



## REPA NEWSLETTER



### **RURAL ENVIRONMENT PLANNING ASSOCIATION INC.**

Newsletter No. 1/2009  
Print Post Approved PP439224/00011

March 2009

REPA hopes that all members had an enjoyable holiday season and that you have enjoyed the rain, even though January was very dry. We offer our most sincere sympathies to all those affected by the terrible fires in Victoria.

#### **Annual General Meeting**

REPA's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 31 March 2009** at the **Brookfield Hall** at **7:30 pm**. All Management Committee Positions will be declared vacant. Please consider nominating for a position on the Management Committee; we should very much welcome your input. Anyone who is interested should please contact Anna, Mandy or Jenny; details are given below.

Cathryn Dexter, a researcher with Griffith University's Centre For Innovative Conservation Strategy, Applied Road Ecology Group, will be our guest speaker at our AGM. Her specialist knowledge area is urban ecology, with a particular focus on roads and their effect on wildlife. Cathryn's talk will bring to light some of the major issues associated with roads and how they affect faunal movement and threaten wildlife populations. It will also showcase how these issues are being tackled in Australia and in countries such as Europe and the Canada at the local level. Her talk will be particularly relevant to our area in relation to the proposed upgrade of Gap Creek Road which crosses Mt Coot-tha Forest Park.

Following the AGM we shall hold a General Meeting. Cr Margaret de Wit and Dr Bruce Flegg, Member for Moggill, will be invited to attend and to speak. Additionally, the General meeting will provide the opportunity for members to bring up any items of concern.

#### **Draft South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009 - 2031**

A revised draft South East Queensland Regional Plan is now available and submissions are due by Friday, 3 April. The good news is that there has been no change to the urban footprint in the REPA area although there has been a small change in Chapel Hill. The Vet Farm land at Pinjarra Hills is not included in the urban footprint. We mentioned some concerns about the Vet Farm in our last newsletter.

A Draft South East Queensland Natural Resource Management Plan 2009 – 2031 is also open for submissions until 31 March. The two documents are very much inter-related and the draft SEQ Regional Plan frequently refers to the draft NRM Plan.

Jenny Hacker is part of a working group convened by EIANZ (Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand) to examine the SEQ Regional Plan and contribute to the EIANZ's submission. Early comments are that the SEQ Regional Plan is very focussed on development and the accommodation of a substantial increase in population. Jenny is very concerned that the plan does not address the matter of water availability adequately; particularly the need for irrigation water in food producing areas such as the Lockyer Valley. With 'food miles' becoming of increasing concern, maintaining the agricultural/horticultural output of the Lockyer Valley is critically important for the regional population.

Transport Infrastructure, as always, is a hot topic. Whilst many of the goals (Desired Regional Outcomes) described in the Plan are most laudable, the implementation of the policies and programs to achieve those goals will be challenging.

It is anticipated that REPA will make submissions on both documents. Any comments or assistance would be much appreciated.

### **Proposed Upgrade of Gap Creek Road**

Brisbane City Council provided a progress update to REPA in December in which they stated that some of the issues being investigated included: -

- measures to keep traffic speed down to 50 km/hour
- provision of fauna crossings
- safety improvements – realigning steep bends and steep crests
- improving side road intersection [Kookaburra Street]
- minimisation of construction footprint and impact on existing vegetation.

REPA is pleased that the issues of traffic speed and fauna protection are considered to be important. REPA Committee members have been involved in the planning process and look forward to further response to our concerns.

The progress report also stated that the detailed design was expected to be completed early in the New Year and that the design will be displayed at local shopping centres for community review and comment. To date, we have heard nothing further.

### **Proposed upgrade of Rafting Ground Road culvert near Wilunga Street**

REPA has heard nothing further regarding this proposed work since late November when we were sent copies of the detailed design for the culvert crossing. If anyone is interested in seeing these or the landscape design drawings, contact Jenny Hacker.

### **Opportunity to ‘have your say’ in Brisbane City Council Surveys on Mountain Biking and their Tree Policy**

BCC provides the opportunity to comment on various issues either through the Council website

[http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/BCC:BASE:1784258358:pc=PC\\_76#consultations](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/BCC:BASE:1784258358:pc=PC_76#consultations) or through their call centre on 3403 8888. Two issues of current concern are Outdoor Recreation/Mountain Biking (Feedback by 24 April 2009) and the Tree Policy Review (Feedback by 16 March 2009). Many of us are concerned about the potential exclusive use by competitive mountain bikers of large tracts of Brisbane's bushlands and we encourage you to respond - whatever your views might be.

### **Proposed Kenmore Bypass**

REPA has been advised in Project Update #5 that the project team received almost 1,000 submissions from the community. One of the main concerns raised in the submissions was the proposed separation of Gem Road. The team will now carry out further technical and environmental investigations in response to this and other issues raised in the submissions. We understand that the Environmental Approvals Report will probably require modification as a result of the further investigations and that there will be a further opportunity for community feedback when this report becomes available on the Main Roads website.

### **Proposed enlargement of facilities at the Pet Chalet, Upper Brookfield**

Approval has recently been granted for the proposed enlargement of these facilities. They are subject to conditions, which REPA Committee and residents of Carbine Road will examine closely. The applicant has not yet responded.

### **Moggill Country Club**

Brisbane City Council has asked the owner of the Country Club for a substantial amount of further information regarding their proposal for 87 low density residential blocks and approximately 41 units in 2 low/medium density residential blocks on this site. To date, this has not been supplied.

### **Proposed development between Witty Road, Church Road and Matfield Street, Moggill**

This development on 19.7 hectares for 87 lots in five stages was approved at the end of October last year, subject to numerous conditions. To date there has not been a formal response from the applicant. The conditions include infrastructure charges of around three million dollars, a requirement to enter into a Covenant to ensure the conservation and protection of native plants and animals within the Environment Protection Zones and clauses requiring no adverse stormwater impacts on neighbouring properties.

### **Membership**

All memberships for 2009 are now due (unless you've paid previously). Membership renewal forms are included or attached for your convenience, except for those who have paid. Membership is \$20.00 and may be paid to the Treasurer or directly into REPA's Bank Account. Details are included on the membership form. Memberships may also be renewed at the AGM.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

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