

Highway Planning Study - Rutledge Street to Cardwell Range

The planning study has been commissioned by the Department of Main Roads to examine options for reducing road closures during the annual wet season on the Bruce Highway between Rutledge Street, at Ingham and the southern foothills of the Cardwell Range. Main Roads has now engaged a number of specialist consultants to begin the study, which is anticipated to take up to 3 years to complete.



Why is the planning study needed?

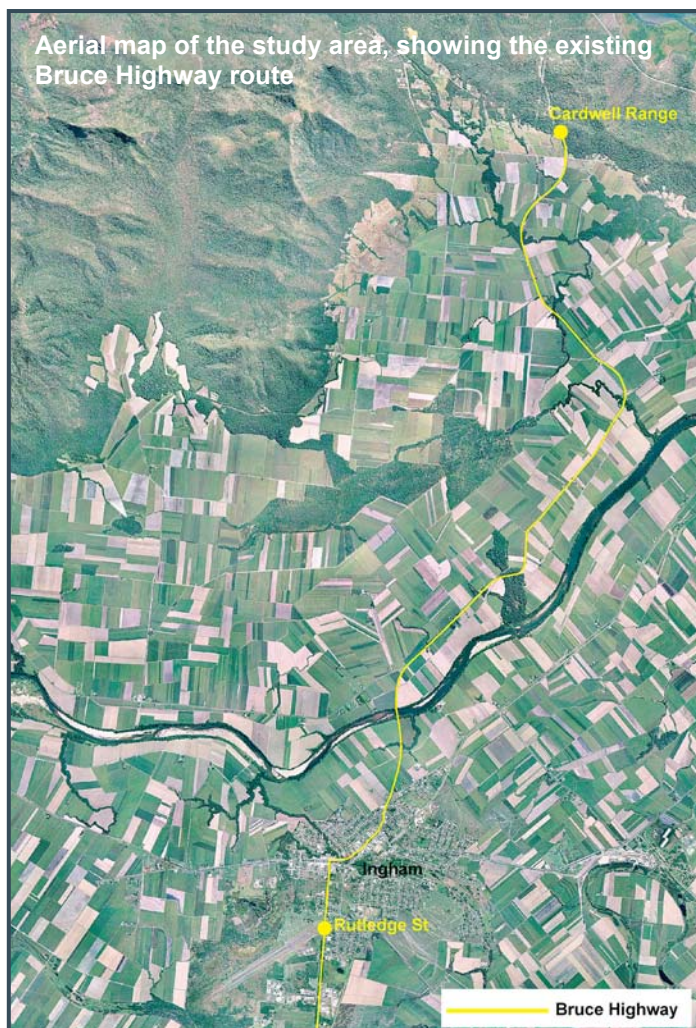
The Bruce Highway between Rutledge Street and the Cardwell Range is subject to extensive flooding, with sections of the highway often closed to traffic for up to 5 days during the annual wet season. The planning study will investigate options for providing improved flood immunity on the Bruce Highway across the Herbert River floodplain. This may involve upgrading the existing Bruce Highway route or planning to build on a new alignment. The aim of the study is to find a flooding solution that will improve traffic access and safety without significantly increasing flooding problems on nearby land.

What's involved in the study?

Extensive community consultation will be undertaken to identify, analyse and develop design options in conjunction with:

- Engineering and traffic investigations to examine traffic patterns, volumes, safety issues and construction feasibility;
- Flooding analysis, including the development of a detailed flood-model of the design options and an assessment of their potential impacts on nearby land;
- Environmental analysis including flora and fauna surveys and water and soil assessments. These will identify environmentally significant areas and wildlife and how any impacts on these can be minimised;
- Economic and social impact assessments to determine any potential impacts on local and regional businesses, agricultural production, tourism and the local community. These will be separate participatory processes which will involve the local community;
- Cultural Heritage assessments to identify and manage issues relating to cultural heritage resources and culturally significant areas, both Aboriginal and European.

The outcomes of the planning study will enable Main Roads to confidently apply for funding to upgrade the highway across the Herbert River floodplain under future AusLink programs.



What about previous studies, including the Herbert River to Cardwell Range project?

In 2007, Main Roads looked at upgrading the existing highway between the Herbert River and the southern foothills of the Cardwell Range. During this project, Main Roads identified the need to broaden the study area to better understand the full extent of the flooding impacts of the Herbert River floodplain. The current study will build on previous work undertaken in 2007 to look at the “bigger picture”, which includes flooding problems in Ingham. Earlier highway options developed by Main Roads in the 1960s will also be reviewed by the current study. This will ensure the information gathered in earlier studies is utilised in planning for an extended upgrade of the highway.



How can the local community get involved in the planning study?

Main Roads will work closely with the local community throughout the entire study. Consultation with the Hinchinbrook Shire Council and local organisations has already commenced and Main Roads has formed a Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) which includes local community members, to provide advice on the community consultation process. Consultation with businesses and landholders will commence shortly in order to gain valuable local knowledge to assist in the identification and development of options.



Want more information?

If you would like more information about the study or how to get involved you can contact the study team by:

Phone: 1300 139 824 (recorded message)

Fax: 07 4772 6335

Email: ingham@ebc.net.au

Website: www.ebc.net.au/ingham

Post: PO Box 2447, Townsville QLD 4810

Background information on the study is also available from:
www.mainroads.qld.gov.au

Vuoi saperne di piu'?

Se vuoi piu' informazione circa questo studio, o se vuoi sapere come puoi farne parte, contatta il Team-Studio

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Ulteriore informazione circa la storia di questo studio e' accessibile tramite: www.mainroads.qld.gov.au

Preferisci leggere in Italiano l'informazione sullo studio della pianificazione urbanistica da Rutledge Street a Cardwell Range?

Per una traduzione in lingua Italiana degli ultimi aggiornamenti per la comunita', contatta il Team-Studio ai numeri sopra indicati.