



19 August 2005

Project	Pacific Highway Upgrade - Woolgoolga to Wells Crossing	From	Nicole Martyres
Subject	CLG Meeting No.3	Tel	4979 9999
Venue/Date/Time	Yarrawarra Large Conference Centre, Red Rock, 20 July 2005, 7pm – 9 pm	Job No	22/12058/40
Copies to	All CLG members and attendees		
Attendees	Sloane Scott John Imrie Tony Wade Richard Mockridge Patrick Benefield Richard Casey Mark Sinclair Stephen Williamson (RTA) Leonie Elligett (RTA) Brett Hoffman (RTA) Andrew Geddes (GHD) Nicole Martyres (GHD)	Apologies	Paul Parkinson

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**1 Welcome and introductions**

**1.1** Nicole welcomed everyone and introduced the two new CLG members, Mark Sinclair and Richard Casey. Since the last CLG meeting, applications have been received from a few people who were interested in joining the CLG. After reviewing these applications, the RTA accepted two nominations. The two new members were asked to add their signatures to the original community liaison group charter. As the project is now entering an important phase, no further nominations for the CLG will be accepted.

As there were two new members and two new RTA personnel, Leonie Elligett (RTA Communications) and Brett Hoffman (Project officer), attended the meeting, everyone was asked to introduce themselves and give a brief overview of their background.

**1.2** CLG members were reminded of the ground rules:

- » Be prepared;
- » Talk one at a time;
- » Listen to what people have to say;
- » Indicate when you want to speak;
- » Show respect;



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» Keep focused – don't side track;</li><li>» Turn mobile phones off or down;</li><li>» Start and finish at allocated times;</li><li>» Be flexible;</li><li>» Share air time equally;</li><li>» Agree to disagree;</li><li>» Respect ground rules at each meeting; and</li><li>» Have a time for open forum – 10 minutes at end!</li></ul>		
<b>2</b>	<b>Update of activities since last CLG meeting</b>		
<b>2.1</b>	<p>It was reported that the project is still at the planning stage, as the investigations have taken longer than expected. The project team has had to look at some aspects in more detail and have also looked at more options than initially anticipated. Activities undertaken over the past six months include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» Analysis and investigation work;</li><li>» Ground survey;</li><li>» Geological survey of Dirty Creek Range; and</li><li>» Looking at the environmental characteristics of the study area.</li></ul> <p>It is anticipated that the route options will go on display around August/September.</p>		
<b>3</b>	<b>Route options display</b>		
<b>3.1</b>	<p>The CLG was advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» The route options display will run for 4 weeks;</li><li>» There are likely to be static (unmanned) displays at the following locations:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– RTA Pacific Highway office (Grafton);</li><li>– Coffs Harbour City Council offices (Coffs Harbour);</li><li>– Clarence Valley Council offices (Grafton);</li><li>– Woolgoolga library;</li><li>– Corindi Beach Post Office; and</li><li>– Red Rock Post Office and general store.</li></ul></li><li>» Liberty service station (Halfway Creek); and</li><li>» In addition a small display will be put up at the various community locations that were previously used to display copies of the study area map and advertisements.</li></ul>		



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3.2	<p>It is anticipated that there will be manned displays at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Woolgoolga Seniors Centre (Woolgoolga);</li><li>– Yarrowarra Large Conference Centre (Red Rock); and</li><li>– Park Beach Plaza (Coffs Harbour).</li></ul>		
3.3	<p>The manned displays will be held over two weekends during the display period and are likely to be on a Thursday evening, a Friday and a Saturday to ensure that community members have the opportunity to come and meet the project team and ask any questions they may have.</p> <p>A copy of the route options development report will be available at the staffed displays.</p>		
3.4	<p>The route options will appear on an aerial photograph image. Each option will represent a 250 metre wide corridor. It should be noted that it is purely a corridor and if one of the options is selected as the preferred route, the project team will look more closely at constraints within the 250 metre corridor in refining the preferred route.</p>		
3.5	<p>Following the Minister’s announcement of the route options, the display will be advertised in the following newspapers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Daily Examiner;</li><li>– The Advocate;</li><li>– Advertiser; and</li><li>– Coffs Harbour &amp; District Independent Weekly.</li></ul>		
3.6	<p>It was noted that the advertisements will look different to previous advertisements, i.e. there will be no map, they will be smaller and they will appear in the classifieds section. This is bringing it in line with the new standard government approach to advertising.</p>		
3.7	<p>Some of the CLG members expressed concern over the use of ‘The Advocate’ as it is no longer delivered to each household and is no longer free of charge.</p> <p>CLG members were reminded that 4 local newspapers would now be used (only 3 previously) and that in addition to appearing in the newspapers, copies of the advertisements would be placed at the various community locations that were previously used to display copies of the study area map and advertisements.</p> <p>It was also noted that media announcements will be supplied to the local media. It will however be up to the individual newspapers and radio stations as to whether they run the story.</p> <p>These measures should ensure that as many sectors of the community are informed about the display as possible.</p>		



