



BRINGELLY ROAD UPGRADE

Camden Valley Way to The Northern Road
Access Strategy

Report on community consultation

JUNE 2010

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I Background

The upgrade of Bringelly Road is a NSW Government initiative. The Bringelly Road upgrade will perform a significant role as one of the arterial transport corridors within the South West Growth Centre.

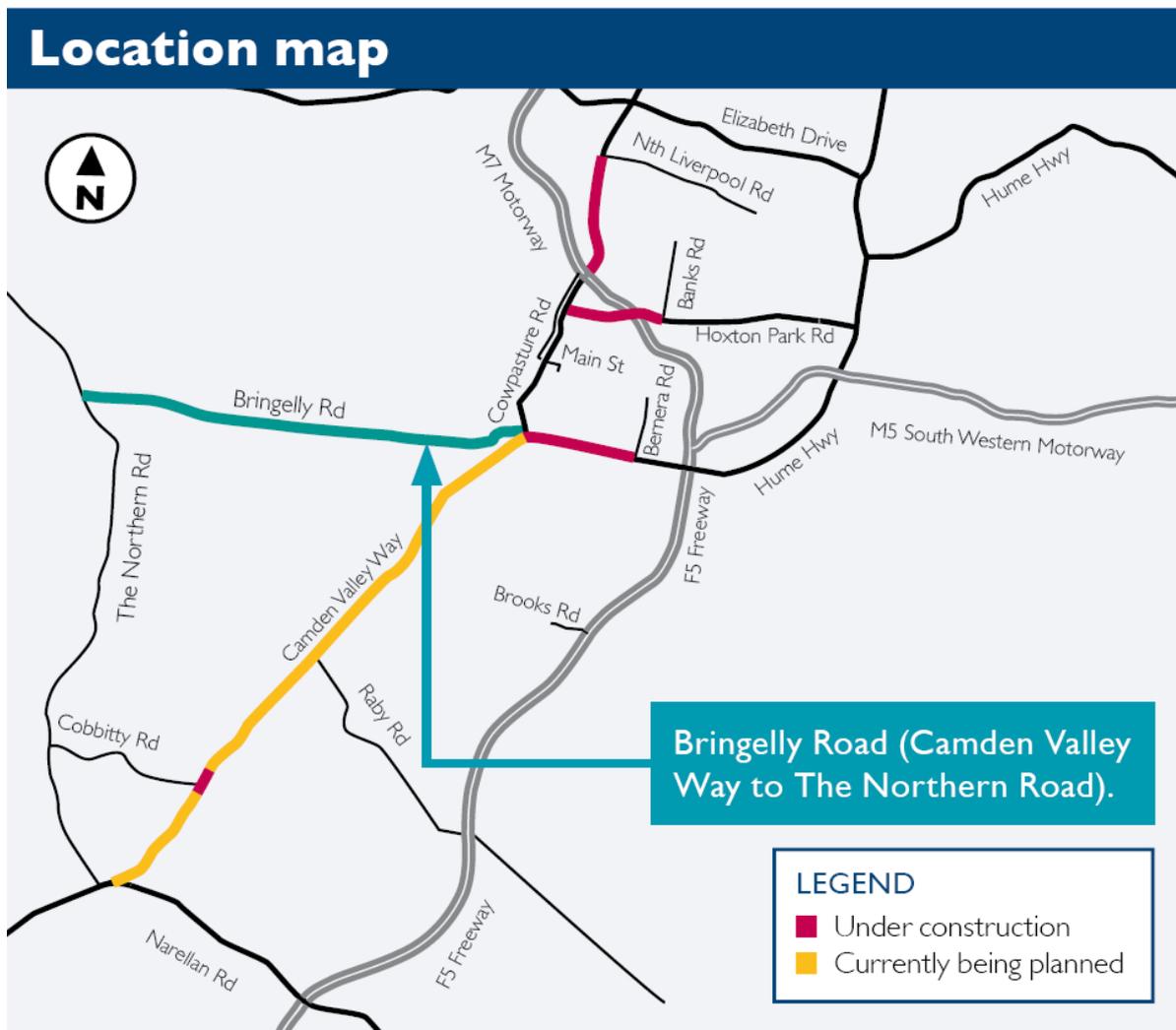
A community update outlining an access strategy for Bringelly Road was released in December 2009. The community update invited comments on the proposed access strategy. Comments closed on Friday 29 January 2010.

Key stakeholders were each sent copies of the community update and 13,000 copies were letterbox dropped to households in the Leppington, Rossmore, Austral, Bringelly, Catherine Field, Kemps Creek, West Hoxton, Hoxton Park and Homingsea Park areas.

