

# **Princes Highway - Gerringong to Bomaderry**



**Community involvement in  
the development of options and  
then a preferred route for the  
Princes Highway**



# RTA staff here tonight



FC

- ❖ **Jay Stricker**, Regional Manager, Southern
- ❖ **Fiona Court**, General Manager, Infrastructure Communications and Community Involvement
- ❖ **Graham Brisbane**, Development Manager, Southern
- ❖ **Ron de Rooy**, Senior Project Manager, Southern
- ❖ **Ed Scully**, Regional Communications Coordinator, Western and South West region
- ❖ **Donna Binns**, Regional Communications Officer, Southern region
- ❖ **Grant Sharkey**, Business and Administration Officer

# Agenda



		FC
6.00pm	Introductions and welcome	
6.05pm	Agenda	Fiona Court
6.10pm	Background	Ron de Rooy
6.25pm	Discussion	
6.40	Critical questions at this point	
Discussion		All
7.30pm	Potential answers	All
8.00pm	Finish	

# Firstly



FC

- Do we have a set of route options in a drawer?
  - No.
  - Is this the workshop to define the options?
  - No.

# What are we doing then?



FC

- We are about to gain an understanding of the study that is about to happen.
- A brief is being prepared *now* for a consultant to undertake field studies and put options on the table for community discussion.
- We believe that communities should have a say in *how* they are involved. Community ideas will go into the brief.
- Many people here tonight will want to be involved – each step of the way not just at a display point.

# Options and preferred upgrade studies



RR

- The RTA is to consider options for upgrading the highway.
- This involves:
  - ❖ engaging local communities
  - ❖ drawing on previous studies
  - ❖ identifying changes and consequences

Detailed investigations are needed to identify the options and then the preferred Princes Highway upgrade.

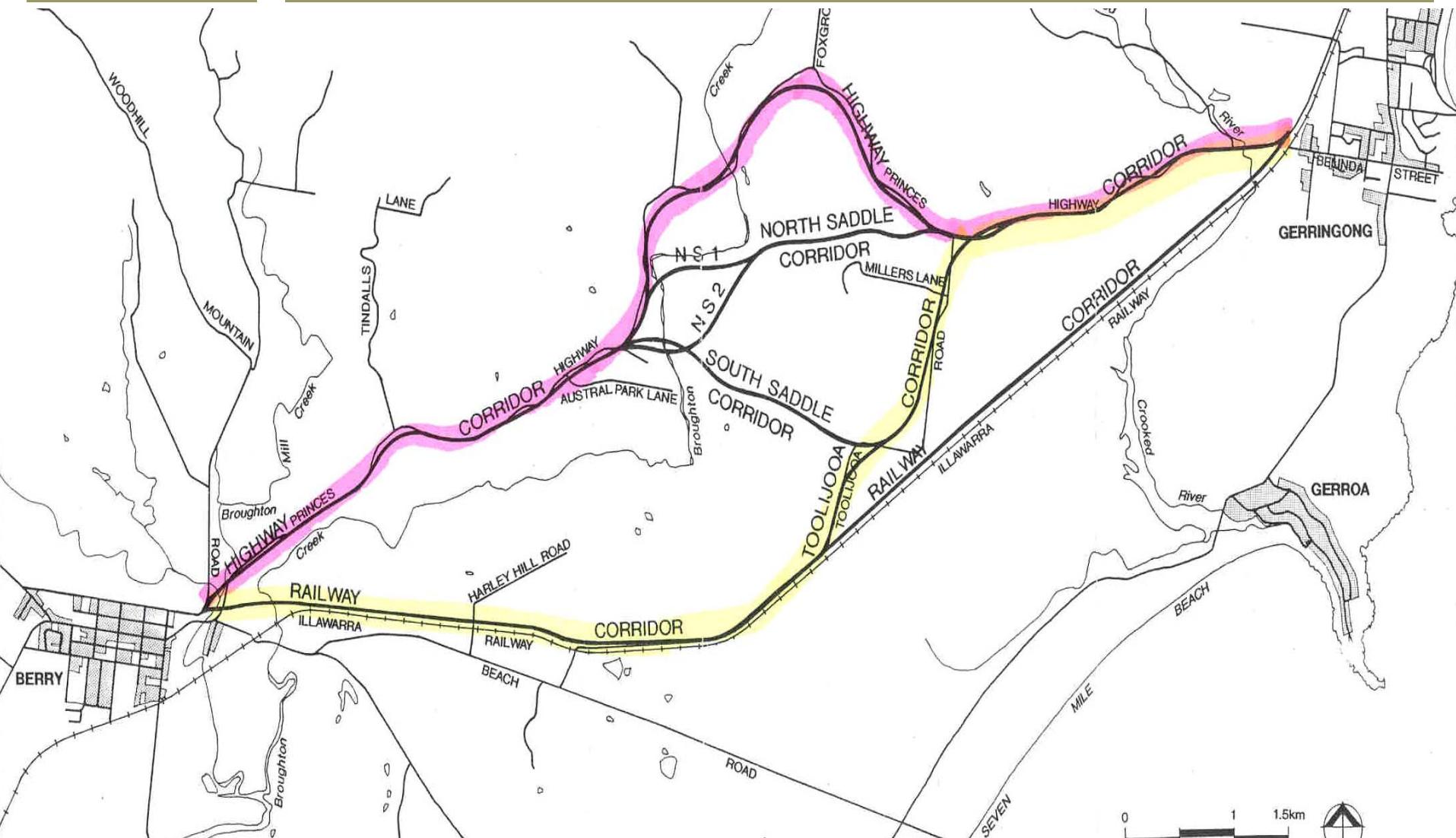
# What has been done so far?