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3.8	<p>CLG members can assist during the route options display by putting up copies of the advertisements at key community locations, and if they want to, they can attend the staffed displays. However this is not a requirement.</p> <p>CLG members agreed to assist by distributing copies of the advertisement and making community members aware of the display.</p>		
3.9	<p>CLG members were advised that the community will have access to the following information on the route options, once they go on display:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Community update No. 2 with a covering letter – provides an overview of the options and details on display locations;</li> <li>» Feedback form – enables people to comment on the options;</li> <li>» Displays – provides more details on the options; and</li> <li>» The webpage will be updated and include an electronic feedback form.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, residents who are potentially affected by one of the options will receive a letter offering them an opportunity to meet with the project team.</p>		
3.10	<p>CLG members will receive an information package, which will include a copy of the route options development report (CD and hard copy) in addition the information listed in 3.8 above.</p> <p>CLG members were advised to contact Steve or Nicole if they have any queries regarding the information package, once they receive it. A meeting can be arranged if necessary to discuss the information.</p>		
3.11	Nicole will phone all CLG members on the day of the announcement.	NM	
<b>4</b>	<b>Value Management Workshop</b>		
4.1	<p>CLG members were advised that a value management workshop (VMW) will be held shortly after the route options display period. It will be held mid week over two days. The purpose of the workshop is to review the work undertaken to date and the route options.</p>		
4.2	<p><i>Q. Will the VMW be held during the school holidays?</i></p> <p>A. We will try to avoid the school holidays but it really is dependant on when the route option display is announced.</p>		



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4.3	<p>The workshop is one of two processes that will lead to the selection of the preferred route. During the workshop, participants will develop and apply criteria to assess the route options with a view to identifying the workshops preferred route. Further assessment of the options will take place by the project team outside of the VMW. A decision will be made once both processes are finalised.</p>		
4.4	<p><i>Q. If we are not attending, can we prepare a presentation to be delivered at the VMW?</i></p> <p>A. Unfortunately there is not room on the VMW agenda for individual presentations, however CLG members who are not attending the VMW can provide a written document to the CLG representatives who are attending, outlining issues they would like discussed.</p>		
4.5	<p><i>Q. Is the Chamber of Commerce represented at the VMW?</i></p> <p>A. Not sure. We are still developing the list of attendees, so we would have to check the invitation list.</p>		
4.6	<p><i>Q. Can the CLG meet during the display to discuss the issues to be put forward at the VMW?</i></p> <p>A. Yes. We are planning to hold the next CLG meeting during the route options display period. . The CLG representatives who attend the VMW will represent the CLG and also the community</p>		
4.7	<p>The RTA will pay for all meals during the 2 day workshop, including the dinner on day one. The RTA will also pay for overnight accommodation on day one. Travel costs are to be met by attendees.</p>		
4.8	<p>The VMW attendees will be provided with a background paper and the RODR A summary of the community submissions received during the display will be provided before or at the workshop.</p>		
4.9	<p>Three nominations (plus 1 backup) to attend the VMW were sought from the CLG. The RTA explained that ideally there should be a variety interests represented by the successful candidates, such as the different geographical areas within the study area and different interests, e.g. community groups, environmental groups.</p>		
4.10	<p>Some CLG members expressed concern over restricting the number of attendees. It was felt that everyone should be allowed to attend.</p> <p>The RTA explained that the number of attendees at the workshop will need to be limited to 35 as this is the optimum number for an effective discussion, and therefore unfortunately not all CLG members could attend.</p>		



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<b>4.11</b>	<p><i>Q. If we give names tonight, are they set in stone or can we substitute at a later date?</i></p> <p>A. We really need to decide on who will attend tonight, before the route options are announced, so that it is an impartial decision.</p>		
<b>4.12</b>	<p>Following discussion, it was agreed that four representatives (plus 1 backup) could attend the VMW. The CLG agreed that the following people should attend as representatives of the group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Tony Wade;</li><li>2. Sloane Scott;</li><li>3. John Imrie; and</li><li>4. Richard Casey.</li></ol> <p>Patrick Benefield and Mark Sinclair were selected as backup representatives and it was agreed that they would be called on upon if someone could not attend.</p>		
<b>5</b>	<b>CLG Update/Q&amp;A</b>		
<b>5.1</b>	<p><i>Q. Can we get a copy of the flora and fauna report?</i></p> <p>A. These reports are still in draft and are not public documents. They will not become public documents until the preferred route option is displayed.</p>		
<b>5.2</b>	<p><i>Q. Will delay of adjoining sections of the highway affect our options and project timeframe?</i></p> <p>A. There is no reason why it should hold us up. We know where the southern end of the highway is going as Sapphire to Woolgoolga is already at preferred route stage. We know we will have to tie in at Arrawarra Creek and at Bald Knob Tick Gate Road. The specific details will be dealt with at the concept design stage.</p>		
<b>5.3</b>	<p><i>Q. What are the results of the interviews with businesses?</i></p> <p>A. We have met with businesses and asked them where their patronage comes from and obtained some information on the number of traffic movements into/out of their premises and seasonal traffic.</p>		
<b>5.4</b>	<p><i>Q. Have you contacted National Parks regarding access requirements? Are they reducing the number of access points?</i></p> <p>A. We have had initial discussions.</p>		



