The Northern Territory Government recently completed a technical assessment of design options to improve flood immunity for residents and businesses in the Mount Johns Valley and Desert Springs areas of Alice Springs and is keen to receive community feedback.

The development of these options follows extensive consultation with key stakeholders to obtain a greater understanding of known issues such as future road network planning, cultural sensitivities in relation to land access, technical assessment of the area and consideration of the cost and benefit of each option.

**TECHNICAL DESIGN OPTIONS**

**CONNECTOR ROADS**

**STEPHENS ROAD TO SADADEEN ROAD - DIRECT ROUTE**

This option provides improved year round connectivity via a direct road link, has no impact on flooding and connects the eastern suburbs of Alice Springs during the larger flood events. This connector will create opportunities for new land development and complements and supports the recently released Regional Land Use Plan for the Alice Springs CBD.

Estimated cost: $25 million.

This is the preferred technical option.

**STEPHENS ROAD TO SADADEEN ROAD - EASTERN ROUTE**

This connector would also provide access to new land development opportunities but would be a longer route for road users in the existing residential areas and will be more expensive to construct, as it is longer than a more direct route.

Estimated cost: $29 million.

**TUNCKS ROAD TO SADADEEN ROAD - VIA POWER AND WATER ACCESS**

The upgrading of the existing temporary access road could be developed over time. The opening of a permanent new road on the alignment is dependent on Territory Generation relocating; therefore, in the foreseeable future the route would remain at its current state, unless major upgrades are undertaken.

Estimated cost: Initial works (minor upgrades) $500,000; to open as a permanent road after Territory Generation has relocated the order of cost is $20 million.

**HIGH LEVEL BRIDGES**

**STEPHENS ROAD**

A new high level bridge would replace the existing Taffy Pick causeway. Current information indicates that the local road network becomes inundated around an Annual Recurrence Interval (ARI) of 20 years, also described as a 1 in 20 year flood. Even though a bridge would improve access, it would not provide access during any significant flood event, unless significant works are undertaken through the Gap.

Estimated cost: $28 to $40 million dependent on the final alignment of the bridge across the Todd River.

**TUNCKS ROAD**

The construction of a high level bridge at the Tuncks Road causeway would create a significant backwater in larger flood events (ARI 50 and greater) and is therefore the least preferred option. Also due to the low-lying local road network there would be limited access beyond an ARI 20 year event.

Estimated cost: $23 million.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**

The Alice Springs community is invited to provide feedback on the technical design options, to do so please respond to our project team by Friday 5 August through one of the following:

- Go online: transport.nt.gov.au
- Email: mtjohns.consultation@nt.gov.au
- Write to: Mt Johns Flood Immunity Project, Department of Transport, Transport Infrastructure Planning Division, GPO Box 2520 Darwin NT 0801

For further information about the Mt Johns Flood Immunity Project please call the Department of Transport on 8924 7481