

# Great Western Highway and Reservoir Road, Blacktown

Intersection Improvements

Community Consultation Report

Roads and Maritime Services | February 2018



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## Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of Roads and Maritime Services' consultation with the community and key stakeholders on proposed intersection improvements along the Great Western Highway and Reservoir Road, Blacktown.

Currently, road users experience heavy congestion during AM and PM peaks causing delays, excessive queuing and illegal road movements resulting in crashes and safety concerns.

The proposal includes:

- Dedicated left turn lane for northbound traffic on Reservoir Road
- Dual dedicated right turn lanes for northbound traffic on Reservoir Road
- Widening of the left turn lane from the Great Western Highway eastbound
- Dual dedicated right turn lanes for westbound traffic on the Great Western Highway
- Minor widening of the left turn slip lane on the Great Western Highway westbound
- Removal of vegetation.

Roads and Maritime invited feedback on the proposal in December 2017. We received feedback from 13 people with six people supporting the proposal, three people supporting the proposal with conditions, and four people who did not state a preference. Key matters raised included:

- Left turning lane from Reservoir Road southbound onto the Great Western Highway
- Pedestrian safety
- Entry and exiting ramps on the M4 Motorway for Reservoir Road.

We thank everyone for considering the proposal and for their feedback.

## Decision

After considering all responses, along with the proposal's aims and design requirements, we have decided to proceed with the proposal unchanged.

We will continue to keep the community and stakeholders informed as the project progresses.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Background

The NSW Government is funding this proposal as part of its \$300 million Urban Roads Pinch Points Program, which aims to reduce congestion and improve travel times on Sydney's busiest road corridors, particularly during weekday peak periods.

The Roads and Maritime proposal is expected to:

- improve the capacity of the intersection and reduce congestion
- improve travel times particularly in peak hours
- improve traffic flow at this intersection and approaches
- improve safety for pedestrians and road users.

The proposal includes:

- Dedicated left turn lane for northbound traffic on Reservoir Road
- Dual dedicated right turn lanes for northbound traffic on Reservoir Road
- Widening of the left turn lane from Great Western Highway eastbound
- Dual dedicated right turn lanes for westbound traffic on Great Western Highway
- Minor widening of the left turn slip lane on the Great Western Highway westbound
- Removal of vegetation.

We have included a map to explain the proposal.



Figure 1: Proposed improvements at the intersection of the Great Western Highway and Reservoir Road, Blacktown

## 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 with whom we can continue to engage during the proposal's development and delivery.

### 2.2. 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.

**Table 1: How Consultation was done**

Have your say community update – December 2017	Distributed 1700 letters (Appendix A) to local residents and businesses (Appendix B) inviting feedback on the proposal.
Website	Roads and Maritime project webpage updated with latest project information including the community update.
Social media	A targeted Facebook campaign (Appendix C) ran between Thursday 7 December and Monday 18 December, reaching 68,473 residents and road users travelling within the area.

## 3. Consultation summary

### 3.1. Overview

Roads and Maritime invited feedback on the proposal in December 2017. We received feedback from 13 people with six people supporting the proposal, three people supporting the proposal with conditions, and four people who did not state a preference. Key matters raised included:

- Left turning lane from Reservoir Road southbound into the Great Western Highway
- Pedestrian safety
- Entry and exiting ramps on the M4 Motorway from Reservoir Road.

We thank everyone for considering the proposal and for their feedback.

### 3.2. Feedback and Roads and Maritime's responses

Roads and Maritime 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 Roads and Maritime make decisions on this proposal. Matters raised during consultation that are not within Roads and Maritime's area of responsibility have been forwarded to the relevant departments.



**Table 2: Feedback summary and Roads and Maritime's responses**

Category	Key Matters Raised	Response
<p><b>Left turn lane from Reservoir Road into the Great Western Highway</b> Six comments</p>	<p>There is no proposed left hand slip from Reservoir Road to travel east bound on the Great Western Highway. Surely this is more necessary for traffic flow than widening the opposite left hand slip.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime Services have undertaken traffic surveys and modelling at this intersection. The traffic surveys identified the northbound vehicle movement on Reservoir Road and the right turn movement from Reservoir Road onto the Great Western Highway as the key areas of congestion.</p> <p>All pinch point projects are assessed in terms of their benefit to road users when compared to cost to implement. The left turn movement from Reservoir Road onto the Great Western Highway does suffer from congestion and the introduction of a dedicated left turn lane was considered. To achieve this dedicated movement would require significant property acquisition and major utility relocation works.</p> <p>The proposed intersection improvements include a dedicated left turn lane from Reservoir Road northbound onto the Great Western Highway.</p>
	<p>The provision of a left-turn slip lane for Reservoir Road southbound at the Great Western Highway – there is a strong left-turn into the Great Western Highway to head east from Reservoir Road.</p>	
	<p>I do hope that you included in the improvement plan a turn left lane from Reservoir Road towards Great Western Highway, as that lane is congested all the time.</p> <p>Include an additional left-hand turn from Reservoir Road, left-hand turn omitting the traffic lights, into the Great Western Highway.</p>	