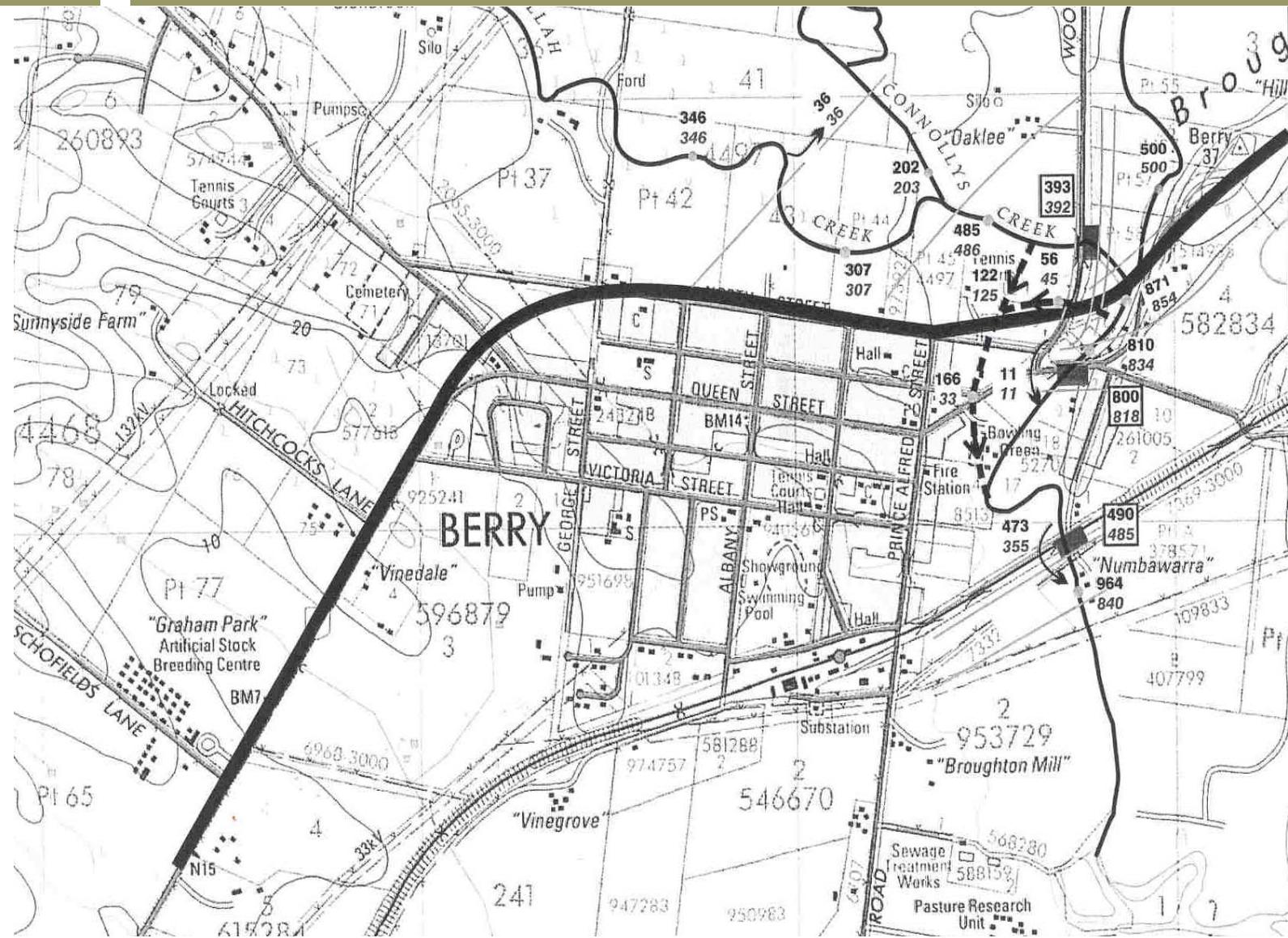
RR

- 1991 Gerringong to Berry Route Evaluation Study
- 1998 environmental impact study for North Street Berry Bypass Corridor
- In 2005 the RTA prepared a QUANTM (software) corridor analysis for the area Kiama to Nowra. This was desktop.

# 1991 Gerringong To Berry recommended corridors



# 1998 Berry bypass identified corridor



# What is the traffic situation now?



RR

- An average 11,000 per day vehicles travel between Gerringong and Bomaderry.
