

Have your say

Name bridges on Gold Coast–Springbrook Road

About the bridges

The Department of Transport and Main Roads is inviting the local community to submit naming ideas for three unnamed bridges on Gold Coast–Springbrook Road.

1. The first bridge is a small, single span bridge, just over four metres long (blink and you'll miss it!). It is located next to Little Nerang Creek Park, almost 100 metres from Little Nerang Creek bridge.
2. Bridge number two is a curved, four-span timber bridge about 24 metres in length. This bridge is located just over 1km from Little Nerang Creek bridge.
3. Also curved and made of timber, bridge number three is 14 metres long and three-span. It is located 1.6km uphill from bridge number two, almost 3kms from Little Nerang Creek bridge.

Steep mountainous roads were traditionally constructed at a gradient of 1 in 18. Gold Coast–Springbrook Road was the first road in Queensland to have been successfully built using an even steeper gradient of 1 in 12, and 1 in 10 in some parts.

Road construction work started in September 1925 and it took until November 1928 to complete four miles, at a cost of £20,000.

The curved bridges are world heritage listed, and two of the three are very early examples of constructing curved bridges on steeply sloped, mountainous roadways in Queensland. The hardwood timber for these bridges, including ironbark, grey gum and spotted gum, were locally sourced throughout the Springbrook area.



Guidelines for naming

Ideally, the names chosen for the bridges will reflect the local area and community. The department's naming guidelines suggest the bridge names should:

- celebrate individuals (women and men), groups or events that have been important to the community's success or wellbeing
- have a special cultural, historical or social significance
- reflect the values of the local community.

If the name submitted is that of a person, that individual should be a respected member of the local community.

How to nominate

Submissions for bridge names will be open **from Monday 3 June until Friday 28 June 2013**.

For your nomination to be valid, you must supply your name, address, and email or phone contact. You can only submit one nomination however that one nomination can contain three bridge names. Submissions must also include how your nomination meets the naming guidelines.

Send your 'Gold Coast–Springbrook Road bridge naming submission' to Transport and Main Roads via:

Email: pdo.regions.goldcoast@tmr.qld.gov.au

Phone: 5596 9500

Post: PO Box 442, Nerang Qld 4211

The cultural, historical and environmental information contained in this notice have been sourced from the Queensland Government Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing and the Queensland Government Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (2013).

Cultural heritage

Prior to European settlement, the Springbrook region was inhabited for thousands of years by members of the Yugambah language group.

Known as 'kaban' to the Yugambah, meaning bush or rainforest, the mountains are sacred and spiritual places to be nurtured and respected.

Assisted by Bilin Bilin and other Yugambah people, surveyors Francis Edward Roberts and Isaiah Rowland, completed the survey of the area in 1865.

European settlement

Forest Ranger, Gilbert Burnett, recommended in 1905 that the area be opened up for settlement and in 1906, surveyor A.H. Burbank identified 8,700 acres of land for development.

That same year, prisoners from Brisbane's Boggo Road Jail constructed an access road to what became commonly known as Springbrook.

During this early settlement period, wives and children stayed in Nerang or Mudgeeraba until housing could be built. Rose Nutley and her small daughter Clara were the exception, roughing it on the mountain alongside her husband Fred.

By 1908, early settler, James Hardy, was milking 30 head of cows on the new land. The dairy industry flourished and by 1929 up to 1200 gallons of cream was produced each week on the plateau.

The population of Springbrook became sufficient enough for its first school to open in April 1911. The population continued to grow and by the 1920s, Springbrook had become a tourist destination.

After World War II, dairy farming in the region declined and by the late 1960s the population had decreased to only 50 people.

An increase in ecotourism and environmentally conscious residents saw the permanent population of Springbrook rise to 600 by 1984, with an estimated 350,000 visitors per year.

World heritage wonders

With the decline of dairy farming much of the cleared land around Springbrook began to revegetate. By the 1980s, a growing awareness of the natural heritage attributes of the area saw a renewed interest in Springbrook.

In 1994, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee officially declared the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia, including Springbrook National Park, a world heritage area.

This heritage listed area conserves a rich diversity of wildlife, including more than 1,700 species of flowering plant and 500 vertebrate animals.

There is a small population of the endangered plant, southern ochrosia *Ochrosia moorei* in Springbrook's subtropical rainforests.

Of the many mammals living in the area, pademelons are frequently seen. These shy creatures feed on grass seeds on the road edges.

Springbrook's rainforests and rocky outcrops also provide an ideal habitat for the vulnerable spotted-tailed quoll, Australia's largest native marsupial carnivore.

Over 100 different bird species can be seen and heard in Springbrook National Park, including the distinctively plumed yellow-tailed black cockatoo, the brown cuckoo-dove, and the elusive Albert's lyrebird.

Glossy black skinks known as land mullets, prehistoric-looking lace monitors and sleepy carpet pythons are the most frequently seen reptiles.

The abundance of water in the protected area has resulted in a diverse selection of water-dwelling animals including frogs, blue spiny crayfish and eels. Orange-eyed treefrogs and beige great barred-frogs are often seen on the tracks at night.

Famous for its glow-worms (which are in fact small fly larvae!), the cave's roof at Natural Bridge is home to a colony of thousands of these tiny creatures that emit small but brilliant blue-green lights at night.