



REPA NEWSLETTER



RURAL ENVIRONMENT PLANNING ASSOCIATION INC.

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September 2008

It has been a while since our last Newsletter, and for the most part, I am glad to say, things have been fairly quiet. There has been very little news from the Western Brisbane Transport Network Investigation, meanwhile commuters still struggle along Moggill Road. As I am starting to write this Newsletter there is the welcome sound of rain on the roof. We all hope for more!

Proposed upgrade of Rafting Ground Road culvert crossing near Willunga Street.

The Brisbane City Council is proposing to upgrade the crossing of Rafting Ground Road over Moggill Creek near Willunga Street. The existing crossing floods very easily and this has resulted in vehicles being washed off the road.

REPA representatives were invited to meet BCC officers to discuss the project late in July. REPA has been given copies of the consultation plan, details of the proposed landscaping and, by request, a copy of the hydraulic design report. If any members would like to see copies of these, or have further queries, please contact Jenny Hacker (details below).

The proposal is quite extensive; it is planned to raise and realign the road between Willunga Street and the crossing so as to provide a better approach to the crossing and to prevent any increase in flooding to the properties immediately upstream of the crossing. The realigned road will be about 15 m closer to Willunga Street and about 2 m higher. The width of Rafting Ground Road at the crossing will be increased to approximately 11 m. A footpath verge will be provided on both sides of the road over the crossing, which will lead into a grassed verge on the western side of the road for use by horse riders. The bicycle path will also be extended to cross the creek.

BCC does not anticipate starting the works until the next financial year, preferably in July, August next year so as to avoid the summer rains. One concern is that they intend to close the road to all vehicular traffic whilst the work is being undertaken, but there will be pedestrian access. REPA has been advised that BCC is "working with Brisbane Transport and Southern Cross Transit to implement alternative bus routes during the construction period. [BCC is] also working with Brookfield State School and Council's Active Transport Department to develop a walk to school program to enable children to walk to school during, and after, the road closure [and that BCC is] committed to working with the community to minimise the impact of the road closure as much as possible." REPA expressed concern that any closure of Rafting Ground Road should not occur until all works on Moggill Road have been completed. BCC has received "assurance from Main Roads that the works on Moggill Road will be completed by the end of the year (2008)."

Proposed upgrade of Gap Creek Road

BCC announced in its budget in June that \$5 million has been allocated in this financial year for the proposed upgrade of Gap Creek Road and REPA has been advised that Council is now proceeding with the detailed design. The Environmental Impact Assessment is in the process of being finalised and it is proposed that a meeting will be held later this month to discuss it. Representatives from REPA, MCCG (Moggill Creek Catchment Group) and the AKF (Australian Koala Foundation) have been invited to attend. All three groups are most concerned that any upgrade of the road would have an adverse effect on wildlife as traffic will be able to travel faster than at present. A wallaby was killed on Gap Creek Road earlier this week. It would be appreciated if reports on road kills in the area could be sent to Chris Hosking at cjmhosk@optusnet.com.au.

REPA has also been advised that some engineering survey work will be carried out particularly near the Kookaburra Street junction with Gap Creek Road and near the one lane bridge.

WBTNI (Western Brisbane Transport Network Investigation)

There is very little to report on the WBTNI front. A preferred strategy from the investigation should be due anytime now. The WBTNI has finally posted the official minutes from the last two CLG meetings, but this is the only change of note since the CLG meeting in June.

Kenmore Bypass

According to the Main Roads website, further project studies on the proposed Kenmore Bypass project are continuing and the Community Reference Group met in July. REPA does not have a representative on this Reference Group, but intends to liaise with Gerard Baden-Clay of the Kenmore and District Chamber of Commerce. Planning options are being developed and expected to be finalised towards the end of this year. The Main Roads website is reasonably informative at: -

<http://www.mainroads.qld.gov.au/web/publicCR.nsf/1/61C061D42962B0044A257428001EC46F?OpenDocument>.

Vegetation Clearing at property in Boscombe Road

A 1.2 hectare block of land in Boscombe Road (north of Brookfield Road) has been almost completely cleared of vegetation and substantially reshaped to provide two flat areas on the steeply sloping block. Apparently there was no Building Location Envelope on the block, nor a Vegetation Protection Order over it, so Council was powerless to stop the clearing. The land was previously almost entirely covered in good eucalypt forest. After clearing the land, the owner then proceeded with substantial earthworks involving cuts up to 6 m without a permit (under City Plan any filling or excavation for amounts greater than 1 m requires a permit). REPA has written to the Lord Mayor, with copies to others, complaining about this and has at this stage only received an acknowledgement.

Proposed enlargement of facilities at the Pet Chalet

REPA has objected to the application made to Council to enlarge the kennel and cattery facilities at the Pet Chalet. Local residents have concerns about noise and other environmental matters.

Re-vegetation plans at Brookfield School

Moggill Creek Catchment Group representatives, the Principal, the Education Department's area facilities' manager and others have met recently to discuss re-vegetation plans for the areas around the netball courts that were cleared in November last year.

Living Landscapes Forum, Boonah, 10 – 12 September 2008

Bryan and Jenny Hacker are planning to attend the forthcoming Living Landscapes Forum at Boonah. The Forum is organised by the State Government Regional Landscape and Open Space Advisory Committee (RLOSAC) to discuss relevant issues. The RLOSAC provides advice to the Regional Planning Minister on management of open space, natural areas and rural production areas in South East Queensland.

Opera at Brookfield

REPA was invited to participate at the 'Opera at Brookfield' at the end of July. We were provided with a tent and displayed information about Gap Creek Road, the Kenmore Bypass and the Western Brisbane Transport Network Investigation as well as our large scale aerial photographs of the local area. We had some quite lively discussion about the various transport problems affecting the district.

Brookfield Show

The Brookfield Show, which was held in May, seems quite a long time ago now. We thank all who took the time to complete our survey on the Kenmore Bypass, the results of which were posted on our web-site, www.repa.org.au. About 58% of our respondents were in favour of the bypass going ahead.

Spring Mountain Walk – 23 July 2008

Bryan and Jenny Hacker joined a small group led by Ed Parker for a most enjoyable walk through quite hilly country southwest of the Greenbank Military Camp. We went through some interesting terrain (largely sandstone), keeping mainly to the ridge lines, with some lovely views north to Brisbane and Mt Coot-tha and southwest to Flinders Peak. We were pleased to find the broadleaved spotted gum (*Corymbia henryi*) up there: several of the plant species were not well known to us as they do not occur locally, for example, *Angophera woodsiana*.

2009 THECA calendar

THECA (The Hut Environmental and Community Association) will be producing another calendar for 2009, which REPA is supporting. Again it will include lovely pictures of our local flora and fauna. The calendar should be available in November and if anyone wishes to place an advance order, Jenny Hacker (details below) would be delighted to receive it. Expected cost is \$12.50. The calendar makes an ideal Christmas gift for local, interstate and overseas friends and relations.

Membership

We thank all those who have renewed their REPA memberships for 2008. Nevertheless, if your membership is outstanding, 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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