

Cumberland Highway and The Horsley Drive intersection improvements, Smithfield

Community Consultation Report

Transport for NSW | December 2020

Executive summary

This report provides a summary of Transport for NSW's consultation with the community and key stakeholders on a proposal to improve the traffic flow, ease congestion and improve road user safety at the intersection of Cumberland Highway and The Horsley Drive, Smithfield.

The NSW Government is funding this project as part of the Urban Road Congestion Program to improve safety for road users.

The proposal aimed to improving the southbound traffic flows along Cumberland Highway by extending:

- the southbound right turn bay on Cumberland Highway into The Horsley Drive
- the southbound left turn bay on Cumberland Highway into The Horsley Drive.

Consultation was held between Saturday 20 June 2020 and Sunday 12 July 2020 to seek feedback from the community and stakeholders to consider when making a submission on the proposal.

Key engagement activities carried out during the consultation period included:

- A notification distributed from 20 June 2020 to local residents in the project area and Smithfield Town Centre businesses
- Stakeholder consultation session with Fairfield City Council on 2 July 2020
- Information available on the project webpage at <https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/cumberland-highway-the-horsley-drive-smithfield/index.html>
- Consultation with Cumberland Chamber of Commerce
- Consultation with Smithfield Public School.

We received feedback from three stakeholders. One stakeholder supported the proposal as presented, one stakeholder did not state a preference and one made a submission outside the scope of the project as part of the feedback.

Key matters raised included:

- Holistic approach for the intersection upgrade
- Existing alignment modification to facilitate westbound heavy vehicles on The Horsley Drive
- Improvement to The Horsley Drive right hand turn lane into the Cumberland Highway
- Consultation with the Cumberland Chamber of Commerce and Smithfield Town Centre businesses
- Traffic light phasing.

The decision

After considering all responses we have decided to extend only the left turn bay into The Horsley Drive by about 30 metres. This decision was based on feedback we received and aligned with the place value identified for the commercial area in the finalised Road Network Plan.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

Cumberland Highway and The Horsley Drive is the intersection of two major roads. It was proposed to carry out several changes at this intersection to improve traffic flow, ease congestion and improve pedestrian and road user safety.

The Cumberland Highway in this section has three through lanes, one left turn slip lane and one right hand turn lane.

Transport for NSW identified the following key issues at this intersection:

- high demand along Cumberland Highway southbound and northbound
- high demand for left turn movements from Cumberland Hwy southbound into The Horsley Drive eastbound

As a result of the above, traffic modelling shows that once queues on Cumberland Highway southbound extend beyond the existing left turn bay, the high volume of left turners further add to the queue length and block southbound through movements.

The proposed changes included improving the southbound traffic flows along Cumberland Highway by extending:

- the southbound right turn bay on Cumberland Highway into The Horsley Drive
- the southbound left turn bay on Cumberland Highway into The Horsley Drive.

1.2. The proposal

Transport for NSW issued a Have Your Say to coordinate community consultation on the proposal for improvements to increase the flow of traffic and reduce delays at the intersection of the Cumberland Highway and the Horsley Drive, Smithfield.

The new proposal included improving the southbound traffic flows along Cumberland Highway by extending

- the southbound right turn bay on Cumberland Highway into The Horsley Drive
- the southbound left turn bay on Cumberland Highway into The Horsley Drive.

We have included a map of the original proposal to show the location of the intersection improvements.



Figure 1 – proposed intersection improvements on Cumberland Highway, The Horsley Drive, Smithfield

2. Consultation approach

2.1. Consultation objectives

We consulted with the community and key stakeholders on the proposal to:

- seek comment, feedback, ideas, and suggestions for us to consider when making a decision
- build a database of interested and concerned community members we could continue to engage with during the proposal's further development and delivery.

2.2. Values

Our values underpin our decisions and behaviours when working with customers, colleagues, stakeholders and partners.

