

Alstonville bypass



COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP MEETING

23 September 2009

The second meeting of the community group was held on 23 September 2009 at the House with No Steps in Alstonville. Attendance was open to any interested resident in the Alstonville/Wollongbar area. Over Around 70 community residents and interested community members attended the meeting. Regional Communications Manager, Sonia George, facilitated the meeting. An update was given by the Reed Construction Australia's Construction Manager, Fred Knox. Also in attendance from the project team were:

Shane Green RTA, Project Manager Alstonville Bypass
Kelly Hall PES, Office Alstonville Bypass
Peter Dawson REED, Project Manager

Steve Vine PES, Authorised Delegate
Jodie Austin RTA, Community Relations Officer
Jim Clarence REED, Environment Engineer

These information sessions will be held every 4-6 months. It may be necessary during construction to form special groups to resolve a particular issue. These groups will only deal with the particular issue and once resolve the group will be disbanded.

Below is a summary of the meeting and comments raised by community members.

PREVIOUS MEETING COMMITMENTS:

Wollongbar noise special interest group: This group met and discussed the possible impacts on the residents of Wollongbar. The results of this meeting included additional monitoring, (assessment still being undertaken), the installation of the agreed earthmound and ongoing monitoring of traffic noise.

Detention basins at Mellis Circuit: Meetings were held on-site to explain the basin's operation in detail. The RTA has undertaken additional surveys to confirm design flows and drainage. If any residents have individual concerns they should contact us through 1800 074 588.

Website updated

The website has been continually updated since the last meeting, including photos to keep the community informed of progress. The latest newsletter (September 2009) contains current and future proposed works.

PROGRESS REPORT

Fred Knox, Reed Construction Australia, gave the meeting an update on progress. This progress is summarised in community update (September 2009).

QUESTION TIME:

Design of Alstonville 'gateway' treatments: The RTA is working with Ballina Council and Ballina Bypass to do a combined entry treatment for both projects. The RTA have had some meetings with the local aboriginal communities to identify ideas and designs. A theme is being developed which will link Ballina and Alstonville, but both towns will have individual feel.

The C-Ward group are looking to have the post and rail fences incorporated into the design. The draft design will be available at the next meeting to gain local comment and feedback.

Design of Wardell Bridge:

The artist impression indicates a four lane bypass at Wardell bridge, but the bypass is only two lanes? What is the height difference between the new Ellis Road and the bypass?

The second two-lane road on in the artist's impression is the Ellis Road deviation. The height difference between the new Ellis Road and the bypass will be approximately 7 metres.

Ellis Road

Commissioning of Ellis Road deviation?

REED Group need to construct the roundabout and the Ellis Road tie-in before the new road can be constructed. The Wardell side track will take about four weeks to complete and REED are installing access roads as quickly as possible. REED will continue to maintain resident access throughout the project.

Emergency vehicle exit at Ellis Road

There is no current design, but the RTA are happy to discuss the issue further with Jeff Snow to ensure this issue is addressed.

Noise concerns

There are noise concerns at the corner of Ellis/Wardell Roads. How long will noise last? What will it be like when the pile driver is operating? REED advised that the noise wall design is complete. Also, construction work is moving out of that area, weather permitting, and the noise will vary depending on stage of works. The piling rig to do Wardell Bridge, is a drill, not a pile driver. Its noise levels are not consistent, and will vary depending on the material it is drilling.

Road Surface

Stone Mastic Asphalt (SMA) will be installed 12 months after completion. This will give a noise reduction of 4 to 5dBa. The delay in placing the SMA is due to technical reasons with the spray seal and the chert gravel being used.

Dust

Not now, but will there be a cleanup at the end of the job? REED will take the concerns on board and consider further at the completion of the project.

Mellis Circuit

Will there be access to Council land behind Mellis Circuit residences? The RTA is continuing to discuss this with Council and the matter is still to be resolved.

Stormwater detention basins

What type of fence is going to be installed around the detention basins? REED advised that a 1.8 metre wire fence with barbed wire on top will be installed.

What is happening to the fence at the back of properties in Mellis Circuit?

RTA advised that this will depend on negotiations with Council regarding access.

Who will maintain and mow the detention basins? Mowing and maintenance will be carried out by Ballina

Shire Council under contract to RTA to maintain the road, the same as currently happens with Bruxner Highway.

The smaller basin previously located in Western detention basin held water for weeks. Will the final basins dry out? Currently there is no drain out of the basins. During construction, the basins are used to trap sediment, and treat dirty water, which is treated and pumped out.

Following construction, the outlets will be opened and clean water (up to a 1 in 100 year event) will enter the basins and controlled outlet will allow them to drain in a couple of hours.

Is the drain of the basins at the same level as the Council stormwater pit to let it drain. What will happen if something subsides / settles?

The basin floor is 250mm above the bottom outlet pit. If anything happens the Council will identify and repair the problem under their RTA maintenance contract.

Earthmound at Wollongbar

Are they going to be higher and all the way along?

The earthmound is currently being installed and will be slightly higher than as at 23 September 2009.

What is the vegetation plan for the earthmounds? If residents come into the community centre PES can show what tree planting is planned. The mounds are new and trees may need to go front, top or rear. The mounds will be grassed. Plans may be available at next the next meeting.

Vibration issues

Resident at the eastern end had some china fall and break. Was there any piling going on? There hasn't been any piling at that end of the project but vibration could have been caused by vibratory rollers. If such things happen please call 1800 074 588 and we will respond.

Road surface

Will the existing Bruxner Highway Wollongbar have a different surface? This detail is still subject to handover discussions with council.

Earthworks – general

Do you have a recipe for moving the dirt? There seem to be trucks going one way one day, then going back the next day. There are a number of different types of dirt on the site (topsoil, foundation, unsuitable) and they are moved according to a mass haul diagram.

The audience thanked all for doing a magnificent job.

The project team remained to answer individual questions.