

# Toowong to West End Green Bridge

## Alignment options Consultation summary

May 2021



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*

Brisbane City Council is getting on with the job of delivering its Green Bridges Program which will transform the way people travel around our city.

Following community consultation on potential alignment options for the Toowong to West End Green Bridge, the release of consultation outcomes marks the next exciting step in the development of the project.

In particular, this feedback has helped to identify a preferred alignment and will inform the development of a concept design and preliminary business case for the project, for further discussion with the community in the second half of 2021.

## About the Toowong to West End Green Bridge

The Toowong to West End Green Bridge will provide a new walking and cycling link between the growing West End community and the Toowong Centre, rail and ferry services. Together with the St Lucia to West End Green Bridge, it will connect to the city's active transport networks, enhancing the river loop cycling and walking experiences.

The new green bridge will:

- offer Toowong residents direct access to markets, restaurants, art and music venues and green space in West End
- link West End residents to shopping, business and health facilities in Toowong
- enable commuters to interchange at Toowong Railway Station and Regatta ferry terminal, and access high-frequency bus services in West End and South Brisbane.

### About the Green Bridges Program

Council is building new green bridges across Brisbane to make it even easier to get around our city on foot, by bike or scooter, or by connecting with public transport.

The new bridges will link Kangaroo Point to the CBD, Toowong to West End, St Lucia to West End, as well as a new crossing at Breakfast Creek.

Council is getting on with the job of delivering its Green Bridges Program to bring forward critical investment in Brisbane following coronavirus.



Up to **4600 trips**  
per weekday by 2041



**Improving access to**  
riverside parks and green space



**Faster connections**  
between work, study and lifestyle precincts



**Better access to**  
public transport and the city-wide walking and cycling network

# Consultation overview

In November 2020, Council released a shortlist of alignment options and landing locations for the Toowong to West End Green Bridge for the community to provide feedback on.

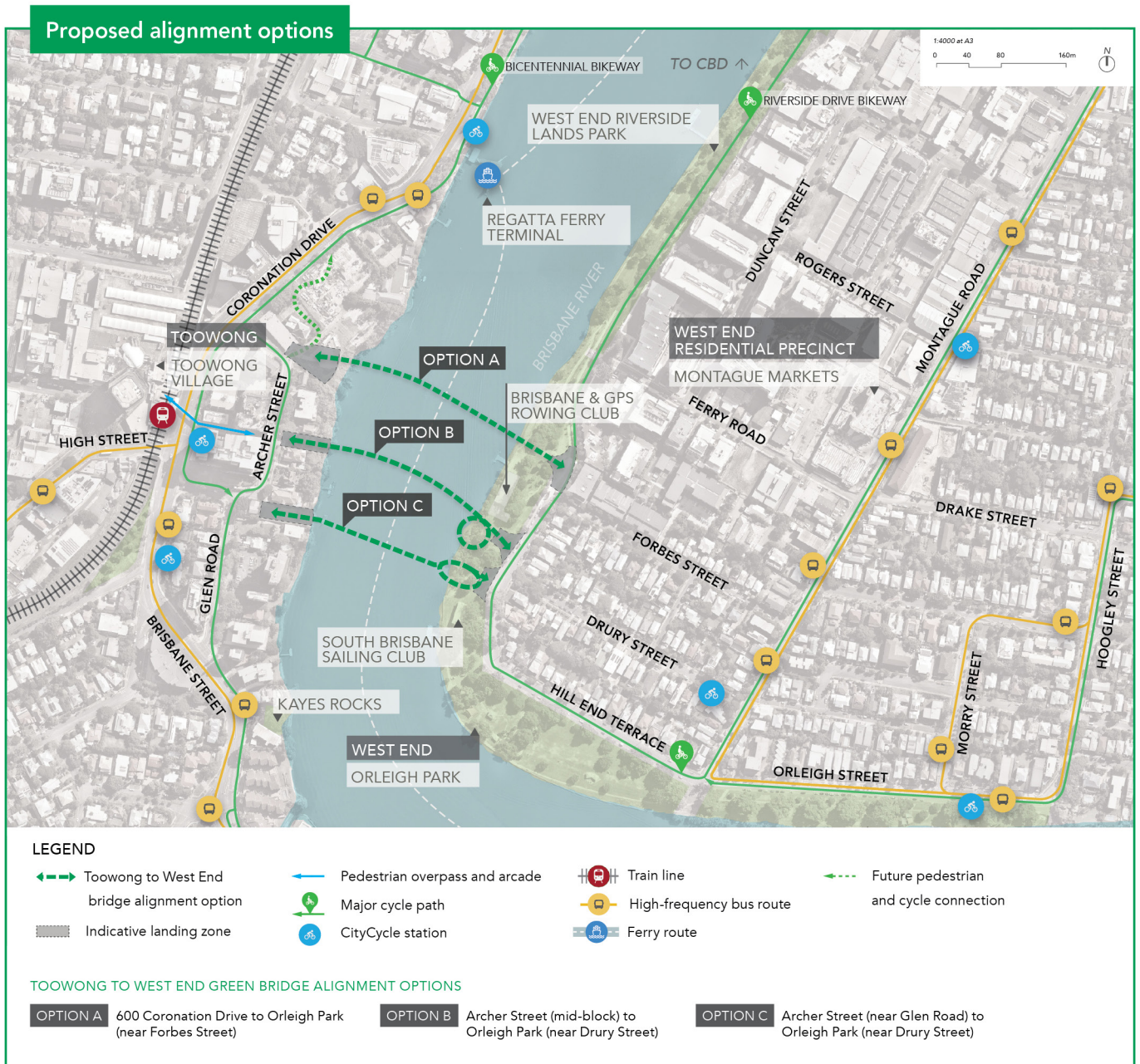
The shortlisted alignments were:

