Outstanding Actions from Previous Meeting

2.2.1 It was noted that the previously raised pothole in Rajah Road still needed to be repaired. It was also noted that workers were still parking cars on the nature strip although the situation was much better. Wendy advised that the foremen in the area will be asked to remind new and existing employees not to park in the area. Will agreed to organise repair work to be undertaken on the pot hole.

2.2.2 Flooding concerns for Coolamon Scenic Drive were addressed. Will reported the original flood modelling had been revised by SMEC after the flooding experienced prior to construction and the model recalibrated.

Concerns were raised regarding flood debris and the quick rise of water which has been experienced with the railway culvert for many years. It was noted that the culvert was on railway property and therefore maintenance of the culvert was their responsibility.

2.2.3 The meeting was advised that signage had now been installed on the Brunswick River Bridge warning of the dangers and prohibiting jumping from the Bridge. An RTA Media Release of 27 March 2007 was read out and Peter Borrelli noted that the media release had been provided by RTA to the local media outlets for use. It was noted that the new bridges are approximately 10 meters above the water and are located in a more shallow area of the river. The RTA further commented that they appreciated the concerns and phone calls from the general public but it has done all that is possible to warn people of the potential dangers.

3.0 Construction Update and Upcoming Works

Will Macdonald used recent aerial photos to highlight the progress achieved to date. Construction at present was still a patchwork of concreted sections and it was noted that 75% of concrete pavement works have been achieved to date.

- Bridges 11 and 12 (Yelgun Interchange) are almost complete; work is progressing to complete the Interchange.
- Paving was complete to Shara Boulevard.

Q. CLG members noted that complaints were still being received regarding the length of the turning lanes into Shara Boulevard and the build up of traffic being experienced turning into and out of the area.

A. It was noted that the intersection design complies with design guide requirements and that any problems being experienced should be alleviated when Pacific Highway traffic is switched to the new Upgrade and only local traffic is using intersection.

- Work on the Pedestrian Bridge at Billinudgel is continuing, with the final additions to the throw screens and finishing works underway.
- Most of the street lighting conduits and lighting footings are now installed. Lighting poles will be delivered after Easter and the electrical subcontractor should commence erecting them later in April 2007. Street lighting is located at the Brunswick Heads South and North Interchanges, Billinudgel, Yelgun Interchange and Rest Area.
- The Stone Mastic Asphalt wearing course, which is designed to reduce traffic road tyre noise, is to be laid from south of the Brunswick Heads North Interchange to the northern limit of the works at Yelgun. Work on laying this asphalt should begin after Easter.

Q. The stone mastic layer – is there a plan to cover it if it doesn't work?

A. Predictive noise modelling will be carried out six months after the Upgrade is opened to traffic to establish whether noise levels meet the criteria for the project. Problems are not expected from this surface.

- Coming works would concentrate north of the river with priorities being completing the retaining walls and concrete paving as soon as possible.
- Brunswick River Bridges stitch pours are now complete to the south bound bridge deck. Traffic barriers and concrete parapets would now be installed to finalise this section.
- A colony of an endangered species of micro bats, *Myotis Adversus* – Large Footed Fishing Bat, has been found to be roosting in the old Brunswick River Bridge. Experts have been called in to advise the project team on their needs and how best to relocate the colony. Plans are being formulated and will be forwarded to the Department of Environment Conservation and Climate Change for their review and approval.

The rock platform in the Brunswick River will be removed and Will reiterated that some out of hours work could be required in the vicinity of the bridges. Residents that will be affected by the works will be notified in the usual manner as soon as plans are finalised and work is due to commence. There were no objections raised to this.

Q. How many bats are there?

A. There are an estimated 90 micro bats.

- Hand pours are continuing to tie in paving and fill in the gaps in the southern area of the project including along the Brunswick Heads bypass.
- Fauna fencing is being progressively installed along the project.

4.0 Landscaping Update/Finishing Presentation

Will advised the meeting that all information from the presentation, including plans and diagrams, could be accessed from the Display Centre. Plantings to date have taken well and more extensive work will recommence after Easter.

- The bulk of tube stock plantings are now complete and median planting commenced this week. Some areas around the Brunswick Heads North Interchange still remain to be planted.
- Planting of feature trees is to commence after Easter. These will be located in the surroundings of Balemo Drive, Sanctum and the Humble Pie.
- The Rest Area fauna fence is being installed and when eventually finished will be painted black and extend across the project. Finishing works at the Yelgun Rest Area will not commence until removal of the concrete batch plant is complete. Pasture grass is being used to stabilise the area.
- Currently 75% of the planting has taken place. 130,000 tube stock plants are to be planted on the project.
- The objective by the project team is to rehabilitate disturbed areas as soon as work in that area is finished.
- The project is also experiencing a bonus of vegetation regrowth due to natural germination of native seed already within the top soil seed bank.
- A different approach to revegetation principles and processes by the RTA has resulted in good results for native vegetation regeneration and a far better outcome for the project.
- Urban plantings will commence soon after Easter. These planting areas are largely located at the Brunswick Heads North Interchange, Billinudgel and the Yelgun Interchange and the Yelgun Rest Area. Planting will initially commence at Billinudgel and the Brunswick Heads North Interchange.

