



REPA NEWSLETTER



RURAL ENVIRONMENT PLANNING ASSOCIATION INC.

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WBBAG (WESTERN BRISBANE BYPASS ACTION GROUP) NEWS

WBBAG is a subcommittee of REPA formed in response to the threat of a western Brisbane bypass coming through our area. Following the General meeting held on 24 July, the WBBAG Committee has been reformed. The circumstances of many of the original committee members have changed and they are no longer able to provide the huge commitment to the WBBAG that they had previously delivered. We extend our sincerest thanks to the departing committee and welcome the new committee comprising David McCullough, Kaye Roberts, Ross Goulter, Monica Harley and Trish Whellum. The members of the WBBAG committee can be contacted by emailing committee@westernbypass.org at any time.

WBTNI (Western Brisbane Transport Network Investigation)

The WBTNI is a very high level investigation addressing the transport needs in the western Brisbane area for the next 20 years. WBTNI defines western Brisbane as the area west of the CBD extending westwards to the Brisbane Valley, south to the Ipswich Motorway and north to Caboolture. The project only addresses the need for improvements. For example it will determine whether or not there is a need for the Western Brisbane Bypass by mid 2008, and even if there is a need, it will not include any specific routes. It will only recommend a zone for such a bypass based on the WBTNI modelling, for example an "Inner Western" or "Outer Western" road.

WBBAG and REPA submitted a joint response to the WBTNI's "Draft Terms of Reference", rallying as many people as possible to respond individually. WBBAG also nominated for a position on a WBTNI Community Liaison Group (CLG) and David McCullough has been accepted as a member of the "South" Liaison Group. The CLGs' role is to provide a "middle-man" for the WBTNI and the Community to speed communication, collection and distribution of information relating to the WBTNI and its outcomes. REPA's Treasurer, Rachel Griffiths has also been accepted for a position on a CLG as the representative of THECA (The Hut Environmental and Community Association). The first meeting of the CLG is to be on Wednesday 19 September. For notes on this meeting see www.westernbypass.org.

The highlight of WBBAG's recent activities was the face to face meeting with the WBTNI project team on the 23 August. WBBAG prepared a list of questions based on the community's feedback and their own observations to help us determine the position and current state of the WBTNI. The meeting was quite informal and the WBTNI set aside as much time as was needed to discuss the project and answer questions. The full summary of the meeting, the questions asked and their answers, is available on the WBBAG website (<http://www.westernbypass.org/node/40>)

The WBBAG will continue to engage the WBTNI and provide information promptly to the community on their website. Important issues or information will be emailed to all REPA members. An ongoing part of WBBAG's activities is to establish strong relationships with other community groups within the areas affected by the WBTNI. The WBBAG would like to thank their members and encourage feedback or questions at any time.

THECA CALENDAR

THECA, The Hut Environmental and Community Association Inc., is producing another calendar for 2008, following the very successful production of their 2007 calendar. REPA, the Moggill Creek Catchment Group and the Cubberla Witton Catchments Network are contributing to the venture again. The layout will be similar to last year's, i.e. A4, with one photograph for each month and a box layout for the dates. The photographs, all local, are lovely. The cost will be \$12.50 (plus postage if necessary) and they should be available in mid-October. If you would like one (or more), please contact Jenny Hacker on 3374 1468 or email jbhacker@powerup.com.au.

GAP CREEK ROAD

Plans for the proposed upgrade of Gap Creek Road were on display at the shopping centres in Kenmore and The Gap late in July and early in August. The proposal is for a 'moderate' upgrade of the road, which includes some straightening, sealing the gravel sections and widening the single lane bridge to two lanes. Local residents and Community groups have been advised of the proposal in the Council's "Gap Creek Road Upgrade", Newsletter No. 2, which was distributed in July.

Council officers held a discussion with Jenny Hacker for REPA and Bryan Hacker for Moggill Creek Catchment Group (MCCG) on 29 August. The concerns of both REPA and MCCG are that, if the proposed upgrade is to go ahead, there **MUST** be adequate traffic calming measures in place and the 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. Jenny, Bryan (MCCG) and Rachel (THECA) have been invited to a further meeting on 20 September to discuss flora and fauna issues.