- **Option A** – 600 Coronation Drive, Toowong to Orleigh Park (near Forbes Street), West End
- **Option B** – Archer Street (mid-block), Toowong to Orleigh Park (near Drury Street), West End
- **Option C** – Archer Street (near Glen Road), Toowong to Orleigh Park (near Drury Street), West End.

Residents, businesses and other key stakeholders had the opportunity to have their say on potential alignment options and landing locations for the green bridge from 23 November 2020 until 31 March 2021.

Communication activities included a project newsletter distributed to local residents and businesses, updated content on Council’s website, including detailed fact sheets, indicative concept images, and email notifications.

At this time, Council also commenced consultation on a shortlist of alignment options for the St Lucia to West End Green Bridge. A separate summary and report have been prepared to outline the outcomes of consultation on this project, and are available on Council’s website.



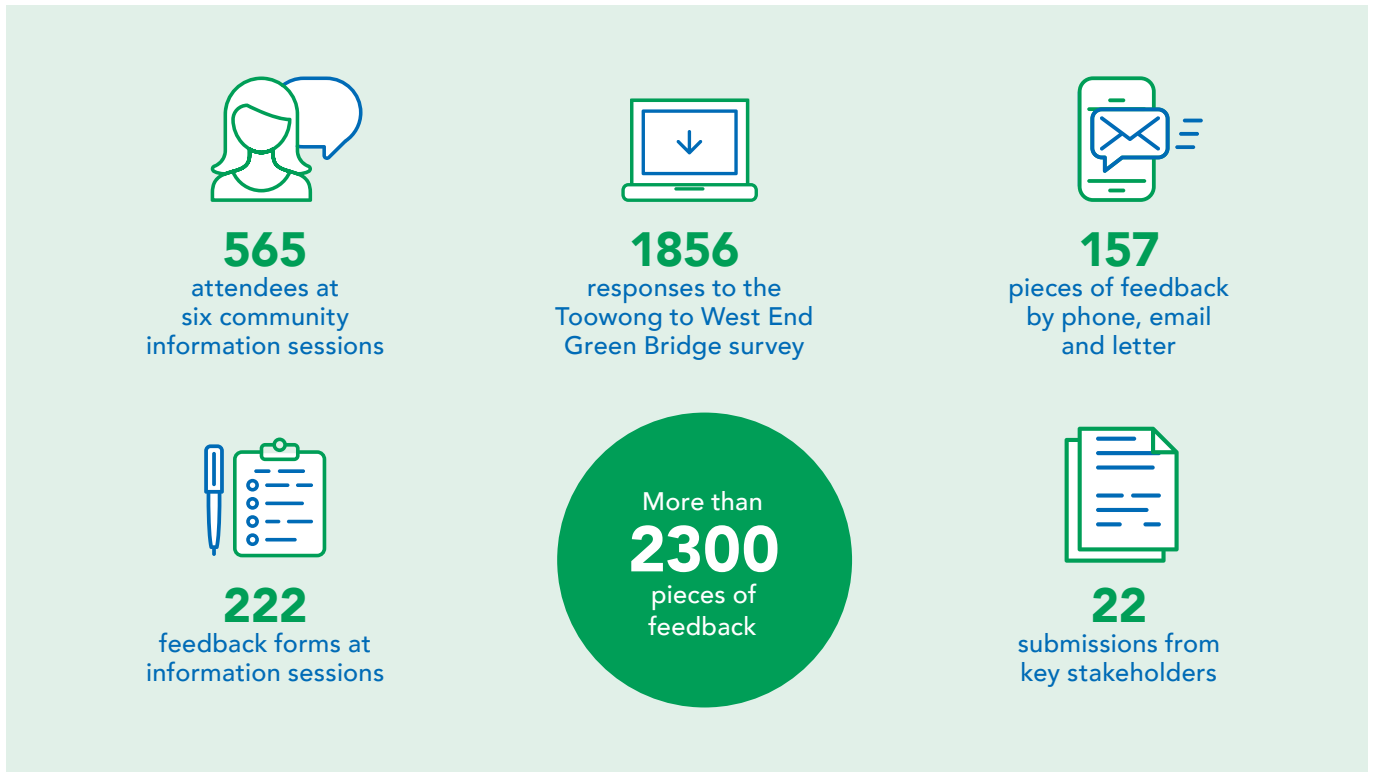
# How you participated

During the consultation period, Council hosted a range of activities that allowed residents to provide feedback on the alignment options and talk to members of the project team.

This included:

- six information sessions at local venues in Toowong, St Lucia and West End
- six pop-up visits at ferry terminals, parks and bridges near the potential landing locations
- meetings with key stakeholders and property owners directly impacted by the proposed alignment options.

Overall, more than 2300 people provided feedback on the Toowong to West End Green Bridge, including 1856 responses to the online survey, along with feedback provided at information sessions, and by email, phone and letter.



Community information session at Toowong Library, Toowong.



Community information session at Davies Park Markets, West End.

## What you told us

Following the consultation period, Council reviewed and summarised all feedback to determine overall support for each alignment option, as well as key issues for consideration during the next phase of the project.

Key feedback from residents and stakeholders on the Toowong to West End Green Bridge included:

- very strong positive support for Option A (600 Coronation Drive to Orleigh Park near Forbes Street), with 83% of online survey respondents completely or somewhat supportive of this alignment
- some support for Option B (Archer Street mid-block to Orleigh Park near Drury Street), and limited support for Option C (Archer Street near Glen Road to Orleigh Park near Drury Street)
- many requests for Council to deliver new green space at 600 Coronation Drive as part of the Toowong to West End Green Bridge
- interest in the timing for delivery of the Toowong to West End Green Bridge, with many people seeing this green bridge as a priority
- some concerns from local residents adjacent to landing locations of various options about impacts on views, increased noise and traffic, parking on local streets and safety of bridge and road users
- requests from river users to minimise impacts on sailing, rowing and paddling club operations and activities.

### Online survey results

Through the online survey, respondents were asked to provide their overall level of support for each alignment option, along with feedback on the most important bridge elements.

