

Cunninghams Gap Reconstruction Project

Design phase community engagement summary

Project overview

Bushfires in South East Queensland in late 2019 caused extensive damage to parts of the Cunningham Highway at Cunninghams Gap. The Cunninghams Gap Reconstruction Project will involve installing protective rockfall barriers, with catch fencing, to maintain safety for motorists and restoring lanes back to their pre-bushfire functionality at Cunninghams Gap, on the Cunningham Highway.

To support the detailed design phase of the project, Transport and Main Roads (TMR) undertook engagement activity during September and October 2021 with key stakeholders and the community.

Engagement activities

Engagement during the design phase of the Cunninghams Gap Reconstruction Project was from 17 September 2021 to 31 October 2021. During this time, TMR carried out the following activities to raise project awareness and encourage participation:

- Released a media statement at the start of the engagement period
- Published a six-page project newsletter
- Emailed elected representatives, the heavy vehicle industry and subscribers of TMR project updates and newsletters with links to the online survey
- Distributed project newsletters to letterboxes and door knocked the local community and businesses in Aratula and surrounds
- Established a dedicated TMR project web page hosting the online survey and outlining the avenues for public participation in the engagement process
- Established a dedicated project email address and a (toll free) phone number to respond directly to enquirers
- Sponsored social media posts to promote and raise awareness of the project, highlighting the TMR project page and the online survey for engagement.

Timeline

Community and stakeholder engagement
September–October 2021

Feedback collated and analysed
Late 2021

Community notified of engagement outcomes and detailed design
Mid-2022

Construction to start with ongoing communication about works and temporary disruptions
From late November 2022



Engagement snapshot

3308 stakeholders directly reached via:

2757
direct emails



544

newsletters in local
area mailboxes

7

local businesses
visited

TMR project web page



The project web page went live on 17 September 2021, including a link to the survey online.

Key project information was featured on the web page including newsletter, project timeframes and benefits.

Social media coverage



A sponsored Facebook social media post with information about the project and a link to the project's web page and online survey was published on TMR's Facebook page on 20 September 2021 and ran throughout the engagement period.

This reached 57,547 individuals with 1428 unique clicks, 154 reactions, 100 comments and 30 shares.

Media statement



A media statement was released on 17 September 2021 at the start of the engagement period.

Four media outlets ran articles about the project and engagement opportunity.

Online survey

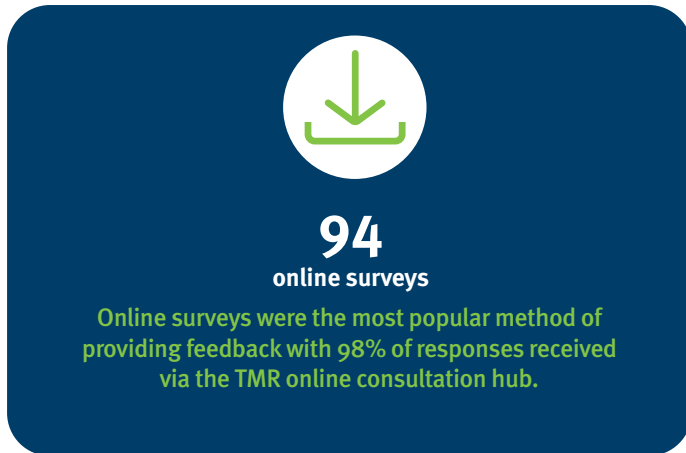


The online survey went live on 17 September 2021 to gather community feedback about how road users travel through Cunninghams Gap. The survey was published on the TMR consultation hub and the project web page.

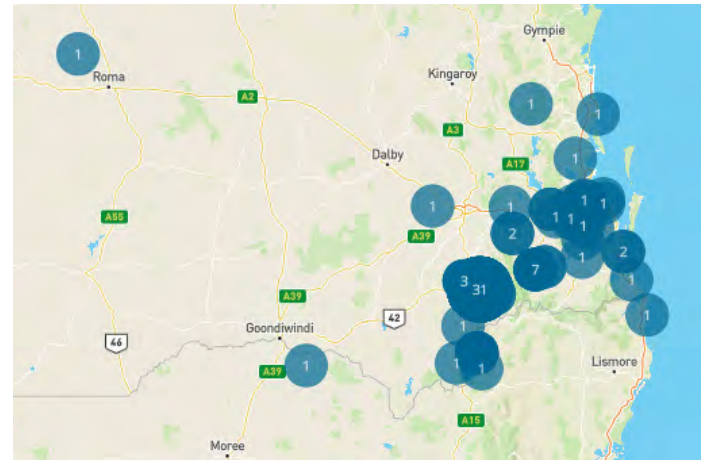
[www.yoursay-projects.tmr.qld.gov.au/
cunningham-gap-reconstruction-project](http://www.yoursay-projects.tmr.qld.gov.au/cunningham-gap-reconstruction-project)