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5.5	<p>CLG members reported the following feedback from the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Questions from truck drivers over where the highway is going, when the upgrade is going to start and what changes are going to be made to access and parking areas;</li> <li>» People are concerned about how they will get out onto the highway and what sort of access arrangements will be provided, particularly when four lanes need to be crossed. There are two dangerous access points at the moment. They don't want a Lakes Way style of intersection (original access arrangements);</li> <li>» People who live on McPhillips Road are concerned that their access will be removed and they will have to drive further to get onto the highway;</li> <li>» Many people are concerned about land acquisitions in terms of purchase of land and utilising land in between; and</li> <li>» Some community members have requested a comment form when they have come in to look at the study area map and advertisements. NM to supply generic comment form.</li> </ul>	NM	
5.6	<p>The RTA advised that access will be considered in more detail when the project team looks at the preferred option. The highway upgrade may be staged, for example, it may initially be a duplication and then as traffic volumes increase, there may be further upgrading.</p>		
5.7	<p>The RTA advised that they generally don't purchase land until after the environmental impact assessment has been conducted and concept design is completed. If someone wants to sell before this time, the RTA may consider acquisition on hardship grounds.</p>		
5.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» One CLG member has made contact with local groups and has sat in on some local meetings. Concerns raised include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– People reported that contractors (surveyors) have gone onto their property without permission. AJG to investigate; and</li> <li>– The RTA maps used in displays on other sections of the highway are out of date.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	AJG	Noted
5.9	<p><i>Q. Does the RTA have a database of local groups that we can contact?</i></p> <p>A. Yes, GHD have a contact database. NM to supply details of local groups.</p>		NM
5.10	<p><i>Q. What happens to trees that are removed for the highway upgrade?</i></p> <p>A. Logs from suitable tree species are cut for saw milling while and the remainder are mulched for use in the revegetation of the road corridor as part of the final landscaping.</p>		



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5.11	<p><i>Q. Are the orange posts on the highway anything to do with the Project?</i></p> <p>No. They indicate sections of the highway for maintenance purposes.</p>		
5.12	<p>The two new CLG members requested copies of the Sapphire to Woolgoolga background information, which was distributed to the CLG on 31 January 2005. NM to forward material.</p>	NM	
5.13	<p>CLG members requested better quality maps of the study area. NM to provide.</p>	NM	
5.14	<p>One of the CLG members asked if CLG member information could be posted on the webpage. All CLG members were asked to review a summary table indicating their name, locality and affiliations with local groups. NM to update website.</p> <p>All CLG members confirmed that they were happy for this information to appear on the website. However, it was agreed that no photographs of CLG members should appear.</p>	NM	
<b>6</b>	<b>Housekeeping</b>		
6.1	<p>All CLG members agreed that they would like to go on a bus tour of the study area and the options once the route options are announced. The preference was for this to occur on a weekday afternoon. NM to organise.</p>		
6.2	<p>One of the CLG members addressed the group about issues facing cyclists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The project is likely to come to fruition 10-15 years down the track. This is a long time and lots of things will change between now and then;</li> <li>» Danger of cycling on the road: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Arrawarra Creek and Little Arrawarra Creek need a separate cycleway. It is not safe to share the shoulder.</li> </ul> </li> <li>» Need to promote sustainable transport, including cycleways for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– People to get to work; and</li> <li>– Children to get to school safely.</li> </ul> </li> <li>» The need for completion of the coastal bike path: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– It could be like the Queensland cycleways.</li> </ul> </li> <li>» There is a huge tourism potential that is being missed by not providing cycling facilities;</li> <li>» The project to develop the cycleway between Arrawarra and Woolgoolga is funded by the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) and is only now coming to fruition;</li> </ul>		



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» Funding has just been obtained to join the section between Beacon Hill and Hogman Drive;</li><li>» The government has reduced the 2005 / 06 bicycle budget by 50%. The position of the RTA Bicycle Manager has been removed which is of great concern. This could set the 2010 bike plan back; and</li><li>» Bikes are a good alternative to public transport.</li></ul> <p>There is a need to look at the bigger picture when looking at infrastructure projects, and plan for cycling now.</p>		
<b>7</b>	<b>Summary and Close</b>		
<b>7.1</b>	Nicole thanked everyone for attending the meeting and their contribution. The next CLG meeting will be held at the beginning of the route options display. If anyone has any items to suggest for the agenda, please forward them to Nicole.	All	

**Andrew Geddes**  
GHD Project Manager