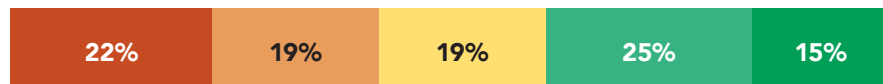
#### Level of support for Option A

(600 Coronation Drive to Orleigh Park near Forbes Street)



#### Level of support for Option B

(Archer Street mid-block to Orleigh Park near Drury Street)



#### Level of support for Option C

(Archer Street near Glen Road to Orleigh Park near Drury Street)



■ Completely against   
 ■ Somewhat against   
 ■ Neutral  
■ Somewhat in favour   
 ■ Completely in favour

### Key feedback:



Strong interest in the new green bridges and proposed alignment options



General support for new walking and cycling connections between Toowong, St Lucia and West End



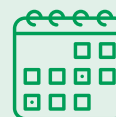
Interest in connectivity to broader active and public transport network



Suggestions for design elements to minimise impacts and provide safe connections



Requests for new green space at 600 Coronation Drive



Interest in timing for delivery



Requests to minimise impacts on river users



Some concerns regarding impacts to local residents

### Most important bridge elements:



Connectivity to walking and cycling paths



Access to green space/riverfront



Provide new riverside open space

## Next steps

Council recognises the strong level of interest in the new green bridges and is committed to working with local residents and key stakeholders to get these projects right.

### Bridge alignment

Following initial technical investigations and feasibility assessments, and the outcomes of community consultation, **Option A connecting 600 Coronation Drive to Orleigh Park (near Forbes Street)** has been identified as the preferred alignment for the Toowong to West End Green Bridge.

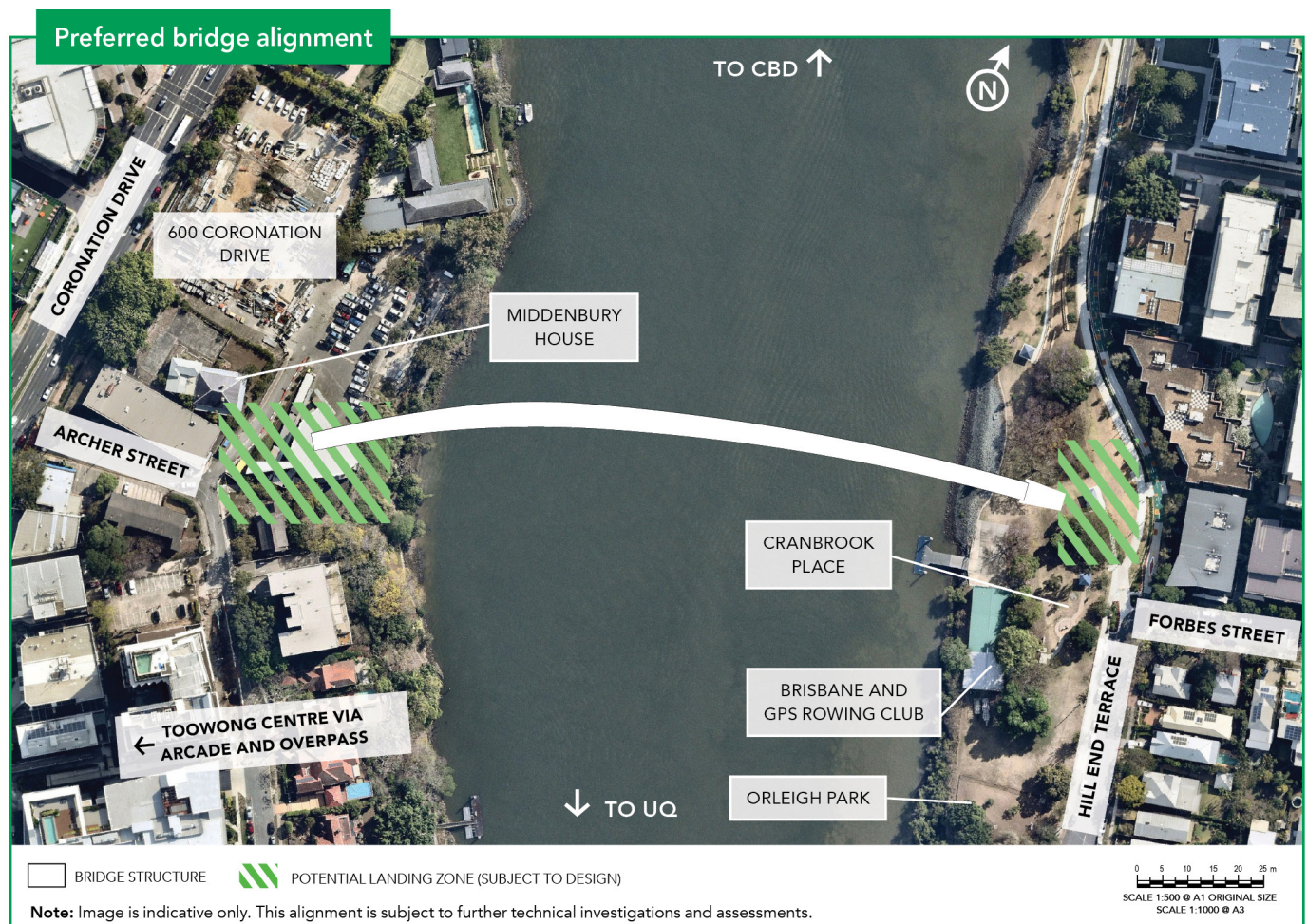
This alignment has been selected because it:

