

# ALSTONVILLE BYPASS COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP



## Minutes of Meeting No. 1

TUESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2003

### Present

**RTA Representatives:** Peter Collins (Regional Manager, Northern Client Services), Sonia Williamson (Regional Communications Officer), Dave Purdy (Project Manager), David Johnson (Design Manager), Dennis Clancy (Client Representative).

**Community Representatives:** Maurice Collins, Simon Chate, Shirley Robertson, Ivan Eichorn, Jane Gardiner, Wayne Garrard, Judy Harmon, Kath Robb, Jim Roberts, Leslie Smith, Ian Taylor, Bob Wilson, Cr David Wright, Cr Phillip Silver. Reg Alley and Les Wiles represented Garry Fuller on behalf of the Lions Club.

Also in attendance was Graham Quigley from the Village Voice.

### Apologies

Russ Green, Doug Sutherland, Alison Carmichael, Geoff Harris, Cr Marilyn Perkins, Gavin Robb, Lothar Schwerther, Garry Fuller.

Those present at the meeting introduced themselves and indicated the organisations/groups they were representing.

### Background

Peter Collins outlined the project and introduced the RTA's project team. Below outlines discussion and details from the slide presentation.

Peter gave a brief review of the project to date commencing with the 1987 Ballina Council Local Environmental Plan included a strip zoning for a town bypass.

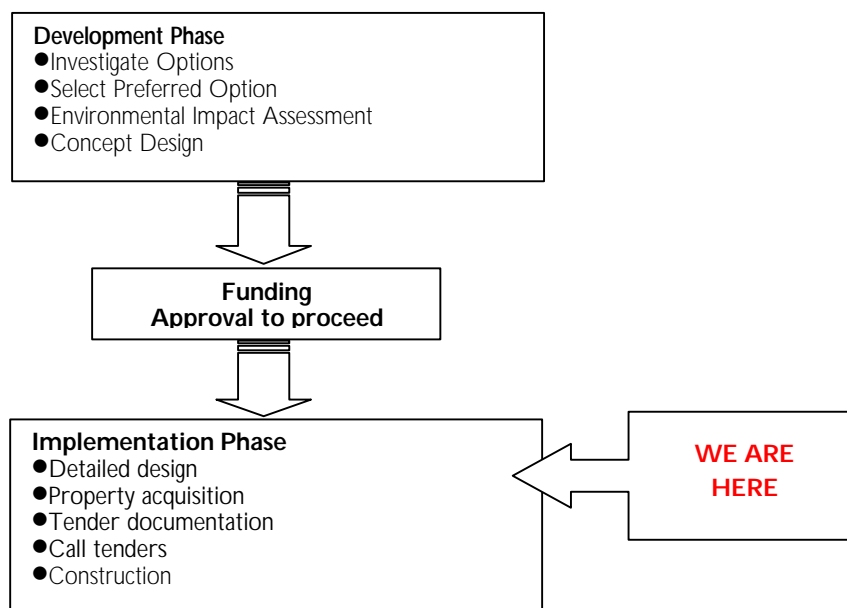
In 1996 the RTA commenced a formal route selection and environmental assessment. This was undertaken to ensure the route complied with current guidelines, changed land use and traffic patterns. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared and placed on public display in 1998.

The project was approved by the Minister for Planning on 27 February 2003.

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## RTA's approach to the project

Peter then outlined the approach the RTA has taken to developing the Alstonville Bypass. Below is a diagram presented to the meeting, which indicates the current status of the project.



## Implementation Phase

An outline of the proposed timing of the Alstonville Bypass was presented. The timetable below indicates key milestones proposed for the next phase of the project.

### Proposed timetable

<b>2003/2004</b>	Detailed Design, property acquisition and finalisation of the detailed design and contract documentation
<b>Mid 2004</b>	Call tenders for construction
<b>Late 2004</b>	Commencement construction
<b>Late 2006</b>	Open to Traffic

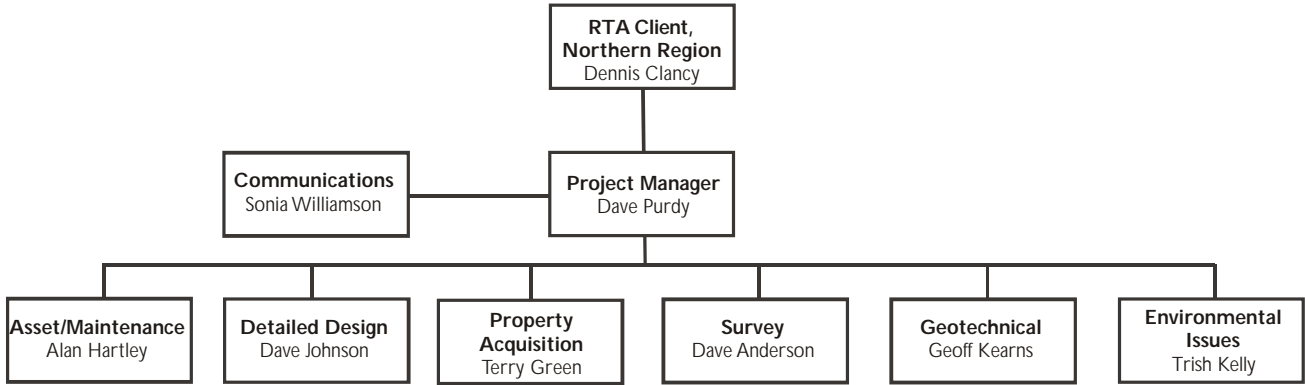
## Detailed Design

An overview of the detailed design was given. As part of the detailed design all environmental issues identified in the project approval from PlanningNSW will be incorporated. The detailed design will cover all aspects of the project, including stormwater drainage, noise mitigation, landscaping, accesses, intersections, bridges and road pavement. Detailed documentation will be prepared to enable the calling of tenders for construction works.

