



Tiaro Flood Immunity Upgrade (TFIU)

Community Update: November 2019

Bruce Highway flooding at Tiaro (Chinaman Creek Bridge), 2013

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has completed investigations into options to improve flood immunity, safety and efficiency on the Bruce Highway at Tiaro.

Different options were considered, as part of the Preliminary Evaluation stage, including:

- an upgrade of the existing highway at flood-affected locations
- construction of a new highway, that bypasses Tiaro to the east of the township.

The bypass option was found to represent **better value-for-money**, **deliver more benefits**, and have **greater community support**, than the existing highway upgrade option.

Project benefits



Increased flood immunity

The new highway will avoid three flood-affected sites on the existing highway and provide flood immunity for up to a 1 in 100-year flood event.



Improved traffic efficiency

The new highway will provide free-flowing traffic conditions with a posted speed limit of 100km/hr.



Improved road safety

The new highway will separate highway traffic from local traffic and bypass over 50 intersections and accesses along the existing highway, significantly reducing the collision risk.



Future-proofing

The new highway will be designed to cater for future traffic volumes.



Improved amenity and liveability

The project will remove a large portion of heavy freight traffic from the town centre, reducing congestion and traffic noise and improving visual amenity and liveability.



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How was the decision made?

TMR evaluated the options to compare how an existing highway upgrade option performed against a bypass option. The evaluation considered how well the options met the project objectives of flood immunity, safety, capacity and efficiency, minimising environmental impact and achieving value for money. TMR also considered feedback from project stakeholders such as elected representatives and the Tiaro community.

Project objectives	Existing highway upgrade option	Bypass option
Flood immunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved flood immunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved flood immunity
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited safety improvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improved alignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant safety improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> separation of local and through traffic significant reduction in the number of intersections
Capacity and efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> variable speeds (40, 50, 60 and 100km/h) frequent intersections signalised pedestrian crossing the upgrade would become redundant as it will not align with the future four-lane upgrade between Curra and Maryborough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improved speed limit (100km/h) pedestrian crossings not required provision for overtaking lanes bypass aligns with the ultimate planning for a future four-lane upgrade between Curra and Maryborough
Environmental impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High impact on creek crossings Limited impact on undeveloped land Limited amenity improvements in Tiaro 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low impact on creek crossings Significant impact on undeveloped land Significant amenity improvement in Tiaro
Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant future cost to upgrade to four lanes Estimated costs significantly outweigh estimated benefits Not economically justified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced future cost to upgrade to four lanes Estimated benefits significantly outweigh estimated costs

How will community feedback be considered?

An initial round of consultation with the Tiaro community occurred in early 2019, with 87 feedback forms received. Of the respondents:

- 47 per cent supported a bypass. Many respondents in this group felt a bypass would improve liveability and reduce congestion and safety issues.
- 40 per cent supported an upgrade to the existing highway. Many respondents in this group were concerned about potential economic impacts from a bypass.
- 13 per cent did not nominate a preference for either option.

Although the majority of respondents supported the bypass option, there is concern about potential economic impacts to the Tiaro township. This has been a major consideration for TMR. The department will work actively with the local government and the Tiaro community throughout the TFIU project's development to address these concerns.

TMR will also work closely with Fraser Coast Regional Council, the community and businesses to identify opportunities for the bypass.