The Bringelly Road upgrade is expected to be undertaken in stages in parallel with the development of precincts in the south west.

The first step involves planning the road corridor and access arrangements for the future upgrade.

This report documents community consultation regarding the proposed access strategy for Bringelly Road between Camden Valley Way, Leppington and The Northern Road, Bringelly.



2 Key issues

Following the distribution of the December 2009 community update, the community was invited to provide their comments. Two community information sessions were held to answer questions and receive feedback.

The RTA anticipated that the community would raise questions around property acquisitions, interim access arrangements, and the timeframe for the upgrade to be fully implemented.

The impact of closing some intersections and establishing others was also identified as a key community issue.

Community feedback indicated concern about:

- The lack of clarity around the timeframe for the road upgrade.
- Road closures.
- The alignment of link roads to Bringelly Road.

Community specific concerns focused on:

- Intersection locations.
- Impacts on local roads.
- Location and number of traffic lights.
- Property access.
- Timing of works.
- Impacts to flora and fauna within the area.
- Construction impacts, including traffic congestion and increased noise.
- Safety of existing road.
- Land acquisition.
- Urban design.
- Flood safe route.
- Vegetation management.

Government agencies provided formal feedback via written submissions.

Further discussions were initiated to involve those identified as most affected by the road upgrade process.

Sections 4 and 5 of this report provide a summary of the key issues raised and provides details of the issues, ideas and concerns put to the RTA for investigation.

The RTA will address these issues in its development of the concept design and environmental assessments.

3 Consultations

Consultations were undertaken to:

- Involve relevant government agencies, community representatives, residents, and landowners in providing input to the proposed access strategy.
- Inform the community of the RTA's proposal to upgrade the road.
- Canvas comments and issues about the project and proposed access arrangements from those who may be affected.
- Seek community ideas to be considered in the concept design.
- Advise potentially directly affected stakeholders of the project and its design impacts.
- Advise affected stakeholders how they could obtain further information or communicate concerns, complaints or suggestions.
- Provide potentially affected stakeholders with access to information from the Department of Planning's Strategies and Land Release Unit to better understand the precinct planning process and timeframes.

In all sessions, conversations were documented for the project issues register and to assist with follow up meetings.

3.1 Community information sessions held in December 2009

Two community information sessions were held at:

- Bringelly Community Centre, Saturday 12 December 2009, 43 people attended.
- Leppington Progress Hall, Saturday 19 December 2009, 70 people attended.

Venues were selected at either end of the route to facilitate and encourage community participation.

Conversations with members of the community were on a one-to-one basis, enabling the RTA to answer questions and take on board issues and/or suggestions regarding alternative arrangements or impediments to the proposal.

Representatives from Sydney Water were able to participate at both sessions, setting up an information stand which was manned by two staff members. Sydney Water were able to answer questions relating to the installation of current and future water supplies to the developing precincts within the South West Growth Centre.

The Department of Planning were unable to attend either session, however they provided the RTA with relevant material about the developing precincts within the South West Growth Centre. A display was set up with handouts and a map which highlighted the 18 precincts within the South West Growth Centre and those that have been released for precinct planning. This stand raised a lot of interest from members of the community who wanted to know more about precinct planning and when their land was likely to be acquired or approved for development.



Community information session held on 12 December 2009 at Bringelly Community Centre



Community information session held on 19 December 2009 at Leppington Progress Hall

3.2 Meetings

Meetings were held in 2009 with government agencies such as the Department of Planning, Camden Council, Liverpool City Council, Western Sydney Parklands Trust, and Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation. The aim of these meetings was to brief these government agencies on the proposed access strategy for the upgrade of Bringelly Road between Camden Valley Way, Leppington and The Northern Road, Bringelly.

The RTA project team also met with a number of residents and landowners wishing to develop. The meetings were held in response to enquiries made in relation to the RTA's proposal to upgrade Bringelly Road.

Mr Geoff Corrigan, Member for Camden and Mr Paul Lynch, Member for Liverpool were informed of the RTA's community consultation.

3.2 RTA Website

The RTA's project website was visited by 473 people between 1 December 2009 and 28 February 2010. There were 188 downloads of the December community update.

3.4 Advertising

A newspaper advertisement appeared in the South Western Rural Advertiser and the Macarthur Chronicle on 8 December 2009, and the Liverpool Leader on 9 December 2009. The advertisement invited the community to attend one of the two community information sessions. Written comments were invited on the proposed access strategy.

