

# New Tabulam bridge

## Preferred route option



Transport  
Roads & Maritime  
Services

MAY 2014

COMMUNITY UPDATE



The existing Tabulam bridge

The Minister for Roads and Freight has announced **Option D** as the preferred route option for a new Bruxner Highway bridge over the Clarence River at Tabulam. The existing bridge will be removed and replaced with a new bridge as part of the NSW Government's Bridges for the Bush program.

This update shows the preferred route option, outlines the reasons why it was selected and describes the next steps for the project. The Preferred Route Option Report (May 2014) is now available on the Roads and Maritime Services website or by contacting the project team. Your feedback on the preferred route option is invited by **Friday 4 July 2014**.

## Background

The new Tabulam bridge project is part of the Bridges for the Bush initiative, a NSW Government commitment to improve freight productivity and reduce maintenance costs by replacing or upgrading timber bridges. Extensive maintenance work has been conducted over recent years to ensure that the Tabulam bridge remains safe for legally loaded vehicles. However, the bridge presents significant transport limitations both now and into the future and also requires a disproportionate share of the NSW Government's bridge maintenance funding. Roads and Maritime Services is carrying out investigations for a new Bruxner Highway bridge over the Clarence River at Tabulam and to remove the existing structure.

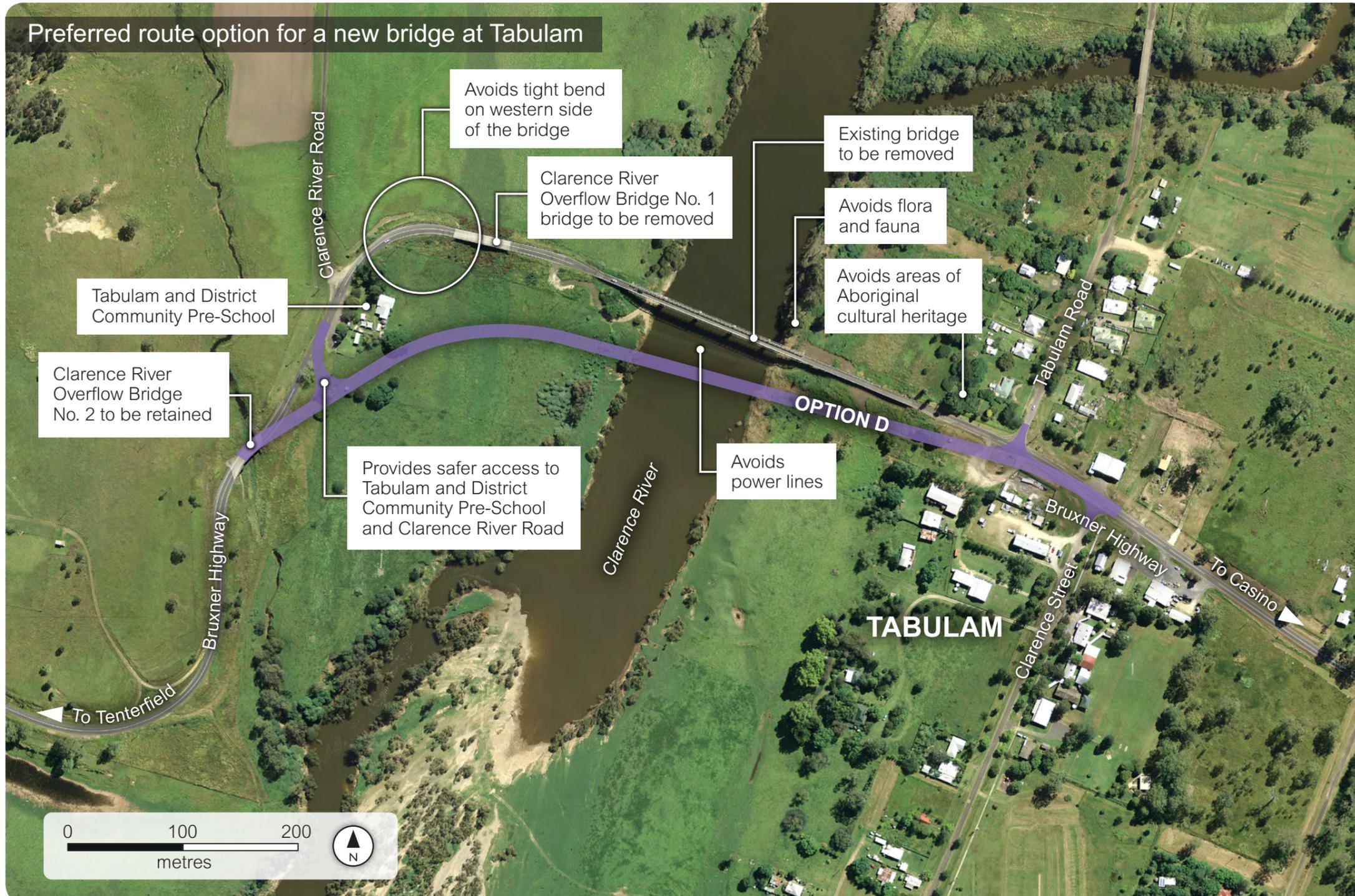
## In this community update

- Process for selecting the preferred route option
- Why the preferred route option was chosen
- Application to the NSW Heritage Council
- Upcoming community consultation activities
- Feedback form.

