

# Additional crossing of the Clarence River at Grafton



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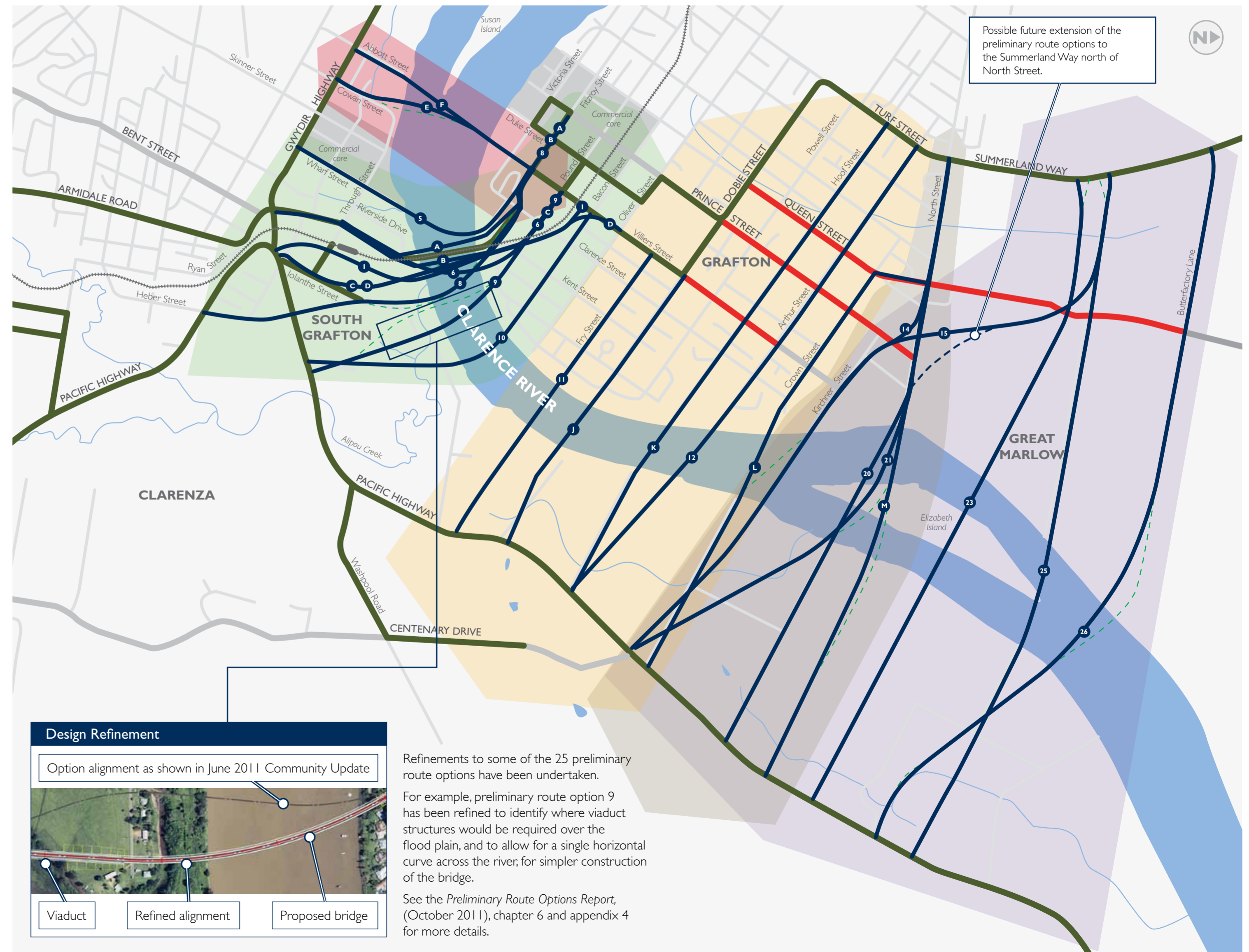
OCTOBER 2011

The RTA is seeking your comments on the Preliminary Route Options Report - Part 2 by Tuesday 22 November 2011.

The report assesses the 25 preliminary route options within five strategic corridors against issues and constraints identified in Grafton and surrounds.

The next step will be to reduce the 25 preliminary route options down to one or a few options in each corridor. These options will be called the short-list.

Community input will be part of the short-listing process.



