



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Blaxland Road and Balaclava Road Intersection Improvements, Eastwood

Have Your Say

Community Consultation Report

December 2021

Contents

| | | |
|-----|---|----|
| 1 | Executive Summary | 3 |
| 1.1 | Decision..... | 3 |
| 2 | Introduction..... | 4 |
| 2.2 | Background..... | 4 |
| 2.3 | Scope | 4 |
| | Figure 1: Map of the intersection improvements..... | 5 |
| 3 | Consultation..... | 6 |
| 3.1 | Approach | 6 |
| 3.2 | Method..... | 6 |
| 4 | Consultation summary | 7 |
| 4.1 | Overview..... | 7 |
| 4.2 | Response | 7 |
| | Table 1: Feedback summary and response from Transport | 8 |
| 5 | Decision..... | 13 |
| 6 | Next steps..... | 14 |
| 7 | Appendices..... | 15 |
| 7.1 | Have Your Say Letter..... | 15 |
| 7.2 | Distribution map..... | 18 |
| 7.3 | Facebook post to NSW Roads | 18 |

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1 Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of the consultation with the community on the proposed design for the Blaxland Road and Balaclava Road Intersection Improvements.

The Australian and NSW Governments are upgrading the intersection at Blaxland and Balaclava roads as part of its \$1 billion Urban Congestion Fund. This upgrade will reduce congestion and deliver safer and more reliable journeys for those travelling on one of Sydney's busiest corridors.

Some key features of the intersection improvements include:

- Widening Balaclava Road for a second right turn lane from Balaclava Road into Blaxland Road
- Adjusting the traffic light for vehicles turning right from Blaxland Road into Balaclava Road
- Extending the kerb and footpath on the northbound side on Blaxland Road to stop vehicle access into Ball Avenue from the intersection
- Introducing a new No Parking area between 6am and 10am and between 3pm and 7pm weekdays along the westbound side of Balaclava Road.

A Have Your Say period was opened from Friday 17 September until Friday 15 October 2021, where community members and stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on the proposed design. Transport distributed 209 letters around the intersection to businesses, residential properties and local schools and organisations, in addition to advertising via Facebook posts on NSW Roads and updates to the project website. Community members and stakeholders were invited to call the project hotline, email or mail in a submission.

Transport received 10 submissions at the end of the period. All responses received an acknowledgement of receipt.

1.1 Decision

Transport would like to thank everyone who provided feedback on this proposal. After considering all responses, along with the aims and design requirements, we have decided to proceed with our proposal.

Based on community feedback, the project will monitor the pedestrian crossing at the intersection to ensure adequate time is available for pedestrian and bike riders to cross safely.

Transport for NSW acknowledges the feedback provided to widen pathways around the intersection to more adequately cater for increased active transport users and growing demand for local amenities and have incorporated this into the design of the intersection upgrade.

Transport for NSW will continue to work with the City of Ryde Council on the activation of the dog park in Moore Park and will keep the community up to date as the project progresses.

2 Introduction

2.2 Background

The Australian and NSW Government are funding this proposal as part of the \$1 billion Urban Congestion Fund, which aims to reduce congestion and improve travel times on Sydney's busiest corridors.

The intersection at Blaxland Road, Balaclava Road and Ball Avenue, Eastwood is identified as a key pinch point in the local network. Blaxland Road forms the main north-south connection between the northern suburbs and the arterial routes A3 and A40. Balaclava Road serves a key east-west route between A6 and the strategic centre at Macquarie Park. On a typical weekday, the intersection caters for over 35,000 vehicles.

The reliability of this route is impacted by the performance of the intersection, with delays caused by the large number of northbound motorists turning right from Blaxland Road into Balaclava Road, primarily during the morning peak period. At peak hours, queues build from the intersection causing the northbound traffic to be blocked. The project will provide considerable benefits for the Blaxland Road and Balaclava Road intersection.

