

# Community Update



Transport  
Roads & Maritime  
Services

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2012



## Dignams Creek Princes Highway upgrade

### Concept design

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is proposing to realign the Princes Highway at Dignams Creek. A concept design based on an alignment to the west of the existing Dignams Creek Bridge is on display for your comment until 11 January 2013.

### Background:

In December 2010, RMS displayed a preferred road corridor for the proposed realignment of the Princes Highway at Dignams Creek. This realignment was primarily to the east of the existing Princes Highway and would have required large scale bridge and road works.

The upgrade announced in 2010 was initially estimated to cost \$85 million and, as the design was refined, this cost estimate increased largely because of the need to increase the length of the bridge.

As part of the ongoing planning process, RMS is reviewing the proposed road corridor and is now investigating an alignment to the west of the existing Dignams Creek Bridge. This alignment would reduce the scale of earthworks compared with the alignment announced in December 2010. It would also have lower cuttings and embankments and a shorter bridge.

This would provide better value for money and assist obtaining early construction funding for the project. The estimated cost of this concept design is approximately half the cost of the 2010 alignment.

### The project:

The proposed highway upgrade would now involve realigning the Princes Highway from 1.5 kilometres north to 600 metres south of Dignams Creek Road.

For a further 1.1 kilometres south, the existing highway would be upgraded by providing a widened northbound shoulder, a widened painted median and improved sight distance around curves to improve road safety.

The upgrade has been designed to allow the southern section to be realigned in the future as indicated in yellow on the concept design plan. This is a long term priority and construction would depend on the availability of funding.

The intersection of Dignams Creek Road with the Princes Highway in this concept design would be relocated approximately 40 metres to the south of its existing location. This is to accommodate a protected right turn bay for motorists turning into Dignams Creek Road, providing a safer environment for turning motorists and through traffic.



Tight curves on approach to the narrow bridge at Dignams Creek.

### Have your say!

The concept design for the Princes Highway upgrade is now on display until Friday 11 January 2013.

Your comments and feedback are invited by:

- **Post:**  
Dignams Creek upgrade Project Manager,  
PO Box 477 Wollongong NSW 2520
- **Email:**  
DignamsCreekUpgrade@rms.nsw.gov.au
- **Telephone:**  
(02) 4221 2430

RMS will consider all the feedback to this concept design display, and prepare an environmental assessment for public display in 2013.



This paper is • carbon neutral • Australian-made • recycled fibre • elemental chlorine free • pulp derived from sustainably managed sources

**For more information or to make a comment please contact the project team by Friday 11 January 2013 by:**

**Post:** Dignams Creek upgrade Project Manager, PO Box 477 Wollongong NSW 2520

**Email:** DignamsCreekUpgrade@rms.nsw.gov.au

**Telephone:** (02) 4221 2430 (during business hours)

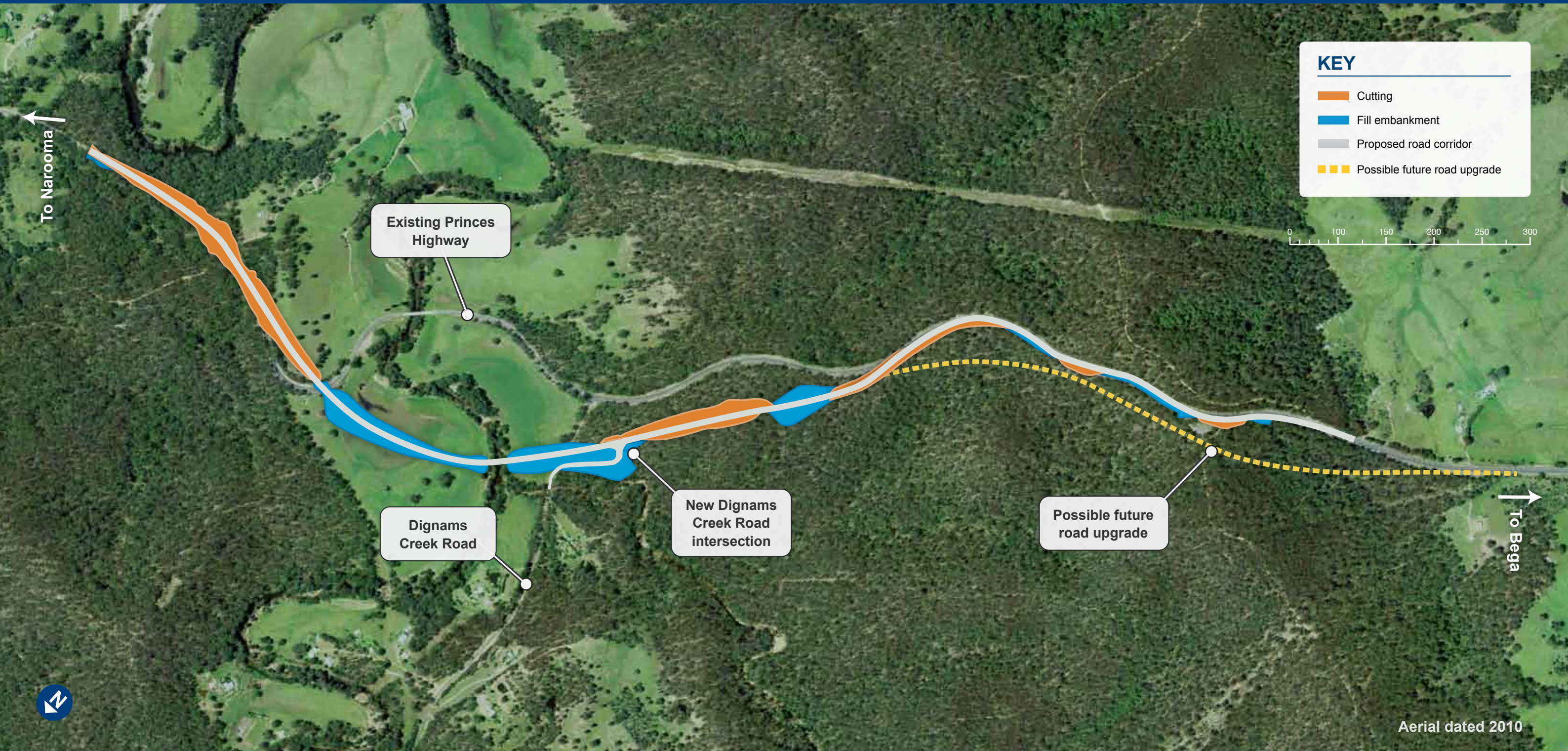
**Web:** [www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects)

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RMS 12.629





**Features of the proposal:**

- Construct a new highway built to current road design standards.
- Construct a new bridge over Dignams Creek replacing the existing bridge.
- Relocate the intersection of Dignams Creek Road with the Princes Highway for improved road safety.
- Upgrade the existing southbound overtaking lane.

**Geotechnical investigations:**

RMS has investigated geotechnical conditions to guide the road design and better understand the ground conditions on the proposed western alignment. We will publish the results from the geotechnical investigations in a finalised report in 2013.

**Flora and fauna:**

The proposed alignment would result in disused sections of the existing Princes Highway being removed and revegetated. Wildlife corridors between Gulaga and Kooraban National parks would also be maintained with fauna crossings installed as part of the road upgrade.

**Project benefits:**

- Improved road safety with a better road alignment.
- Reduced vehicle carbon emissions due to improved grades and curves.
- Improved travel times for Princes Highway motorists.
- Safer crossings for local fauna.