Department of Transport and Main Roads

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Consultation Summary Report

Gateway Motorway and Bruce Highway Upgrades

Period of consultation: 24 November –21 December 2023

Australian Government | BUILDING AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND'S BIG BUILD

Queensland Government

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Executive summary

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) undertook community consultation from 24 November until 21 December 2023, to inform the community and seek feedback on the recommended planning progressing for the Gateway Motorway (Bracken Ridge to Pine River) and Bruce Highway (Gateway Motorway to Dohles Rocks Road) sections of the Gateway Motorway and Bruce Highway Upgrades (GMBHU).

Consultation involved engaging with the project's key stakeholders and the local community including sharing a project flythrough video, social media and online consultation campaigns, undertaking briefings, hosting drop-in information sessions, distributing a project newsletter, and sending email updates to the project email list.

There were 669 community interactions during the four week consultation period.

Key feedback themes were:

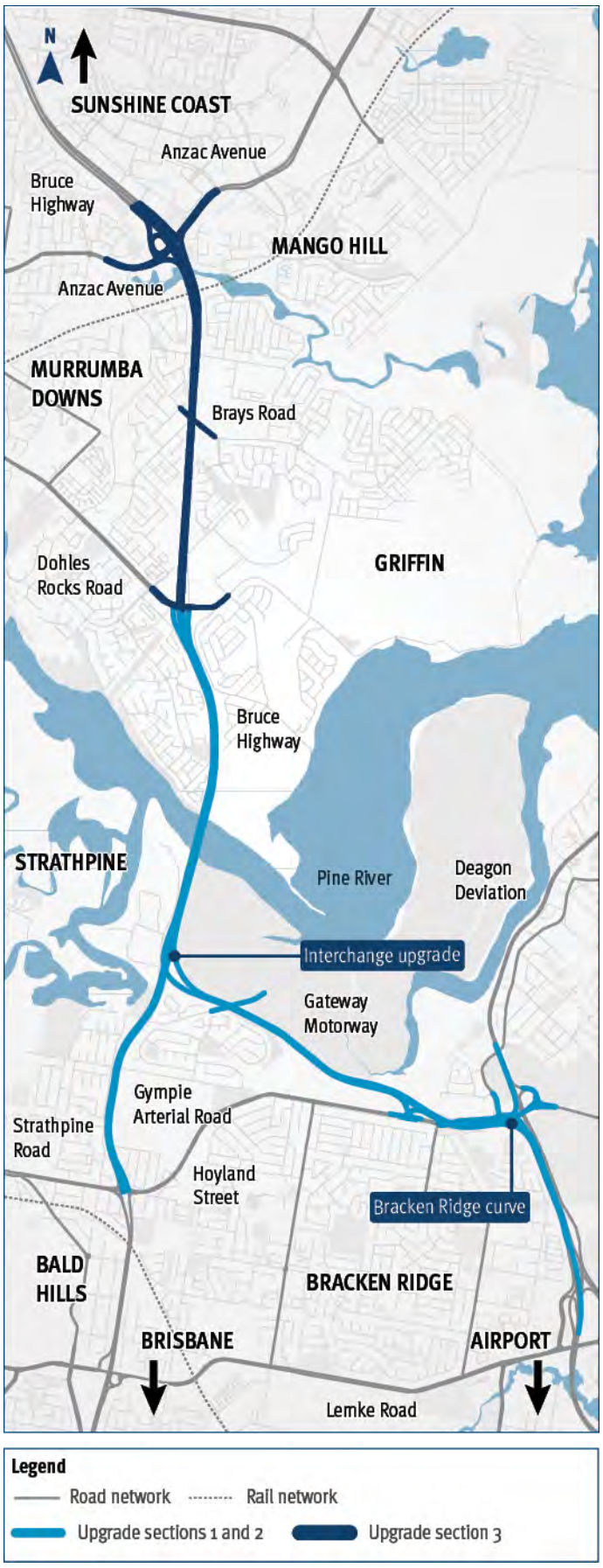
1. **Project design** – questions/seeking explanation of the design and making design suggestions
2. **Timing** – support for progressing project as soon as possible and interest in general timing and construction duration
3. **Noise** – concern about increased road noise due to upgrades and interest in installation of noise mitigations such as barriers.

