



## REPA NEWSLETTER



### RURAL ENVIRONMENT PLANNING ASSOCIATION INC.

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May 2008

#### **GOOD NEWS! – The WESTERN BYPASS has been SCRAPPED**

On Thursday 3 April the State Government announced that options for building a western Brisbane bypass through either the Brisbane Valley or west of Mt Coot-tha have both been ruled out as the numbers 'simply do not stack up'. This is wonderful news for us and also a tribute to all the hard work put in by our WBBAG sub-committee. There are still decisions to be made, however, and there is more about them below.

#### **Committee changes at REPA AGM, held on Thursday, 10 April 2008**

We welcome Dr Anna Williamson as the new Chairman of REPA. She has been on the Committee since 2005 and Vice-Chairman for the last year. Anna has also been active in the Moggill Community Association. Mandy Fisher is our new Secretary and Jenny Hacker has taken the position of Vice-Chairman. David McCullough and Trish Whellum have come onto the Committee. David continues to be responsible for the excellent web-site at [www.westernbypass.org](http://www.westernbypass.org) and is REPA/WBBAG's representative on the Community Liaison Group (CLG) for the Western Brisbane Transport Network Investigation (WBTNI).

#### **Honorary Life Membership for John Bristow**

John Bristow, our Chairman for last 10 years, was presented with an Honorary Life Membership of REPA in recognition for his dedication to the goals of the Association and concern for the well-being of our local environment.

#### **Talks at AGM**

David McCullough, Dr Bruce Flegg, Member for Moggill, and our Councillor, Cr Margaret de Wit, all spoke at the AGM, providing updates and information from the WBTNI, also about Moggill Road, the proposed Kenmore bypass and the proposed Gap Creek Road upgrade.

#### **Brookfield Show – 16, 17 & 18 May 2008**

We plan to have information available about many of the current road projects that are of so much concern to everyone at present and to provide the opportunity for comments on them. We hope that you will be able to visit the REPA tent and take the opportunity to voice your concerns.

#### **WBTNI (Western Brisbane Transport Network Investigation)**

It has been a truly busy month for the WBBAG/REPA team. The WBTNI entered its scenario or options phase and with that we all learnt that the two "Western Brisbane Bypass" options had been dropped. Obviously we are very happy with the decision to abandon those two bypass options. We are also happy to see that the Government has followed through on a thorough investigation that included complex modelling and consultation, in conjunction with adherence to the South East Queensland Regional Plan. We have always felt that the Western Brisbane Bypass options were not truly viable and the WBTNI findings support this view.

Following the WBTNI's announcement to drop the western bypass options there has been some speculation as to the future of the WBBAG focus group. While the Western Brisbane Bypass was one of the primary areas of interest to the WBBAG, it is not the only issue. Many of the remaining WBTNI options presented still fall within the communities that we represent. The Moggill Pocket Sub-Arterial and the Samford Valley Sub-Arterial were already being monitored as part of our involvement with the WBTNI, and this will continue. We will also remain actively involved right through the WBTNI process until the preferred transport strategy is announced later this year.

We are also planning to take an active role in the Kenmore Bypass Planning Study and to continue to communicate the community's views to the study and pass on information from the study to our members as it becomes available. We would very much like to hear people's views on the proposed Kenmore Bypass and all the options currently being considered by the WBTNI.

The WBTNI is currently asking for feedback on their remaining 15 options. An information sheet, produced by the WBTNI, is enclosed. This is your chance to comment on these options, how they affect you, how effective you think they will be, and any improvements or other options you would like to be considered. Do not feel limited by the survey form. The WBTNI take their community feedback seriously and you should provide as much information as you need to adequately convey your position. If you have web-site access, we have added an interactive map to our website that highlights all the options with additional informational icons to point out how the option fits into the WBTNI plan. You can find our map on our website at: <http://www.westernbypass.org/node/54>.

We have our next WBTNI CLG meeting on Tuesday 6th of May – there should be plenty of discussion.

Thanks once again to everyone for their feedback and support,

David McCullough (WBBAG/REPA)

## Northern Link Tunnel

A proposed route for the Northern Link tunnel has been released, going from the Western Freeway at the Toowong Roundabout to the Inner City Bypass. The possibility of connections to Toowong and Kelvin Grove Road are being investigated. It is considered that the Northern Link would provide the missing link between the western suburbs, the inner northern suburbs and the airport as well as alleviating the chronic peak hour congestion at the Toowong roundabout.

## Kenmore Bypass

A corridor has been preserved between Moggill Road and the Centenary Highway since the 1970s as a possible link between the two roads. The traffic situation on Moggill Road is becoming more and more untenable. As proposed by our local State Member, Dr Bruce Flegg, construction of the route as a bypass for Kenmore would have several advantages, which have been confirmed by the State Government's preliminary study. These include the following benefits: -

- Significant reduction of 'rat running' on local streets, particularly Kenmore Road
- Provision of the opportunity to improve public transport to the local area, possibly allowing the introduction of a dedicated bus lane along Moggill Road.
- Substantial reduction in traffic around central Kenmore and Chapel Hill
- Substantial reduction in traffic around Kenmore State School and the OLR School.

More information is available on Dr Flegg's website [www.moggill.net](http://www.moggill.net), on the Main Roads' website [www.mainroads.qld.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.qld.gov.au) and in the enclosed Newsletter produced by the Main Roads department. We encourage all our readers to respond to the feedback request by Monday 26 May 2008.

Residents of the streets adjacent to the preserved corridor are understandably concerned and have set up a website at [www.saveourkenmore.com](http://www.saveourkenmore.com)

## GAP CREEK ROAD – proposed upgrade

Representatives of REPA and the Moggill Creek Catchment Group had a meeting with BCC personnel at the end of March to discuss the Ecological Assessment for the proposed upgrade. Unfortunately the facilitator had only provided the Council staff with a summary of the REPA and MCCG submissions on the Ecological Assessment. Nevertheless, we had a useful discussion and the Council ecologist, Paul Mack, assured us that GHD, who undertook the study, were required to provide a report in as objective a manner as possible. We were advised that a further fauna study will be carried out. We expressed our concerns that the proposed upgrade would allow traffic to travel at greater speeds than is currently the case, which would have a detrimental effect on the local fauna.

Residents of Gap Creek Road have been advised that BCC is now undertaking a feasibility study of the proposed upgrade and that a fauna monitoring program has commenced.

The alignment of Gap Creek Road differs substantially from the gazetted alignment. If the upgrade is to proceed, we understand that this matter will need to be negotiated with the Department of Natural Resources and Water.

## Development Applications

Church and Witty Roads, Moggill. Owners of land adjacent to this proposal for a 90 lot subdivision on an area of just under 20 hectares bounded by Church Road, Matfield Road and Witty Road have serious concerns regarding the potential adverse effects that stormwater from the proposed development would have on their land. REPA shares these concerns and has objected to the application.

Proposed enlargement of facilities at the Pet Chalet, Brookfield. An application has been made to Council to enlarge the kennel and cattery facilities at the Pet Chalet. REPA representatives are discussing this with local residents.

## Membership

We have received many membership renewals since the last Newsletter was distributed in March, for which we thank you. Nevertheless, some memberships are still outstanding, and if that is the case, a further reminder notice is included with this Newsletter. Membership is \$20.00 and may be paid 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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