- **Customer focus** - We place the customer at the centre of everything we do
- **Collaboration** - We value each other and create better outcomes by working together
- **Solutions** - We deliver sustainable and innovative solutions to NSW's transport needs
- **Integrity** - We take responsibility and communicate openly
- **Safety** - We prioritise safety for our people and our customers.

2.3. How consultation was done

Community members and stakeholders were encouraged to provide their feedback and make comments via email, mail or phone contact with the project team.

We distributed 350 letters to local residents, businesses and key stakeholders, inviting feedback on the proposal. We also directly emailed copies of the letter to key stakeholders including Fairfield City Council, Smithfield Public School and the Chamber of Commerce. The following contact details were provided for feedback:

Phone: 1800 572 004

Email: pinchpoints@rms.nsw.gov.au

This part of the report only advises on consultation activity that we developed. It does not take into account other sources like word of mouth or stories published in the newspaper.

3. Consultation summary

3.1. Overview

Transport for NSW invited feedback in June 2020 about the improvements to the intersection of Cumberland Highway and The Horsley Drive, Smithfield.

We received feedback from three stakeholders, with one stakeholder supporting the proposal as presented. One stakeholder did not state a preference and one made a submission outside the scope of the project as part of the feedback.

Key matters raised included:

- Holistic approach for the intersection upgrade
- Existing alignment modification to facilitate westbound heavy vehicles on The Horsley Drive
- Improvement to The Horsley Drive right hand turn lane into the Cumberland Highway
- Consultation with the Cumberland Chamber of Commerce and Smithfield Town Centre businesses
- Traffic light phasing.

3.2. Feedback and Transport for NSW responses

Transport for NSW has provided responses to all feedback received on this proposal. The responses are provided directly to the person who commented, as well as in this report, which will be made available to the public.

All comments have been considered to help Transport make decisions on this proposal.

Table 1- Feedback summary and Transport for NSW responses

Category	Matter raised	Transport for NSW response
Approach for the upgrade	The proposal that was discussed at the meeting was different to the original proposal which was sent to various stakeholders seeking comments.	Transport for NSW acknowledges your feedback. As previously discussed the NSW Government has been investigating this proposal as part of its Urban Roads Pinch Points Program which aims to ease congestion and improve travel times on Sydney's busiest corridors.
	The original proposal was to improve the southbound traffic flows along Cumberland Highway by extending both southbound left and right turn bays on Cumberland Highway into The Horsley Drive. The revised proposal is to extend southbound traffic flows along Cumberland Highway by extending southbound left turn bay on Cumberland Highway into The Horsley Drive.	As part of the program Transport for NSW is proposing changes to the intersection of Cumberland Highway and The Horsley Drive, Smithfield, to improve traffic flow, ease congestion and improve road user safety. We consulted with the community on proposed changes that included extending both southbound left and right turn bays on Cumberland Highway into The Horsley Drive. However, we have now decided, at this stage, to extend only the left turn bay into The Horsley Drive. We reached this decision after carefully considering council's submission and other feedback received. We appreciated council's feedback. However, extending the right turn bay from Cumberland Highway into The Horsley Drive and increasing traffic flow, would not provide an outcome that aligned with the place value identified for this commercial area in the finalised Road Network Plan.
Existing alignment modification to facilitate westbound heavy vehicles on The Horsley Drive	The current alignment from The Horsley Drive to Victoria Street has a dog-leg approach. The existing alignment should be modified to facilitate heavy vehicles travelling westbound on The Horsley Drive to access Victoria Street without the need to traverse Cumberland Highway.	Transport for NSW acknowledges your feedback. This is outside the scope of the project.
Improvement to The Horsley Drive right hand turn lane into the Cumberland Highway	The existing exclusive right turn bay on The Horsley Drive for westbound vehicles at Cumberland Highway is blocked by vehicles using the middle lane (shared lane – through & right). It is recommended that the extent of the exclusive right turn bay be increased to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion.	Transport for NSW acknowledges your feedback. This is outside the scope of the project.

