

# Kingsford Smith Drive upgrade

## Connecting People and Places – Senior Geography Students

The Kingsford Smith Drive upgrade Visitor Centre provides a highly educational experience for geography students.

Schools are invited to take part in a tailored presentation and tour of the Visitor Centre to learn more about infrastructure development and planning, and its impact on communities.

The Kingsford Smith Drive upgrade serves as a real life case study of the patterns and type of regional planning currently evident in South East Queensland, specifically in relation to Brisbane.

The Visitor Centre and presentation demonstrate how Brisbane City Council, through the delivery of major infrastructure projects, is responding to rapid economic and population growth in the South East Queensland region. This is a great opportunity for students to broaden their geography studies and develop their understanding of Council's role in the provision of sustainable infrastructure and the impact this has on the liveability and viability of Brisbane.

The Visitor Centre features an interactive cycling feature that simulates riding on the new infrastructure once complete, as well as 3D models of the upgrade, maps, photographs and a historical record of the road that shows its role in the growth of Brisbane over time. There is also a presentation room with a 20-seat capacity.

### Connecting People and Places

The Kingsford Smith Drive upgrade visit and presentation complements the senior geography syllabus, specifically focusing on the 'Connecting People and Places' unit within the Social Environments theme.

Students are encouraged to investigate the following key questions:

- What are the features and patterns of the transport network?
- How and why do these issues and patterns develop?
- What are the impacts of these patterns and issues?
- How can the impacts of the processes affecting the transport network be prioritised?
- What is being done, or could be done by individuals, groups and governments to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the transport network?
- Who makes the decisions about connecting people and places?

### Key Learning Outcomes

In researching the above key questions, students will gain an understanding and consideration of the following key geographical ideas.

- Community infrastructure links people with people, and people with goods and services across geographical space. Modes of transport are part of the infrastructure of communities
- Different modes of transport potentially impact the livelihood, opportunities and lifestyles of the population, for example, access to services (education, health, jobs) and markets and factors of production (labour, resources, capital)
- A transport system's efficiency impacts on the economic development of a community and/or region
- Communities need to consider the environmental and social impacts of building infrastructure that caters for motorised transport
- Government's planning transport infrastructure at a local and regional level contributes to the building of sustainable communities
- Infrastructure provision involves long-term planning and long lead times for the development of these structures.



# Potential Essay Questions/Assignment Topics

## Task one:

Brisbane City Council has presented two proposals to the Queensland Government to minimise traffic congestion in inner Brisbane.

Proposal 1: Convert Victoria Bridge to a green bridge to prioritise and maximise public and active transport opportunities.

Proposal 2: A cross-river tunnel linking Brisbane's eastern suburbs and the inner-western suburbs with potential for express bus services and a shared pedestrian/cycle path within the tunnel.

You, as a member of the Queensland Government's Task Force, have the task of analysing and evaluating both of these proposals and must make recommendations to the Queensland Government as to which proposal will be most suitable for Brisbane.

The following process is offered as a guide for your essay/assignment:

1. Outline your understanding of **traffic congestion** in inner Brisbane
2. Identify **patterns of traffic congestion** in Brisbane from the stimulus material
3. Identify the **impacts/consequences of traffic congestion** in relation to economic, social and environmental
4. Are there any other issues that the Queensland Government needs to address in relation to traffic congestion?
5. Outline the set of criteria to evaluate the two proposals, focusing on how well they address the economic, social and environmental impacts/consequences you have identified in point 3
6. Is the proposal fair and equitable for all people?
7. Apply the criteria to the two proposals
8. Decide which proposal should be recommended
9. Justification of your choice of proposal.

## Task two:

Brisbane City Council is considering the potential for installing a new 'metro' style system to connect suburban bus routes to a fast and reliable inner city public transport system, aimed at reducing congestion in the CBD and improving bus services to outer suburbs.

You, as a transport planner, are tasked with submitting a report outlining your recommendation, taking into consideration the interests of Council, the Queensland Government and the wider community.

The following process is offered as a guide for your essay/assignment.

1. Outline your understanding of **traffic congestion** in inner Brisbane
2. Outline your understanding of **the importance of public and sustainable transport** options in combating rapid economic and population growth
3. Identify **patterns of traffic congestion** in Brisbane from the stimulus material
4. Identify the **impacts/consequences of traffic congestion** in relation to economic, social and environmental issues
5. Outline the set of criteria to evaluate the proposed bus connection:
  - cost effectiveness/economic advantages
  - impact on environmental quality
  - social justice - is the proposal fair and equitable for all people?
6. Apply the criteria to the proposed dedicated bus lanes
7. Justification of your recommendation.



# Background Information for Teachers

## What is the purpose of the Kingsford Smith Drive upgrade?

Kingsford Smith Drive is a major arterial road and major freight route in Brisbane, linking the Brisbane CBD to Brisbane Airport, the Port of Brisbane and economic and residential growth areas of Australia TradeCoast and Northshore Hamilton.

