



environmental impact statement
supplementary report
Appendix C:
Community Consultation Report



Northern Link Environmental Impact Statement Supplementary Report

APPENDIX C COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT

■ June 2009

Contents

C. Community Consultation Report	C-2
C.1 Introduction	C-2
C.2 Consultation Process	C-3
C.2.1 Statutory Consultation	C-3
C.2.2 Additional Consultation	C-4
C.3 Submissions to EIS	C-8
C.4 Final communications	C-10
Appendix A Newsletter 4	C-11
Appendix B October Level 1 Stakeholder Letter	C-12
Appendix C December Level 1 Stakeholder Letter	C-13

C.Community Consultation Report

C.1 Introduction

This appendix describes the process and outcomes of consultation conducted during the public notification period for the Northern Link Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), from Monday 27 October 2008 to Monday 22 December 2008. This was Stage 6 of the formal or statutory conclusion to, an eleven-month consultation process for the Northern Link Project.

The first five stages were described in the Consultation Report provided as part of the Northern Link EIS (September 2008) and included:

- stage 1: project introduction; project need and justification; draft Terms of Reference (December 2007);
- stage 2: preliminary concept design; Terms of Reference (April 2008);
- stage 3: concept design, including local connections; ventilation outlet site options (May 2008);
- stage 4: refined concept design, including worksites (June 2008); and
- stage 5: final concept design; preferred ventilation outlets sites; traffic; noise and vibration (August 2008).

The purpose of stage 6 of consultation was to:

- notify the community that the EIS and project reference design had been lodged with The Coordinator-General for assessment;
- call for written submissions on the EIS;
- satisfy the statutory requirements of the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 in relation to the exhibition of the EIS and invitation for written submissions;
- provide information to stakeholders and community members to enable their review of the EIS and Project reference design; and
- obtain input from stakeholders, including the Brisbane City Council and Queensland Government agencies on the EIS.

A comprehensive range of information was provided to community members and stakeholders to enable their review of the EIS. This included:

- public display of the EIS, project reference design and EIS In Brief at 14 locations in the vicinity of the project, including libraries and elected representatives' offices from 27 October to 23 December 2008;
- the EIS was displayed on the Northern Link EIS website (www.northernlinkeis.com.au) and on the Department of Infrastructure and Planning website (www.dip.qld.gov.au);
- the complete EIS was displayed and EIS CDs and copies of the EIS In Brief were provided at community information sessions;
- copies of the EIS CD were provided to members of the Community Reference Groups;
- the EIS In Brief and EIS CD, containing the completed EIS documents, were provided on request to community members, at no cost;
- distribution of Newsletter 4 to approximately 100,000 households, businesses, property owners and other registered stakeholders, via letterbox drops and direct mail;

- three community information sessions, five staffed displays and a “mobile” staffed display at six locations in the study corridor;
- a meeting with each of the Northern Link Community Reference Groups (Northern and Western);
- briefings to industry representatives on the key findings of the EIS;
- briefings to representatives of Brisbane City Council and Queensland Government agencies reviewing the EIS; and
- updating the EIS website and providing information through responses to the project information line, letters and emails.

C.2 Consultation Process

C.2.1 Statutory Consultation

The exhibition period for the Northern Link EIS was initially set to be seven weeks between Monday, 27 October 2008 and Monday, 15 December 2008. A public notice advising of the exhibition period for the EIS was placed in *The Courier Mail* on 25 October 2008, providing details of where the EIS could be viewed and how written submissions on the EIS could be made.

However, Council appealed to the Coordinator-General to extend the public exhibition period by a week, to 22 December, to allow community members eight weeks to comment on the EIS, as was allowed for the North-South Bypass Tunnel EIS and the Airport Link EIS. A public notice advising of this change was placed in *The Courier Mail* on 29 November 2008. It was also advertised in local Quest newspapers, *The Courier Mail* and *The Independent* in the first week of December.

Additional advertisements were placed in local Quest newspapers, *The Courier Mail* and *The Independent* during the consultation period, notifying community information sessions and the availability of the EIS. Details of these advertisements are provided in **Table C-1** below.

■ Table C-1 Advertisement program

Date	Newspaper	Purpose
15 October 2008 16 October 2008	Quest (Westside News, Northside Chronicle, City North News, City News) The Independent.	■ Details of Community Information Session on 25 October 2008.
25 October 2008	Courier Mail	■ Statutory notification of the EIS notification period, including details on how to provide a written submission.
12 November 2008 13 November 2008 15 November 2008	Quest (Westside News, Northside Chronicle, City North News, City News) The Independent Courier Mail	■ Notify commencement of the Northern Link EIS display period; and ■ Details of community information sessions and staffed library displays.
3 December 2008 4 December 2008 6 December 2008	Quest (Westside News, Northside Chronicle, City North News, City News) Courier Mail	■ Notify extension of the Northern Link EIS display period to 22 December 2008; and ➤ Details of Community Information Session on 10 December 2008.