	<p>The biggest problem is turning right from the Horsley Drive not the other way around as been preposed</p> <p>I am local and have complained for a long time to Fairfield council.</p> <p>The trucks turning right from the middle lane block the ability to use the right turning lane.</p> <p>If anything you should consider fixing the Horsley Drive to the Cumberland highway.</p>	
Consultation with the Cumberland Chamber of Commerce and Smithfield Town Centre businesses	Consultation is required with the Cumberland Chamber of Commerce and Smithfield Town Centre businesses to ensure a transparent consultation process	<p>Transport for NSW acknowledges your feedback.</p> <p>Notification about the consultation was provided to the local businesses and Chamber of Commerce.</p>
Traffic light phasing	<p>There is poor phasing of the pedestrian signals on Cumberland Highway and more green light time is required for cars turning</p> <p>.</p>	<p>Traffic lights in NSW are controlled by the Sydney Coordinated Adaptive Traffic System (SCATS), which allocates the length of green time based on real time traffic flow. Sensors beneath the road measure the flow and density of traffic approaching the lights in each direction and the green time is allocated accordingly. The length of time the light stays green varies in response to changing traffic conditions. This ensures that the traffic light phasing is operating at maximum efficiency.</p> <p>Vehicles travelling through this intersection are currently given priority in the traffic light phases due to the high volume of traffic on the road. Roads with higher traffic demands are given longer green time to reduce congestion along the network.</p> <p>Your concerns have been passed onto the relevant team.</p>

3.3. Decision

We consulted with the community and stakeholders on proposed changes that included extending both southbound left and right turn bays on Cumberland Highway into The Horsley Drive. However, we have now decided, at this stage, to extend only the left turn bay into The Horsley Drive. Extending the right turn bay from Cumberland Highway into The Horsley Drive and increasing traffic flow, would not provide an outcome that aligned with the place value identified for this commercial area in the finalised Road Network Plan.

Further, the project team has investigated the Cumberland Highway median near the intersection with The Horsley Drive to assess the nature of pavement that would be required to extend the right turn bay. These investigations confirmed that a full depth concrete pavement would be required in order to tie into the existing pavement. As a result, due to budgetary constraints the right turn bay cannot be included at this time. We will continue to liaise with the council in any future intersection upgrades if additional funding becomes available.

This decision was reached after carefully considering the submissions and received.

We will continue to keep the community informed.

3.4. Next steps

Transport for NSW will continue to work with key stakeholders to consider the needs and expectations of the community and all road users who travel through this intersection.

A close of consultation letter with the outcome will be provided to the stakeholders and community.

We will also write to the community when the construction for the intersection improvement starts in the first quarter next year.

4. Appendix

4.1. Appendix A – ‘Have your say’ letter June 2020



June 2020

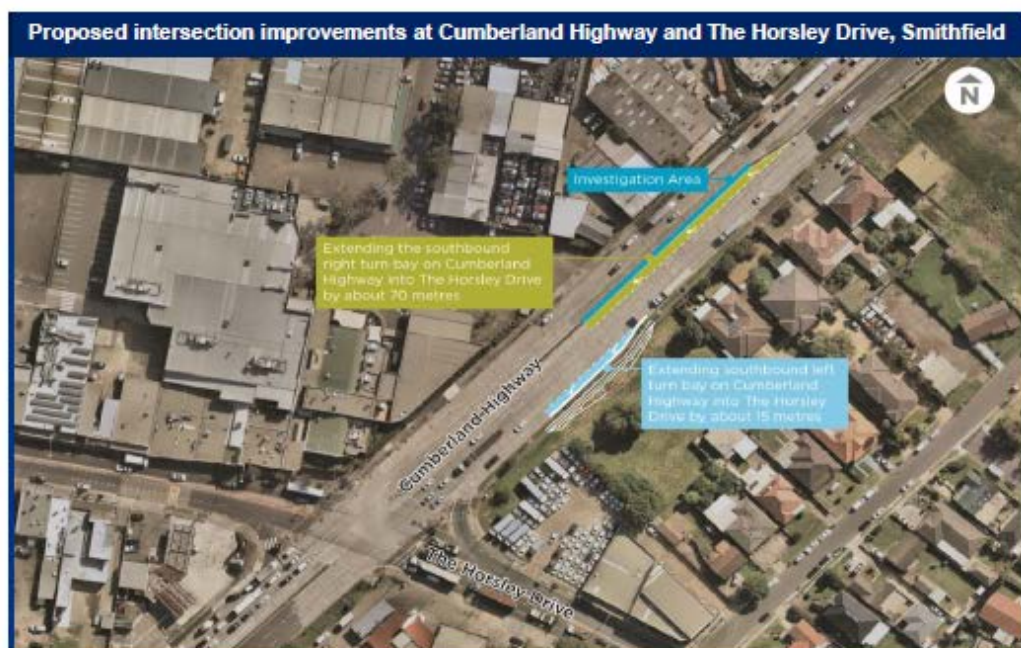
Investigation work and proposed intersection improvements on Cumberland Highway, The Horsley Drive, Smithfield