Feedback summary

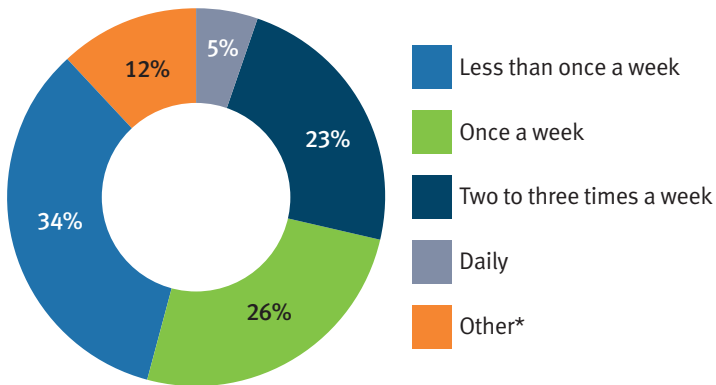
How people responded



Where survey respondents were from

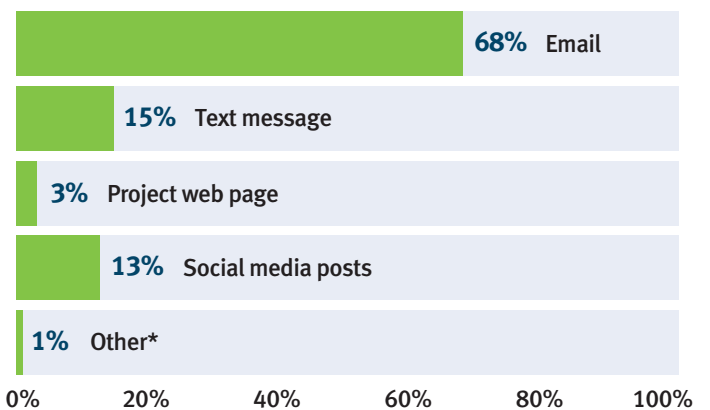


Frequency of travel



*Other includes monthly and yearly responses.

Preferred method of communication



*Other includes a combination of or all the communication methods selected.

WHAT WE HEARD

Concerns about environmental impacts in the area

TMR'S RESPONSE

The design elements associated with the reconstruction have considered the environmental value of the area and aim to minimise any impact on flora and fauna. The project aims to protect the unique environmental values within the Cunningham Highway road corridor and surrounding areas by:

- minimising clearing
- including a regeneration and replanting program
- containing roadworks to road corridor where possible
- including a Construction Environmental Management Plan.

Suggestions for a tunnel or alternative roadway to cross Cunninghams Gap

The scope of this disaster reconstruction project is to reinstate the road to its pre-bushfire condition. The project involves restoring lanes back to original functionality pre-bushfires at Cunninghams Gap, and installing protective rockfall barriers with catch fencing. There are no current plans for an alternative to the current Cunningham Highway through Cunninghams Gap.

Feedback summary continued

WHAT WE HEARD

Concerns about motorist safety

TMR'S RESPONSE

The bushfires in 2019 created safety issues for motorists as a result of an increased risk of rockfall events. The Cunninghams Gap Reconstruction Project will involve:

- installing roadside safety barriers and guardrail shotcrete retaining walls
- installing wide centre line treatment and audible line marking
- bridge works over Gap Creek
- reinstating lane merge
- relocating pedestrian crossing at Main Range National Park.

To maintain safety for motorists, features include installing rockfall protection fencing and barriers, and installing slope monitoring cameras.

Concerns about road closures and impacts during construction

Construction of the Cunninghams Gap Reconstruction Project is on track to start in late November 2022. Temporary changes to traffic conditions and access restrictions are expected during project construction for the safety of workers and motorists. Disruptions to traffic and other construction impacts will be better understood shortly after a construction contractor is appointed in late November 2022.

Feedback during the design phase of the project has informed the construction program and will assist the contractor in minimising impacts associated with necessary closures.

To ensure you are kept informed of construction activity please email to subscribe for updates (see below).

Suggestions for better carparking and access to Main Range National Park

Given the project is funded under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) the project must conform to stringent reconstruction criteria and requirements.

The provision of additional car parking at the entrance of the Main Range National Park is not part of the scope of the DRFA. As part of the safety improvements of the project, the current pedestrian crossing between the National Park carpark at the and southern walk entrance will be moved 200m to the west.

Next steps

The detailed design is now complete and information about the key features are available on the TMR website. The project is on track for construction to start in late November 2022.

Further information about the construction program and temporary traffic changes during the works will be available after a construction contractor is appointed.

Keep up to date

Visit online

www.tmr.qld.gov.au/cunninghamsgap

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