The EIS was made publicly available in the following ways:

- copies of the EIS, including the EIS In Brief, EIS report (Volume 1), Preliminary Design Drawings (Volume 2), and Technical Papers (Volume 3), were available for review at the following locations:
 - Ashgrove Library
 - Brisbane Square Library
 - Toowong Library
 - Indooroopilly Library
 - Grange Library
 - Mt Coot-tha Library
 - QUT Kelvin Grove Library
 - Central Ward Office
 - Toowong Ward Office
 - Walter Taylor Ward Office
 - Mt Coot-tha State Electorate Office
 - Brisbane Central State Electorate Office
 - Ryan Federal Electorate Office
 - Brisbane Federal Electorate Office
- the EIS was displayed on the Northern Link EIS website (www.northernlinkeis.com.au) and on the Department of Infrastructure and Planning website (www.dip.qld.gov.au);
- the complete EIS was displayed and EIS CDs and copies of the EIS In Brief were provided at community information sessions;
- copies of the EIS CD were provided to members of the Community Reference Groups;
- the EIS In Brief and EIS CD, containing the completed EIS documents, were provided on request to community members, at no cost;
- paper or hard copies of the EIS documents, including preliminary design drawings and technical papers were provided to members of the public for a fee¹; and
- the project information line and project email provided prompt information on the project and EIS

C.2.2 Additional Consultation

All statutory consultation required by the *SDPWO Act* was undertaken. Additional communication and consultation strategies were undertaken to provide information to the community about the EIS. The activities are outlined below.

¹ The fee charged (Volume 1(EIS Document)- \$100, Volume 2 (Project Reference Designs)-\$40) was substantially less than the cost of production. Technical Papers (making up Volume 3) were available individually at a cost of \$50, and collectively at a cost of \$375.

C.2.2.1 Newsletter 4

Newsletter 4 was distributed in October 2008 to coincide with the public notification of the EIS and included an update on the Detailed Feasibility Study, including the EIS. Specifically, the newsletter included:

- notification of the availability of the EIS for review;
- details of where people could view the EIS;
- an invitation for people to provide written submissions on the EIS;
- details of how people could make a properly made submission on the EIS;
- a description of the project reference design; and
- a summary of outcomes of EIS investigations, including air quality modelling, traffic outcomes and construction impacts and mitigations.

The newsletter was distributed to approximately 100,000 households (including households beyond the study corridor), businesses, registered stakeholders, and property owners. In addition, the newsletter was available at community consultation activities, public displays, and Brisbane City Council customer centres, libraries and ward offices.

A copy of Newsletter 4 is provided in **Appendix A**.

C.2.2.2 Level 1 stakeholder letters

A letter was distributed to approximately 10,000 residents and businesses in the study corridor and approximately 2,200 absentee property owners and registered stakeholders in mid October 2008. This letter notified the local community that the EIS would soon be available for public submissions, and included information on consultation activities. A copy of the October Level 1 stakeholder letter is provided in **Appendix B**.

In early December 2008, a second letter was distributed to residents and business in the study corridor, property owners and registered stakeholders. This letter advised that the Coordinator-General had extended the Northern Link EIS submission period to 22 December 2008, and included details of consultation activities and how to make a properly made submission on the EIS. A copy of the December Level 1 stakeholder letter is provided in **Appendix C**.

C.2.2.3 Community Information Sessions

Community information sessions and staffed displays were held from October to December 2008, to provide community members with information on the EIS and submission process. A total of 647 people attended the nine consultation events. Details of each information session and staffed displays, including attendances for each session, are below.

■ Table C-2 Community Information Sessions

Date	Venue	Attendees
Saturday, 18 October 2008	Suncorp Stadium, Milton	174
Tuesday, 18 November 2008	Suncorp Stadium, Milton	33
Wednesday, 10 December 2008	Suncorp Stadium, Milton	29

■ Table C-3 Staffed Displays

Date	Venue	Attendees
Monday, 3 November 2008	Brisbane Square Foyer, Brisbane	118
Wednesday, 5 November 2008	Toowong Library	104
Thursday, 6 November 2008	City Hall Foyer	66
Thursday, 6 November 2008	Indooroopilly Library	23
Friday, 7 November 2008	QUT Kelvin Grove Library	23

■ Table C-4 Mobile Staffed Displays

Date	Venue	Attendance
Saturday 15 November	Victoria Park Golf Complex, Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, Coronation Drive ferry terminal, Anzac Park, Quinn Park and McCaskie Park.	77

C.2.2.4 Community Reference Group meetings

Meetings of each of the two Northern Link Community Reference Groups (CRGs) were held on Tuesday, 21 and Wednesday, 22 October 2008. These meetings provided CRG members with an overview of the Northern Link EIS findings and they were later supplied with a copy of the EIS CD.