The NSW Government is funding this project as part of the Urban Road Congestion Program to improve safety for road users.

Transport for NSW is proposing changes to this intersection, to improve traffic flow, ease congestion and improve road user safety.

The proposed changes include improving the southbound traffic flows along Cumberland Highway by extending both southbound left and right turn bays on Cumberland Highway into The Horsley Drive.

Extending these turning bays would provide more room for turning vehicles to queue and would improve traffic flow by helping ensure through traffic lanes remain clear of queuing vehicles.



Have your say on the proposed improvement work

We are inviting your feedback on the proposed improvement work. These improvements will provide:

- southbound travel time savings along Cumberland Highway
- improved traffic flow and efficiency at the intersection by extending the southbound right turn bay into The Horsley Drive by about 70 metres and the left turn bay into The Horsley Drive by about 15 metres
- improved road safety by extending turn bays and removing queued vehicles from the through lanes.

How can you give feedback?

We will consider all feedback and continue to update you as the project progresses. Please provide your comments on the proposed intersection improvements by **Sunday 12 July**:

Phone: 1800 572 004

Email: pinchpoints@rms.nsw.gov.au

Investigation work from Thursday 25 June

To assist with planning the proposed intersection upgrade, Transport for NSW will carry out geotechnical investigations including potholing from Thursday 25 June along Cumberland Highway, Smithfield.

How will the work affect you?

The investigation work will be carried out at night along the Cumberland Highway near the intersection with The Horsley Drive. Our work may be noisy at times but we will do everything we can to minimise its impact and complete the noisier activities by midnight.

Traffic changes

There will be some temporary traffic changes to ensure the work zone is safe. Lane closures may be in place and will affect travel times. Please keep to speed limits and follow signs and traffic controllers' directions. For the latest traffic updates, you can call 132 701, visit livetraffic.com or download the Live Traffic NSW App.

Thank you for your patience during this investigation work.

Investigation work schedule

We will be on site for investigations between **Thursday 25 June and Wednesday 1 July 2020**, (weekdays only) weather permitting.

Our work hours will be between **8pm and 5am Thursday to Wednesday**.

Contact us

If you have any questions please contact the project team on 1800 572 004 or email pinchpoints@rms.nsw.gov.au.

To find out more go to:
<https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/cumberland-highway-the-horsley-drive-smithfield/index.html>



Translating and Interpreting Service

If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on **131 450** and ask them to telephone Transport for NSW on 1800 572 004.

Arabic

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مترجم، يرجى الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة والتفسير الوطنية (TIS National) على الرقم 131 450، وطلب منهم الاتصال بـ Transport for NSW على الرقم 1800 572 004.