4 Community issues raised at the information days

The following issues were raised by community members:

4.1 Access issues and road closures

- Most property owners were concerned about the proposed restriction on directly accessing their properties from Bringelly Road.
- Property owners also raised concerns regarding the ultimate closure of Browns Road, Church Street and Kelly Street.
- Businesses were concerned about access arrangements for existing businesses fronting Bringelly Road.

4.2 Timeframe issues

- The majority of property owners wanted to know when the road upgrade would take place.
- There was a lot of interest raised regarding construction staging, precinct planning and development timeframes used by the Department of Planning Strategies and Land Release section.

4.3 Traffic light issues

- Residents were concerned that the number of traffic lights on Bringelly Road might impede traffic flow and increase travel times.

4.4 Safety issues

- The general response from the community was that the upgrade would improve road safety.

4.5 Environmental impacts

- Concern was raised about the importance of the surrounding wildlife in the Rossmore area.
- There was also concern about the presence of Brush Tail Possums, Ring Tail Possums including Albino Possums, Sugar Gliders and the abundant bird life in the area.
- Concern was also expressed about the removal of trees along Bringelly Road.

4.6 Property acquisition issues

- Some property owners requested an alternative design to that proposed by the RTA so that they could retain all of their land.
- The majority of property owner enquiries centred on the land development timeframe. Some landowners were concerned about the planning for property acquisition and what land would be acquired for the road upgrade.
- There was also concern about the differences between the Department of Planning's Structure Plan for the South West Growth Centre and the RTA's Access Strategy.

4.7 Level of information and agency co-operation

- Several people commented that it was good that the RTA, Sydney Water, and the Department of Planning are working closely together.

4.8 Other issues

- Concern was raised about the South Creek Bridge submerging during flooding and the need to provide an accessible route during periods of flooding.
- A number of residents suggested that the four lane carriageway should be six or eight lanes to serve traffic for the long term.

5 Key questions and answers from the community

1.	What is happening with the upgrade of Bringelly Road?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The RTA has developed a proposed access strategy as part of planning for the future widening of Bringelly Road from a two lane road to a four lane divided road, between Camden Valley Way, Leppington and The Northern Road, Bringelly.• We are seeking feedback from the community, businesses and property owners along the route on any issues or concerns for consideration in the road design.
2.	What is the timetable for upgrading Bringelly Road?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is no funding allocated by the Government for construction at this time.• Construction timing will largely be determined by the timing of future land releases and the allocation of funding by the Government. Based upon the expected traffic demand in the south west area Camden Valley Way will be upgraded before Bringelly Road.

3.	What will happen when?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bringelly Road is in the project development phase with community consultation having commenced in December 2009. Environmental and engineering investigations commenced in February 2010 along the route to inform the design process. The RTA expects to have a concept design developed for public display by the end of 2010.
4.	What section gets constructed first and second etc?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The timing of the upgrade will be determined by future land releases and the availability of funds. It is most likely that the eastern end of Bringelly Road will be upgraded first, as the Austral and Leppington North precincts have been released for planning.
5.	Will there be any property acquisition?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes. If a property lies along the route or near the location of the proposed intersections, there is the possibility that some or all of the land may be acquired for this project.
6.	When will you acquire my land?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property acquisitions will occur when the RTA is certain of the areas it requires and funds are available.
7.	How will I know if my land will be required?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RTA will write to inform the owner if your property needs to be acquired. In addition, the likely affected properties will be highlighted during the display of the concept design later this year.
8.	How were the intersection locations determined?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The intersections shown in the proposed access strategy are relatively consistent with the South West Growth Centre Road Structure Plan released by the Department of Planning (DoP). In addition, the proposed intersection spacing will provide sufficient access for the future development precincts whilst maintaining the effective performance of Bringelly Road as a principal arterial road.
9.	When we go to four lanes, can we turn left and right out of my property onto Bringelly Road?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To meet road safety requirements, when the road is upgraded to four lanes left-in/left-out only arrangements will be provided at existing driveway locations. Interim access arrangements with possible U-turn provisions will be proposed in order to allow access to both directions.
10.	Threatened species may be found along the route. What is RTA doing to protect these?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RTA will investigate this as part of its environmental assessment with a view to minimising the impact of road construction. Discussions will be held with Department of Climate Change and Water (DECCW) and DoP to develop required management strategies.

