Foxground and Berry bypass

Princes Highway upgrade

Environmental assessment

November 2012
This community update outlines the environmental assessment carried out for the proposed Princes Highway upgrade, Foxground and Berry bypass project. The project is being assessed as a transitional project under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979*.

The environmental assessment responds to the assessment requirements issued by the Director-General of the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure. The environmental assessment also assesses the impacts associated with the project and identifies management measures to minimise these impacts. It reviews the potential environmental, economic and social benefits of the project.

The NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure is now placing the environmental assessment on display for community comment. Written submissions to the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure **must be received no later than Monday 17 December 2012**. This update contains information about the environmental assessment and how to make a submission.
**Background**

In June 2009, RMS announced the preferred route and preferred access options for the Foxground and Berry bypass project. Since 2009, RMS has worked with project stakeholders and the community to adjust and improve the concept design, in line with project objectives. Adjustments that have been made include:

- Changing the location of the southbound flood free access to Berry.
- Modifying the alignment and level of the Berry bypass to the north of Berry, including the bridge at Berry and diverting Town Creek into Bundewallah Creek.
- Refining the southern interchange for Berry at Kangaroo Valley Road and preserving the future use of Mark Radium Park.

**Foxground and Berry bypass objectives**

The objectives for the proposed Princes Highway Foxground and Berry bypass are:

- Improving road safety.
- Improving the efficiency of the Princes Highway (between Toolijooa Road and Schofields Lane).
- Supporting regional and local economic development.
- Providing value for money.
- Enhancing potential beneficial environmental effects and managing potential adverse environmental impacts.
- Optimising the benefits and minimising adverse impacts on the local social environment.
Project need
The Princes Highway is the main north-south transport corridor linking Sydney and Wollongong to the NSW south coast and north-eastern Victoria. It is an important freight and bus route, particularly beyond Bomaderry where the existing rail service terminates. The Princes Highway is also a major route for tourist destinations, including Berry, with peak traffic experienced on weekends and during holiday periods. The project is one of a series of upgrades to sections of the Princes Highway which aims to provide a four lane divided route between Sydney and Jervis Bay Road, Falls Creek. This would improve road safety and traffic efficiency for freight and light vehicles on the NSW south coast.

Upgrade features
The Foxground and Berry bypass project would provide a four-lane divided highway (two lanes each direction) with median separation for 11.6 kilometres of the Princes Highway between Toolijooa Road and Schofields Lane. The alignment would include bypasses of the winding section of highway near Foxground and the Berry township with access ramps at the north and south of town. Some features of the upgrade include:

- Around 6.6 kilometres of new highway, including bypasses of the Foxground bends and the Berry township.
- Grade separated interchanges at Toolijooa Road, Austral Park Road, Tindalls Lane and the northern and southern interchanges for Berry.
- A cutting about 25 metres deep at Toolijooa Ridge, bypassing the Foxground bends.
- Six lanes through the cutting at Toolijooa Ridge for a distance of 1.5 kilometres, providing two lanes and a climbing lane in each direction.
- Three bridge crossings at Broughton Creek and a bridge at Berry.
- An upgrade and extension of Austral Park Road.
- A roundabout at the junction of Woodhill Mountain Road and the existing Princes Highway.
- A diversion of Town Creek into Bundewallah Creek.
- Proposed local road closures at North and Victoria streets.
- New property accesses and access roads. Left-in / left-out only for direct property access to the upgraded highway.
- Wildlife crossings (rope bridges and underpasses) to maintain existing wildlife corridors.

Key issues assessed
The following key issues are assessed in the environmental assessment in response to the requirements of the Director-General of the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure:

- Traffic and transport
  Section 7.1 and Appendix D
- Noise and vibration
  Section 7.2 and Appendix E
- Biodiversity
  Section 7.3 and Appendices F and G
- Surface water and groundwater
  Section 7.4 and Appendix H
- Flooding
  Section 7.5 and Appendix H
- Landscape character and visual amenity
  Section 7.6 and Appendix I
- Aboriginal cultural and non-Aboriginal (historic) heritage
  Sections 7.7 and 7.8 and Appendices J and K
- Land use and property
  Section 7.9 and Appendix L
- Socio-economic
  Section 7.10 and Appendix M

Environmental assessment report available
The environmental assessment report is available on the project website at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/fbb or on CD on request.