Other key feedback topics included comments about existing traffic congestion, concern about environmental impacts, and direct property impacts – specifically about the relocation of the Bracken Ridge Fire and Rescue Station and the Sandgate Ambulance Station.

The feedback will be considered as the project progresses into detailed design and delivery stages.



Aerial image of Gateway Motorway and Bruce Highway merge, northbound



GMBHU Project map

Project background

Summary

TMR has undertaken integrated planning to determine a whole-of-network solution that will cater for increasing traffic demands and improve safety on the Gateway Motorway and Bruce Highway corridors.

Significant population growth and current demand indicate traffic levels will increase by more than 50 per cent over the next 20 years. Without upgrades, this vital section of the National Highway will be heavily congested for longer periods, with travel times significantly increasing for motorists.

Integrated planning for GMBHU included the following three sections.

1. **Gateway Motorway (Bracken Ridge to Pine River)** including upgrading the Gateway Motorway curve at Bracken Ridge to allow a safe posted speed of 100km/h. Future planning includes reconfiguring the existing motorway from 6 to 8 lanes between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge.
2. **Bruce Highway (Gateway Motorway to Dohles Rocks Road) Stages 1 and 2** including upgrading the Bruce Highway/Gateway Motorway/Gympie Arterial Road Interchange to a posted speed of 100km/h. Collector-distributor roads are planned for either side of the Bruce Highway to cross the Pine River through to Dohles Rocks Road. Future planning includes upgrades to Gympie Arterial Road between Strathpine Road and Gateway Motorway.
3. **Bruce Highway (Dohles Rocks Road to Anzac Avenue)** business case has developed a staged approach with Stage 1 delivering extended north-facing ramps on the Bruce Highway from Dohles Rocks Road to Anzac Avenue. This section is in the Detailed Design stage, with construction expected to start in late 2024 (weather and construction scheduling permitting).

Funding

These projects are jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments. Project scope, cost and timing are subject to further planning, consideration and negotiation with the Australian Government.

Funding figures as at QTRIP 2024–25 to 2027–28 (June 2024):

- $1 billion for the Gateway Motorway, Bracken Ridge to Pine River upgrade (Investment ID 1510417).
- $948 million for the Bruce Highway (Brisbane–Gympie), Gateway Motorway to Dohles Rocks Road upgrade, (Stage 1) (Investment ID 1509103).
- $30 million allocated toward the Bruce Highway (Brisbane–Gympie), Gateway Motorway to Dohles Rocks Road upgrade, (Stage 2) detailed design. (Investment ID 3217683). Delivery of stage 2 is subject to further funding and approvals.
- $290 million for the Bruce Highway (Brisbane–Gympie), Dohles Rocks Road to Anzac Avenue upgrade, funding commitment. (Investment ID 1739444).

Stakeholders

Key stakeholders of the project include:

- Federal, State and local elected representatives
- property owners, residents and businesses located in the surrounding suburbs (e.g., Bracken Ridge, Brighton, Bald Hills, Sandgate, Griffin, Murrumba Downs).
- transport users, including:
  - motorists using the road corridor through the project area
  - freight transport operators
- Traditional Owners including Turrbal and Kabi Kabi groups
- environmental groups associated with the Tinchi Tamba wetlands, users of Deagon Wetlands, local and regional environmental groups, bird watchers, fauna advocacy and research groups and local heritage groups.
- vulnerable road users and active transport users including bike riders, pedestrians, people with disability, mobility device users, people with prams, and the elderly.
- local school communities including St John Fisher College and Bracken Ridge State High School
- emergency services (e.g., Queensland Fire and Rescue Services, Queensland Ambulance Service, Queensland Police Service)
- owners of formal and informal recreational and sporting facilities and local recreation facilities
- community support services.

Demographics

The project area has an estimated surrounding resident population of around 69,810 people* in 2021, with suburbs such as Murrumba Downs and Griffin, experiencing especially high levels of growth.

The immediate project area has a slightly older population compared to Greater Brisbane, mainly due to the population of more established suburbs (Bald Hills, Bracken Ridge, and Sandgate). Contrasted with the more recently developed suburbs that sit within the project area, such as Griffin and Murrumba Downs, recording median ages well below Greater Brisbane.