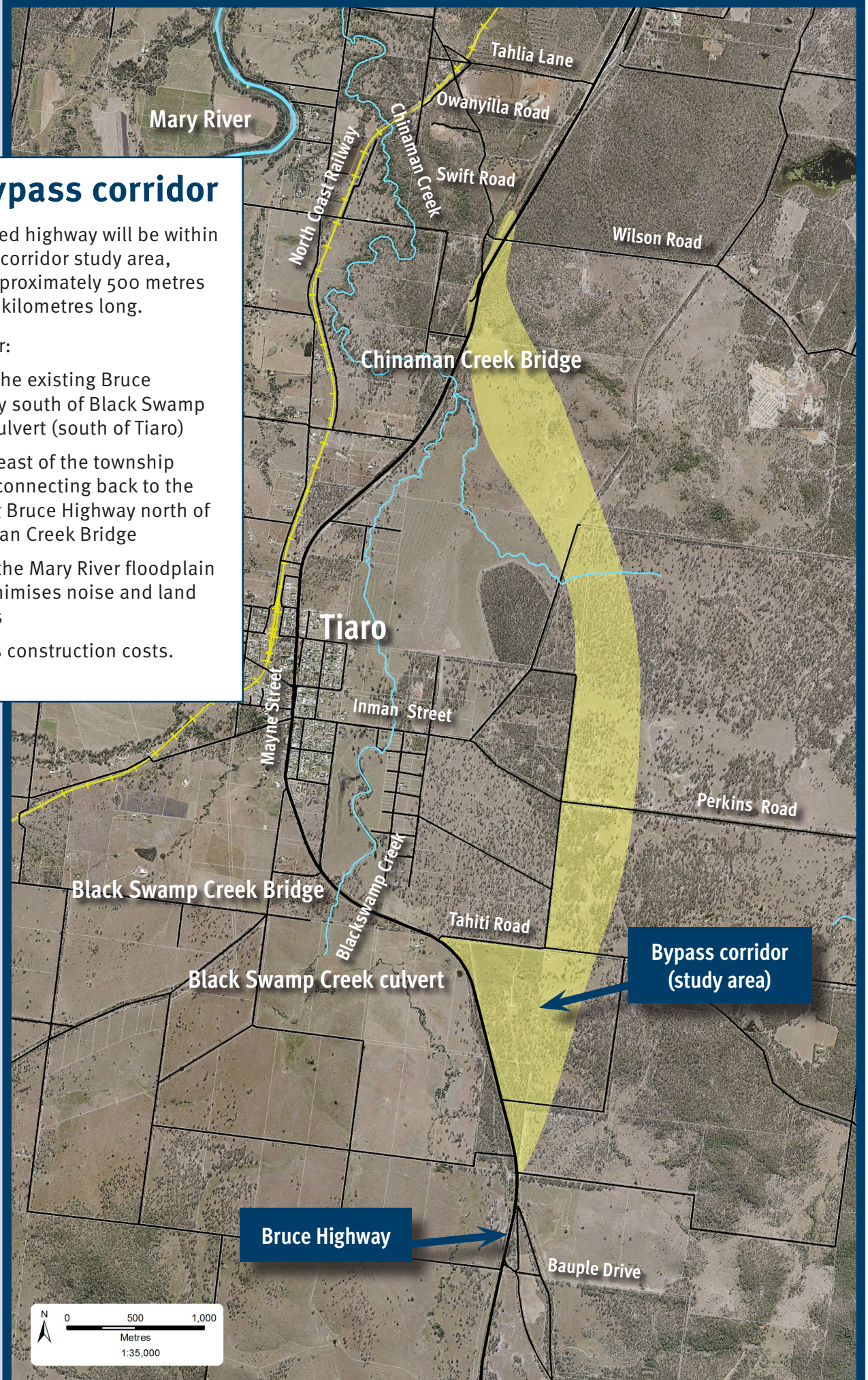
A working group will be established to represent the community (including business operators) and to prioritise and act on identified opportunities.

The bypass corridor

The proposed highway will be within the bypass corridor study area, which is approximately 500 metres wide and 8 kilometres long.

The corridor:

- leaves the existing Bruce Highway south of Black Swamp Creek culvert (south of Tiaro)
- travels east of the township before connecting back to the existing Bruce Highway north of Chinaman Creek Bridge
- avoids the Mary River floodplain and minimises noise and land impacts
- reduces construction costs.



The next steps

The project is currently in the Business Case stage of the Queensland Government’s Project Assessment Framework. While TMR has identified the bypass corridor area, further investigations need to be undertaken to develop a draft design for the new highway.

These investigations will include:

- consultation with the community, local government, businesses and other stakeholders
- an assessment of different highway alignment options within the bypass corridor
- technical and environmental investigations.

TMR will seek approval from the Australian Government (funding partner) on the project scope and draft design before proceeding to detailed design. Construction timeframes will be confirmed as the project progresses, however, at this early stage, it is anticipated construction could be completed in 2024, weather permitting.



Bruce Highway flooding at Tiaro (Chinaman Creek Bridge), 2013

Get involved

You can get involved in the project in several ways:



Join the working group

If you are interested in representing your community on the working group, contact the project team to obtain further details.

The working group will include representatives from the Tiaro community, residents, businesses and local government. The project team will work closely with the working group and other stakeholders to obtain feedback on the design for the bypass. TMR will engage an independent expert to help the group identify opportunities from the bypass.

Once the working group has been established, TMR will provide details on the project webpage about how to contact the group.



Subscribe for email updates

The project team will distribute electronic updates to keep the community informed of progress. To receive these updates, visit the project webpage and fill out the subscription form.



Visit the project webpage

The project webpage will be updated regularly with any ‘news’ on project activities and events.



Respond to surveys or other requests from TMR for information

TMR will seek feedback and input from community members during the project, as it progresses.



Attend an information session

TMR will advertise upcoming public displays or information sessions on the project webpage and in local newspapers.

Project funding commitment

Funding of \$107 million has been committed for the Tiaro Flood Immunity Upgrade project under the Bruce Highway Upgrade Program. The Australian Government has allocated up to \$85.6 million and the Queensland Government has allocated up to \$21.4 million.

For more information



Project webpage:
www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Tiaro
Email: tfiu@tmr.qld.gov.au



1800 776 237*
Business hours:
Monday-Friday
9am -5pm



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* Check with your service provider for call costs.