C.2.2.5 Stakeholder briefings

Briefings were conducted with a range of stakeholder groups immediately prior to and during the public notification period of the EIS. The briefings were to provide information on the EIS findings relevant to the stakeholder groups.

Community stakeholder briefings

- Toowong Tunnel Solutions Group Inc. (TTS);
- television stations on Mt Coot-tha – 10, 9, 7 and ABC;
- Kelvin Grove Urban Village;
- Normanby Action Group; and
- Brisbane Girls Grammar School.

Industry stakeholder briefings

Industry stakeholder briefings were held with industry groups, including road users, environmental groups, property development groups and engineering associations, during November and December 2008 to provide an overview of the EIS findings and the process for making written submissions.

Government stakeholder briefings

Briefings to representatives of Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council agencies were held on Tuesday, 21 October 2008. A further briefing was held for Queensland Government agencies on Tuesday, 25 November 2008. These briefings provided agencies reviewing the EIS with an overview of the project reference design and key findings of the EIS. The briefing on 25 November gave participants the opportunity to separate into three focus groups – biophysical sciences, socio-economic and traffic and transport – where they were

presented with more detailed information on their particular area of interest, and were given the opportunity to ask questions.

Additional briefings were also held with government stakeholders during the EIS exhibition period. These included local, state and federal government elected representatives and senior officers of Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council agencies.

A list of Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council agencies invited to these briefings is provided in **Table C-5** below.

■ Table C-5 Agency Briefing Invitees

Government Agencies	Department
Queensland Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Department of Communities ■ Disability Services Queensland ■ Department of Infrastructure and Planning ■ Department of Education, Training and the Arts ■ Department of Emergency Services ■ Department of Housing ■ Department of Main Roads ■ Department of Natural Resources and Water ■ Environmental Protection Agency ■ Queensland Health ■ Queensland Police Service ■ Queensland Transport ■ Queensland Treasury ■ Urban Land Development Authority ■ Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation ■ Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries ■ Department of Employment and Industrial Relations
Brisbane City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Brisbane Water ■ City Assets ■ City Design ■ City Works ■ City Planning ■ Corporate Services ■ Natural Environment and Sustainability ■ Office of the Lord Mayor and CEO ■ Major Infrastructure Project Officer ■ Transport and Traffic ■ Urban Renewal Brisbane

C.2.2.6 Project Information Line and Email

A total of 151 calls to the project information line (1800 692 333) and 116 emails to the project email (info@northernlinkeis.com.au) were received during the EIS public notification period.

Details of the information line and email were advertised through the project newsletter, website, public displays and newspaper advertisements.

C.2.2.7 Project Website

The complete EIS (In Brief, Volume 1 – EIS document, Volume 2 – Preliminary Design Drawings, and Volume 3 – Technical Reports) was available for download from the EIS website (www.northernlinkeis.com.au). It also included details on how the public could make properly made written submissions on the EIS to the Coordinator-General.

C.3 Submissions to EIS

The Northern Link EIS attracted 212 submissions, comprising 200 public submissions and 12 submissions from Government agencies. At the close of submissions at 5pm on 22 December, 182 public submissions and 10 submissions from Government agencies had been received and an additional 20 submissions – 18 public submissions and two from Government agencies – were received after this date. A public submission was withdrawn on 24 February 2009, bringing the final submission numbers to 211 – 199 public submissions and 11 submissions from Government agencies. All submissions received have been considered, regardless of when they were received.

Submissions to the EIS were analysed using the following process:

- each submission was read, summarised in a detailed database, with each issue identified categorised according to the EIS reference in the submission and the likely area of response;
- issues were collated and distributed to EIS project team for response;
- specialists' responses were reviewed and requirements (if any) identified for the following:
 - refinements to mitigation strategies;
 - development of monitoring strategies;
 - inclusion on development conditions and approvals; and
 - inclusion in the Draft Outline Environmental Management Plans.

