

Mundubbera to Jandowae Roads Working Group

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With a Federal election expected in the near future, candidates are being asked to make election commitments to fund a new bridge over the Boyne River to improve safety and freight efficiency.

The State Government has advised a cost currently estimated at \$20 million to replace the flood-prone John Peterson Bridge on the Mundubbera Dulong Road which plays a vital connecting link for residents, tourists and strategic freight across the North and South Burnett to local and export markets.

The Mundubbera to Jandowae Roads Working Group (RWG) is campaigning Federal candidates for the seat of Flynn to seek the funding required to complete construction.

RWG Chair Georgie Somerset said the bridge and the standard of the Mundubbera to Jandowae route causes safety issues and inefficiency for freight carriers and needs to be upgraded for both economic benefit and to ensure an effective inland transport link during natural disasters.

“The replacement of the John Peterson Bridge has been identified as a high priority for both North and South Burnett Councils and the wider Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils,” Ms Somerset said.

“More than 2000 road users having signed a petition calling for road upgrades and improvements, and the bridge over the Boyne River is a strategic piece of infrastructure that urgently needs to be upgraded with increasing numbers of freight and tourist traffic using this route.

“Additionally, and of great concern to the Roads Working Group, surveys conducted revealed freight companies avoid using the Mundubbera Dulong Road and Chinchilla Wondai Road due to damage caused to equipment, fresh produce and animal welfare concerns related to the condition of the roads. This should raise alarms for governments at all levels.”

“Mundubbera Dulong Road is a main thoroughfare that carries thousands of heavy vehicles laden with cattle, timber and grain on a weekly basis. The road is the main inland thoroughfare connecting the Western Downs with Rockhampton.”

“Queensland’s future economic growth will be built on the ability to move freight to support the resources, agriculture, construction and tourism sectors. An efficient freight system will provide the backbone for facilitating this growth and connecting our regional communities.”

State Minister for Transport and Main Roads Mark Bailey MP confirmed the cost to replace the existing low-level timber bridge with a new high-level reinforced concrete bridge on a straighter alignment is estimated to cost \$20m, if constructed immediately.

MJRWG represents the communities reliant on reliable transport – and these communities represent a diverse set of needs – health, education, communication, primary industries - including beef, horticulture, grain, cotton, timber, minerals and more; disaster management, manufacturing, tourism, and personal and family travel.

Ms Somerset said the group remained hopeful the federal candidates in Flynn would commit to funding the bridge as part of their election commitments.

“We are committed to meeting with all the candidates to ensure they understand the importance of this bridge upgrade and strategic linkages and the economic and safety improvements any upgrades will contribute.”

The Working Group is a collaborative of:
South Burnett Regional Council, North Burnett Regional Council, Western Downs Regional Council,
TSBE Food Leaders Australia (TSBE FLA), Regional Development Australia Wide Bay Burnett,
AgForce Queensland and Burnett Inland Economic Development Organisation (BIEDO)