The upgrade will widen Kingsford Smith Drive between Breakfast Creek and Theodore Street from four to six lanes, incorporating improved cycle, pedestrian and public transport facilities. Connecting to the previously completed stage 1 upgrade between Theodore Street and Harvey Street, once complete, Kingsford Smith Drive will reduce congestion and improve local amenity for all road users, including cyclists, pedestrians and public transport users.

This will boost business and economic development, expanding one of Brisbane's most important traffic corridors to help future-proof our new world city.

The Kingsford Smith Drive upgrade serves as a key part of Council's balanced approach to tackling traffic congestion on Brisbane's road network, which could cost businesses and residents up to \$3 billion per annum by 2020 if traffic issues are not addressed.

The project also has a significant strategic role in delivering Queensland and Commonwealth Government infrastructure strategies, including:

- The South East Queensland Regional Plan
- The Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program
- The Economic Development Queensland priority development area of Northshore Hamilton
- The Australia TradeCoast (ATC) development

## Why is the project important to Brisbane?

Hamilton, Ascot, the ATC, Port of Brisbane and Brisbane Airport are experiencing major population and economic growth.

The draft update to the Queensland Government's *South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031*, Shaping QLD, identifies the ATC, including Eagle Farm, Port of Brisbane, Brisbane Airport and Pinkenba, as an area of regional and economic significance.

The ATC will become an economic hub in future years, providing substantial jobs growth and transforming it into South East Queensland's second biggest employment generator, behind the Brisbane CBD. It is expected to support an additional 33,000 jobs over the next 20 years and 25% of Brisbane's export growth. The ATC notes Kingsford Smith Drive as one of the key elements to support this growth.

The Queensland Government's Northshore Hamilton priority development area is part of the planned residential infill growth areas, with 15,000 new residents expected, and new developments at the Eagle Farm Racecourse will also contribute to growth in the area.

As the South East Queensland region continues to grow, there will be an increasing need for a road transport system, which connects key activity centres and allows for the efficient movement of people and goods between these centres as part of an overall balanced transport system. The Kingsford Smith Drive upgrade will form a key part of this improved road transport system.

This continued growth will put more pressure on key arterial roads.



## How will the community benefit?

The Kingsford Smith Drive upgrade will help create an accessible and connected city by reducing congestion and enhancing Brisbane's traffic network. Long term benefits include:

- up to 30% travel time savings for all vehicles, including cars, buses and trucks
- \$70 million in new cycle and pedestrian facilities
- 7 kilometres of new and improved pedestrian and cycle paths
- more than 3000 direct and indirect jobs over the life of the project
- improved public transport provision, enabling future increases in bus services to cater to growth in the local area
- improved safety for all road users
- improved urban amenity and green spaces, including a new park at Bretts Wharf.

As more than just a road project, the Kingsford Smith Drive upgrade will also place a strong focus on urban amenity, through incorporating the following elements into the design:

- a tree-lined boulevard creating a subtropical entry into Brisbane
- a new river walk with dedicated rest areas that maximise public access to the river
- significant new riverside destinations at Bretts Wharf and Cameron Rocks Reserve, easily accessible via public transport
- thought-provoking public art that acknowledges the history of the area and its key role in the local community.

## What does the project include?

The Kingsford Smith Drive upgrade includes:

- 3 through lanes of traffic in each direction
- continuous footpaths on both sides of the road, with improved footpath widths
- 1.8 metre-wide on-road cycle lanes between Theodore Street and Racecourse Road
- a two-way, off-road cycle path on the river side of Kingsford Smith Drive between Bretts Wharf and Cameron Rocks Reserve, separated from a riverside pedestrian path
- consolidated bus stops to allow almost all stops to be indented out of through traffic lanes
- lengthened bus stops with enough room for two buses at once, to cater to future growth of public transport.

Construction of the Kingsford Smith Drive upgrade is expected to be completed in 2019.



# Online Resources

- The South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009 – 2031  
<http://dilgp.qld.gov.au/resources/plan/seq/regional-plan-2009/seq-regional-plan-2009.pdf>
- Shaping SEQ – draft South East Queensland Regional Plan  
<http://www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/noindex/shapingseq/draft-south-east-queensland-regional-plan.pdf>
- The State Infrastructure Plan  
<http://www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/resources/plan/sip/sip-part-a.pdf>  
<http://www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/resources/plan/sip/sip-part-b.pdf>
- Brisbane City Council's TransApex Plan  
<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/traffic-transport/roads-infrastructure-bikeways/tunnels-bridges-transport-links>
- Brisbane City Council's Transport Plan for Brisbane 2008 – 2026  
<http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/traffic-transport/roads-infrastructure-bikeways/transport-plan-for-brisbane-2008-2026/index.htm>
- Brisbane Long Term Infrastructure Plan  
[https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/Brisbane\\_Long\\_Term\\_Infrastructure\\_Plan-full.pdf](https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/Brisbane_Long_Term_Infrastructure_Plan-full.pdf)
- Brisbane Vision 2031  
[https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/Brisbane\\_Vision\\_2031\\_full\\_document.pdf](https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/Brisbane_Vision_2031_full_document.pdf)
- ATC  
<http://tradecoastcentral.com.au>