Local amenity and character in the project area is characterised by low density residential suburbs, natural features and conservation areas, and major transport infrastructure. Existing traffic noise and congestion on major road corridors currently affects amenity at some locations in the area.

** Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census of Population and Housing 2021*

Environment and Cultural Heritage

There are areas of environmental and cultural significance near the Gateway Motorway and Bruce Highway. These areas include Moreton Bay Ramsar Wetlands, Moreton Bay Marine Park, Tinchi Tamba Wetlands, Deagon Wetlands, Freshwater Creek, Bald Hills Creek and the Pine River.

Fauna and connectivity

TMR recognises the area surrounding the project is home to many animals, including koalas. TMR is working with relevant environmental departments and local councils, to undertake rigorous assessments in accordance with relevant legislation and to identify opportunities to protect local wildlife.

As part of the business case phase, TMR has considered fauna movement infrastructure, including fauna crossings and fauna fences in the preliminary designs. This infrastructure will support fauna connectivity and reduce the likelihood of animals accessing the road corridor in future.

Fauna underpasses are proposed at Bald Hills Creek under the Gateway Motorway, at Gateway Motorway, Bruce Highway and Gympie Arterial Road Interchange and on the north side of the Pine River to support fauna movement in the area.

Trees and vegetation

TMR is committed to preserving as many trees as possible. Unfortunately, some trees and shrubs require removal. Native trees and plants will be incorporated into the landscape plan for replanting of the project area, once construction is complete. Offset planting will also be undertaken in accordance with legislative requirements.

Cultural Heritage

TMR is carefully considering areas of cultural heritage or historical significance in the project area and has undertaken a Cultural Heritage Risk Assessment. Consultation with local Traditional Owners is ongoing.

TMR is aware of a Scar tree, which holds significance in the local indigenous community in the Bald Hills area, and will take this into consideration.

Consultation and engagement activities

Community consultation for the GMBHU project has been ongoing since planning was announced in 2020. This has included consultation on initial planning in 2020 and consultation on business case options in late 2022 (refer to the TMR webpage for previous consultation summaries).

TMR undertook further consultation from 24 November to 21 December 2023, to inform the community and seek feedback on the recommended planning progressing for the Gateway Motorway (Bracken Ridge to Pine River) and Bruce Highway (Gateway Motorway to Dohles Rocks Road) Stages 1 and 2.

TMR would like to thank everyone who provided feedback during this consultation and planning to date. The community will continue to have opportunities to provide feedback as the project progresses.

Consultation summary: Recommended planning – late 2023

How TMR consulted

4-week consultation period

54,666 community members reached through social media

3 community drop-in sessions

11,000 newsletters distributed

46 meetings (doorknocks/ briefings)

More than 550 stakeholder emails sent

1623 visitors to online consultation page

There were **669 community interactions** during the consultation period.