- There is mostly one lane in each direction
- The highway has winding sections with limited overtaking opportunities
- There were 230 reported crashes and 9 fatalities between Fern Street and Cambewarra Road from July 2000 to June 2005.



# Future traffic situation?



RR

- Traffic volumes are growing at about 3% each year.
- Traffic on the rural sections of the Princes Highway is likely to increase to more than 18,000 vehicles each day by 2020.



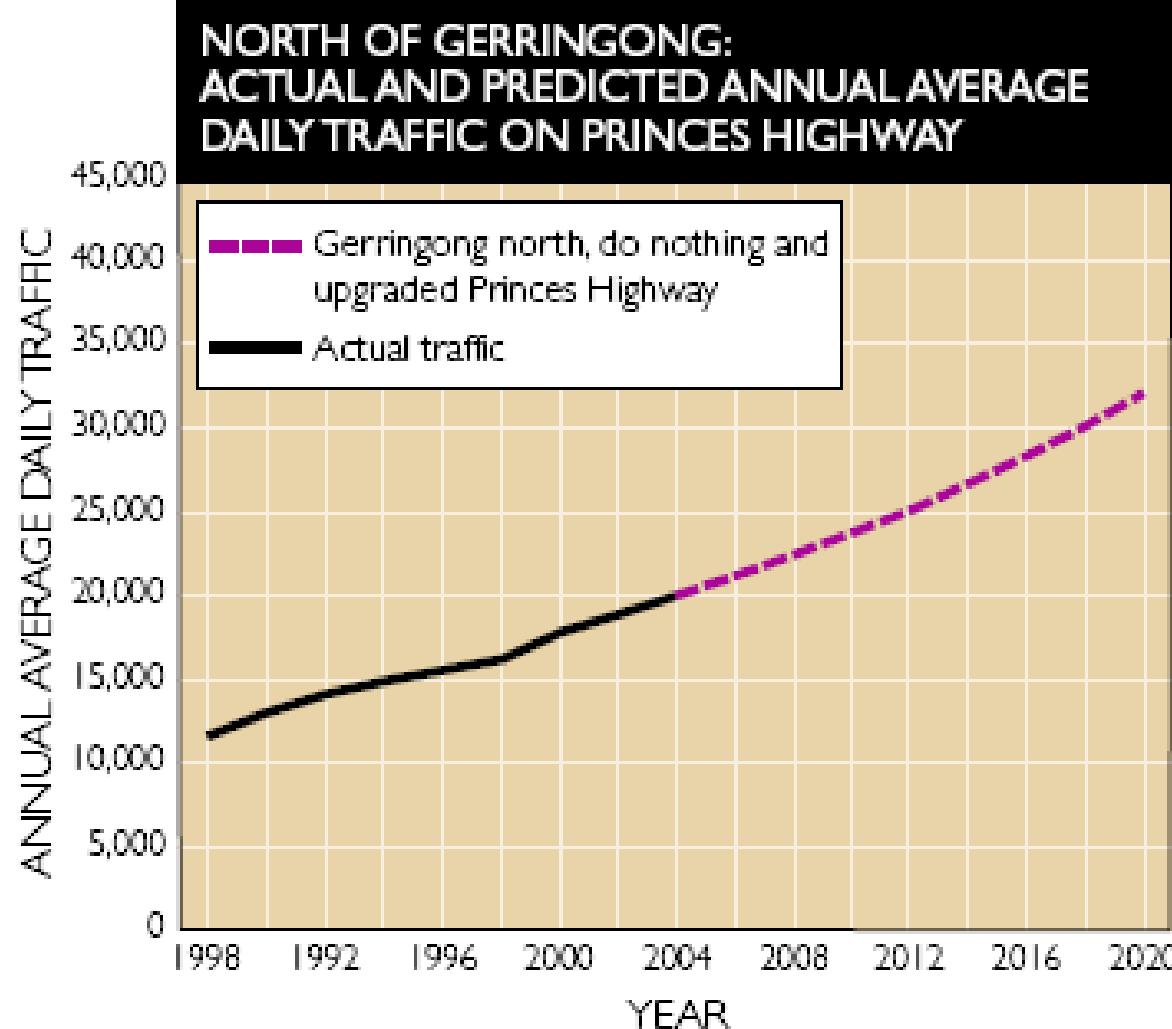
# What would a highway upgrade do?