Over 80% of submissions received from the community explicitly referred to the project's proposed local connections to Toowong and Kelvin Grove. About 77% of all community submissions referred to the Toowong connection and about 13% referred to the Kelvin Grove connection. These submissions identified where the community would be impacted if the local connections were to be constructed, including amenity and liveability (44%), pedestrian and cycle access (39%), and traffic movements (61%). Other key issues that were raised related to:

- **impact on air quality**, including changes to roadside air quality and the location of ventilation outlets (51%);
- **noise and vibration** during construction and operation (43%);
- **impact on Croydon Street and Jephson Street**, Toowong, including road widening, increased traffic and changes to pedestrian accessibility (39%);
- **construction impacts**, including noise, dust, construction traffic and general disturbance (33%);
- **property impacts**, including acquisitions, uncertainty regarding property values and changed property access (31%);
- **filtration of ventilation outlets** (31%);
- **visual impacts**, including changes to surface roads, noise barriers, removal of green space and elevated structures at Toowong connection (28%); and
- **project alternatives**, including improving the existing road network and increasing public transport services (24%).

Table C-6 indicates the frequency of key issues raised. A description of the overarching issues and responses is contained in the body of the Supplementary Report.

■ **Table C-6 Key Issues Raised in Submissions**

Issue	Number of Submissions	% of Community Submissions
Toowong and/or Kelvin Grove connection	163	82%
Toowong connection	153	77%
Traffic impacts	121	61%
Air quality impacts, including ventilation	101	51%
Impact on liveability/amenity	88	44%
Noise and vibration during construction and operation	86	43%
Impact on Croydon Street and Jephson Street, Toowong	78	39%
Impact on pedestrian and cycle connectivity	77	39%
Construction impacts	65	33%
Property impacts	61	31%
Visual impact of project	54	27%
Filtration of ventilation outlets	49	25%
Alternatives to project	48	24%
Project rationale	41	21%
Dust generated by construction	41	21%
Consideration of the project without connections	38	19%
Community consultation	34	17%
Impact on Quinn Park, Toowong	32	16%
Kelvin Grove connection	24	13%
Cost of project and funding	23	12%
Traffic modelling	21	11%

Over 85% of community submissions came from residents of suburbs included in the study corridor - Auchenflower, Bardon, Kelvin Grove, Paddington, Red Hill and Toowong. **Table C-7** lists the localities from which the community submissions originated.

■ **Table C-7 Origin of Community Submissions**

Locality	Suburbs Included	Number of Submissions	% of Community Submissions
Study corridor	Auchenflower, Bardon, Kelvin Grove, Paddington, Red Hill, Toowong	171	86%
Toowong connection	Toowong, Auchenflower	152	76%
Other western suburbs	Chapel Hill, Corinda, Darra, Indooroopilly, Jindalee, Kenmore, Kenmore Hills, St Lucia, Taringa	16	8%
Kelvin Grove connection	Kelvin Grove, Red Hill	13	7%
Other	Other suburbs and not supplied	7	4%
Other northern suburbs	Brisbane, Fortitude Valley, Hamilton	5	3%

Over 40% of the community submissions were prepared on a template – presumably distributed by an organised community group – and covered similar issues, such as the Toowong connection, pedestrian and cycle connectivity, impact on liveability and amenity, and filtration of the ventilation outlets. Over 85% of the submissions prepared on the template came from residents of Toowong or Auchenflower and accounted for over 47% of total submissions from residents of these suburbs.

C.4 Final communications

Final communications to be undertaken as part of the Northern Link EIS include:

- a meeting of each of the Community Reference Groups, to provide an update of the key issues raised in submissions and proposed responses;
- an update of the Northern Link EIS website, including the Supplementary Report once the Coordinator-General's evaluation report has been received;
- a newsletter, to provide an update on the outcomes of the EIS and future program for Northern Link;
- distribution of a letter to Level 1 stakeholders, providing an update on the outcomes of the EIS; and
- communications with State and Council agencies, including elected representatives.

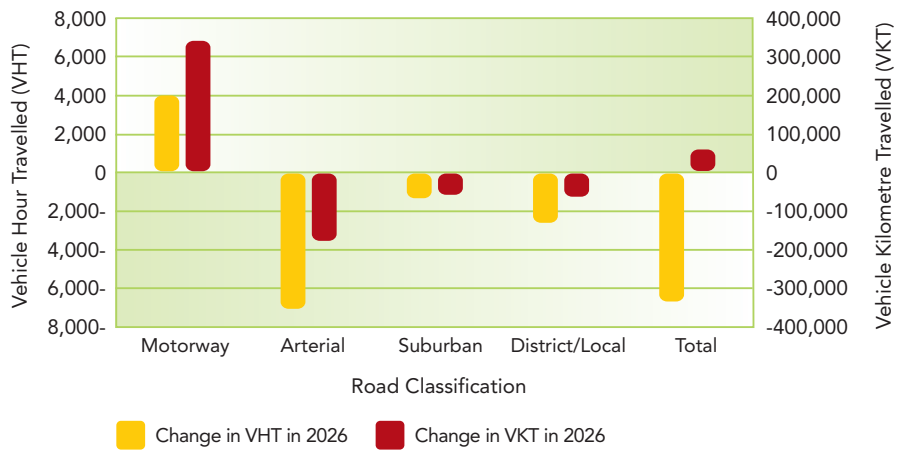
Appendix A Newsletter 4

Traffic and transport benefits

Northern Link would provide an underground motorway-standard link between Brisbane's western and inner northern suburbs, linking employment and growth areas.

