

Bruce Highway Trust Advisory Council Communique Meeting #4



On Tuesday 23 November 2021, the fourth Bruce Highway Trust Advisory Council (BHTAC) meeting was held in Mackay, chaired by Mr Peter Garske, Company Director, Queensland Transport and Logistics Council, and supported by Deputy Chair Ms Barbara Madden, Company Director of the Smithfield Group.

The role of the Council is to oversee the development of a new 15-year Vision for the Bruce Highway (Brisbane – Cairns) and to identify priorities to be delivered through rolling five-year Action Plans and the *Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan*, in order to inform future Federal and State Budget deliberations.

The objective of the BHTAC is to guide the BHTAC-Technical Working Group (BHTAC-TWG) in the preparation of the Vision and Action Plans, which includes providing advice and direction to the BHTAC-TWG on stakeholder needs, expectations and priorities.

At the Mackay meeting, Transport and Main Roads (TMR) provided BHTAC members with an update on the delivery status of the current \$13 billion Bruce Highway Upgrade Program (BHUP) (2013-14 to 2027-28), including progress on:

- major capital projects (including construction of interchanges, flood plain upgrades, lane duplication, ring roads)
- pavement widening and rehabilitation works
- Wide Centre Line Treatment
- overtaking lanes
- protected right-hand turns
- signalisation of intersections
- new bridges
- new and upgraded rest areas
- flood area treatments
- roadside safety barriers
- township entry treatments.

Council members were also updated on work being undertaken by the BHTAC-TWG, on behalf of the BHTAC, to support the development of the draft 15-year Vision, rolling five-year Action Plans, the *Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan* and the Bruce Highway Duplication Strategy.

Results of recent BHTAC-TWG activities to inform future investment priorities

BHTAC members discussed the draft standards, measures and performance targets for the 15-year period, developed to align with the three key objectives from the *Future-Proofing the Bruce* and *A Real Bruce Plan policies* - unlocking economic growth, building flood resilience and improving safety. Members noted the important role this work plays in guiding the deficiency analysis and prioritisation of potential future projects for the five-year rolling Action Plans and *Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan*.

Members were briefed by TMR on the scale of the prioritisation task, with around 500 candidate projects/packages of work identified, and noted the need to balance the investment across projects that have strong alignment with achieving the three key objectives.

BHTAC-TWG members outlined key aspects of the prioritisation approach and methodology, including the multi-criteria analysis and moderation process, which incorporates the outcome of technical and customer research undertaken to date, and advice received from BHTAC members.

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Key advice and suggestions provided by BHTAC members included the need to:

- ensure hard shoulders are preserved when applying future Wide Centre Line Treatment to the remaining sections of the highway
- aim for an overall improvement in the quality and frequency of rest areas for all road users and to ensure there are adequate Heavy Vehicle Rest areas around the Tiaro area, servicing drivers in both directions along that section of the highway
- examine both the current condition and width of bridges along the highway and their ability to cater for the future projected traffic mix and demand
- consider future potential land use associated with the production of hydrogen fuel, noting trials commencing with hydrogen-fuelled heavy vehicles
- maintain the existing asset with sufficient funding to be allocated for rehabilitation of pavements and intelligent transport system equipment which help to improve safety, efficiency and road user experience.

Overview of the Bruce Highway Program in Central Queensland

Finally, members were provided an overview of the current Bruce Highway Upgrade Program in Central Queensland Region, including completed and committed works, identified deficiencies and future needs.

Following the meeting, BHTAC members participated in a tour of sections of the Bruce Highway and surrounding road network hosted by the TMR Regional Director, Central Region and District Director, Mackay/Whitsunday and valued the opportunity to view the following project sites:

- Hay Point Road to Temples Lane (Duplication) planning project
- the recently constructed Mackay Ring Road project, and
- the Mackay Northern Access Upgrade project which is under construction.



BHTAC members at Macs Truckstop Service Road, (Bruce Highway in background). This location is within the footprint of the Hay Point Road to Temples Lane duplication planning project.

From Left to Right: *Back Row* - Gary Mahon (QTA), Daniel Gschwind (QTIC), Susan Furze (RACQ), Brian Hughes (Regional BHTAC member), Joshua Millroy (TWU), Robert Dorgelo (Regional BHTAC member); *Front Row* - Julie Boyd (Regional BHTAC member), Barbara Madden (BHTAC Deputy Chair), Peter Garske (BHTAC Chair), Georgina Davis (QFF), Tania Dennis (Regional BHTAC member), Anita Mumford (Regional BHTAC member), Elise Pearson (Regional BHTAC member).

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Bruce Highway Trust Advisory Council members and attendees at the Mackay meeting,
23 November 2021

Member	Position	BHTAC Position	Proxy
Mr Peter Garske	Company Director, Queensland Transport and Logistics Council (QTLC)	Chair	
Ms Barbara Madden	Company Director of the Smithfield Group	Deputy Chair	
Mr Neil Scales	Director-General, Department of Transport and Main Roads	Member	
Mr Phil Smith	First Assistant Secretary, Infrastructure Investment Division, Federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (DITRDC)	Member	Ms Nicole West, (A/Director North Queensland and Northern Territory Branch) DITRDC
Dr Georgina Davis	Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF)	Member	
Mr Daniel Gschwind	Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC)	Member	
Ms Alison Smith (Apology)	Chief Executive Officer, Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)	Member	Mike Furniss (Assistant Lead – Transport and Logistics) LGAQ
Mr Gary Mahon	Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Trucking Association (QTA)	Member	
TBC	Branch Secretary, Transport Workers Union (TWU) Queensland	Member	Mr Joshua Millroy, Proxy for TWU Queensland
Mr David Carter (Apology)	Group Chief Executive Officer, Royal Automobile Club of Queensland (RACQ)	Member	Ms Susan Furze, Head of Public Policy, RACQ
Ms Elise Pearson	Regional Representative	Member	
Ms Anita Mumford	Regional Representative	Member	
Ms Julie Boyd	Regional Representative	Member	
Mr Robert Dorgelo	Regional Representative	Member	
Ms Tania Dennis	Regional Representative	Member	
Mr Brian Hughes	Regional Representative	Member	