- provides good connectivity to the Toowong Centre, rail services and the Regatta ferry terminal
- provides off-road access to riverside cycling and walking paths in West End and Toowong
- creates opportunity for new riverside open space at Toowong
- would attract strong patronage based on initial transport modelling
- provides a more comfortable and accessible bridge grade, compared to other options
- does not impact on existing character houses, or require resumption of private homes
- has strong support from the community and key stakeholders.

In addition, Option A connecting Guyatt Park to Orleigh Park (near Morry Street) has been identified as the preferred alignment for the St Lucia to West End Green Bridge.

Council will prepare a concept design and preliminary business case for each project based on the preferred alignments, for further discussion with the community in the second half of 2021. The Option B and C alignments presented during consultation for each project will not be progressed.

In preparing the concept designs and preliminary business cases, Council will further investigate the benefits, impacts and costs of these green bridges, and will consider the potential bridge form and structure, transport and economic benefits, property impacts, constructability, and how each bridge will integrate with the surrounding environment.



Indicative plan of preferred alignment from 600 Coronation Drive to Orleigh Park (near Forbes Street).

## Response to key feedback themes

The table below outlines a summary of the key feedback themes related to the Toowong to West End Green Bridge raised during consultation, and Council's response to each overarching issue. A detailed summary of all feedback received, and Council's response to key feedback themes, has been included in the *Toowong to West End Green Bridge Consultation Report*, which is available on Council's website.

