

Ipswich-Cunningham Highway Connection Road (Brisbane Road), Chermiside Road and Glebe Road (East Ipswich Fiveways), improve intersection

Consultation Summary Report

September 2022



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Introduction

This community consultation report provides a summary of the consultation carried out during the planning phase of the Ipswich-Cunningham Highway Connection Road (Brisbane Road), Chermside Road and Glebe Road (East Ipswich Fiveways), intersection improvement. It also provides information about the consultation process and feedback received.

Project background

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) undertook planning for the Ipswich-Cunningham Highway Connection Road (Brisbane Road), Chermside Road and Glebe Road (East Ipswich Fiveways) intersection improvement in East Ipswich.

This intersection is one of the most congested signalised intersections within the Ipswich area. This intersection is also known as the ‘fiveways’, referencing the five streets that intersect, including Brisbane Road, Glebe Road, Queen Victoria Parade and Chermside Road running north and south of the intersection.

A business case for the upgrade of the intersection was completed in 2015 which identified a preferred design.

Project overview

In May 2020, as part of the \$400 million road stimulus package, the Queensland Government committed \$10 million for the intersection improvement to support *The Queensland Economic Recovery Strategy: Building Queensland* by driving investment in the infrastructure that supports Queensland's recovery, resilience and future prosperity.

The intersection improvement proposed to reconfigure Glebe Road into a cul-de-sac, ultimately improving safety and traffic flow by removing one movement at the intersection.

Initial proposed design of Ipswich-Cunningham Highway Connection Road (Brisbane Road), Chermside Road and Glebe Road (East Ipswich Fiveways), improve intersection



Consultation

TMR undertook community consultation on the proposed intersection improvement between 18 March 2021 and 30 April 2021.

The below activities were delivered as part of the community engagement for members of the community to find out information about the proposed intersection improvement and provide their feedback.

Community notification flyer



A community notification flyer with details about the proposed project and the community information session was distributed on 18 March 2021 via a letterbox drop to approximately 2200 properties within the local neighbouring community.

Email notification



An email notification was sent on 18 March 2021 to:

- elected representatives
- stakeholders including Ipswich Girls' Grammar and local bicycle user groups.

Community information session



A community information session was held for community members to drop by and talk to the project team and provide their feedback on Saturday, 27 March 2021, from 9am to 12pm, at the Booval Fair Shopping Centre. Around 80 people attended the community information session.

Web page



The Ipswich-Cunningham Highway Connection Road (Brisbane Road), Chermside Road and Glebe Road (East Ipswich Fiveways) intersection improvement project web page went live on 16 March 2021.

Media coverage



- A media statement was issued to raise awareness of the community consultation period.
- Media coverage included:
 - The Queensland Times, 19 April 2021, “Plans to turn road into dead end for ‘fiveways’ upgrade”.
 - The Chronicle, 19 April 2021, Plans to turn road into dead end for ‘fiveways’ upgrade. “The state government wants to turn one of the roads which makes up the congested ‘fiveways’ intersection into a dead end as part of a proposed \$10 million upgrade”.
 - The Fassifern Guardian and Tribune (Scenic Rim and Ipswich), 5 May 2021, Updated 5 May 2021, “\$10m plan for congested Ipswich ‘fiveways’”.
 - Ipswich First, 21 May 2021, “Fiveways intersection Brisbane Glebe Road, Major Ipswich upgrades announced”.
 - Radio River 94.9, 30 April 2021, “Plan to turn East Ipswich ‘fiveways’ into four ways”.

Social media posts



- 25 March 2021, TMR Facebook page post – promoting the community information session.
- 26 March 2021, Cr Marnie Doyle Division 3, Ipswich City Council Facebook page post – Ipswich ‘fiveways’ – closure of Glebe Road.

Consultation participation

The community provided their input to the community consultation via the following methods, as summarised below, and most feedback was received through feedback forms and email.

Total number of submissions: 125



Of the 125 responses, 113 were from unique/individual respondents (some people contacted the project team more than once and provided their feedback in multiple ways).

Summary of feedback

Of the responses received from the 113 unique respondents, the following can be noted as a feedback summary.