By completing the 'missing link' in the motorway-standard road network, Northern Link would re-distribute through-traffic from local, suburban and arterial roads onto motorway-standard roads, as can be seen in the graph below.

Changes in overall vehicle kilometres and vehicle hours of travel with Northern Link in 2026



Travel time savings

Without Northern Link, travel times are expected to increase as surface congestion increases. Northern Link would deliver travel time savings via both the tunnel and the surface network.

Examples of some peak period travel time savings with Northern Link in 2014 include:

- Toowong to the Brisbane Airport = about 20 minutes
- Chapel Hill to Spring Hill = about 10 minutes
- Ipswich to the Australia TradeCoast region = about 12 minutes.

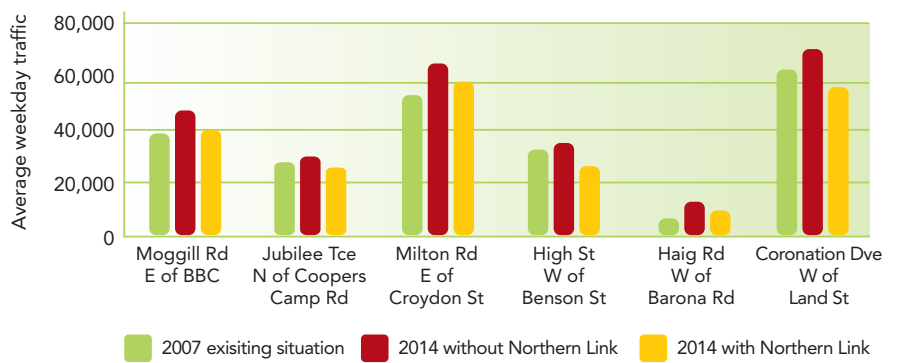
Tackling congestion

Traffic modelling conducted for the EIS found that Northern Link would reduce traffic across the Milton Road/Coronation Drive travel corridor and local east-west roads by up to 24 per cent in 2026, compared to not building the tunnel.

By reducing congestion on the surface roads, Northern Link would enhance livability, increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists, and provide opportunities to improve public transport.

Further traffic reductions were forecast on some streets throughout the inner western suburbs, as can be seen in the graph below.

Traffic volume reductions in 2014



Traffic congestion pressures, which often lead to rat running and shortcuts, would be reduced in local suburban streets.

The EIS found that some areas would experience highly localised impacts and has recommended a range of traffic management measures to ensure the smooth flow of vehicles.

How to make a submission on the EIS

Council invites you to comment on the Northern Link EIS during the public display period.

A properly made submission on the EIS:

- ✓ is made to the Coordinator-General in writing
- ✓ is received on or before the last day of the submission period
- ✓ is signed by each person who made the submission
- ✓ states the name and address of each person who made the submission
- ✓ states the grounds of the submission and the facts and circumstances relied on in support of the grounds
- ✓ is addressed to:
EIS Project Manager
Northern Link Road Tunnel project
Infrastructure and Economic Development Group
Department of Infrastructure and Planning
PO Box 15009
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Where you can view the EIS

Libraries	
Toowong Library	Toowong Village Shopping Centre, 9 Sherwood Road, Toowong
Indooroopilly Library	Level 4, Indooroopilly Shopping Centre, 318 Moggill Road, Indooroopilly
Mt Coot-tha Library	Administration Building, Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha Road, Toowong
Grange Library	79 Evelyn Street, Grange
Brisbane Square Library	Brisbane Square, 266 George Street, Brisbane
Ashgrove Library	87 Amarina Avenue, Ashgrove
QUT Kelvin Grove Library	R Block, QUT Kelvin Grove, Victoria Park Road, Kelvin Grove
Ward offices	
Toowong Ward Office	50 High Street, Toowong
Central Ward Office	Shop 11, 31 Duncan Street, Fortitude Valley
Walter Taylor Ward Office	Level 4, Indooroopilly Shopping Centre, 318 Moggill Road, Indooroopilly
State and federal electorate offices	
Mt Coot-tha State Electorate Office	76 MacGregor Terrace, Bardon
Brisbane Central State Electorate Office	Unit 2, Hill House, 541 Boundary Street, Spring Hill
Brisbane Federal Electorate Office	Shop 1, 209 Days Road, Grange
Ryan Federal Electorate Office	31 Station Road, Indooroopilly

The EIS can also be viewed at Community Information Sessions, staffed displays and online at www.dip.qld.gov.au/eis

Please contact the Northern Link project team on **1800 692 333** during business hours to order a free CD-ROM copy of the EIS or as a printed document for \$100. Technical papers are also available for \$50 each.