How people interacted

355 social media comments

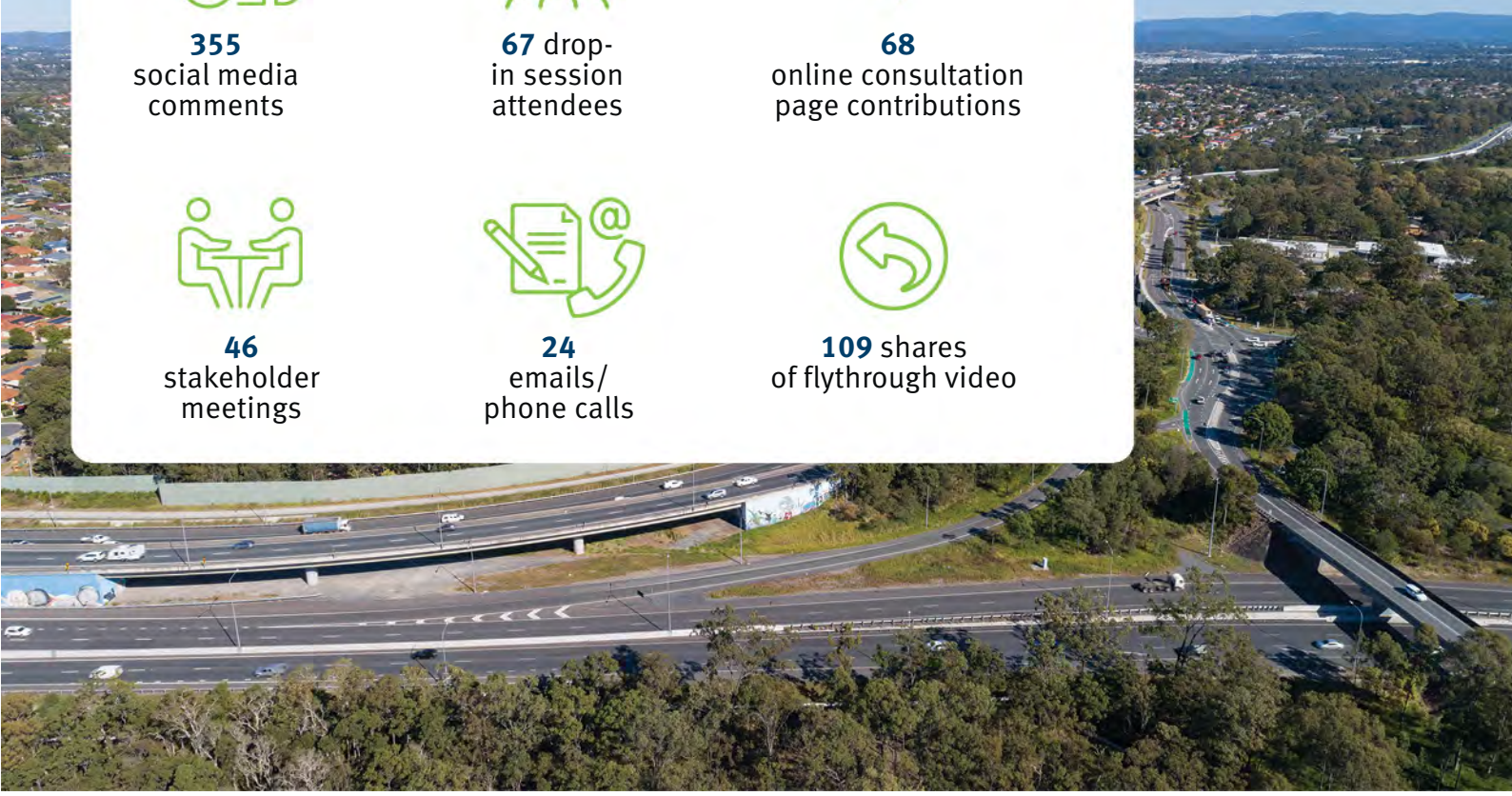
67 drop-in session attendees

68 online consultation page contributions

46 stakeholder meetings

24 emails/ phone calls

109 shares of flythrough video



Online consultation

A key consultation channel was the online Have Your Say page hosted via TMR's project webpage.

This page included the flythrough video, the project newsletter for viewing and downloading, and opportunity for the community to post their comments on feedback walls.

Visitor summary

During consultation, the GMBHU Have Your Say page received:

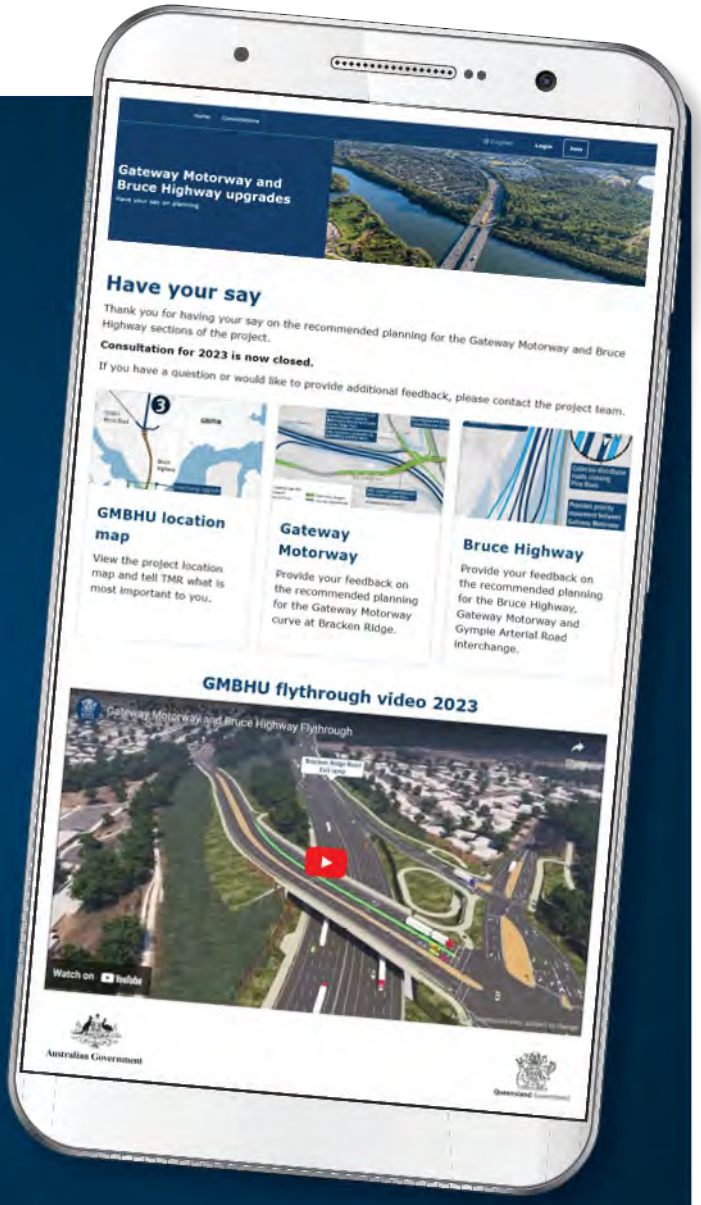
1623 unique visitors

2220 visits

4149 views

Feedback/response summary

68 contributions were received across 3 interactive consultation tools.



(above): GMBHU online consultation page

Social media

TMR used a geotargeted social media (Facebook) campaign to promote the consultation activities in the north Brisbane and southern Moreton Bay areas.



Source: TMR Facebook page promoting GMBHU consultation

Reach: 54,666
unique accounts visited the post.

Reactions: 427
includes post likes/dislikes.

Comments: 355
comments, includes comments as part of a thread.

Shares: 109
number of times the post was shared by users on social media platforms.