Cantonese

如果你需要口譯員，請致電 **131 450** 聯絡翻譯和口譯服務署 (TIS National)，要求他們致電 1800 572 004 聯絡 Transport for NSW。

Mandarin

如果您需要口譯員，請致電 **131 450** 聯絡翻譯和口譯服務署 (TIS National)，要求他們致電 1800 572 004 聯絡 Transport for NSW。

Greek

Αν χρειάζεστε διαμετρητή, παρακαλούμε να τηλεφωνήσετε στην Υπηρεσία Μετάφρασης και Διερμηνείας (ΕΡΜΕΚ) Υποστηρίξη ΤIS στο **131 450** και ζητήστε να τηλεφωνήσει Transport for NSW στο 1800 572 004.

Italian

Se desiderate l'assistenza di un interprete, pregio telefonare al Servizio Interpreti e Traduttori (TIS National) al **131 450** chiedendo di contattare Transport for NSW al 1800 572 004.

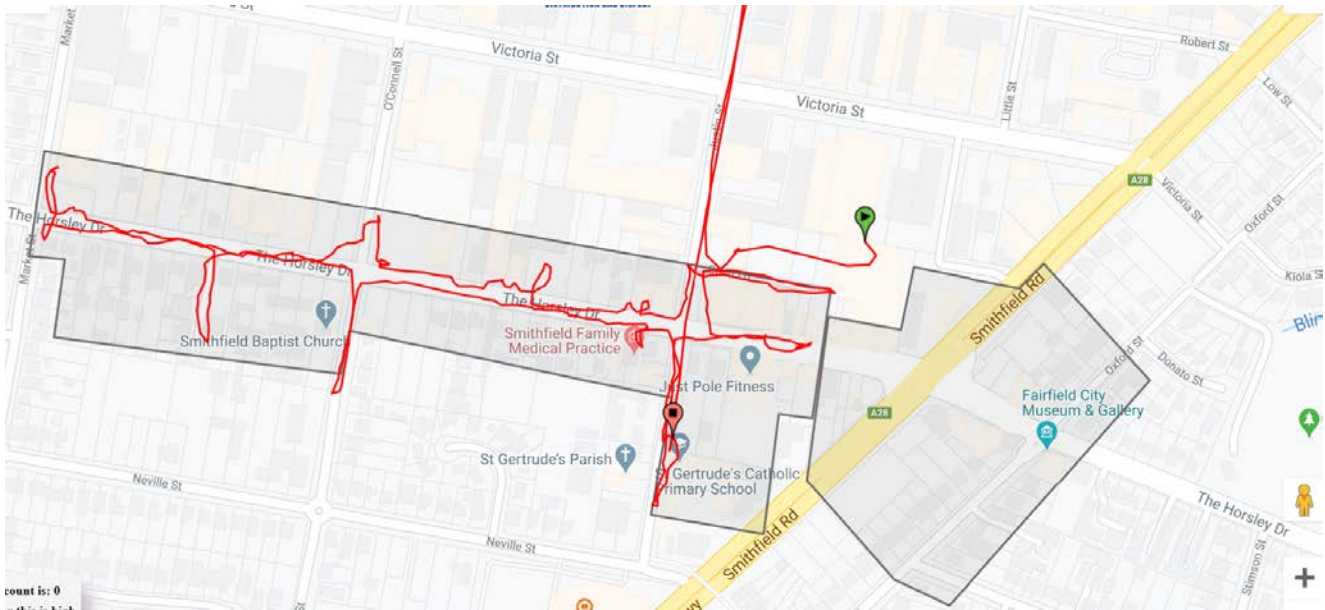
Korean

통역사가 필요하시면 번역통역서비스 (TIS National) 에 **131 450** 으로 연락하여 이들에게 1800 572 004 번호로 Transport for NSW 에 전화해도록 요청해 주시기요.

Vietnamese

Nếu cần thông ngôn viên, xin quý vị gọi cho Dịch Vụ Thông Phiên Dịch (TIS Toàn Quốc) qua số **131 450** và nhờ họ gọi cho Transport for NSW qua số 1800 572 004.

4.2. Appendix B – Distribution map





rms.nsw.gov.au/pinchpoints



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