Contact the team



1800 692 333 (freecall)



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or call (07) 3403 8888



connecting the western suburbs to the north

northern link

Newsletter | October 2008

Public comment invited on EIS findings



An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed Northern Link tunnel is under review by the Coordinator-General and will be released shortly.

The EIS states that in 2014 a journey from the Centenary Bridge at Fig Tree Pocket to the Inner City Bypass would take about 12 minutes, cutting about 50 per cent off the journey time. Over time, the expected travel time savings are likely to increase as demand on the network grows.

The EIS states the tunnel would have benefits for the wider road network. Northern Link would redistribute through-traffic from local, suburban and arterial roads on to motorway-standard roads, easing congestion and reducing rat running on local roads.

The EIS concludes that Northern Link delivers on an unfulfilled need for motorway-standard east-west road connectivity in Brisbane, while achieving a balance of environmental impacts. This has generated broad community support.

Nevertheless, the EIS recognises the concerns of local communities near the Toowong and Kelvin Grove connections.

Five rounds of community consultation were undertaken during the development of the EIS. This process informed the preparation of the EIS. During the EIS display period, submissions can be made to the Coordinator-General, who will evaluate the EIS in his report. It is expected this report will be issued early next year.



Inside

Air quality and health	page 2
Construction	page 2
Traffic and transport benefits	page 3
Social and cultural heritage impacts	page 4
About the project	page 5
Noise and vibration	page 6
How to make a submission	page 7
Where you can view the EIS	page 7
Contact us	page 7

Air quality and health

Air quality modelling was undertaken to provide information on the existing air quality and the project's potential air quality impact.

The assessment took into account all weather scenarios and the existing effect of the surface road network on ambient air quality.

The ventilation system would maintain in-tunnel air quality during peak traffic periods and control any net release of vehicle emissions from the tunnel's surface connections (portals).

The analysis shows that vehicle emissions from Northern Link, dispersed from the ventilation outlets would, in most cases, have a negligible impact on ambient air quality.

Operational impacts of the ventilation system would be well below the stringent air quality goals for Northern Link.

Where traffic increases occur on surface roads, the assessment indicated that the air quality along these roads would be within goals.

Community health

Potential changes in community health due to Northern Link were also investigated with a focus on sensitive land uses such as:

- schools
- child care facilities
- aged care facilities
- hospitals.

The assessment found there would be a negligible change in community health as a consequence of the operation of Northern Link.

Air filtration

The effectiveness, performance, operational costs and energy requirements of existing air filtration technologies were assessed. The predicted improvement in ambient air quality would be insignificant, due to the greater influence of vehicle emissions from local surface traffic. The EIS recommends that provision be made for the installation of a filtration system should it be required in the future.

Construction

Northern Link would involve construction both on the surface and underground. Construction methods would include cut-and-cover, tunnel boring machine, roadheader and drill and blast.

Worksites

Three worksites are proposed for Northern Link, located at the Western Freeway, Toowong and Kelvin Grove. Each would include a ventilated, acoustic enclosure to manage construction impacts, such as dust and noise.

Traffic management

Construction traffic would use major roads to access the worksites. Traffic management measures for construction areas are also proposed, to allow pedestrians, cyclists and motorists safe access around the worksites.

A comprehensive framework of environmental objectives, performance criteria and mitigation measures to manage construction impacts is presented in the Draft Environmental Management Plan (Design & Construction) chapter of the EIS.



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Social and cultural heritage impacts

The EIS assessed project impacts on the local community and places of cultural heritage significance. Feedback gathered during community consultation rounds revealed that an analysis into the project's social impacts was considered very important.

A number of heritage listed places were identified in the EIS such as:

- Indigenous sites at York's Hollow and a campsite located near the Normanby Hotel on Kelvin Grove Road
- Toowong Cemetery
- Brisbane Forest Park
- St Brigid's Church and Convent, Red Hill
- Marist Brothers' Monastery, Rosalie
- significant trees such as the Crows Ash Memorial at Toowong and fig trees along Kelvin Grove Road.

Key benefits and impacts of the project on the community would include:

Benefits

- Improvement of city-wide accessibility and travel times to designated activity centres and employment nodes.
- Reduced traffic congestion on key arterials, improving local access and connectivity, as well as providing opportunities for public transport improvements.
- Reduced rat-running in some local streets.
- Improved community safety and access to local community facilities.

