



The Hon Duncan Gay MLC

Leader of Government Business

Legislative Council

Minister for Roads & Ports

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday June 25 2012

DECISION ON BERRY BYPASS REVIEW

NSW Minister for Roads Duncan Gay today announced that following an independent review of the northern and southern Berry bypass options the northern option would proceed to environmental assessment.

"After many months of community consultation I'm pleased to announce that we have made good progress and the northern option will now move forward to the environmental assessment stage," said Mr Gay.

"Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) announced a revised northern alignment for the Berry bypass in December last year after doing community consultation.

"However it became clear in February that a detailed cost evaluation of a southern Berry bypass route was also warranted. A community submission about a southern route suggestion outlined proposed cost savings as well as other benefits including not dividing Berry.

"I asked RMS to rigorously examine the suggested southern route and a technical investigation group was established.

"The group included industry experts and RMS personnel. They prepared two route cost estimates for the entire Foxground and Berry bypass project, one incorporating a bypass to the north and one for a bypass to the south of Berry

"Independent reviewers were also appointed to observe and challenge the group's assessment, to assure it was thorough and impartial.

"A range of meetings have been held including open community meetings, twelve working group meetings for the northern route and five information sessions, attracting a few hundred people each, to discuss a southern bypass review.

"After extensive community consultation and the independent review I have decided that the northern option should proceed.

"The cost difference between a bypass to the north and a bypass to the south is more than \$100 million.

"The substantial savings for the northern option makes it the clear choice," Mr Gay said.

Member for Kiama Gareth Ward said there has been considerable discussion in the community about the options and it was important they were thoroughly examined.

“Now that a decision has been made, it is time to get on with the job of delivering the upgrades that will deliver major safety and time benefits for motorists and the broader community,” Mr Ward said.

"Whilst I appreciate the views of those who wanted a southern bypass, the cost differential of \$100 million is cost prohibitive. I believe that people would rather see the bypass built than lose this opportunity to get the job done.

"NSW Labor only ever talked about the Berry Bypass - but they failed to deliver. Now that the Minister has made his decision, I will focus my efforts on ensuring the project is constructed."

Many of the community's suggestions to improve the northern route were also examined during the independent assessment process.

These included moving the south facing ramps of the Kangaroo Valley Road interchange further north, to improve pedestrian accessibility along Kangaroo Valley Road.

This is now being considered in more detail.

RMS will continue to discuss design issues and impacts through the environmental assessment of the bypass, which is expected to be released for comment later in the year.

The community is invited to a meeting to discuss RMS' technical investigation group report and the independent review on Tuesday 3 July from 6.30pm at the Berry School of Arts.

Representatives from the technical investigation group and the independent reviewers will also be available at the Berry project office at Broughton Court, Berry to speak with community members about the reports between 10am and 5pm from Monday 25 June to Friday 29 June.

The Report on Route Feasibility Comparative Cost Estimates and the report prepared by the independent reviewers are at the Berry project office and on the project website at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/fbb.

For more information on the project please call the project information line on 1800 506 976 or email foxgroundandberrybypass@rms.nsw.gov.au.