

Community Update

Rutledge Street to Cardwell Range Planning Study

A 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 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 wet season. This planning study will investigate options for providing improved flood immunity on the Bruce Highway across the Herbert River floodplain. This may include upgrading the existing route or planning to build on a new alignment. The intent 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 assist with identifying, analysing and developing possible design options in conjunction with:

- Engineering and traffic studies
- Flooding analysis
- Environmental analysis
- Economic and social impact assessments
- Cultural Heritage assessments, both Indigenous and European.

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 “big 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 begun forming a Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) including local community members to provide advice on the 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 project 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



TMP Q037799