Impacts

- Residents located near worksites and surface construction are likely to experience temporarily reduced access and connectivity, and possibly construction impacts such as noise and dust.
- Temporary changes to local character due to worksite locations.
- During operation, the character of some communities near surface connections is likely to be altered due to the removal of some buildings and the size and scale of parts of the connections.

Community feedback on the EIS Reference Design has been invaluable in helping to assess the project's potential impacts and to identify suitable management and mitigation techniques for these impacts.

Continued community feedback is encouraged during this period. Public submissions to the EIS will help the bidding consortiums understand local concerns and aid in the potential development of alternative solutions.

By seeking innovation through the tendering process, the EIS Reference Design's connections, or variations thereof, may provide benefits for Council and the community that have not yet been identified.



About the project

Northern Link would be about 6.4km long, of which about 4.3km would be constructed as tunnel.

Key features of the EIS Reference Design include:

- two separate parallel road tunnels with two lanes in each direction
- surface connections (portals) in four positions:
 - the Western Freeway connection just west of the Mt Coot-tha Road roundabout
 - the Inner City Bypass (ICB) connection at Herston
 - the Toowong connection just east of Frederick Street and within an expanded Milton Road in Toowong
 - the Kelvin Grove connection just west of Kelvin Grove Road at its junction with Musk Avenue.
- cross passages at least every 120m for emergency exit
- fire protection and monitoring
- traffic management system, including signage, lighting, closed-circuit television and radio/mobile re-broadcast capability
- a fully electronic tolling system
- a separate ventilation system running the length of each tunnel to manage air quality in each tunnel and near portals, including ventilation stations and elevated outlets near the portals, adjacent to the Western Freeway at Mt Coot-tha and the ICB at Herston.



DISCLAIMER: This map is indicative only and subject to change. October 2008

Consideration of the project connections

During the development of the project, a design without connections at Toowong and Kelvin Grove was also developed.

This option is capable of meeting the strategic needs of the project and work to date indicates that it could produce an acceptable outcome for Council while maintaining significant local community support.

If the project were to proceed, it would be delivered as a Public Private Partnership, which would allow for bidding consortiums to innovate and propose solutions that lead to design improvements over the EIS Reference Design.

Although the project without connections is popular and accepted by both Council and the local community, by seeking innovation through the tendering process, the Toowong and Kelvin Grove connections may provide presently unrecognised benefits for Council and the community. To this end, the EIS Reference Design under consideration includes these connections. The reasons for this include:

- It would involve a more comprehensive assessment of the project's benefits and impacts than omitting them – and in the interests of the community these impacts and benefits need to be fully understood.
- It would give the community a complete assessment of the project with connections and a good understanding of the project without connections.

The preferred tenderer is likely to be announced in mid 2009. In order to achieve the best outcome for Council and the community, tenderers need scope to submit proposals that differ from the EIS Reference Design. Consequently, a Request for Project Change may be lodged with the Coordinator-General for public comment at that time.



Noise and vibration

Potential noise and vibration impacts of Northern Link during construction and operation were assessed in the EIS.

Noise

The investigations found that during operation there would be no perceivable noise impacts from the tunnels, but without mitigation, noise levels might increase near portals, due to surface traffic, and along roads with increased traffic.

Environmental objectives are proposed in the EIS to maintain reasonable living and working conditions during construction.

Mitigation measures are also proposed to ensure construction noise complies with the construction noise goals of the *Environmental Protection Policy (Noise) 1997*. However, residents living close to worksites or above the tunnel alignment might experience noise levels that exceed these goals. If predictive modelling and monitoring indicates that noise will exceed the goals, the EIS stipulates that reasonable and feasible noise mitigation options be investigated and implemented.

Possible noise mitigation measures include:

- notification of construction methods and work hours
- construction of temporary noise barriers
- advance notification of the time, type and duration of works predicted to exceed the goals
- temporarily upgrade the acoustic insulation and ventilation of rooms facing worksites, for those properties nearest to the works
- screen and locate construction equipment and machines as far away from residential and business properties as possible
- ongoing monitoring of construction noise to identify if additional measures are required to achieve the environmental objectives.

Vibration

Environmental objectives are proposed in the EIS to maintain reasonable living conditions and to minimise the impacts on buildings and sensitive structures.

For much of the tunnel's underground construction, vibration resulting from construction activities was forecast to be within stringent goals established for Northern Link.

The EIS specified that when vibration levels exceeded the goals, a range of vibration impact measures would be available for implementation to address the situation.

