



CRITICAL ROAD & RAIL



ROAD AND RAIL NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

MOTIVATION

Flooding of the Bruce Highway and North Coast Railway at Rockhampton can cut critical supply routes to and from central and north Queensland for two to three weeks at a time, effectively isolating over 700,000 Queenslanders. Projected climate change impacts could increase the frequency and severity of this flooding.

Rockhampton's existing Fitzroy River bridges, constructed in 1952 and 1980, are fast approaching capacity and currently funnel all traffic into a small area of the city. Construction of an appropriately located flood-free third bridge to reduce growing traffic congestion and redistribute through-traffic away from the busy city centre is now a near term priority.

Relocation of the existing North Coast Railway from Denison Street in the city centre is also a high priority as train

length and frequency increase, and as the conflict between the rail and state and local road networks increases. Load limits on the existing Alexandra Street rail bridge and slow transit times through Rockhampton also impact on the efficiency of rail operations.

A western realignment of the Bruce Highway and third bridge will link Rockhampton's growth areas at Parkhurst and Gracemere as well as providing connectivity with the CBD, Base Hospital and Airport. This link will also provide improved access from the Australian Defence Forces Western Street facilities to the Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area and further north.

Improving the flood immunity of the Rockhampton Airport is also critical and levee and combined levee-road options are being investigated in conjunction with the proposed western alignment of the Bruce Highway.

BENEFITS

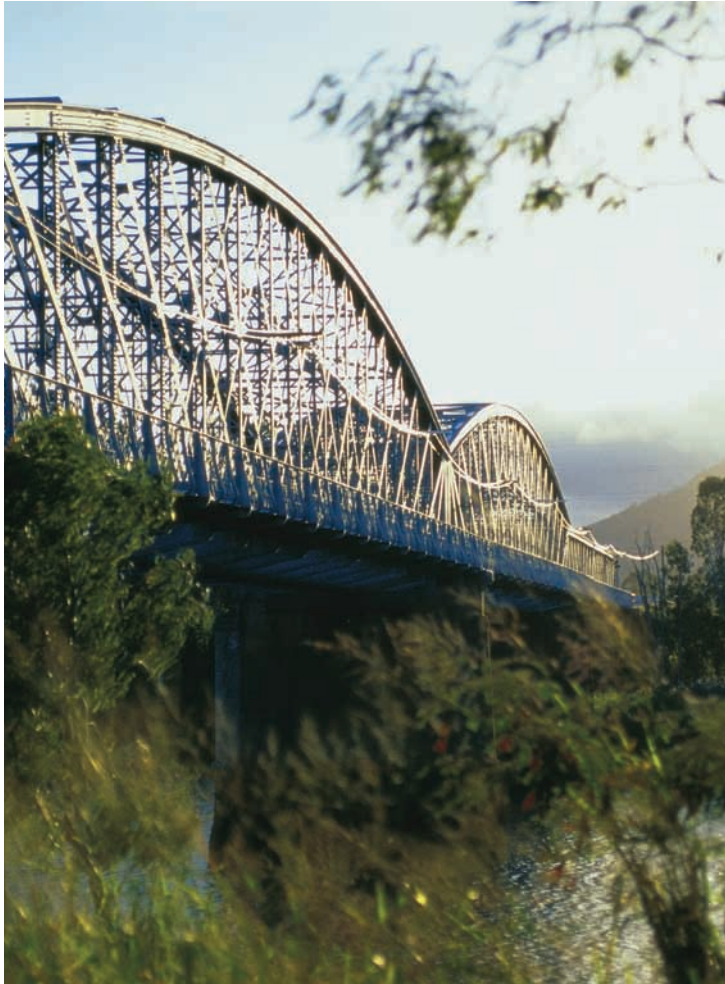
The dominant activity associated with these proposals would be construction. Based on the construction industry's multiplier effects within the Rockhampton Region alone - above and beyond the direct benefits of the infrastructure to improve the productivity of the state and national economy, the preliminary estimations of the initial effects of the construction activity include:

- **Jobs: 8646 Full Time Equivalent Jobs**
- **Value Added: \$606.3 Million**
- **Gross Output: \$1.7 Billion**

While additional economic benefits would occur within the state and national economy above and beyond these benefits to the Rockhampton Region's economy, Rockhampton Regional Council has not added them within these figures. Thus, this represents a conservative example of the stimulus this proposal could inject for economic growth.

ROAD & RAIL

DUE TO THE CONTINUING GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCKHAMPTON REGION, GREATER DEMAND IS BEING PLACED ON THE REGION'S TRANSPORT NETWORKS. TO SUSTAIN THE ENORMOUS GROWTH PREDICTED, IMPROVED ROAD CAPACITY AND FLOOD IMMUNITY ARE CRUCIAL, NOT ONLY FOR THE ROCKHAMPTON REGION, BUT FOR LONG HAUL AND REGIONAL TRANSPORT ACROSS QUEENSLAND.



WE HAVE

- ✓ \$5M Australian Government funded Fitzroy River Floodplain and Road Planning Study to identify and evaluate options to address the issues of flood immunity, capacity, freight movement and amenity of the Bruce Highway and North Coast Railway through Rockhampton.
- ✓ \$500,000 planning underway and funding commitments made by both the State Government and Federal Government (\$40M) to upgrade and duplicate the Bruce Highway and Yeppen Bridge between Jellicoe Street and the Yeppen Roundabout.
- ✓ Planning is underway for duplication of the Capricorn Highway between the Yeppen Roundabout and Gracemere by the State Government. There are no funding commitments for this project.

WE NEED

- A commitment to funding for long term solutions to road, rail, freight, and flooding impacts for the Bruce Highway and North Coast Railway in and around the city of Rockhampton.

WE WANT

- Commitment to construct the Yeppen Bridge duplication as the first stage of a high level crossing of the Fitzroy River floodplain to improve the flood immunity of the Bruce Highway.
- Commitment to funding as the second stage of a high level flood-free crossing of the Fitzroy River floodplain.
- Construction of high level flood-free road crossing of flood plain by 2016.
- \$500M – Commitment to funding of essential road and rail corridors and infrastructure realignments.
- Construction of new road and rail deviations by 2021 as the third stage of a high level crossing of the Fitzroy River floodplain.
- Support for improving the flood immunity of the Rockhampton Airport in conjunction with proposed road infrastructure.

“ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IS DEPENDENT UPON CRITICAL PRIORITY ROAD, RAIL AND AIR INFRASTRUCTURE”

Mary Carroll , CEO Capricorn Tourism and Economic Development Ltd



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RAIL