Q. Where are the plants being supplied from?

- A.** Advanced plants are being supplied from the Cape Nursery at Ewingsdale and Mullumbimby Creek Native Nursery is supplying the tube stock plants.
- Orana roundabout will be constructed after traffic is switched to the completed Upgrade.
 - Wall 4, separating the Upgrade from the Local Service Road north of Rajah Road, is the tallest wall in the project and will feature architectural precast panels to cover the surface and a landscaped garden bed at its base. Artists' impressions were used to give an idea of what was planned. Vertical designs will be used to give perspective.
 - Areas between the Sewage Treatment Plant to Coolamon Scenic Drive and Coolamon Scenic Drive to Bonanza Drive are now starting to take shape with their landscaping. Median plants are now in place and wire rope barriers installed. The next area to be finished is Shara Boulevard to Yelgun Interchange.
 - Roundabout work at Tweed Street is nearing completion. Kerbs and footpaths were installed this week.
 - The rest area will include toilet facilities using an aerated waste water treatment system; play equipment; picnic shelters with seating; BBQ facilities and an information board.
 - Lighting will be used in different areas according to design needs. Light will be directed down onto the road surface limiting spill in suburban areas. Special aeroscreen fittings will be used on lights to minimise light spill.
 - Traditional signage will be used.
 - Installation of retaining wall architectural fascia panels will require some out of hours work. As discussed previously, all notifications will be made as required in the usual manner. Also the installation of street lighting footings, which can not be installed during the day will also require approximately two weeks of night work. The CLG raised no objections to this.
 - Placement of bridge asphalt will require night works to complete. As discussed in the February CLG meeting, all residents that may be affected will be notified as a matter of course and as per agreements previously accepted by the CLG.
 - Brunswick River Bridges superstructure are now complete and bridge barriers and railings are being installed.
 - At the Balemo Drive side of the Billinudgel pedestrian overpass, black fauna fencing will be installed around the constructed wetland, providing a less intrusive barrier.

- Noise wall 1, from Brunswick River Bridges to Rajah Road, will commence construction in late April 2007 and will consist of clear acrylic panels approximately 4m high to maintain views.
- Noise wall 3 from Bonanza Drive to Balemo Drive is also programmed to start in late April 2007. These comprise of architectural concrete panels finished with grooving on one side and exposed aggregate on the reverse.
- Use of the Variable Message Boards to pre warn traffic was noted favourably.

Q. Is there a date for the opening of the project?

A. No, not yet.

- Landscaping plans had received a lot of local feedback which had been incorporated. Favourable comments received so far.

Q. What traffic accidents are occurring?

A. No incidents have been noted, everyone seems to be used to the new conditions.

Q. When will Coolamon Scenic Drive be opened?

A. Still working through this with Byron Shire Council. At the moment this section will stay as is until opening. There are logistical issues for RTA / Council / Abigroup to co-ordinate and resolve and as Council is not represented tonight it was not considered appropriate to pre-empt those discussions.

Q. Ragweed has been seen in the landscaping, what is being done?

A. Rebecca Walker-Edwards has had discussions regarding the problem with Andrew Benwell. Ragweed has been identified near Coolamon Scenic Drive and Tunnel Road and this will be hand pulled due to environmental concerns for neighbouring vegetation is poisons (herbicide was used). Wild cotton has also been identified through most of the landscaping. Mike Webber has advised that the established plantings will eventually smother the weeds, the rest will be hand pulled.

Q. The weeds identified are close to flowering / seeding – if not addressed immediately, the problem will be harder to control.

A. Discussions are being held to define the best way to eradicate and will be implemented shortly.

5.0 General Business

5.1 Sue Stirton read a letter detailing local concerns that tendering for items such as stationery should have been allocated to businesses directly affected by the construction. It was asked that Abigroup take this into consideration for future projects.

5.2 Wendy Dooley advised that the Environmental Review Six Monthly Report was on display in the Display Centre for public viewing. This is the third review examining compliance with the Conditions of Approval for the project.

5.3 Wendy also read a letter from Tina Petroff on behalf of the Ocean Shores Tidy Town Team asking for Gynea Lillies and public art to be used in the landscaping of the project. Tina also asked if the entrance to Ocean Shores could be given more significant signage.

Wendy advised that many of Tina's requests have already been addressed.

5.4 Easter Traffic

Notices have been placed in the Northern Star and Echo regarding the changes to traffic conditions expected for the holiday break. The RTA will keep check of the conditions and restrict access from Brunswick Heads as per normal to help with the traffic flow.

5.5 Maintenance Manual – Operational EMP

Mark Sabolch briefly discussed the maintenance manual defining Soil & Water, Heritage and Waste & Re-use Sub Plans. Key features address spill basins and containment in wetlands, a complaints register and maintenance management for standard operating procedures covering:

- Fauna underpass monitoring;
- Threatened flora monitoring;
- Water quality and noise monitoring in first year;
- Monitoring of fauna fences including road kill;
- Weed control; and
- Maintenance at waterways.

The document is also available in the Display Centre or on the project website.

5.6 Hainsville Marker

The meeting was advised that two tree stumps have been located that may be suitable for use to mark the heritage location of Hainsville.

5.7 Opening for the Project

A date will be advised as soon as possible. The meeting was reminded that several community groups would be involved in the opening and it was not part of the CLG agenda.

5.8 Final Meeting

The next and final meeting was confirmed for 13 June 2007. Meeting closed at 7.50pm.