RR

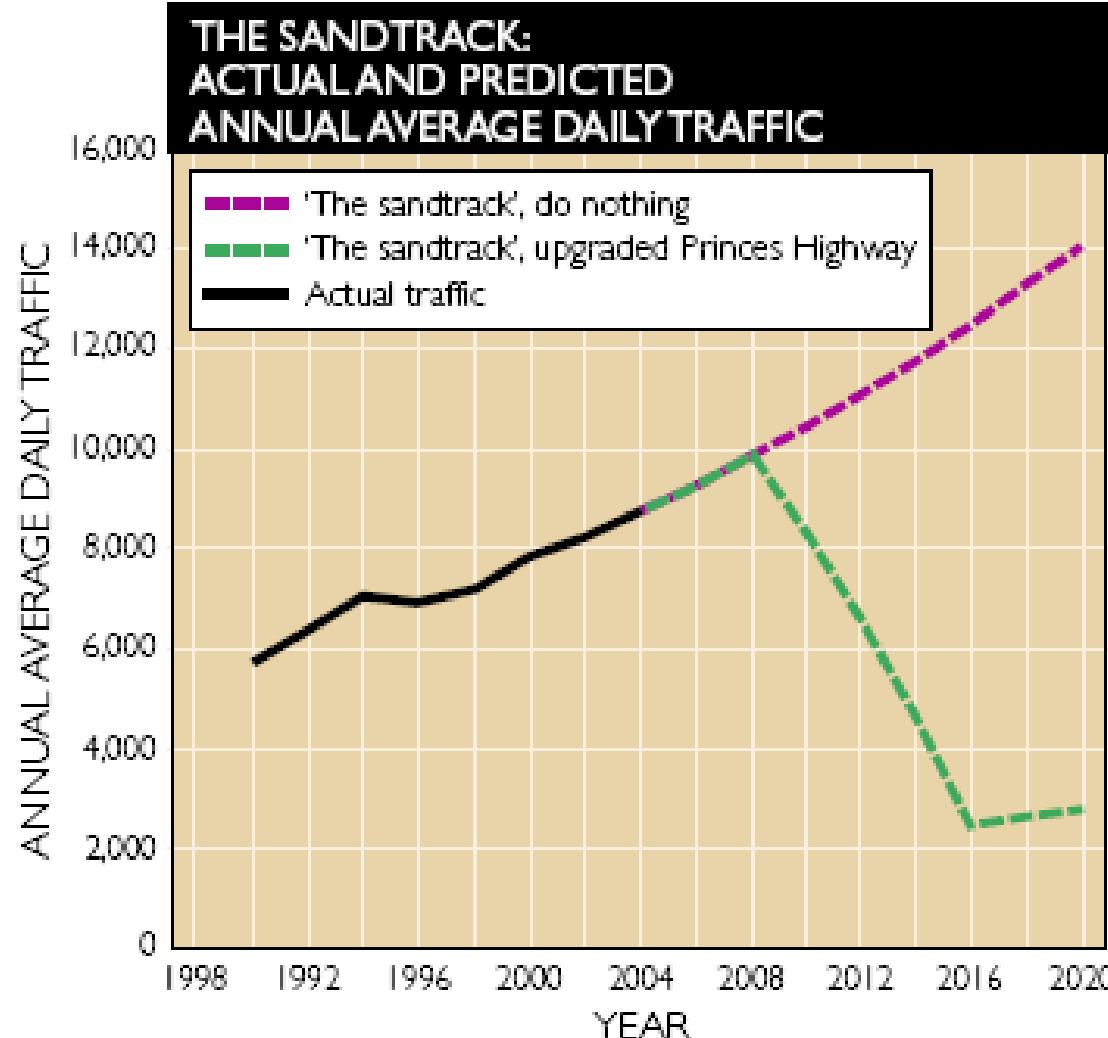
- Improve road safety.
- Reduce travel time between Kiama and Nowra.
- Reduce traffic on The Sandtrack .
- Reducing congestion in peak holiday periods.
- Improve the urban environment in Gerringong, Gerroa and Berry.