## Option D – The preferred option

Roads and Maritime has identified **Option D** as the preferred route option for the new Bruxner Highway bridge at Tabulam.

**Option D** starts on the Bruxner Highway east of the Clarence River Overflow Bridge No. 2, crossing the river downstream on a slight angle to the existing bridge. It then re-joins the highway at the Clarence Street intersection. The option is about one kilometre in length with a new 300 metre long bridge over the Clarence River and a new Clarence River Overflow Bridge No. 1.



## Process for selecting the preferred route option

Roads and Maritime Services has worked with the community and stakeholders to identify a preferred route option for the Bruxner Highway bridge over the Clarence River at Tabulam

In November 2013 four route options were announced for community comment.

Following receipt of community comments and technical investigations on the four route options a value management workshop was held in February 2014. Participants included government agencies, local councils and various community representatives. The outcome of the workshop was that Options C and D should be considered further as the preferred route option. A report from this workshop is now available on the Roads and Maritime website.

Further investigations and assessment resulted in Option D being recommended as the preferred option. The preferred route option was identified following consideration of the technical investigations, community feedback and the outcomes of the value management workshop.

## Why was the preferred route chosen?

The preferred route was chosen as it provides the best overall balance between functional, environmental, ecological, social and economic considerations. A number of issues were considered in the selection of the preferred option. Road safety, Aboriginal cultural heritage, environmental impacts, socio-economic issues, pedestrian and cyclist access were among the key considerations when selecting a preferred option.

Option D was selected as the preferred route option based on the following factors:

- Little or no impact on flora and fauna
- Improved access to the Tabulam and District Community Pre-School and Clarence River Road
- Located away from the existing bridge with minimal traffic impacts during construction
- No impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Minimises private land acquisition
- Least impact on public utilities
- Best value for money solution.

## Application to the Heritage Council

Roads and Maritime has recently lodged an application with the NSW Heritage Council to remove the bridge from the State Heritage Register. The Heritage Office will carry out its own consultation process during its assessment of the application.

## Recognition of the existing bridge

Roads and Maritime acknowledges that the Tabulam bridge is of historical importance to the local community. Community feedback received to date has detailed ideas about how the existing bridge can most appropriately be remembered.

Suggestions have included:

- Displays to show historical importance
- Use part of the bridge for another purpose
- Re-use old materials.

Roads and Maritime will continue to work with the community to determine the most appropriate ways to remember the existing bridge.

## Community information sessions

The project team will be available at a community drop-in session to answer questions and receive input. There will be no formal presentations given so community members can visit at any time during the session.

**When:** Thursday 26 June 2014 between 3pm and 7pm

**Where:** Tabulam Community Hall,  
Barnes Street, Tabulam.

## Have your say

Roads and Maritime values your input and encourages you to provide comments on the preferred route option via the feedback form attached. Please provide your feedback by Friday 4 July 2014.

The preferred route option will also be on display at the following locations:

- Tabulam Post Office
- Tenterfield Shire Council
- Kyogle Council
- Motor Registries at Tenterfield and Casino.

## Next steps

The preferred route option is now on display for community comment. This feedback will be considered in preparing the concept design and environmental impact assessment.

As part of the concept design further field investigations will be carried out to gather information to enable this work to be completed. The concept design and environmental impact assessment will be displayed for community comment.



For further enquiries contact the New Tabulam bridge project team:

-  GHD Reply Paid 85012 Sydney NSW 2000  1800 810 680 (toll free)  [www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects)  
 [community.input@ghd.com](mailto:community.input@ghd.com)



2. How satisfied are you with the communications and consultation activities on this project?

Very satisfied     Satisfied     Neutral     Unsatisfied     Very unsatisfied

3. How could communications and consultation be improved on this project?

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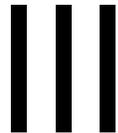
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To mail this feedback form fold along the dotted lines so the Reply Paid address is face up, then seal with clear tape.  
Mail your completed form (no stamp required) to address below.



**Delivery Address:**  
Level 15  
133 -145 Castlereagh St  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

No stamp required  
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