

Foxground and Berry bypass

Princes Highway upgrade



Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services

COMMUNITY UPDATE

OCTOBER 2012



Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) has completed the preferred concept design for the proposed Foxground and Berry bypass project following extensive community consultation. The environmental assessment has been submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure for adequacy review.

The proposed 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.

This is an important proposal for the community because it would:

• **Improve road safety and traffic efficiency by:**

- Removing through traffic from Berry.
- Providing a 100 km/h travel speed for motorists.
- Providing minimum 2.5 metre left hand side shoulders and clear zones to assist driver recovery.
- Providing two lanes in each direction and climbing lanes along steeper sections improving overtaking safety.
- Reducing conflict points for traffic entering and exiting the upgraded highway.
- Providing upgrades at all minor junctions by including deceleration lanes.
- Providing better pedestrian and cyclist access along both sides of the proposed Kangaroo Valley Road bridge.
- Providing enhanced left-in / left-out only access to the upgraded highway.

• **Support regional and local economic development by:**

- Minimising impact on high quality agricultural land.
- Maintaining direct access to Berry.
- Reducing travel time for freight and commercial vehicles.

• **Consider all potential environmental and social impacts by:**

- Providing fauna crossings to improve safety for wildlife and motorists.
- Minimising disturbance to threatened species and wetlands.
- Integrating the natural contours of the land and the existing highway alignment into the design.
- Preserving the heritage precinct at Pulman Street in Berry.
- Retaining public land along the southern side of the upgraded highway from Kangaroo Valley Road to Camp Quality Memorial Park.
- Preserving future use of Mark Radium Park and providing pedestrian access to the green space along the northern edge of Berry.

• **Improve flood immunity by:**

- Constructing additional ramps to provide flood free access to Berry.
- Diverting Town Creek into Bundewallah Creek, reducing flooding impacts experienced within Berry.



Upgraded section of the Princes Highway from Oak Flats to Dunmore is typical of a four-lane divided highway with an 8.4 metre median separation. For the Foxground and Berry bypass a 5 metre paved median with wire rope fencing is proposed.

Benefits of this project extend beyond the areas of Foxground and Berry to residents, businesses and tourists of the NSW south coast. Currently the project is the most significant proposed road infrastructure investment on the south coast.

The concept design is shown on the following pages. This is the design submitted as part of the environmental assessment and was developed following extensive community consultation and technical analysis by industry experts.

Heavy vehicle rest area no longer proposed

RMS is no longer proposing a heavy vehicle rest area at Austral Park Road in Broughton Village. This means the rest area is not in the proposed Foxground and Berry bypass concept design or the environmental assessment submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

RMS believes upgrading the existing Nungarry heavy vehicle rest area at Minnamurra as an alternative site is feasible. RMS will prepare a design of an upgraded Nungarry site and undertake a separate environmental impact assessment for this proposal. For further information please go to the project website www.rms.nsw.gov.au/fbb.

Some key features of the concept design 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 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 new 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.

Overview of the proposal



LEGEND

- Upgraded highway
- Access roads
- Existing Princes Highway
- Highway tie-in
- Local roads
- South Coast Railway
- Waterways
- Bridges, overpasses and underpasses
- Fill
- Cut
- Wildlife crossings – overhead or underpass
- Access underpass
- Noise mitigation in line with discussions in 2011/2012

Aerial photography is dated 2009.
 Details of all property access will be shown as part of the environmental assessment display.

For more information on access and interchanges, see designs at the Berry office.

BUNDEWALLAH

BROUGHTON VALE

BROUGHTON VILLAGE

FOXGROUND

TOOLIJOOA

BERRY

Extent of project

Extent of project

Berry southern interchange

Berry northern interchange

Tindalls Lane interchange

Austral Park Road interchange

Toolijooa Road interchange

Toolijooa Ridge

Tie-in with Gerringong upgrade

Town Creek

Road maintenance site

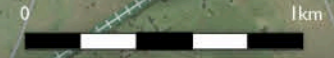
Woodhill Mountain Road roundabout

Tie-in to existing highway

Mullers Lane u-turn facility

TO NOWRA

TO KIAMA



Environmental assessment

In September 2012 RMS lodged the environmental assessment with the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure for adequacy review. It is scheduled to be displayed for community comment in late 2012.

The environmental assessment reviews the potential impacts of the proposed design, including suggested access points and environmental issues.

Community comment on the environmental assessment can be made through the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure's formal submissions process. RMS will provide information on how this process works closer to the display date.

Submissions received during the public display will be collated by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure and referred to RMS to consider each issue. Responses to issues will be published in a submissions report.

After considering all submissions and RMS' response to issues raised in the submissions report, the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure will consider if the project should be approved. If approved, the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure may provide a set of approval conditions to RMS which would guide the detailed design, construction and operation of the project. These conditions would help shape the next phase of community consultation.

See following page for a full outline of the environmental assessment process.

Why make a submission?

Community feedback is important to RMS and is used to guide the project team in making decisions for the proposed Foxground and Berry bypass project.

The public display of the environmental assessment will provide further opportunity for community input through the formal submissions process.

RMS suggests submissions should be issue based, list reasons why you support or object to the proposal and include suggestions and considerations. For example, whether you agree or disagree with the proposed design to close Victoria Street, the submission process is the forum where you can have your say.

Once a submission is received and logged by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure, it will then be sent to RMS to be considered and presented in a submissions report with responses. The submissions report will be publicly available on the project website and at the Berry project office.

The submissions report, and any project modifications that may be required to address issues raised, will be assessed by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

This process allows for all opinions and suggestions, both in support or against, to be fully considered. RMS encourages all members of the community to consider making a submission on any specific issues they may have, once the environmental assessment is placed on display.

For further information on the Foxground and Berry bypass project, please go to the project website at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/fbb, visit the project office (open Fridays 10am to 5pm) or call the project information line on **1800 506 976** (free call).



Existing Princes Highway at Austral Park Road

Part 3A environmental assessment for the Foxground and Berry bypass

SEPTEMBER 2010

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Part 3A Order gazetted

DECEMBER 2010

RMS prepares and submits a major project application to the Director-General of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure

JANUARY 2011

Department of Planning and Infrastructure confirms assessment under Part 3A and consults relevant government agencies
Planning focus meeting held

FEBRUARY 2011

Director-General provides environmental assessment requirements (DGRs)

MARCH 2011

Preparation of environmental assessment including draft statement of commitments

RMS submits environmental assessment to Director-General for adequacy

EXHIBITION AND CONSULTATION

Director-General considers whether the environmental assessment adequately addresses the DGRs
Director-General may request a revised environmental assessment

WE
ARE
HERE

Environmental assessment placed on public exhibition (30 days)

At the completion of exhibition period, the Director-General provides RMS with a copy of submissions or summary of issues raised

RMS prepares a submission report/revised statement of commitments/preferred project report if required by the Director-General

ASSESSMENT AND DETERMINATION

Assessment report prepared by the Director-General

Preferred project report (if required) may be exhibited if significant changes to the nature of the project are proposed

Minister for Planning and Infrastructure considers any advice from Minister for Roads and Ports

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



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ONGOING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

For more information:

Post: Foxground and Berry bypass AECOM, PO Box Q410, QVB Post Office, Sydney NSW 2000

Project office: Shop 3/113 Queen Street Berry (open Fridays 10am to 5pm)

Project information line: 1800 506 976 (free call) **Email:** foxgroundandberrybypass@rms.nsw.gov.au

Web www.rms.nsw.gov.au/fbb