6 Issues summary

6.1 Summary of issues raised from December 2009 – March 2010

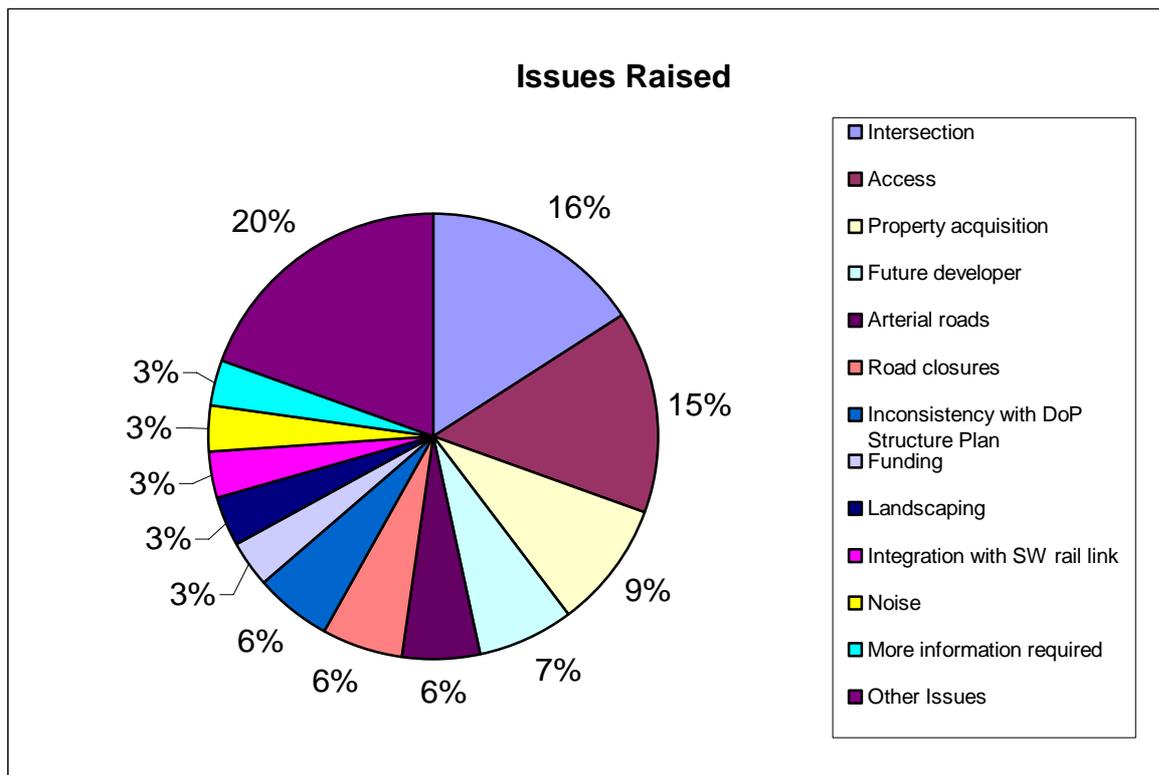
In addition to speaking with government agencies, community members and directly affected property owners, the RTA received 26 submissions in response to its overall access strategy for Bringelly Road. These included feedback forms, letters and emails.

Issues raised from December 2009 to March 2010 are summarised in the table below. The issue of access for property owners along Bringelly Road was a key issue as were the number of traffic lights. The timeframe for land development in the area was also another key issue as was the timeframe for the road upgrade.

The table below highlights the main issues raised by the community from 1 December 2009 to 1 February 2010 following the release of the access strategy.

Issue raised	Percentage
Intersection	16%
Access	15%
Property acquisition	9%
Future developer	7%
Arterial roads	6%
Road closures	6%
Inconsistency with DoP Structure Plan	6%
Funding	3%
Landscaping	3%
Integration with South West rail link	3%
Noise	3%
More information required	3%
Other issues	20%

Other issues raised during the consultation process (each representing 2% or less of total responses recorded) were: traffic lights, construction issues, stormwater management, timing of the upgrade, precinct planning, buildability, safety, creek flooding, heritage impacts, and interaction with Leppington Town Centre.



7 Next steps

The next steps will be:

- Follow-up meetings to discuss access arrangements with those landholders whose access is likely to be directly affected.
- On-going meetings with local councils, government agencies and community stakeholders. Each stakeholder issue will be recorded and considered by the RTA.
- Progress the concept design and environmental impact assessment.
- Prepare the concept design and incorporate appropriate changes to the original access strategy that have been suggested during the consultation process
- Incorporate feedback on issues raised by the community in the next community update on the concept design. The concept design is expected to be placed on display for community comment by the end of 2010.

Attachment A – Bringelly Road photographs



Existing Bringelly Road, Bringelly travelling eastbound



Existing Bringelly Road approaching Kelvin Park Drive travelling eastbound