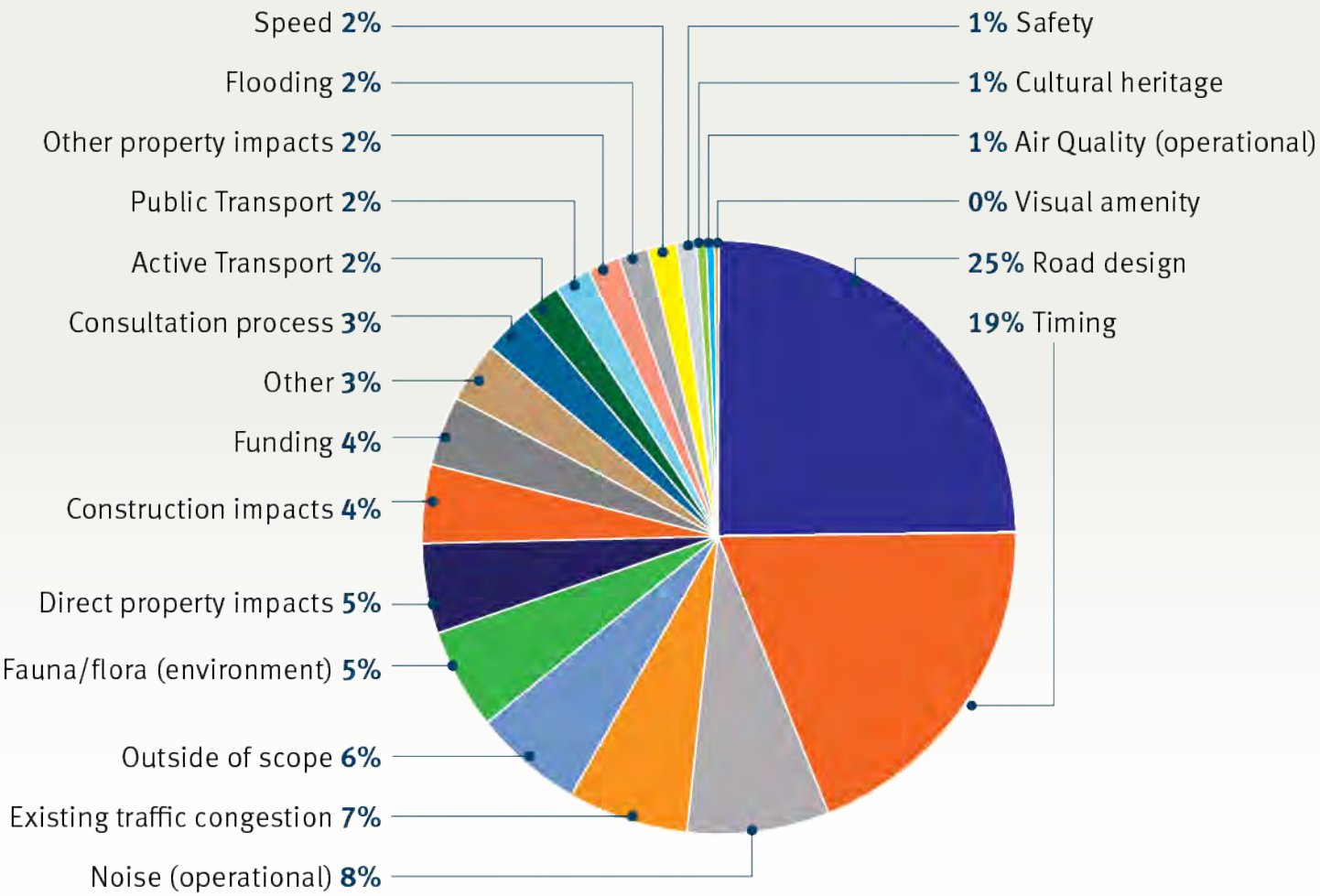
Outcomes

Key feedback themes

The following feedback themes were raised during consultation:

- Design
- Timing
- Noise
- Existing traffic congestion
- Direct property impacts
- Concerns about roads and planning outside of the GMBHU project area
- Environmental: flora and fauna impacts