Existing Princes Highway near Toolijooa Road
The planning and decisions making process

RMS submits a major project application to the Director-General of the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DP&I)

Director-General provides environmental assessment requirements (DGR’s)

RMS prepares an environmental assessment and submits to the Director-General for adequacy

Environmental assessment on public display
Formal submissions invited

DP&I collates all submissions and issues them to RMS to address

RMS provides a submissions report / revised project statement of commitments / preferred project report if required

Assessment report prepared by the Director-General

Minister for Planning and Infrastructure decides whether or not to approve the project and advises the conditions to be attached to any approval
Have your say

Your comment on the proposed Foxground and Berry bypass project is welcome.

You are invited to make a written submission on the project during the display period. The Department of Planning and Infrastructure requests that your submission include:

• Your name and address.
• Your comments on the project.
• Whether you support or object to the project or if you are just providing comments.

Written submissions must be received no later than Monday 17 December 2012.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure prefers to receive written submissions online via their website at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au). Select Development Assessment Systems > Major Project Register > Search > enter Foxground and Berry bypass.

If you cannot lodge your submission online it can be sent via email to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au or via mail to Director — Infrastructure Projects Department of Planning and Infrastructure GPO Box 39 Sydney NSW 2001.

Important information if you are making a submission

• All submissions made to the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure during the public display will be posted on the Department’s website. If requested, your name can be removed to protect your privacy but you must request this in your submission. For more on the Department’s privacy policy please go to [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au).

• You must disclose if you or an associate have made a political donation of $1000 or more during the past two years. Please go to [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/donations](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/donations) for more information.
Public displays
The environmental assessment documents are available between Wednesday 14 November 2012 and Monday 17 December 2012 at various locations.

Department of Planning and Infrastructure display
23-33 Bridge Street Sydney
open Monday to Friday
9am to 5pm

Talk to us
View the project information and speak with the project team at:

RMS project office
Shop 3/113 Queen Street Berry.
Open during the display period:
• Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10am to 5pm.
• Thursdays 12pm to 7pm.
• Saturday 24 November 10am to 2pm.
• Saturday 1 December 10am to 2pm.

RMS website
Project information line
1800 506 976 (free call)

Community information sessions
A series of informal topic specific community information sessions are planned. The community is encouraged to read the environmental assessment documents and speak directly with project team specialists at one of the following sessions:

Noise and vibration
Tuesday 20 November 2012 between 6pm and 7.30pm at Berry School of Arts, Alexandra Street Berry.

Flooding
Wednesday 21 November 2012 between 6pm and 7.30pm at Berry School of Arts, Alexandra Street Berry.

Traffic
Thursday 22 November 2012 between 6pm and 7.30pm at Berry School of Arts, Alexandra Street Berry.

Urban design
Tuesday 27 November 2012 between 6pm and 7.30pm at Berry School of Arts, Alexandra Street Berry.

Please register your interest in attending a community information session by calling 1800 506 976 (free call).

Other displays
The environmental assessment will also be displayed at the following locations:

Kiama Municipal Council
11 Manning Street Kiama
open Monday to Friday
8.45am to 4.15pm

Kiama Library
7 Railway Parade Kiama
open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am to 5.30pm, Tuesday 9.30am to 6pm and Saturday 9.30am to 2pm

Shoalhaven City Council
44 Bridge Road Nowra
open Monday to Friday
9am to 5pm

Nowra Library
10 Berry Street Nowra
open Monday to Friday
9.30am to 7pm and Saturday 9.30am to 3pm

Office of Gareth Ward MP
Member for Kiama
125 Terralong Street Kiama
open Monday to Friday
9am to 5pm

Gerringong upgrade community display centre
446 Princes Highway Gerringong
open Monday to Friday
9am to 5pm

RMS Wollongong office
Level 4, 90 Crown Street Wollongong
open Monday to Friday
8.30pm to 5pm

RMS North Sydney office
Level 9, 101 Miller Street North Sydney
open Monday to Friday
8.30pm to 5pm

Nature Conservation Council of NSW
Level 2, 5 Wilson Street Newtown
open Monday to Friday
9am to 5pm

The environmental assessment report is also available on CD upon request. Please call the project information line on 1800 506 976 (free call).
The display will include interactive maps showing potential noise and flooding impacts in the project area. Please click on the link from the project website.

The display will include video representation of the concept design showing:

- The Foxground and Berry bypass alignment from Toolijooa Road to Schofields Lane in both directions.
- Proposed pedestrian and cycleways connecting Kangaroo Valley Road to Mark Radium Park and Victoria Street.
- Proposed pedestrian and cycleways connecting Kangaroo Valley Road to North Street and the sports fields.
- The three options for Victoria Street.

Please click on the links from the project website.