

REPA/WBBAG NEWSLETTER

RURAL ENVIRONMENT PLANNING ASSOCIATION INC.

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June 2007

Western Brisbane Bypass Action Group - First General Meeting

On Tuesday, 24th July at 7.30pm, WBBAG will be holding their first general meeting at the Brookfield Uniting Church Hall (Cnr Rafting Ground and Upper Brookfield Rd). This is an opportunity for all REPA/WBBAG members to meet the WBBAG Foundation Group, be given an update on achievements/activities and interact in a general discussion and the finalisation of new committee members. **RSVP's by Friday 20th July are essential – please email volunteer@westernbypass.org or call Laura on 0400 38 00 39.**

Questionnaire & Committee Nomination Form – Make a Difference!

The WBBAG Foundation Group is continuing to move forward in dealing with Western Brisbane Bypass issues and objectives and is interested in hearing from members who have skills to contribute and those who wish to join the Foundation Group on the committee. Please find attached the form for your completion and we would appreciate a return by 30th June.

REPA/WBBAG Stand at the Brookfield Show

WBBAG would like to thank all the people who stopped by the REPA/WBBAG stand at the Brookfield Show to have a chat about the Western Brisbane Bypass. The reaction and generosity of the community exceeded our highest expectations. We signed on a lot of new members and received donations that will help us in generating awareness of the bypass and its surrounding issues. It was a great chance to share our knowledge with the community and to clear up many of the common misunderstandings regarding the bypass. The stand filled beyond capacity with the arrival of Channel 7 on Saturday afternoon. The focus of their interview was the low level of awareness over the Western Brisbane Bypass and the current state of government investigations. Altogether we had a wonderful time and enjoyed the strong community spirit of the show.

Channel 7 News Story

Channel 7 News aired the “Government accused over Secret Study” story on Monday 28th May, which highlighted concerns of residents and canvassing comments from various community and political groups. The interest generated has been huge and the WBBAG website has been caught in the frenzy with up to 15,000 hits per day.

The story was favourable towards the concerned residents and covered the lack of information, along with comments from Campbell Newman, Paul Lucas and RACQ. Campbell Newman restated his opposition to a bypass option through the inner western suburbs. Paul Lucas played down the current level of the investigations and the RACQ confirmed their firm support for a Brisbane Ring-Road.

In summary, the government stated that it will involve the community, starting in June, but will not make details of any proposed routes or affected suburbs available until January 2008.

If you wish to see a copy of the archive video, go to <http://au.news.yahoo.com/video>. Click on one of the stories listed, and in the “Search” box, type in - Government accused over secret freeway.

Madonna King Interview with Paul Lucas, QLD Minister for Transport

The morning after the Channel 7 News Story, Madonna King from 612 ABC interviewed Paul Lucas on the study of the Western Brisbane Transport Network and questioned why the Terms of Reference had not been made public. Paul Lucas stated “there has been no decision on the route of any future inner-western ring road in Brisbane”.

<http://abc.net.au/news/items/200705/1936151.htm?brisbane>

Canberra Trip, by Keith Tonkin

On Tuesday, 29th May, Keith Tonkin, Western Brisbane Bypass Action Group (WBBAG) Representative and Jenny Hacker, REPA's Secretary, along with the leader of the State Liberal Party, Dr. Bruce Flegg visited the National Parliament in Canberra to accompany the Federal Member for Ryan, Michael Johnson and Federal Member for Blair, Mr Cameron Thompson to a meeting with the Federal Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Mr Jim Lloyd. Tony Mendies from the Gap Community Association was there too.

The Minister heard our concerns and indicated that the Federal Government did not support the idea of a motorway through the inner western suburbs of Brisbane. He also expressed concern that the QLD Government had not involved the community in any form of consultation, despite the requirement to do so in the Western Brisbane Transport Network Investigation (WBTNI) Revised Methodology Submission dated 16 Mar 07, as follows:

The objectives of the project may be considered as:

- Objective 1: Establish and maintain broad community and other stakeholder understanding of, and participation in, the WBTNI process and its planning outcomes.
- Objective 2: Work with the community and other stakeholders in assessing existing and future transport needs for the study area within the government's transport policy and regional plan context and including consideration of freight and passenger needs on shared high-demand corridors.
- Objective 3: Develop in consultation with the community and other stakeholders, a broad transport strategy for the study area that:
- Maintains and improves accessibility for communities in the line with the desired regional outcomes and policy context of the SEQ Regional Plan;
 - Identifies options and strategies, including possible staging, for addressing freight and passenger transport issues and that support the preferred land use outcomes of the SEQ Regional Plan;
 - Identifies any future requirements for major road network improvements;
 - including bypasses, orbital roads or major upgrades/additions to existing roads, including for freight and passenger transit needs;
 - Identifies the need for other regionally significant transport system improvements including improved or new rail, passenger transit or walk and cycle corridors.

As a result of the meeting, Minister Lloyd gave a commitment to consider undertaking an initial desk-top scoping study of a possible bypass route through the Brisbane Valley. He also said that if the study showed that this route for a bypass motorway had merit that he would consider a more comprehensive feasibility study in the future.

Main Roads Mailbox Drop

On 5th June, Paul Lucas, QLD Minister for Transport, made a statement in Parliament that within the next month Main Roads will post a mail-out to 1.2 million households from Beenleigh in the south to Esk in the west and north to Caboolture. This is directed to all people who potentially have an interest in the subject.

<http://www.cabinet.qld.gov.au/MMS/StatementDisplaySingle.aspx?id=52333>

Pullen Pullen Catchment Group – Family Fun Day

On Sunday, 29th July PPCG will be holding a Family Fun Day to celebrate “National Tree Day” and our local wildlife. To be held at the Pullenvale Forest Park between 10am – 1pm, the children will love the planned activities and crafts, including Wildlife Safari in the Park. *On a more serious note*, the WBBAG team members will have a display/information stand to continue their community awareness campaign of the proposed western bypass.

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