2.3 Scope

The Blaxland Road and Balaclava Road Intersection Improvements project is part of the \$1 billion Urban Congestion Fund to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow which delivers safe and more reliable journeys for those travelling on one of Sydney's busiest corridors.

The primary benefits of the project include:

- Improved road safety for all road users
- Reduced traffic light queueing
- Better traffic flow north and south, will reduce travel time for road users
- Improved pedestrian and bike rider safety.

Key features of the intersection improvements are:

Blaxland and Balaclava Road

- Widening Balaclava Road for a second right turn lane from Balaclava Road onto Blaxland Road
- Adjusting the traffic light for vehicles turning right from Blaxland Road onto Balaclava Road
- Extending the kerb and footpath on the northbound side on Blaxland Road to stop vehicle access into Ball Avenue from the intersection
- Introducing a new No Parking area between 6am and 10am and between 3pm and 7pm weekdays along the westbound side of Balaclava Road.

Pedestrian and Bike Users

- Widening the existing shared path at the north-eastern corner and the space for pedestrian and bike users at the south-eastern corner of the intersection
- Extending the footpath on the northbound side of Blaxland Road.
- Relocating the existing pedestrian and bicycle crossing to the southern approach of Blaxland Road
- Re-instating the existing bus shelter and installing new tactile indicators.

Creating a public space for the local community

- A new fenced dog park at Moore Park.

