

April 2017

## **Start of work in the Clarence River as part of the Grafton bridge project**

**The NSW Government is funding the new \$240 million Grafton bridge. This notification explains why work will start in the Clarence River before the work to increase the Grafton levee system has finished.**

One of the conditions of approval for the new Grafton bridge project was that work to increase the Grafton levee system had to be finished before construction work relating to the new bridge started in the Clarence River.

However, investigations conducted by Roads and Maritime Services, in consultation with an independent hydrological expert, Clarence Valley Council, the State Emergency Service and the Office of Heritage and Environment, have found that adhering to this condition would result in an increased flood risk downstream of the bridge during the early stages of bridge construction.

Consequently, the Grafton bridge project team sought approval from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to alter the conditions of approval for the project and start construction in the river prior to finishing the levee work. This has been granted and work in the river is due to start in April.

The levee system is being increased to offset the three centimetre rise in flood waters caused by the new bridge. This rise is caused by the bridge piers obstructing the flow of the Clarence River. However, if all the levee work was finished and a flood occurred without sufficient obstructions in the river, more water would be channelled downstream, potentially increasing the impact of flooding.

To minimise this flood impact and meet the intent of the conditions of approval, the levees need to be raised gradually and in parallel with the progressive construction of the bridge. Levee and in-river construction work are likely to overlap for only a matter of months, meaning the possibility of a moderate to large flood occurring during this time is very small.

Roads and Maritime will sequence the levee and bridge work to ensure flood risks are mitigated as much as possible.

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## Contact us

If you would like to make an enquiry or complaint, or to register your general feedback, please contact the Community Relations Team on 1800 918 759. Alternatively you can email [griftonbridgecommunity@fultonhogan.com.au](mailto:griftonbridgecommunity@fultonhogan.com.au); write to PO Box 546 Grafton, NSW 2460 or visit the Community Display Centre at the corner of Duke and Pound streets, Grafton.

For more information on this project, visit [www.rms.nsw.gov.au/griftonbridge](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/griftonbridge).



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