



REPA NEWSLETTER

RURAL ENVIRONMENT PLANNING ASSOCIATION INC.

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Bypasses and the drought seem to be the two major issues around at the moment. In this Newsletter there are comments on western Brisbane Bypass proposals and on the federal decision to build the \$2.3 billion Goodna Bypass. There will be information on both these issues at the REPA stand at the Brookfield Show (18 – 20 May). The drought is an on-going problem; we are becoming resigned to seeing many of our favourite plants struggling to survive and some of them giving up altogether.

Western Brisbane Bypass

Our greatest threat in recent years is undoubtedly the prospect of a western Brisbane Bypass coming through our area. Following the decision by the Prime Minister on the Goodna Bypass, the State Government has been making moves concerning a possible western Brisbane bypass. The State Government has contracted engineering consultants Maunsells and Sinclair Knight Merz in March, at a cost of \$17 million, to outline models in the Brisbane Valley and the inner Western Suburbs to link the Warrego Highway north to Caboolture. The South East Qld Regional Transport plan indicates a bypass through the suburbs of Moggill, Bellbowrie, Anstead, Pullenvale, Brookfield, the Gap, Upper Kedron and Samford. This project is likely to require funding from the Federal Government which to date has not been forthcoming, although with the upcoming federal election, this could change. There have been several articles in the press. The weekend Courier Mail (28 – 29 April, p. 12) stated that “Broad options for where to locate a western Brisbane bypass road are expected to be presented to the State Government within weeks”. Earlier there was an article in the on-line Brisbane Times (28 March 2007) and some information available on the Main Roads web-site.

REPA’s position has always been that heavy traffic from the Cunningham and Warrego Highways travelling to destinations north of Brisbane should travel via an upgraded Brisbane Valley Highway or a similar route. If the bypass is located within our community, it will have a devastating impact on this area.

A sub-committee of REPA, named the **Western Brisbane Bypass Action Group (WBBAG)**, has recently been formed with its own web-site www.westernbypass.org. Their objectives are to address specific concerns with residents regarding the proposed bypass and its possible location. Members of the sub-committee comprise an active group of local residents who do not wish to see a bypass or ring road coming through this part of Brisbane.

REPA has obtained a copy of the ‘Revised Methodology Submission for the Western Brisbane Transport Network Investigation’, otherwise called the scoping report. It indicates that a ‘non-binding view of Western Bypass and Northern Link’ has already been made and that modelling of two Western Bypass options has been undertaken. It is important that prompt action is taken to advise the community of these proposals and state our position and concerns. REPA welcomes the WBBAG sub-committee’s support in this.

WBBAG are planning an active campaign to advise residents about the State Government’s investigations, so expect an information brochure in your letterbox soon. They will also be present at the REPA tent at the Show, so please come and meet them and discuss the issues involved. Subsequently, WBBAG will regroup and prepare strategies in a range of key areas. Interested members should contact them through their website or Angela Tonkin on 3374 3564.

We understand that Michael Johnson (Federal member for Ryan) is planning to lobby the Federal Government to fund a study on an outer Western Brisbane Bypass that would form part of the national highways road networks.

Goodna Bypass

REPA is very disappointed in the Prime Minister’s decision (5 March 2007) to fund the Goodna Bypass at a cost of \$2.3 billion. REPA has written to the Prime Minister stating the following concerns and asking him to review his decision: -

- that the proposal may not have adequate flood immunity,

- any revision of alignment levels could cause a serious cost escalation, this of particular concern where it is planned for the bypass to go under Moggill Road in a cutting,
- deleterious effects on residents and the amenity of the Brisbane River, including destruction of koala habitat,
- no proper comparison made between upgrading the existing Ipswich Motorway and the proposed Goodna Bypass, nor any consideration of a southern alternative which would not involve the construction of four unnecessary bridges crossing a river that experiences serious flood events.

The Main Roads web-site, <http://www.mainroads.qld.gov.au/MRWEB/PROD/Content.nsf/DOCINDEX/Goodna+Bypass?OpenDocument>, has further information and copies of documents produced by the consultants, Maunsell Australia. We have obtained copies of all Maunsell's reports on a CD. If anyone would like to see this CD please contact Jenny or Anna (details below).

Gap Creek Road

No decision has yet been made by the Brisbane City Council about the proposed upgrade of Gap Creek Road. Representatives of the Council met with Bryan Hacker (Chairman Moggill Creek Catchment Group) and myself (Jenny Hacker) on 3 May to discuss the proposed upgrade. Council intends to do a fauna survey in the vicinity of Gap Creek Road in September, the time when there is likely to be the most activity. Council appreciates being advised of any wildlife sightings. So please, as requested in the last Newsletter, advise Christine Hosking (3374 3453, email cjmhosk@optusnet.com.au) or myself (details below) of any sightings or road kills so that we can forward them on to the Council. Records are important. Bryan and I reinforced the position that speed restriction and vehicle size restriction are of paramount importance.

For clarification, the upgrade of Gap Creek Road is a Brisbane City Council initiative and REPA has been advised that it is not related to any State Government investigation for a western Brisbane bypass.

Rafting Ground Park Signs

At the AGM, Cr Margaret de Wit has very kindly offered to pay for installation of signage for the split-rail Fence at Rafting Ground Park. The fence was constructed between 1961 and 1963 by the Rafting Ground Memorial Committee as part of the restoration of the park at the Rafting Ground, then known as 'Moggill Park'. REPA is indebted to Graeme Wilson, then secretary of the Rafting Ground Memorial Committee for information about 'Moggill Park' and the fence.

Development Applications

Moggill Country Club. REPA understands that there are no current plans for subdivision of this property.

120 Church Road, Moggill REPA has made a submission on the revised subdivision layout for this land. The revised layout is for 90 proposed lots instead of the 100 lots of the initial proposal. REPA considers that this is still too many. The design and layout is, however, much more ecologically sensitive, with 2 large blocks of about 1 hectare proposed for the area at the southeast of the proposed development where there is a good stand of remnant vegetation. REPA has requested that the building location envelopes in these two blocks be relocated so as to preserve more mature trees with healthy understorey vegetation.

Hampton Gardens Nursery. There is a proposal that a shopping centre be built on this site. Jenny has been interviewed by a market research team looking into it.

Annual General Meeting

REPA's 34th Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, 27 March 2007. We are very pleased to welcome Joshua Moore and Liz Labuc-Spoors onto the Committee and most of last year's committee was re-elected. John Bristow is continuing as Chairman; Anna Williamson is our new Vice-chairman; Jenny Hacker and Rachel Griffiths are both continuing as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The motion that our membership fee for ordinary members be increased to \$20.00 per year was passed and for those members who have not already renewed their membership this year a renewal form is attached/enclosed for the new rate of \$20.00 per individual member.

Helen Favelle, from the Brisbane City Council, presented an interesting talk on a new approach to assessing landscape values within Council. The aim is to rate landscape values so that their importance can be incorporated into planning decisions more readily. Two of the maps from her presentation will be included in REPA's display at the Brookfield Show.

We look forward to seeing you at the Brookfield Show.

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