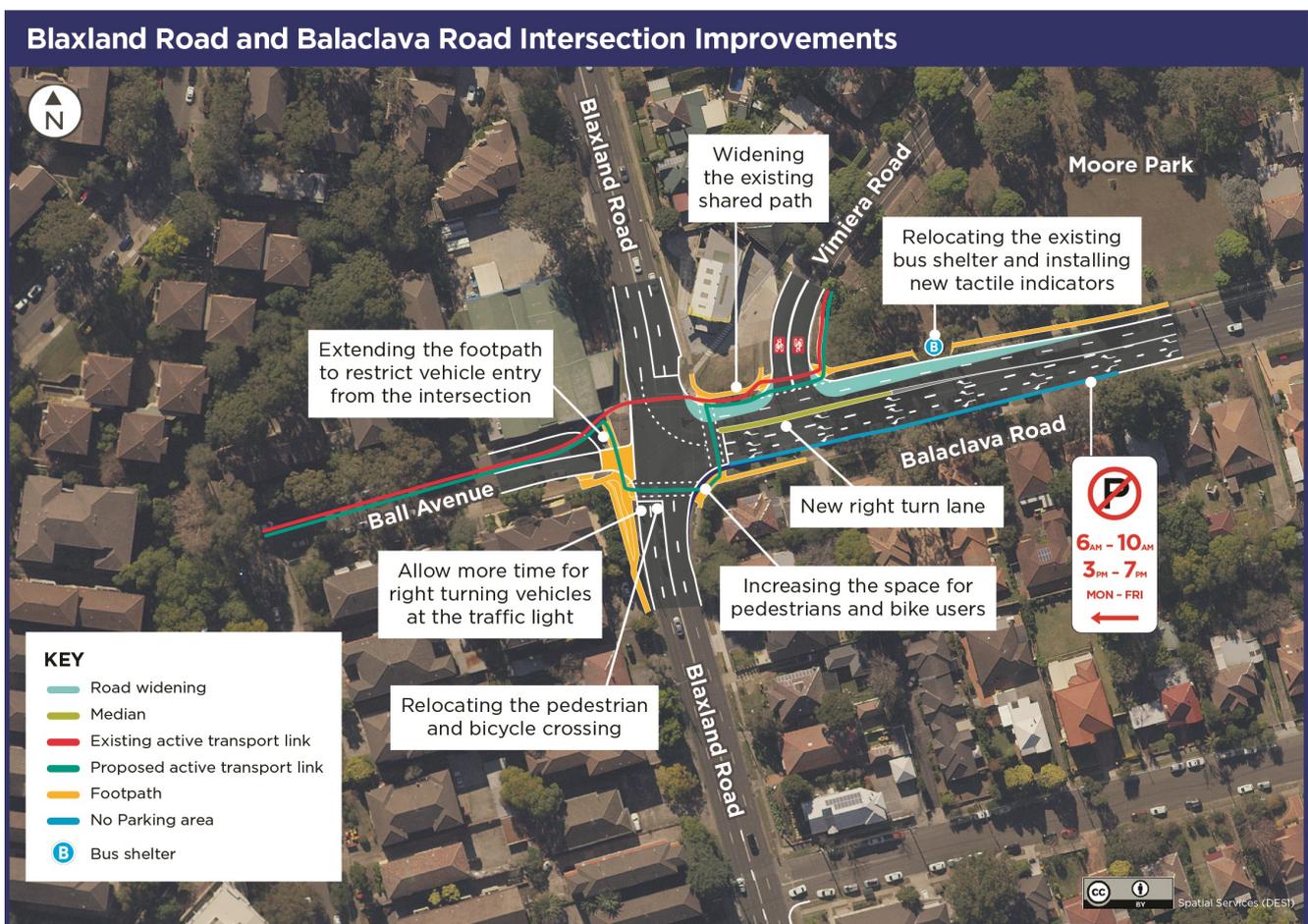


Figure 1: Map of the intersection improvements

3 Consultation

3.1 Approach

Transport consulted with the community and local stakeholders about the project and benefits.

The consultation aims included:

- Creating a greater understanding of the project so stakeholders could provide informed feedback and gauging overall sentiment
- Gathering feedback that would provide more information about how the proposed intersection improvements would impact or benefit the community
- Reporting on the outcome of the consultation so that the community and stakeholders know that their comments and concerns are being acknowledged and incorporated, where feasible.

3.2 Method

The following table outlines the main communication methods used to consult on the project.

| Communications tool | Description |
|--|--|
| Have Your Say community letter distribution | A community 'Have Your Say' letter was sent out to local residents asking for feedback to the project. 209 letters were distributed. Coverage included local residents, businesses and key stakeholders in the Eastwood area. |
| Friday 17 September – Friday 15 October 2021 | Additionally, an email was sent out to 12 key stakeholders with details of the project and webpage. |
| Website update | Details of the project and Have Your Say consultation period were available on the project website at nswroads.work/blaxlandandbalaclavaroad |
| Facebook post | Three social media posts were published from the NSW Roads Facebook page for this project. The first went live on 17 September, then on 27 September on 3 October. The posts reached 6230, 5439 and 3598 views respectively. |
| Media Release | A media release including the key scope of the project and link to the website was distributed to key media agencies and stakeholders on 17 September 2021. |

In all of the collateral, community members and stakeholders were invited to contact the project hotline on 1800 572 113, write into the project email at blaxlandandbalaclavaroad@transport.nsw.gov.au

4 Consultation summary

4.1 Overview

Transport received 10 submissions from local community members and businesses. Key considerations raised:

- Support to improve traffic flow at the intersection upgrade by widening Balaclava Road for the second right turn lane into Blaxland Road
- Support for improving traffic light timing for road users turning right from Blaxland Road into Balaclava Road
- Request for additional right turning lanes on Blaxland Road into Balaclava Road
- Request to increase pedestrian crossing time at the intersection
- Support for widening the pedestrian standing area at the intersection.

4.2 Response

All submissions received an acknowledgement of receipt. All comments have been considered to help Transport make a decision about this project. See Table 1 for more details on issues raised in the submissions and Transport responses.