Possible vibration mitigation measures include:

- notification of construction methods
- advance notice of tunnelling occurring near the tunnel alignment
- night time works conducted in compliance with 'reasonable' night time vibration and regenerated noise levels
- conduct building condition surveys before and after underground construction activity, in locations identified in the modelling as being at risk of sustaining cosmetic damage from vibration
- in the worst cases, the option of temporary relocation of residents.

Appendix B October Level 1 Stakeholder Letter



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

10 October 2008

Dear resident or business owner

Upcoming consultation events – Northern Link Environmental Impact Statement

As you may be aware, Brisbane City Council is undertaking a detailed feasibility study into Northern Link – a proposed toll road tunnel connecting the Western Freeway to the Inner City Bypass.

The Coordinator-General will soon release the Northern Link Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) report for community review and comment. This report includes the findings of a range of detailed investigations into:

- traffic and transport
- air quality, noise and vibration
- cultural heritage, social and community issues
- sustainability measures
- land use and urban design.

A schedule of consultation events follows on page two. At these events you will receive information about the EIS findings and information on how to make a submission to the Coordinator-General.

In November 2007, the Coordinator-General declared the proposed Northern Link tunnel a 'significant project', which under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 (Qld)* required an EIS to be prepared on the proposal.

Since then, the Northern Link project team has undertaken detailed investigations into the project's feasibility and has consulted regularly with the community to gather feedback, which has helped develop the project's design.

The Coordinator-General will be accepting properly made submissions on the EIS. The closing date for submissions will be known closer to the release of the EIS.

I encourage you to come along to one of the 'drop in' sessions and have your say. It's a great chance to learn more about the EIS findings and the project as a whole.

For further information about Northern Link visit www.northernlinkeis.com.au or contact the project team on 1800 692 333 (freecall).

Yours sincerely

JUSTIN BOLD

Northern Link Project Manager

P.S. The consultation sessions are open to all members of the public, but I wanted to make sure you were aware of them. Please feel free to invite anyone else that you believe may be interested.

Community information sessions		
Saturday 18 October	Suncorp Stadium Milton Room, Level 5 40 Castlemaine Street, Milton Use Milton Road entrance (via Gates A&B)	9am-1pm
Staffed displays		
Monday 3 November	Brisbane Square Foyer 266 George Street, Brisbane	12pm-2pm
Wednesday 5 November	Toowong Library Toowong Village Shopping Centre 9 Sherwood Road, Toowong	10am-12pm
Thursday 6 November	City Hall Foyer King George Square Adelaide Street, Brisbane	12pm-2pm
Thursday 6 November	Indooroopilly Library Level 4, Indooroopilly Shopping Centre 318 Moggill Road, Indooroopilly	3pm-5pm
Friday 7 November	QUT Kelvin Grove Library R Block, QUT Kelvin Grove Victoria Park Road, Kelvin Grove	12pm-2pm

Appendix C December Level 1 Stakeholder Letter



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

2 December 2008

Dear resident or business owner

RE: Northern Link Environmental Impact Statement submission period extended to 5pm Monday 22 December 2008

On Saturday 25 October 2008, the Coordinator-General released the Northern Link Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) report for community review and comment.

The EIS assessed the potential benefits and impacts of Northern Link - a mainly underground toll road proposed to connect the Western Freeway at Toowong, to the Inner City Bypass at Herston.

I would like to advise that the Coordinator-General has extended the Northern Link EIS submission period by one week to **5pm Monday 22 December 2008**. If you would like to provide feedback on the EIS, all properly made submissions must be sent to the Coordinator-General at the mailing address below:

EIS Project Manager
Northern Link Tunnel Project
Infrastructure and Economic Development Group
Department of Infrastructure and Planning
PO Box 15009
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Guidelines on how to make a submission are available at the Department of Infrastructure and Planning website www.dip.qld.gov.au by typing 'Northern Link Road Tunnel' in the site's search field (located in the top right hand corner of the screen).

A final EIS information session will be held on Wednesday 10 December 2008, at Suncorp Stadium's Milton Room (see below for event details). At this session you will receive information on how to make a submission to the Coordinator-General as well as information on the EIS findings.

After the close of the submission period, the Coordinator-General will review the submissions received and evaluate the EIS. The Coordinator-General will then make a recommendation about the project. It is expected that the Coordinator-General's assessment will be complete by early next year.

For further information about Northern Link visit www.northernlinkeis.com.au or contact the project team on 1800 692 333 (freecall).

Yours sincerely

JUSTIN BOLD

Northern Link Project Manager

Community information session details		
Wednesday 10 December	Suncorp Stadium Milton Room, Level 5 40 Castlemaine Street, Milton Use Milton Road entrance (via Gates A&B)	5.30-8.30pm