Pie chart: Consultation feedback themes



Word sentiment map: Consultation feedback



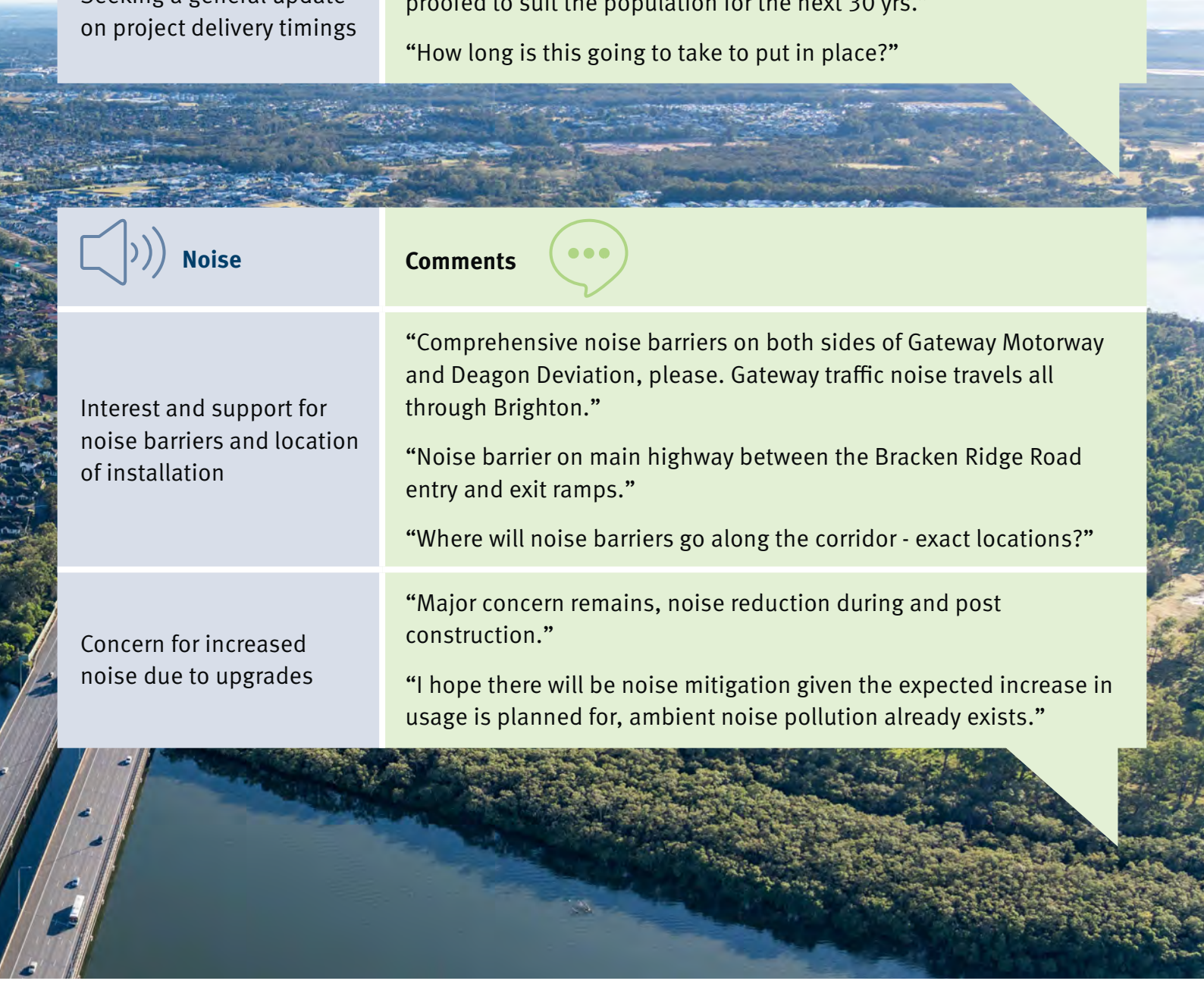
Key themes

Design	Comments
Seeking a project update and general project questions	"How many lanes will go over the Pine River bridge?"
Alternative design options and specific design suggestions (particularly for Gateway Motorway (Bracken Ridge to Pine River) section	"The slip lane to enter the Deagon/Brighton overpass is nowhere near long enough. Traffic can bank up considerably" "Is the Bracken Ridge Road entry/ exit on the northbound lanes (of Gateway Motorway) really necessary given the next on/ off ramp is less than 3km south?" "Can the left turn onto Bracken Ridge Road from the Deagon Deviation slip road be a 'turn any time' instead of wait (and wait and wait) at lights?"
Support for the project design	"Great plan. Upgrade speed to 110 (km/hr). Trucks must use the left lane" "It's good. It should have been built already." "Excellent plan. Please ensure Carseldine to the Gateway gets an upgrade. The stretch from Strathpine Road to Gateway is downright dangerous."



Source TMR: Bruce Highway crossing Pine River

Timing	Comments
Want the project to commence straight away	“This should happen today. The plan is good (although could be bigger) will fix the existing issues setting the area up to grow into the future.” “Can’t come soon enough.” “Just do it already, I’m sick of the traffic.” “Lots of congestion – project needed asap.”
Seeking a general update on project delivery timings	“Whatever you do, do it once, do it quickly, and ensure it is future proofed to suit the population for the next 30 yrs.” “How long is this going to take to put in place?”



Noise	Comments
Interest and support for noise barriers and location of installation	“Comprehensive noise barriers on both sides of Gateway Motorway and Deagon Deviation, please. Gateway traffic noise travels all through Brighton.” “Noise barrier on main highway between the Bracken Ridge Road entry and exit ramps.” “Where will noise barriers go along the corridor - exact locations?”
Concern for increased noise due to upgrades	“Major concern remains, noise reduction during and post construction.” “I hope there will be noise mitigation given the expected increase in usage is planned for, ambient noise pollution already exists.”