Feedback theme	Council's response
<p><b>Some residents would prefer Council invest in other projects instead of the Toowong to West End Green Bridge. Suggestions included new ferry terminals and services, bridges that can accommodate cars or public transport, and other active transport projects.</b></p>	<p>Council acknowledges suggestions for other projects as alternatives to the new green bridges, and some objections to the projects. Council's Green Bridges Program aims to develop a linked network of cross-river connections that will enable residents and workers to replace car-based trips with active and public transport trips, and assist in making our city a cleaner, greener place to live. The new green bridges are a key initiative of Council's <i>Transport Plan for Brisbane – Implementation Plan 2018</i> and are identified in a number of other Council and Queensland Government planning studies and policies. Council has committed the city's largest ever investment in active transport with a \$300 million commitment over the next four years to deliver the Kangaroo Point and Breakfast Creek Green Bridges and progress planning for the Toowong to West End and St Lucia to West End Green Bridges. In total, Council will invest up to \$550 million towards new green bridges and will seek additional funding contributions from the Queensland and Australian governments, following the completion of detailed business cases for the projects. The business cases will outline the problems the green bridges are addressing and assess alternative options for addressing the problem, including better use of or upgrades to existing infrastructure, policy reform initiatives, as well as new infrastructure such as green bridges.</p>
<p><b>Some residents suggested alternative alignment options for the Toowong to West End Green Bridge.</b></p>	<p>Council investigated a number of different alignment options for the Toowong to West End Green Bridge, which were selected following consideration of a range of factors, including connectivity to high-frequency public transport, the riverside walking and cycling network, key activity centres, and opportunities for new green space. Following initial technical investigations and feasibility assessments, and the outcomes of community consultation, Option A connecting 600 Coronation Drive to Orleigh Park (near Forbes Street) has been identified as the preferred alignment for the Toowong to West End Green Bridge. Council will prepare a concept design and preliminary business case based on the preferred alignment, for further discussion with the community in the second half of 2021. The Option B and C alignments presented during consultation will not be progressed.</p>
<p><b>Concerns were raised about the potential for private residential properties to be resumed for the project, and the impacts of resumptions on property owners and adjacent residents.</b></p>	<p>While Council seeks to avoid the need to resume private property for new infrastructure where possible, acquisition of private properties is sometimes unavoidable, particularly in developed urban areas. Where private property is required for new infrastructure, Council will seek to acquire the property in line with the provisions of the <i>Acquisition of Land Act 1967</i>. Council acknowledges community concerns related to the potential for land resumptions associated with the new green bridges, and the affects that a resumption has on property owners. These impacts are taken into consideration along with a range of other factors, when assessing alignment options as part of the initial feasibility investigations.</p>
<p><b>Requests for more information to be made available to demonstrate the need, benefits and costs of the project, including a business case, detailed transport modelling and concept plans.</b></p>	<p>Council recognises the high level of interest in the new green bridges. A concept design and preliminary business case for the Toowong to West End Green Bridge will be shared with the community for further discussion in the second half of 2021. The business case will be prepared in line with the nationally accepted approaches for transport project cost-benefit analysis, as provided in the <i>Australian Transport Assessment and Planning guidelines</i>, and the infrastructure assessment frameworks outlined by Infrastructure Australia and Building Queensland. Council expects to complete the detailed business cases for each project by late 2021, which will be discussed with the Queensland and Australian governments to help determine the next steps for these projects, including potential funding and delivery timeframes.</p>
<p><b>Interest in the estimated patronage figures for each alignment option, including the underlying assumptions used, such as trip origin and destination.</b></p>	<p>The expected daily trip numbers for each bridge alignment option were estimated using the Brisbane Strategic Transport Model, which is the standard model developed by the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads for transport modelling in the Brisbane region. The estimated daily trip numbers are based on the combined volumes for walking, cycling, walk to public transport, recreational and e-scooter trips modelled for the years 2031 and 2041. The predicted patronage figures for each option for the Toowong to West End Green Bridge were modelled on the basis that the St Lucia to West End Green Bridge does not exist, and vice versa. These numbers are initial estimates only and will be subject to further refinement through the development of the preliminary business cases for both projects later this year.</p>