## KEY

- 25 preliminary route options
- - - Option alignment as shown in June 2011 Community Update
- Link to CBD - Road upgraded for heavy vehicle access:  
Villiers Street - options K and L2  
Prince Street - options L, 14, 15, 20, 21 and M  
Queen Street - options 23, 25 and 26
- 25/26 m long B-Double routes
- Corridor 1 (Upstream of the existing bridge) - options E and F
- Corridor 2 (Adjacent to the existing bridge) - options 5, A, B, C, D, I, 6, 8, 9 and 10
- Corridor 3 (Downstream of the existing bridge) - options 11, J, K, 12 and L
- Corridor 4 (Pacific Highway - North Street connections) - options 14, 20, 21 and M
- Corridor 5 (Pacific Highway connections, north of North Street - Summerland Way) - options 15, 23, 25 and 26

**NOTE:** All options connect to the 25/26 m long B-Double route at each end.

### Design Refinement

Option alignment as shown in June 2011 Community Update



Viaduct

Refined alignment

Proposed bridge

Refinements to some of the 25 preliminary route options have been undertaken.

For example, preliminary route option 9 has been refined to identify where viaduct structures would be required over the flood plain, and to allow for a single horizontal curve across the river, for simpler construction of the bridge.

See the *Preliminary Route Options Report*, (October 2011), chapter 6 and appendix 4 for more details.

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The October 2011 Community Update is now on the project website or contact the project team for a copy.

## Background

The NSW Roads and Traffic Authority is working with the community to identify a preferred location for an additional crossing of the Clarence River at Grafton.

The local community has been advocating for a second crossing for many years to reduce congestion and traffic delays over the existing bridge, in particular during peak periods.

In June 2011, 25 preliminary route options in five strategic corridors were identified for further engineering and environmental investigation from 41 suggestions following community consultation.

The RTA does not have a preferred option at this stage. We will continue to work with the community to examine the 25 preliminary route options and their issues transparently.

## Interactive maps on the website

Interactive maps are on the project website. The maps clearly show the five strategic corridors, the 25 preliminary route options and issues and potential constraints to consider when planning an additional crossing.



To view the maps visit [www.rta.nsw.gov.au/grafonbridge](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/grafonbridge) and click on the link to interactive maps.

## Short-listing process

The Preliminary Route Options Report – Parts 1 and 2, (October 2011) is on the project website or contact the project team for a copy.

The report contains an assessment of the 25 preliminary route options against the issues and constraints identified in Part 1.

Comments on the report are invited by **Tuesday 22 November 2011** by emailing [grafonbridge@rta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:grafonbridge@rta.nsw.gov.au), or writing to PO Box 546, Grafton NSW 2460.

Next, the RTA will conduct an evaluation workshop with participants from the community and stakeholders to consider each of the 25 preliminary route options.

## Reaching the short-list

Community comment, outcomes of the evaluation workshop and technical investigations undertaken to date will help identify the best option(s) within the five strategic corridors. These options will be called the short-list of route options.

## Community information and feedback sessions

There will be three sessions held at the Grafton Community Centre:

**Afternoon session**  
2pm to 4pm Monday 14 November

**Evening session**  
6pm to 8pm Monday 14 November

**Morning session**  
10am to 12pm Tuesday 15 November

These are informal sessions. Drop-in any time during the two hour session to talk with the project team.

## Traffic modelling

The strategic traffic model is now able to better predict traffic volumes likely to use each of the 25 preliminary route options and approach roads. It includes additional traffic counts collected in June 2011 and updated population forecasts from Clarence Valley Council and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. More information is available in the Preliminary Route Options Report.

## Field investigations

Field investigations continue. The project team may require access to a number of properties to undertake further investigations including survey work, geotechnical investigations, flora and fauna studies, traffic surveys and examination of Aboriginal and/or non-Aboriginal heritage issues.

A letter of request with further details will be sent to the owners of properties proposed for use in the investigations.

For more information see the field investigations fact sheets on the project website or contact the project team.

## Process to identify a preferred location

A preferred option for an additional crossing of the Clarence River will be identified from the short-list of route options. The recommended preferred option will be displayed prior to the decision by the RTA and the Minister for Roads on the preferred route.

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## For further enquiries

Chris Clark, RTA Project Manager  
T 1800 633 332 | E [grafonbridge@rta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:grafonbridge@rta.nsw.gov.au)

[www.rta.nsw.gov.au/grafonbridge](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/grafonbridge)