# Princes Hwy North of Gerringong traffic volumes



RR

# The Sandtrack traffic volumes



RR

# 2006 Gerringong to Bomaderry options and route selection study



# Crossing the Shoalhaven River?



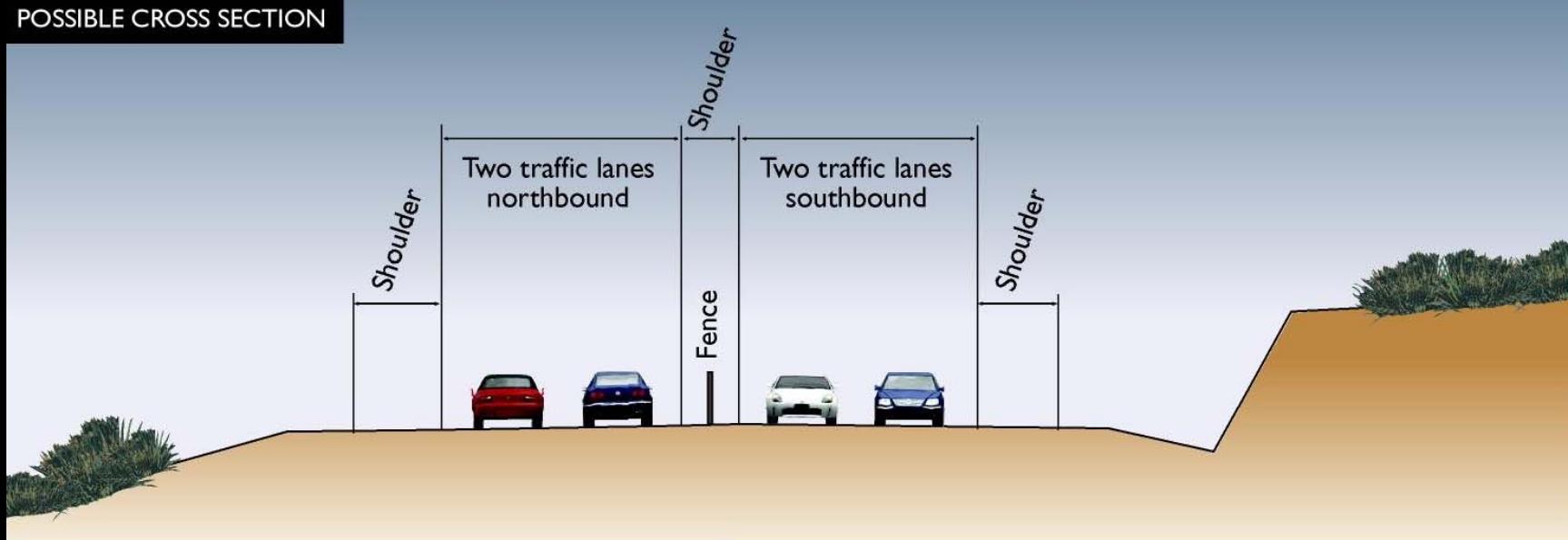
- Why aren't we considering the second crossing?
- We don't want to wait any longer
- All crossing options are compatible with the roundabout at Cambewarra Road
- The location of a second bridge doesn't effect the options in the study area
- Traffic volumes crossing the bridge will not be affected by a new Princes Highway alignment

# What would it look like?



RR

POSSIBLE CROSS SECTION



# What will the study process be?



RR

- Appoint a consultant to investigate the options
- Develop the preliminary route options.
- Shortlist the options
- Select a preferred route and identify staging opportunities
- Further investigations and refinement of the preferred route
- Seek project approvals

# Inputs to making a decision? (I)



RR

- **Community involvement**
- **Consultants will look at:**
  - ❖ Economic analysis
  - ❖ Environmental studies
    - Noise
    - Aboriginal and European heritage
    - Social impacts
    - Water and air quality
    - Landscape impact & visual assessment