Feedback theme	Council's response
<p><b>Interest in how the green bridges will connect with the broader active and public transport network, and what other upgrades to public transport, walking and cycling will be delivered.</b></p>	<p>Development of a concept design and preliminary business case for each project will consider how the bridges connect more broadly to the active and public transport network. As part of this, Council will review the nearby transport network and facilities, including pedestrian and cycle paths, crossing points, and public transport services to ensure they best serve the local community. Council is committed to working with the Queensland Government to investigate new green bridges and other public and active transport initiatives, in line with the delivery of Brisbane Metro, Cross River Rail and broader funding and planning priorities for the transport network.</p>
<p><b>Concerns were raised around impacts on existing green space, vegetation and cultural heritage in Orleigh Park, including mature trees and Cranbrook Place.</b></p>	<p>Planning for the new green bridges will seek to minimise impacts on existing parks and vegetation where possible. The bridge landings will be sensitively designed to integrate within the existing landscape and complement the character of the surrounding environment. Where feasible, Council will seek to achieve a 'net benefit' to existing open space, including opportunities for additional land for park purposes, and new and enhanced park infrastructure and landscaping. Council will also seek to carefully integrate bridge infrastructure within any park setting. Specific impacts to vegetation will be confirmed through the detailed design phase of each project. Any vegetation removals must be approved, and appropriate offsets will be required. Council is committed to ongoing engagement with Traditional Custodian representatives to ensure the project does not adversely impact on Cranbrook Place.</p>
<p><b>Suggestions for new green space to be provided to offset any impacts were also received, including for Council to acquire 600 Coronation Drive, Toowong for parkland purposes.</b></p>	<p>Council is committed to increasing access to parks and open space across Brisbane, which is vital for making our city liveable and sustainable for our children and future generations. Requirements for new open space are outlined in the <i>City Plan 2014</i> and are regularly reviewed by Council through neighbourhood and infrastructure planning processes to include in the <i>Local Government Infrastructure Plan</i>. Following development of the business case for the Toowong to West End Green Bridge, Council will confirm the requirement to acquire part of the site at 600 Coronation Drive for the bridge landing and potential new riverfront open space. Initial discussions have been held with the new property owner to ensure they are aware of the potential partial land requirement, however, investigations are still underway.</p>
<p><b>Concerns were raised around the impacts of the green bridges on the safety of river users and the operation of existing sailing, rowing and paddling clubs.</b></p>	<p>Council recognises the Toowong, St Lucia and West End reaches of the Brisbane River are currently used for a range of activities including sailing, rowing, paddling and river cruises. Specific matters particularly in relation to club activities and safety concerns will be considered through the investigations into the preferred bridge form and structural design, and location of bridge infrastructure within the river, during the development of a concept design for the project. Council is committed to ongoing engagement with relevant key stakeholders, including Maritime Safety Queensland, clubs and associations, peak bodies and river cruise operators.</p>
<p><b>Suggestions were received for specific design elements for the new green bridges.</b></p>	<p>Development of a concept design and preliminary business case for each project will consider matters such as bridge form, structural design and architectural elements, opportunities for new landscaping, improvements to green space, public art and wayfinding, and pedestrian and cyclist safety measures. Environment, heritage and planning factors including flooding, Indigenous and post-colonial cultural heritage and vegetation impacts will also be investigated. This will be further discussed with the community in the second half of 2021.</p>
<p><b>Interest from local residents and businesses around specific impacts on views, amenity, privacy, security, parking and noise and how these will be managed.</b></p>	<p>Development of a concept design and preliminary business case for each project will consider matters such as impacts to view corridors and amenity, measures to manage noise, light and privacy impacts, and management of impacts on the local traffic network. Constructability considerations and operational and maintenance matters will also be investigated. This will be further discussed with the community in the second half of 2021.</p>
<p><b>Concerns were raised about the consultation program, including the length of time to provide feedback, information available, and consultation methods used.</b></p>	<p>Council recognises the level of community interest in the new green bridges. Following requests for more time to provide feedback, Council extended the consultation period until 31 March 2021, providing an additional two months for feedback to be submitted. During the consultation period, Council released a series of detailed fact sheets on each alignment option which outlined the proposed bridge alignment and landing locations, as well as a summary of the initial feasibility assessments and technical investigations. Council also hosted six information sessions where residents could speak to a member of the project team and interact with each other about the proposed alignment options. The online survey was designed to encourage residents to specifically provide feedback on a preferred alignment option, and residents could provide other feedback by contacting the project team directly by phone, email or attending an information session.</p>



## Project timing

Council expects to complete the detailed business cases for the Toowong to West End and St Lucia to West End Green Bridges by late 2021, which will be discussed with the Queensland and Australian governments to help determine the next steps for each project, including potential funding and delivery timeframes.

Continued feedback will play a critical role in developing the new green bridges, including design treatments and ongoing connections to the city-wide walking and cycling network. Council will continue to keep local residents and key stakeholders informed about the projects as they progress.



\* Subject to consultation and government approvals.

### More information

For a copy of the detailed Consultation Report, visit Council's website at [brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://brisbane.qld.gov.au) and search 'Toowong to West End Green Bridge'.

You can also get in touch with the project team by:



**calling** 1800 318 166  
(during business hours)  
3403 8888 (after hours)



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