## Property Acquisition

The group was advised that property owners affected by the proposal have been approached regarding negotiations for acquisition of land. All acquisitions will be in accordance with the Just Terms Compensation Act, 1991 and access to the properties is anticipated to be available by July 2004.

## RTA's Project Team



## Community Liaison Group

Sonia Williamson outlined the role of the Community Liaison Group (CLG), Terms of Reference, meeting protocol and role of participants.

### Role of Community Representatives

It was indicated that the role of community representatives will be to ensure that all issues from respective organisations/groups are raised at the CLG meetings. The CLG is one of the ways the RTA is using to share information with the community and gain community input to the project. Other ways the RTA will keep the community involved include advertising, media releases and Community Update sheets.

### Terms of Reference

Those in attendance at the meeting agreed in principle to the following terms of reference for the group:

- To provide a formal mechanism for information exchange between the community and the RTA project team regarding the project.
- To provide feedback which will assist in the identification of community issues.

### Meeting Protocol

- Confirmed the Terms of Reference
- Ensure each participant is able to put their concerns and issues to the group.
- Participants to share and discuss opinions.
- Minutes to be distributed to all participants.
- Final minutes are publicly available and can be distributed by CLG members.

### Role of Participants

#### RTA's role

- To provide accurate and timely information.
- To listen to CLG members concerns or issues raised.
- To consider the concerns or issues as part of the overall project.
- To provide technical and professional expertise.

#### Community Member's role

- To bring issues to the CLG and explain to the group the background, the rationale and the benefits.
- To provide community feedback from their areas of responsibility (group/organisation they represent).

*It was noted that members of the group are not spokespersons for the project. There are procedures that the RTA follows to ensure a consistent and timely message is given to the community.*

## Detailed design

Dave Purdy and David Johnson outlined the detailed design phase of the project.

Dave advised that completion of activities required to produce the plans and specifications used to construct the project. will include road design, design of bridge and structures, noise studies, urban design, hydrology and hydraulics:

**Road/Bridge** design will involve:

- Refining the road alignment.
- Designing structures in context of environment and aesthetics.
- Refining intersection designs.
- Designing the drainage.
- Refining line marking and signage.
- Designing property accesses.
- Refining service roads.

**Noise** investigations will involve:

- Noise monitoring to provide current data for noise modelling,
- A revision of noise mitigation measures recommended in EIS and concept design in relation to current best practice.
- Update recommended mitigation measures if required.

**Urban design** investigations will involve the integration of the project into the landscape and built environment with respect to the visual impact and aesthetics of the road and structures. This will involve extensive landscaping design features. entry points to Alstonville. input into bridge and noise wall design features.

**Hydrology and Hydraulics** involves the study of water flow over the existing topography, existing drainage structures and systems and the proposed bypass. This work will include the revision of the EIS hydrology studies and concept design drainage structures and systems.

## General Discussion / Questions

Initial comments received by community members included:

- **Type of intersections** at the entry to Alstonville. The RTA will be refining these intersections as part of the detailed design. Urban design will also be taken into consideration at these locations.
  - **Noise:**
    - The group was advised that the Bruxner Highway is already designated as a B-Double route.
    - Increase in noise since last modelling. The RTA advised that further noise monitoring would be undertaken, which will take this concern into account.
  - **Tropical Fruit Research Station:** The RTA advised that this entrance was not in the scope of this project. However, the issue of the entrance will be investigated separately.
  - **Division of traffic on new bypass:** The RTA advised that painted lines will divide the lanes of traffic, there will be no 'central barriers'.
  - **Traffic volumes:** It is predicted that approximately 7000 vehicles (3,500 each way) will use the bypass. This will reduce the traffic entering Alstonville by approximately half.
  - **Urban design features:** The group liked the features on the Bangalow Bypass and the recently completed Yelgun to Chinderah Freeway.
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- **Kays Lane intersection:** The RTA advised that the intersection is being reviewed to see if this is the absolute best option. There may be some modifications that will further enhance this intersection.
- **Speed limit:** The RTA advised that the bypass will be designed for 100km/hr speed limit.
- **Drainage:** There have been some severe storms in the Alstonville area. The RTA advised that it will be liaising closely with Council and looking at hydrology studies and rainfall figures.
- **Drainage** should assist with Crawford Park area.
- **Detention basins** near Mellis Circuit: The RTA advised that the original design had been changed as a result of discussions with Council.
- **Water quality:** The use of retention basins to filter the run-off water from the pavement will be used. During construction there will be a number of temporary sedimentation basins to ensure water from the construction site does not pollute waterways.

### **Future meeting dates (day/time)**

The group agreed the next meeting would be on a Tuesday at 7.00pm, venue being the RSL Hall.

The RTA will advise of a date, which will be in approximately 7 weeks time.

**The meeting closed at 8.00pm**

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