



REPA NEWSLETTER



RURAL ENVIRONMENT PLANNING ASSOCIATION INC.

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The REPA Management Committee wishes you all a very happy and safe holiday season. We have been fortunate to have had quite good rain in September and early November, so everywhere is now much greener than it was when I last wrote. It will be interesting to see what effects the change in the federal Government will have on the district, remembering that there was a Labor Party promise not to proceed with the controversial Goodna Bypass. Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol is certainly welcome to many of us.

WBBAG (Western Brisbane Bypass Action Group) AND THE WBTNI (Western Brisbane Transport Network Investigation)

Since the last newsletter the WBBAG now has a position on the Western Brisbane Transport Network Investigation (WBTNI) community liaison group (CLG). The WBTNI has formed two liaison groups for sharing information with the public and receiving feedback. The groups are roughly defined as everything north of Brisbane Forest Park (North group) and everything South (South group). WBBAG has a member in the South group (David McCullough). Rachel Griffiths, REPA's Treasurer, is also on the South group representing THECA (The Hut Environmental and Community Association).

The CLG's have met twice since September. We have posted a summary of both meetings on our website:

<http://www.westernbypass.org/node/41> - our September meeting notes

<http://www.westernbypass.org/node/43> - official September minutes

<http://www.westernbypass.org/node/46> - our November meeting notes

At the first two CLG meetings, the WBTNI has primarily been providing the group with background information and guidelines on how the CLGs operate. There has been discussion among the group members about various aspects of the investigation, but these have been fairly limited. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the WBTNI please feel free to pass them on to the WBBAG committee, committee@westernbypass.org, or phone Jenny, John or David on the numbers below.

Another highlight has been the WBTNI's release of the Final Terms Of Reference (TOR). This is the document that describes and guides the motivations of the WBTNI process. They have made a number of small changes over the draft version based on the community feedback. We have a short summary on our website, <http://www.westernbypass.org/node/42>, pointing to the final TOR documents and the changes that were made. The changes to the TOR included a stronger focus on public transport, social and environmental impacts. The TOR now also specifically states that it will investigate a bypass west of Mount Coot-tha and one further west (Brisbane Valley). The investigation's findings will be provided in mid-2008.

The WBBAG has also gone back to the start of the WBTNI just to find how, if at all, the investigation has changed since it started in 2005. The WBBAG requested the WBTNI project's initial charter and start-up documents through the Freedom of Information Process. We have received these documents and reviewed them. The documents show that the motivation of the WBTNI and its primary focus have changed little apart from obvious terminology changes in their documentation.

The WBBAG continues to be as active as possible in tracking the WBTNI and ensuring that the community knows what is happening and taking feedback from the community back to the WBTNI. An article has been published in the Samford "Village Pump" and a letter in "The Local Bulletin". We encourage anyone with concerns or questions to contact us so we can take these concerns and questions to the WBTNI.

The Kenmore Chamber of Commerce has issued the following invitation to their Breakfast meeting on Thursday 21 February 2008:

Peter Just and Norm Case – the key people from the Western Brisbane Transport Network Investigation – will be making a presentation. So please have your say – and please encourage others in our community to contribute ideas to help this project come up with a transport strategy, to create a Western Brisbane that you will be happy to live & travel in. Come along and hear Peter & Norm – ask them questions – give them your ideas. Ask others who have ideas to contribute to come along – or to get involved in the project. Please add this date to your diary now.

Those interested in attending should contact Laura at vice@kenmorechamber.com.

BRISBANE'S WILD WEST CALENDAR FOR 2008

THECA, (The Hut Environmental and Community Association Inc.), together with REPA, the Moggill Creek Catchment Group and Cubberla Witton Catchments Network have produced a lovely calendar for 2008 with beautiful local photographs. The calendar is A4 format, makes an ideal present, and costs \$12.50 (postage extra if necessary). An order form is attached or enclosed.