This report will be made available to the public through the Transport website at transport.nsw.gov.au and directly on the project page at nswroads.work/blaxlandandbalaclavaroad

Table 1: Feedback summary and response from Transport

| Category | Sub category | Total number of comments | Matters raised | Response from Transport |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|---|
| Support for the project | | 5 | <p>The intersection upgrade is welcomed by local residents and will provide long-term benefits and shorter travel times. This is a positive change for local roads and the local area.</p> <p>An intersection upgrade will help ease congestion on Blaxland Road and Balaclava Road and make trips easier for those travelling between Epping and Eastwood.</p> | Transport notes the positive feedback for the project. |
| Design | New design suggestions for Balaclava Road | 1 | <p>Left turning traffic is also very heavy. The middle lane from Balaclava Road should be a left and right turn lane to reduce traffic build-up on Balaclava Road.</p> | <p>The project did take into consideration converting the middle lane of Balaclava Road to a shared left and right turn. Traffic modelling results showed that this was unlikely to provide benefits as right turning vehicles are experiencing extensive delays.</p> <p>Having two dedicated right turn lanes ensures any right turning vehicles in the middle lane are not blocking left turn movements and allows left turn movement to be activated more frequently.</p> <p>The proposal will also increase the frequency of the traffic light signal timing on Balaclava Road to alleviate the congestion for left turning traffic.</p> <p>In addition, the proposal restricts parking along Balaclava Road during</p> |

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| | | | | <p>peak times heading towards the intersection providing additional room for vehicles to queue in the left lane. These improvements should reduce the queue for left turning traffic.</p> |
| | <p>New design suggestions for Blaxland Road</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>During off-peak times, a red arrow for vehicles turning right from Blaxland Road into Balaclava Road is not necessary and causes delays.</p> <p>A dedicated right turn lane along Blaxland Road turning into Balaclava Road, running back to the May Street intersection.</p> <p>Two right turn lanes from Blaxland Road into Balaclava Road.</p> <p>Reinstate the 2018 proposal to have three northbound lanes (one dedicated through, one shared through/right turn, one dedicated right turn).</p> <p>A filter lane should be added for southbound traffic turning left from Blaxland Road into Balaclava Rd.</p> | <p>Safety issues have been identified for vehicles undertaking the right turn from Blaxland Road into Balaclava Road to filter through the opposing southbound traffic along Blaxland Road. Therefore a controlled right turn into Balaclava Road during certain times of the day must be maintained to address these safety concerns. However as part of the intersection efficiency improvements, Blaxland Road will receive additional "green time" at the traffic light to assist vehicles turning right into Balaclava Road, improving congestion at the intersection.</p> <p>An additional right turn bay of varying lengths from Blaxland Road into Balaclava Road has been considered. To reinstate the 2018 proposal would require impact on properties and utility relocation. This new proposal provides better traffic improvements at the intersection and benefits the community sooner.</p> <p>The provision of a short left turn slip lane from Blaxland Road into Balaclava Road has also been considered. However, traffic</p> |

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| | | | | modelling suggest that this movement is not the key contributing factor to congestion experienced at the intersection. Therefore, this option does not provide sufficient traffic benefits. |
| | New design suggestions for Ball Avenue | 1 | Would like to have a no left turn installed from Blaxland Road into Ball Avenue however would like to retain access to Ball Avenue via Balaclava Road. | <p>The steep gradient of Ball Avenue impacts road users' line of sight. Additionally the expected increase of pedestrians and bike riders utilising the active transport links at this intersection creates a safety risk to keep Ball Avenue open.</p> <p>Vehicles were also observed exiting Ball Avenue onto Blaxland Road (this movement is currently not allowed) due to the gap in the kerb.</p> <p>Therefore the project design will retain the extended curb scope to close access to Ball Avenue from the intersection. The closure of Ball Avenue is expected to address the above safety concerns for all road users.</p> |
| Alternative suggestions | Alternative design and scope | 3 | <p>Reduce the speed of Blaxland Road to 50km/hr</p> <p>Build the County Road to bypass this intersection and solve local traffic congestion.</p> | <p>Reducing the speed of Blaxland Road is outside the scope of this project however this feedback has been sent the Network Safety & Services team within Transport for NSW.</p> <p>Building the County Road is outside the scope of this project.</p> |