# Inputs to making a decision (2)



RR

- ❖ Property studies
- ❖ Flood studies
- ❖ Flora and fauna present and special habitat
- ❖ Design issues
  - Geo-technical investigations re soil and rock characteristics
  - Road and bridge design
  - Utilities and service investigation

# Preliminary timetable



- |                    |  |    |
|--------------------|--|----|
| ❖ May 2006         | Community discussions  | RR |
| ❖ Mid to late 2006 | Planning focus meeting                                       |    |
| ❖ Mid to late 2006 | Consultants appointed  |    |
| ❖ Mid to late 2006 | Options studies and community consultations                  |    |
| ❖ 2007             | Display the options  |    |
| ❖ 2007             | Preferred route selected                                     |    |
| ❖ Late 2007        | Environmental assessment and refining<br>the preferred route |    |
| ❖ Late 2007/2008   | Display of environmental<br>assessment                       |    |
| ❖ Late 2007/2008   | Approval of the project                                      |    |

# What can you do now?



FC

Two things.

- ❖ Contribute your knowledge of the study area and what is important to you about this area - now (question 1)
- ❖ Assist the RTA to identify a community involvement plan – how do *you* want to be consulted in the future on the options? (question 2)

# IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum

Developed by the International Association for Public Participation



## INCREASING LEVEL OF PUBLIC IMPACT

INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
Public Participation Goal:	Public Participation Goal:	Public Participation Goal:	Public Participation Goal:	Public Participation Goal:
To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
Promise to the Public:	Promise to the Public:	Promise to the Public:	Promise to the Public:	Promise to the Public:
We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
Example Techniques to Consider:	Example Techniques to Consider:	Example Techniques to Consider:	Example Techniques to Consider:	Example Techniques to Consider:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fact sheets</li> <li>● Web sites</li> <li>● Open houses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Public comment</li> <li>● Focus groups</li> <li>● Surveys</li> <li>● Public meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Workshops</li> <li>● Deliberate polling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Citizen Advisory Committees</li> <li>● Consensus-building</li> <li>● Participatory decision-making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Citizen juries</li> <li>● Ballots</li> <li>● Delegated decisions</li> </ul>

FC

# What sorts of discussion tools would be useful?



Wider

- ❖ Public information days
- ❖ Community workshops
- ❖ Community access centre
- ❖ Freepost surveys
- ❖ Advertisements
- ❖ Household telephone surveys
- ❖ Radio/print media press releases

Smaller

- ❖ Community focus group discussions
- ❖ Government planning sessions
- ❖ Issues and argument mapping
- ❖ Site and field inspections

FC

# What sorts of discussion tools would be useful?



Wider

- ❖ Poster displays in public places
- ❖ Shopping centre surveys
- ❖ Summary newsletters and info sheets
- ❖ Website information
- ❖ 1800 information line
- ❖ Project e-mail address
- ❖ Artists impressions and 3D models

Smaller

- ❖ Consultative committees
- ❖ Community education seminars
- ❖ Strategies for community not fluent in English

FC

# Difficulties and Benefits



## What are the difficulties?

FC

- ❖ It takes time (this becomes a pressure on sustained attendance if we choose a static group)
- ❖ Issues of representation – who represents who and in what capacity? Its not a vote.
- ❖ Frustrations for the wider community if a smaller group is the focus of consultations
- ❖ Polarised and strong opinions, how are we to manage as a community?
- ❖ The real issue of effect on property

# Difficulties and Benefits



FC

## What are the benefits?

- ❖ Better RTA planning
- ❖ Some groups have formed a fantastic bond
- ❖ Learning and appreciation of highway planning
- ❖ A community with confidence in the outcome
- ❖ Even if the community does not agree on a solution
  - the reasoning is available, and the process has had integrity

# Discussion



FC

- ❖ Turn to your group
- ❖ Provide answers to these 2 questions:
  - local characteristics we value
  - how do we want to be involved
- ❖ Select someone to explain your answers



FC

- ❖ Presenting your ideas

- ✓ A strong process to manage differences of opinion in a constructive way.
- ✓ It is important the process is transparent.
- ✓ It is important we acknowledge there will be trade-offs (no perfect solution exists).
- ✓ It is important the RTA states what is negotiable and what is not negotiable.
- ✓ It is important we all respect that individuals will be affected by this process and by the study outcome.

# Princes Highway – Gerringong to Bomaderry



**Thank you!**