We have been advised that a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is to be undertaken during September, October and early November. Initially it was only intended to do a 'snapshot' investigation, but, as a result of pressure from all the environmental groups, the Assessment period has been extended, which should enable the collection of more meaningful data. It is intended that the assessment, which is to include trapping and the use of hair funnels, will provide information on the following: -

- details of current populations (including mammals, birds, and frogs), density and stresses
- the impact of the current road on the fauna
- how road development will affect the viability of populations
- details of vegetation in the immediate corridor, especially where scheduled for removal
- identification of fauna crossing areas

The Council ecologist commented on the need to restrict the width of the proposed upgraded roadway in order to ensure that it would not be too wide for gliders, ie the width should not be greater than a possible glide path. We were advised that the EIA is going to be carried out by consultants led by David Dique of GHD Pty Ltd (an international professional services company), and Adrian Caneris of BAAM (Biodiversity Assessment and Management Pty Ltd) We questioned how information on whether or not populations are or will be under pressure could be assessed. The ecologist assured us that residents' records of wildlife sightings would be included in the survey data. So please, as requested previously, advise Christine Hosking (3374 3453, email cjmhosk@optusnet.com.au) or Jenny (details below) of significant sightings or road kills in the vicinity of Gap Creek Road.

Urban Land Development Authority Bill 2007 (now an Act)

The Urban Land Development Authority Act was passed on 6 September 2007. Its aim is primarily to improve housing affordability by increasing the supply of land available for development. The Authority only has jurisdiction over designated Urban Development Areas, but serious concerns have been raised that it may provide a loophole for avoiding vegetation and heritage protection. Our local State Member, Dr Bruce Flegg, spoke most strongly against many of the proposals during its passage through State Parliament.

Review of the Integrated Planning Act 1997

The relevant State Department has just completed documentation of an extensive review of the Integrated Planning Act 1997 (IPA) and proposes significant reforms to IPA. These proposed reforms include new planning legislation that will have the intention of shifting the focus from the planning process to delivering sustainable outcomes, some standardisation across the State (for example, the development of a standard set of zones – currently the zones or areas differ widely between different local authorities) and provide improved opportunities for the community to understand and participate in the planning system. It is to be hoped that these changes will be beneficial.

Development Applications

120 Church Road, Moggill. Concerns have been raised regarding storm water drainage on this property and the developer has amended his lot layout and submitted a revised stormwater plan to Council.

Possible Walks

There has been a suggestion by another group for a walk to Spring Mountain, between Ipswich and Greenbank. Please contact Jenny (details below) if you are interested. MCCG (Moggill Creek Catchment Group) is planning a walk along Gap Creek from its junction with Moggill Creek up through the plantings in the park area on the northern side of Brookfield Road on Sunday 4 November, subject to DPI permission because of horse 'flu restrictions. Please contact Gaynor Johnson, phone 3378 2339, email mccgsecretary@iprimus.com.au.

REPA Committee News

Sadly, Lou Endean has resigned from the REPA Committee. Lou has said that she is pleased to see enthusiastic new members now joining us in our concerns for the future of our district. Lou has been Vice-Chairman for several years and has made significant contributions on various topics.

Equine Influenza

The outbreak of equine influenza is most regrettable. DPI&F contact details for questions are www.dpi.qld.gov.au phone 132523. All those who own horses are asked to register their ownership with DPI&F.

Membership

Membership renewal forms are attached or enclosed for those whose memberships are still outstanding for 2007.

Jenny Hacker	Secretary, REPA,	Phone 3374 1468	Email jbhacker@powerup.com.au
John Bristow	Chairman, REPA,	Phone 3202 6534	Email Bristow@gil.com.au
David McCullough	WBBAG	Phone 0410 560 763	Email davidm@spottygum.com

Websites www.repa.org.au , www.westernbypass.org