Distinct stakeholder opinion of the proposed changes	Percentage of respondents
Supportive	Approximately 18 per cent were supportive of the cul-de-sac
Mixed	Approximately 7 per cent were not supportive of the cul-de-sac, however, agreed with some of the improvements
Neutral	Approximately 5 per cent were neutral
Do not support	Approximately 70 per cent were not supportive of the intersection improvement

Summary of feedback continued

Key themes from supportive comments from respondents:

- Support to reconfigure Glebe Road into a cul-de-sac so through-traffic can no longer use Glebe Road to avoid using Brisbane Road.
- Support that something needs to be done to assist with congestion or safety to Ipswich roads.
- Support for improved pedestrian crossing safety for the community, businesses and schools in the area.
- Support that the closure of Glebe Road might assist as part of longer-term planning for the proposed Norman Street Bridge.
- Support to have more green time at the traffic signals for Brisbane Road.

Key themes/concerns from respondents:

- Concern about reconfiguring Glebe Road into a cul-de-sac, as it will cause more congestion and impact traffic flow.
- Wants to keep the intersection as it is; it is fine already with the five approaches.
- Concern regarding increased traffic and 'rat running' on nearby narrow local streets including Rockton Street, Whitehill Road and Blackstone Road.
- Concern the project will not improve congestion or safety.
- Concern that Brisbane Road will be even more congested and have more accidents.
- Glebe Road is a great access road to Newtown and other suburbs behind, including Silkstone and Booval.
- Glebe Road provides direct transport through the suburbs, to schools and shops.
- Concern about emergency service vehicle routes, as Glebe Road is wide and accessible to other areas and closing Glebe Road will impact emergency services.
- The funding of \$10 million is a waste of money for this work and money should be spent on other suitable locations in Ipswich, such as Gibbon Street/Montauban Street intersection (locally referred as the "Suicide Bend").
- Congestion already exists at peak hour during pick-up and drop-off time around the Ipswich Girls' Grammar School precinct and this project will make it worse.
- Parking on side streets/local streets in the vicinity could be impacted.
- Bus services and routes will be impacted.
- Impact (congestion and safety) on uncontrolled intersections along Blackstone Road and Chermside Road is important.
- Concern about privately owned heritage houses in the local streets, and any impact with the changes and more traffic.

Respondents recommendations included:

- Some support for the project, if a right-turn movement from Brisbane Road to Chermside Road (north) is included.
- Request to improve the Brisbane Road/Gibbon Street/Montauban Street intersection.
- Some support for a left turn dedicated lane from Brisbane Road (east) to Chermside Road (south).
- Build an overpass near Chermside Road/Brisbane Road areas.
- If this intersection links with the Norman Street Bridge project, it will be beneficial.
- Suggestion to have a roundabout at the 'fiveways'.
- Install traffic calming (speed bumps and so on) on local streets.
- Signalise other local street and intersections.
- Reduce speed limits in some local streets.
- Ban 'rat running' on surrounding local streets.
- Not to move/relocate bus stops on Whitehill Road.

Next steps

TMR would like to thank everyone who participated in the community consultation process for the Ipswich-Cunningham Highway Connection Road (Brisbane Road), Chermside Road and Glebe Road (East Ipswich Fiveways), intersection improvement in East Ipswich.

Feedback received from the community and stakeholders reinforces the need for a more significant upgrade and has helped inform further planning activities.

TMR will deliver a business case for a right-turn lane from Brisbane Road into Chermside Road and undertake long-term planning to upgrade the Montauban Street, Gibbon Street and Lusitania Street intersections along Brisbane Road. Further community engagement will occur as the projects progress.

TMR is also investigating safety improvements on Limestone Street at the intersections with Thorn Street and Gordon Street. TMR is undertaking design and will provide more information to the community as the design progresses.

Stay informed

TMR will continue to update the community about project updates with notifications to residents and businesses around the project area, via email, and the web page.

To stay informed about the project, and be added to the project email list, email the project team at metropolitanregion@tmr.qld.gov.au or call **(07) 3066 4338** during business hours.