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| | | | <p>Build a pedestrian overbridge on Blaxland Road between Doomben Avenue and Somerville Park.</p> <p>Install a pedestrian crossing with a speed hump between Doomben Avenue and Blaxland Road</p> <p>Install a pedestrian crossings at the T-Junction of Blaxland Road and Doomben Avenue and at the T-Junction of Vimiera Road and Balaclava Road</p> <p>Install a traffic barrier</p> <p>Repair footpaths around the intersection and within the area</p> <p>Install a safety camera</p> | <p>Building a pedestrian overbridge along Blaxland Road, installing a pedestrian crossing on Doomben Avenue Road and installing traffic barriers are outside the scope of this project however this feedback has been passed onto the Network Safety & Services team within Transport for NSW.</p> <p>The proposal does consider repaving work on the footpaths, in particular, widening the surrounding footpath space of the intersection.</p> <p>Installing safety cameras are outside the scope of this project. However, you can nominate a location for a safety camera via www.saferroadsnsw.com.au</p> |
| Traffic demand | Right-turn demand | 2 | <p>There is always traffic turning left from Balaclava Road into Blaxland Road but hardly any cars turning right from Balaclava to Blaxland.</p> <p>The new proposal to have dual right turn from Balaclava to Blaxland is not in the peak direction of traffic.</p> | <p>Traffic data suggests the right turn out of Balaclava Rd performs quite poorly with extensive queues in the PM peak period.</p> <p>However this project will benefit left turning vehicles as the frequency of "green time" at the traffic light will increase and improve overall intersection performance for all turning lanes.</p> |

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| Clarification | | 3 | <p>The proposed plan appears to allow both northbound lanes of Blaxland Road to turn right into Balaclava Road.</p> <p>There is a need for wider footpaths around the intersection.</p> <p>Retain the existing bus shelter on Balaclava Road.</p> <p>Increase the time allocated for pedestrians to cross at the intersection</p> | <p>There are no changes to the through lane on Blaxland Road.</p> <p>Widening the footpaths on all sides of the Blaxland Road and Balaclava Road intersection is part of the existing project scope.</p> <p>No changes are proposed to the existing bus shelter of Balaclava Road however it will be temporarily relocated during construction.</p> <p>The project will review the green time allocated for the pedestrian crossings at the intersection.</p> |
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5 Decision

Transport would like to thank everyone who provided feedback on this proposal. After considering all responses, along with the aims and design requirements, we have decided to proceed with our proposal.

6 Next steps

Transport will finalise the detailed design and environmental assessment for the project.

We will continue to keep the community and stakeholders updated as the project progresses.

7 Appendices

7.1 Have Your Say Letter



BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Blaxland Road and Balaclava Road Intersection Improvements, Eastwood

Have your say | September 2021

The Australian and NSW Governments are upgrading the intersection at Blaxland and Balaclava roads as part of its \$1 billion Urban Congestion Fund.

This Transport for NSW upgrade will reduce congestion and deliver safer and more reliable journeys for those travelling on one of Sydney's busiest corridors.

We listened to your feedback

We are adjusting traffic lights for road users turning right from Blaxland Road into Balaclava Road, to allow more time for vehicles to travel through the intersection.

We're also widening Balaclava Road for the proposed second right turn lane into Blaxland Road.

These changes will increase the capacity of the intersection and improve safety for more than 35,000 motorists and pedestrians who use this intersection each weekday.

We'll make it easier for pedestrians and bike riders to access the existing active transport link that also connects to the proposed new fenced dog park at Moore Park, plus we will widen the existing shared path and extend footpaths for easy travel around the intersection.

What is being proposed?

In 2017 we spoke to the community about some proposed improvements at this intersection. We listened, and in response to your feedback we revised the proposal and now we are:

Blaxland and Balaclava Road

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Pedestrian and Bike Users

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- Relocating the existing pedestrian and bicycle crossing to the southern approach of Blaxland Road

- Relocating the existing bus shelter and installing new tactile indicators

Creating a public space for the local community

- A new fenced dog park at Moore Park

Benefits

- Improved road safety for all road users
- Reduced traffic light queueing
- Better traffic flow north and south, will reduce travel time for road users
- Improved pedestrian and bike rider safety

Have your say on the work

We invite your feedback on the proposal, including your ideas for the fenced dog park, to help make this a better place to walk, ride and travel around. Consultation closes on Friday 15 October 2021.