Other comments/key topics of interest

	Comments
Local roads and existing congestion	"Aware of the existing traffic bottleneck at the Gateway motorway curve." "Have seen it change – the rat-running on local Bracken Ridge streets is getting worse." "Want to see if the project will improve existing congestion trying to get out of Rainwood Street on to Barfoot Street." "Dedicated lanes on the Bruce Highway from Bald Hills going north, is definitely needed, as the volume of traffic and changing lanes before the bridge is getting worse everyday."
Construction impacts	"This will be awesome when done but how's the roadworks going to be around that area for 2–3yrs!" "When is this supposed to commence? Can you imagine the road works we will be dealing with."
Environment – fauna and flora impacts	"Have you thought about the environmental impacts removing a lot of bush land will do for wildlife, could you make it less wide(r)?" "Wildlife should be a priority. Please ensure they have safe over/underpasses and ensure the project has minimal impact on Tinchi Tamba, and so on." "Fauna infrastructure and noise pollution mitigation should be priority. Also, consideration for noise/light pollution at the Bracken Ridge Road ramps."
Active transport connections (for pedestrians and bike riders)	"Active transport is a must. There should be adequate shade, water and bike repair stations." "The shared path and the new entries and exits are the only things this project needs."
Property impacts	"The plan to demolish and relocate the ambulance and fire stations is terrible and a complete waste of taxpayers' money."

Next steps

How TMR is considering your feedback

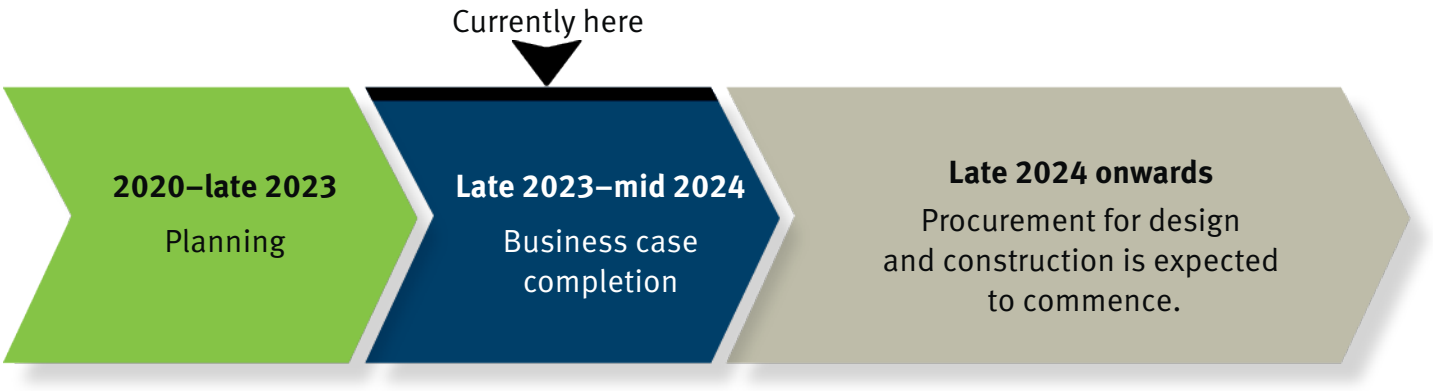
This 2023 consultation focused on updating the community about the outcomes of planning, which included presenting the recommended plans progressing for the Gateway Motorway (Bracken Ridge to Pine River) and Bruce Highway (Gateway Motorway to Dohles Rocks Road) business cases.

TMR is working through the next steps to confirm the funding, scope and staging for delivery, including timeframes for detailed design and construction.

The feedback TMR has received from this consultation will be considered in the next stages of the project's delivery.

Timeline

Below is the timing for the Gateway Motorway (Bracken Ridge to Pine River) and Bruce Highway (Gateway Motorway to Dohles Rocks Road) Stage 1 upgrades.



Timeline for Gateway Motorway (Bracken Ridge to Pine River) and Bruce Highway (Gateway Motorway to Dohles Rocks Road) Stage 1 upgrades

Contact us

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Contact us for available alternate accessible formats.

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