Creating a diverse economy powered by bright ideas

Southern Freight Rail Corridor Study

Newsletter 03 • Autumn 2010

Have your say

The Queensland Government is planning for a new freight rail corridor from the western railway south of Rosewood to the interstate rail line near Kagaru north of Beaudesert.

In 2008, an alignment for the corridor was proposed and public consultation was undertaken.

Now, as a result of community feedback the corridor has been changed and a second round of formal community consultation is commencing.

This is your opportunity to have your say.

You can download a map of the revised corridor alignment which was released in November 2009, and a copy of the revised assessment report from the Department of Transport and Main Roads website www.tmr.qld.gov.au (search for Southern Freight Rail).

Please call 1800 116 215 for further information.

Submissions close on Friday 14 May 2010. Please ensure your submission makes it to us on or before that date.

This is a long term planning study. It is estimated construction for this rail corridor would begin post 2031.

Why do we need the Southern Freight Rail Corridor?

The Southern Freight Rail Corridor will:

- address increasing congestion on the rail networks
- address increasing freight movements across Queensland, which are predicted to double by 2020
- ensure the rail corridor is protected from increasing land development
- help us meet the needs of our growing population.

The Southern Freight Rail Corridor has also been identified as a key link in the Commonwealth Government’s Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail Study.

How is this report different from the last one?

The assessment report has been updated since the first report was released in October 2008.

The new report includes:

- the submissions report, with information about the 78 submissions received and responses
- the new revised alignment, which was announced in November 2009
- updates to the technical papers, based on submissions received and the revised alignment.
Community feedback and new information about important koala habitat in the Ebenezer/Willowbank area prompted the study team to investigate another more suitable option in this location.

The new corridor announced in November 2009 has a 12km deviation from the corridor announced in 2008. The revised alignment not only protects koala habitat but it minimises impact on local landowners, reducing the number of affected properties. It also balances future requirements for this region while maintaining freight capacity.

Meetings with the Koala, Threatened Species and Habitat Working Group helped the study team gain a greater understanding of koala movement and vegetation in the area. Working Group membership included local koala conservation groups, local councils, the Department of Transport and Main Roads, and Department of Environment and Resource Management.

Working closely with DERM and other government agencies the study team has relocated part of the rail corridor to preserve important koala habitat. Other species will also benefit from this change to the alignment.
Why has the alignment been changed in the Ebenezer/Willowbank area?

During consultation the community expressed concern about koala habitat in this area. The Queensland Government is committed to preserving koala habitat so the step was taken to investigate an alternative route. New information relating to the area’s ecological importance was also identified by the Department of Environment and Resource Management during the study.

Moving the alignment presented a significant challenge for the study team due to a number of specific issues in the area, including:

- the Cunningham Highway
- the Gum Tips Nature Reserve
- a proposed Powerlink substation site
- the Ipswich Motorsport Precinct
- essential habitat and endangered swamp tea-tree (Melaleuca irbyana)
- rural residential communities
- future industry.

The majority of the original alignment is constrained by engineering and terrain factors, making any changes difficult. However the alignment in the Ebenezer/Willowbank area was not subject to the same degree of constraint allowing the study team some room for movement.

The revised alignment is located north of the original alignment in the Ebenezer area and is slightly longer than the original alignment. It now passes over the Cunningham Highway, rather than under, and requires significant earthworks in some areas.

Have your say

The Queensland Government is inviting public comment on the revised assessment report.

Submissions close on Friday 14 May 2010. Please ensure your submission makes it to us on or before that date.

Send your submissions to:
Minister for Transport
Attention SFRC Study
GPO Box 2644
Brisbane Qld 4001

Submissions must include the name, address and original signature of each person making the submission. Legible handwritten submissions are acceptable.

After submissions are received they will be considered and any changes that are required will be made to the report. The final assessment report will then be put forward to the Minister for Transport for consideration prior to designating the corridor.

Please call 1800 116 215 for further information.

Mapping contained in this study update is provided for illustrative purposes only and is not to scale.
Community information days
Details of the study and the revised alignment will be available for public viewing at the following times:

Saturday 17 April 2010
11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Peak Crossing Community Hall
Corner Fassifern St and Hall St, Peak Crossing

Saturday 24 April 2010
11:00 am – 2:00 pm
St Brigid’s Church Hall
Railway Street, Rosewood

Members of the study team will be available to answer your questions.

View the latest report
You can view the report at one of these locations:

Ipswich City Council Office
Rosewood Plaza, John Street, Rosewood

Ipswich Library
40 South Street, Ipswich

Boonah Library
High Street, Boonah

Scenic Rim Council Office
82 Brisbane Street, Beaudesert

CD copies of the report are also available. Please call 1800 116 215 to request a copy.

Contact us
If you require any additional information about the Southern Freight Rail Corridor Study please contact the study team on:

Phone: 1800 116 215
(free call within Australia. Call charges may apply from mobile phones)

Write to: SFRC Study
Reply Paid 1823
Milton BC QLD 4064

Visit: www.tmr.qld.gov.au (search for Southern Freight Rail)

Email: SFRCStudy@maunsell.com

View the latest maps
Visit: www.tmr.qld.gov.au to view and download the latest maps and proposed alignment (search for Southern Freight Rail).