You can also provide your comments by contacting our Project Team.

After the consultation closes, we will carefully consider all feedback received before making a decision on the proposal. We will share with the community what we have learnt from this consultation and will keep the community informed as the proposal progresses.



Have your say

To ensure we protect public health and safety during the Coronavirus outbreak, we need to change the way we engage with the community. Please be assured we will continue to respond to any questions or concerns you may have about our work.



1800 572 113 (during business hours)



blaxlandandbalaclavaroad@transport.nsw.gov.au



nswroads.work/blaxlandandbalaclavaroad

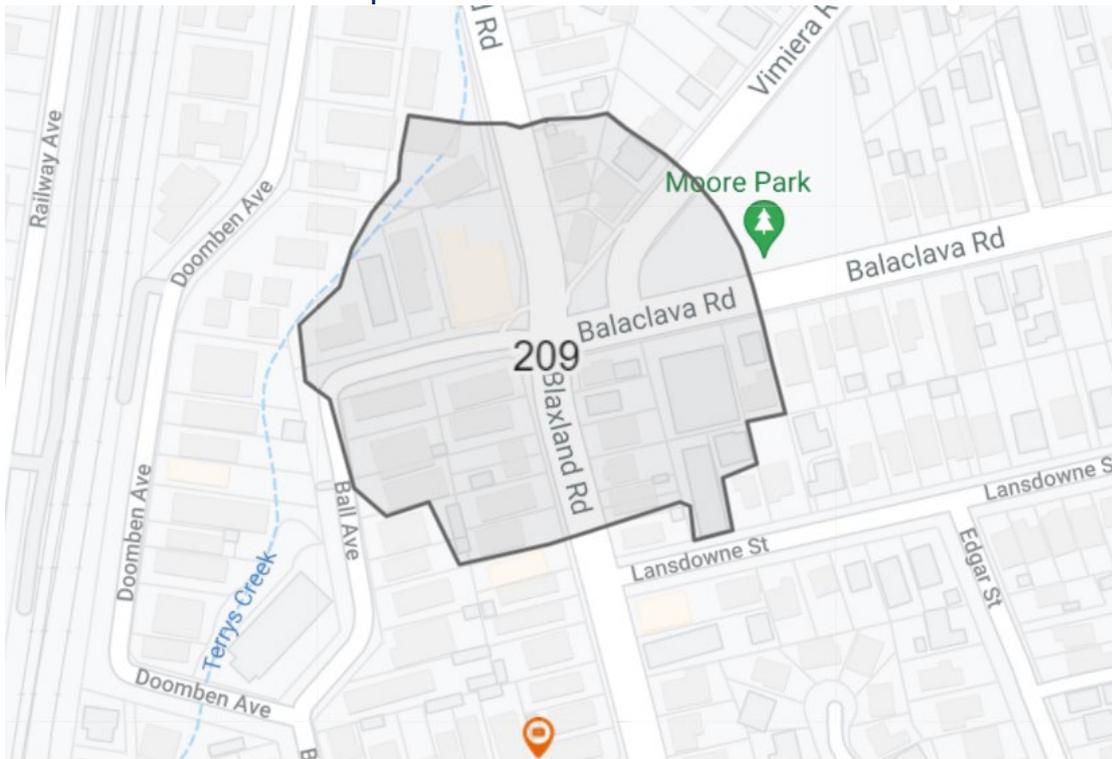


If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on **1800 572 113**

September 2021

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7.2 Distribution map



7.3 Facebook post to NSW Roads

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Last chance! Have your say on the new design for the Blaxland Road and Balaclava Road intersection improvements by 15 Oct.



NSWROADS.WORK/BBRD
Submit your feedback today [LEARN MORE](#)
Blaxland Road & Balaclava Road