

Upgrading the Pacific Highway Woolgoolga to Wells Crossing

The NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) engaged GHD to upgrade a 27 kilometre section of the Pacific Highway to dual carriageway between Woolgoolga and Wells Crossing.

Community involvement case study

GHD worked with the RTA to investigate route options, identify a preferred route and design a concept.

The study area was dominated by rural land and forest reserves, with scattered rural residential developments and a number of small towns.

Community consultation

GHD engaged the local community and stakeholders, particularly property owners in the immediate area, through a mixture of community information sessions, advertising, community updates and consultation. The local community identified access and amenity in Corindi as their key issues, while stakeholders emphasized improvements to road safety, travel time, separation of local towns, through traffic and noise impacts in the vicinity of Corindi as particular concerns.

How community feedback influenced the design

Of the 79 submissions that were received during the route options display from residents in the Corindi area, approximately 78% of respondents supported the “orange” option, which placed the highway upgrade to the west of the Corindi area.

GHD incorporated the orange option into the multi-criteria analysis and assessed it for further improvements. Following this subsequent value management process, GHD refined the orange route proposal to locate it further west between Barcoongere Way and Luthers Road. Prior to finalising the location of the concept design, GHD exhibited both options — the original and the refined orange options - as part of the wide preferred route corridor concept and invited the community to comment on which they preferred. Once the community and stakeholders indicated the refined orange route option as their preference, GHD developed the design concept.