GAP CREEK ROAD – proposed upgrade

REPA was advised at a meeting on 20 September that the flora and fauna survey for the Environmental Impact Assessment would be completed by early November. It was carried out by GHD Pty Ltd for the City Council. The two main people involved were David Dique of GHD and Adrian Caneris of BAAM (Biodiversity Assessment and Management Pty Ltd). A report on the survey is to be presented to Council before Christmas, but we have not been advised how this is progressing. We were also advised that Council would send out another Newsletter about the proposed upgrade in November, but we have not received it yet (9 Dec.).

One item of feedback that we have received about the progress of the flora and fauna survey is that GHD has been disappointed by the small number of animals that they have managed to trap. It is very important that they obtain an accurate picture as possible of wildlife in the area, so please, if you live in Gap Creek Road or its vicinity, advise Christine Hosking of any sighting. Christine can be contacted on 3374 3453 or email cjmhosk@optusnet.com.au, or else Jenny, details below. Christine is also most interested to learn of any road kills in the district.

A circular was sent out very recently by The Gap Community Association saying that “*The BCC has advised The Gap Community Association that it intends proceeding with an upgrade of Gap Creek & Dillon Roads in early 2008*”. Cr de Wit has assured me that this is NOT correct as “*there is no money in the current budget to do the upgrade and certainly nothing will happen before the assessments and consultation are completed as advised*”.

REPA and the Moggill Creek Catchment Group (MCCG) are most concerned that if the proposed upgrade is to go ahead, there MUST be adequate traffic calming measures in place and the proposed 50 km/hr speed limit MUST be enforced, in order to protect the wildlife and to minimise nuisance to residents. We proposed that the single lane bridge should be retained as a traffic calming measure as is often the practice in Europe.

Vegetation Clearing at Brookfield State School

A sizeable area (30 x 70 m) of land has been cleared and levelled at Brookfield School in order to provide an area for two new netball courts. There were some fine (c. 80 years) old eucalypt trees and a large fig on the land. These fine trees have now been bulldozed into the flood plain of the nearby Moggill Creek. Both the catchment group (MCCG) and REPA are most disappointed that this has happened and consider that it sets a very bad example to the children at the school, as we are all concerned with preserving and enhancing the native vegetation rather than destroying it. It is appreciated that the expanding school needs to extend its sporting facilities, but REPA considers that the trees should have been preserved if at all possible and that some consultation and review process should have occurred. Both REPA and MCCG have written to the Education Minister deploring the way the clearing was carried out.

REPA’s Constitution

The Associations Incorporation Act 1981 was reformed earlier this year. Consequently REPA has sought legal advice as to whether or not we need to revise our Constitution. We have been advised that a revision is not really needed. We also have been trying to obtain some advice about including a family membership class, but there is difficulty in defining a family in a way that would be acceptable to the overseeing Office of Fair Trading within the Justice and Attorney-General’s Department as there is no provision for family membership in the Model Rules for Incorporated Associations.

Development Applications

Moggill Country Club. There has been nothing further listed on the Council’s web-site for Moggill Country Club since March last year, so it looks as though the proposal to subdivide part of the land is unlikely to go ahead.

Pineapple Farm Developments. There have been some issues with provision of sewerage to some areas of the pineapple farm development, as a pipeline had to be rerouted because of rock.

D’Aguilar Range Biosphere proposal

It is proposed to list the D’Aguilar Range as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Biospheres aim to promote human/conservation interactions to secure sustainable development. Their website, <http://www.gloriousnebo.org.au>, advises that “*a Biosphere listing for the new D’Aguilar Range National Park and surrounds will provide a shining example of how communities and governments can come together, with assistance from scientists, farmers, business and international bodies to implement strategies to maintain a healthy environment*”.

Rafting Ground Park

The sign explaining the history of the split-rail fence at Rafting Ground Park has been installed. REPA is most grateful to Cr Margaret de Wit for arranging this.

Next year we hope to have our Annual General Meeting in March, when we hope to have more news about the various road issues that are of so much concern to us all. All good wishes for the New Year

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