

New Grafton bridge – frequently asked questions

Will the existing Grafton bridge close for maintenance once the new bridge opens?

We have no plans to close the existing Grafton bridge when the new bridge opens. We are, however, currently working with the Australian Rail Track Corporation on a bridge maintenance plan for the existing bridge. This plan will extend at least 40 years into the future and will identify the type of maintenance, when it is likely to occur, and the funding needed to deliver the work. Having two river crossings in Grafton will make it easier to carry out maintenance on the bridges in the future.

Why is the bridge being opened to only one lane each way?

While the new bridge will be one lane each way when it opens, we are also planning for the future with the new bridge having the ability to be expanded to two lanes each way when traffic volumes demand it. Once opened, the new bridge will alleviate the pressure on the existing bridge, making it safer for the thousands of locals who use it each day as well as emergency services and holidaymakers. The traffic studies in the environmental assessment for the project found about 65 per cent of peak period traffic would use the new bridge and 35 per cent would use the existing bridge.

Why are traffic lights needed at the intersection of Pound and Clarence streets? Won't they exacerbate traffic congestion?

Traffic lights at the intersection of Clarence and Pound streets were included in the project to increase safety for pedestrians at this location. With a new car park at the intersection of Clarence and Pound streets and the TAFE campus, the intersection is a high-pedestrian area on a street (Pound Street) that has been widened to two lanes each way. The traffic lights will be turned on just prior to the bridge opening to traffic. The traffic lights will give priority to traffic travelling to and from the new bridge and their timing will be monitored.

Are there any other lights as part of the project?

There are two signalised pedestrian crossings as part of the project – one on Iolanthe Street, which has been widened to two lanes each way, and one on the Gwydir Highway (Charles Street) which also is two lanes each way. These signals will not be switched on until the new roundabout in South Grafton is complete.

When will the roundabout at the intersection of the Pacific and Gwydir highways be completed?

The roundabout is being built in stages over a number of months and is expected to open to traffic in the first half of 2020. Building the roundabout is a significant challenge due to the high volumes of traffic at this location, a narrow project boundary and unknown ground conditions. There will be some temporary traffic changes until the permanent traffic arrangements can be implemented.

Contact us

If you would like to make an inquiry, or to register your general feedback, please contact the Community Relations Team on 1800 918 759. Alternatively you can email

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.



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1800 918 759