



## REPA NEWSLETTER



### RURAL ENVIRONMENT PLANNING ASSOCIATION INC.

Newsletter No. 1/2008  
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March 2008

#### **Goodna Bypass – no more!**

At last it's official! On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, on the ABC News at 7:00 pm, the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, announced that the Goodna Bypass has been scrapped. So this is very good news indeed for residents of Moggill and Riverview.

#### **REPA AGM, Thursday, 10 April 2008**

REPA's 35<sup>th</sup> AGM (Annual General Meeting) will be held on Thursday, 10 April 2008 in the Brookfield Hall at 7:30 pm. John Bristow, who has been Chairman for 10 years, is standing down from that position. All Management Committee positions will be declared vacant at the AGM and nomination forms are enclosed if you wish to make a nomination. Nominations for new members to the Management Committee will be most welcome.

We have decided to focus the meeting on 10 April on roads and traffic congestion as so much of our concerns at the moment are centred on them together with threats of a western bypass through the area. David McCullough who has been attending the Western Brisbane Transport Network Investigation (WBTNI) Community Liaison Group (CLG) meetings will tell us about the information he has obtained from those meetings.

Dr Bruce Flegg, Member for Moggill, and our Councillor, Cr Margaret de Wit, will also speak at the AGM and provide updates and information on Moggill Road, the Kenmore bypass and the proposed Gap Creek Road upgrade. I'm sure there will be plenty of discussion. This should be a good opportunity to hear the latest information.

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

It has been a busy start to the year with the WBTNI investigation and its associated community consultation and presentations. The WBTNI has been running various information booths and sessions over the last month, the culmination of which was the information day at the Toowong Bowls club on Saturday the 1st of March. People who attended on the day were greeted by an abundance of friendly WBTNI staff to answer queries and take on feedback.

The first Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting for the year took place on the 6th of February. The primary objective of this session was to provide input into the WBTNI Assessment Framework. The Assessment Framework is the mechanism that the WBTNI will use to assess the various scenarios and options that are put forward as a part of its investigation. By providing input into this part of the process, the community will help to ensure that the ranking of options and scenarios by the WBTNI is in keeping with the communities' wishes.

One of the important ways the community can help to influence the WBTNI Assessment Framework is to complete their current survey. The survey form is enclosed. More information on the Assessment Framework and what is happening with the WBTNI is available in our February update on our website: <http://www.westernbypass.org/node/50>.

Last month also included the Kenmore Chamber of Commerce breakfast with the WBTNI. This was a chance to get an overview of the WBTNI, where it came from and where it is going. Peter Just, the WBTNI project manager, spoke at the breakfast providing his insights into its inception and his enthusiasm for its success. Peter has been with the project since early 2005.

Soon the WBTNI will be entering the Scenario development phase. In theory this is the phase that evokes the biggest reaction from the public as the investigation will start to talk about actual implementation options, be they popular or not. The WBBAG wishes to encourage anyone with concerns or suggestions to contact us ([committee@westernbypass.org](mailto:committee@westernbypass.org)) or contact the WBTNI directly ([info@wbtni.net.au](mailto:info@wbtni.net.au)).

Again thanks for your support and feel free to contact us at any time.

David McCullough (WBBAG)

## **GAP CREEK ROAD – proposed upgrade**

REPA understands that no decision will be made about whether Gap Creek Road will be upgraded or not until after the Council elections have been held. The election date is Saturday 15 March, so we may learn something further after that. The City Council claims that 70% of respondents to their Community Consultation in mid 2007 were in favour of the upgrade, whereas The Gap Community Association, which carried out its own, separate survey in late 2006, claims that 70% of their respondents were opposed to the proposed upgrade.

In January 2008, the Brisbane City Council distributed a third newsletter about the proposed upgrade that reported some of the findings of the environmental study that had been undertaken in September and October 2007. This included comments on the potential impacts of the proposed upgrade on the flora and fauna. According to the Newsletter, the study considered that “Gap Creek Road is a pre-existing development and therefore many of the threats [to the flora and fauna] posed by the potential upgrade already exist”. REPA has compiled a number of concerns and submitted them to the community consultation facilitator for discussion with the Council’s ecologist. These include: -

- Upgrading Gap Creek Road should not be seen as a significant means of reducing congestion of major arterial roads like Moggill Road.
- Support for the statement in the BCC publication ‘*Our Shared Vision – Living in Brisbane 2026*’ that ‘*our key task for 2026 is to conserve the natural assets of Brisbane*’.
- The issue of habitat fragmentation is not adequately addressed.
- The current ecological threats facing Gap Creek Road are far from acceptable, therefore the study’s comment, as quoted in the Newsletter, that “*Gap Creek Road is a pre-existing development and therefore many of the threats posed by the potential upgrade already exist*” does not provide a valid reason for proceeding with the upgrade without proper attention to the ecological consequences. Any upgrade of the road should be an opportunity to mitigate current threats as well as to mitigate any additional impacts caused by the upgrade.

## **Development Applications**

Church and Witty Roads, Moggill. There is a proposal for a 90 lot subdivision on an area of just under 20 hectares on a large block of land bounded by Church Road, Matfield Road and Witty Road. Initially 100 lots were proposed in 2004, which Council did not support. The owners of adjacent land have serious concerns about the adequacy of the stormwater provisions described in the proposal. The revised 90 lot subdivision does take more account of the ecological attributes of the site, but, in REPA’s opinion, the proposed subdivision density is incompatible with those ecological attributes, which include some valuable remnant vegetation.

Other developments in Moggill and Bellbowrie. REPA has made submissions objecting to other developments in Moggill and Bellbowrie, principally on traffic grounds because of the severe congestion along Moggill Road.

Developments in Environmental Protection Areas. REPA has been advised of concerns regarding the introduction of weeds into some almost pristine areas during construction. REPA has written to Council expressing these concerns and received a reply saying that Council is currently revising its activities in the areas of weed spread prevention and its enforcement.

## **Deborah Tabart**

REPA was pleased to learn that Deb Tabart of Brookfield was awarded an OAM in the recent Australia Honours. Deb is CEO of the Australian Koala Foundation and works tirelessly for koala protection and welfare.

## **REPA’s new logo**

We are indebted to Carolyn Nowicki who has very kindly redrafted REPA’s logo so that the words around the edge are clearer and it can be reproduced with better definition.

## **Membership**

Members are reminded that membership of \$20.00 for 2008 is now due and payable to the Treasurer or directly into REPA’s bank account. Details are provided in the enclosed renewal form. The Management Committee is working hard to try to resolve some of the issues and threats confronting this beautiful part of Brisbane. Your help and support in renewing your membership will be much appreciated. We welcome input from members and endeavour to address issues that you may raise.

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