Category	Key Matters Raised	Response
<p><b>Entry/ Exiting the M4 Motorway</b> Eight Comments</p>	<p>M4 Westbound off-ramp to Reservoir Road should commence further to the east which would enable it to curve and join up with the roundabout currently located at the intersection of Peter Brock Drive and Reservoir Road and negate the need for the current exit ramp intersection to be signalised.</p> <p>This would allow for the currently very tight and relatively steep west-bound on ramp to the M4 to be reconfigured with a greater radius. It is my understanding that as part of the current M4 Smart Motorway project this ramp will be reconfigured onto a new bridge over Reservoir Road immediately to the south of the M4. I am concerned that the current radius of this ramp will be decreased even further.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>The purpose of the consultation process was to seek feedback on the proposed intersection improvements at the Great Western Highway and Reservoir Road. The M4 Motorway entry and exit ramps are not part of the proposal and considered out of scope for this project.</p> <p>The current M4 Smart Motorway project will be installing ramp meters on the entry ramps of the M4 Motorway between Lapstone and Mays Hill. As part of that project we will be lengthening and extending the exit and entry ramps while maintaining the current widths of the lanes on each ramp. For more information about the M4 Smart Motorway project please go to <a href="http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/m4smartmotorway">www.rms.nsw.gov.au/m4smartmotorway</a>.</p>
	<p>The off ramps from the M4 should have better mirrors to see cars coming from The Cricketers Arms side.</p>	
	<p>Work around the M4 Motorway off ramps would also greatly improve the area and complement the Pinch Point proposal.</p>	
	<p>Fully protected right turning lane from The M4 Motorway ramp turning toward Peter Brock drive.</p>	
	<p>The addition of a west bound on ramp for the M4 Motorway coming from Peter Brock Drive.</p>	

Category	Key Matters Raised	Response
	<p>The left hand turning lane from Reservoir Road onto the Great Western Highway could be lengthened to incorporate the M4 Motorway off ramp giving additional time/distance for vehicles to change to their desired lanes.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime Services undertook traffic surveys and modelling at this intersection. The traffic surveys indicated the majority of the congestion was caused by northbound vehicles on Reservoir Road, and in particular road users turning right on Reservoir Road into the Great Western Highway. The congestion is further exacerbated by the short left turn lane on Reservoir Road northbound which causes road users to queue into the through lanes on Reservoir Road.</p> <p>Traffic modelling indicates the proposed improvements will increase the capacity for road users to turn right from Reservoir Road to the Great Western Highway westbound.</p> <p>The changes will improve the overall efficiency of the intersection and allow increased traffic movement.</p> <p>Please note the on and off ramps to the M4 Motorway will be upgraded as part of the M4 Smart Motorways project. For more information about the M4 Smart Motorway project please go to: <a href="http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/m4smartmotorway">www.rms.nsw.gov.au/m4smartmotorway</a></p>
	<p>The addition of a dedicated turning lane/ramp from Reservoir Road for traffic entering The M4 Motorway and travelling east.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>The purpose of this consultation was to seek feedback on the proposed intersection improvements at the Great Western Highway and Reservoir Road. Note that the on ramp to the M4 will be upgraded as part of the Smart Motorways project. More details of the Smart Motorways project can be found on the RMS website at: <a href="http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-west/m4/index.html">www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-west/m4/index.html</a></p>

Category	Key Matters Raised	Response
<p><b>Pedestrian Safety</b> Four comments</p>	<p>The dedicated slip lanes to be signalised with a 'red arrow' to operate when the signalised pedestrian/cyclist phase is required.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>Signalised pedestrian crossings are provided across all through lanes of the intersection. The existing three left turn slip lanes have pedestrian crossings which are not signalised. A design review has concluded that signalised pedestrian crossings are not required at the left turn slip lanes based on the following:</p> <p>A review of the crash history data from 2010 to 2014 showed that there were no crashes that involved pedestrians at the intersection. There is a clear line of sight at each left turn slip lane for both drivers and pedestrians, and turning vehicles will be slowing down to turn left at the intersection.</p>
	<p>There needs to be better footpaths from Wet'n'Wild through to Blacktown station on Reservoir Road.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>The purpose of this consultation is to seek feedback on the proposed intersection improvements on the Great Western Highway and Reservoir Road. Pedestrian footpaths from Blacktown station to Wet'n' Wild is not part of the proposal and considered out of scope for this project. The proposed improvements will help to ease congestion and improve traffic flow in the area.</p> <p>To discuss the development of footpaths please consider contacting Blacktown City Council. Should council wish to further investigate the option they can apply for development and/ or construction funding under the walking and cycling program.</p> <p>For more information relating to the program please visit the RMS web page <a href="http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/business-industry/partners-suppliers/lgr/active-transport/index.html">http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/business-industry/partners-suppliers/lgr/active-transport/index.html</a>."</p>

Category	Key Matters Raised	Response
<p><b>Tree removal</b> One comment</p>	<p>Any lost native vegetation should be compensated by like for like. Thus funds given to council for landscaping funds/ offset funds.</p>	<p>Roads and Maritime engaged specialists to commence a biodiversity assessment of the proposal area during November 2017. The assessment identified that the proposal would impact about 0.48 hectares of native vegetation. This includes area of Cumberland Plain Woodland and other protected vegetation communities. The biodiversity assessment concluded that this impact would not be significant.</p> <p>RMS will assess the need for biodiversity offset or supplementary measures with regard to the RMS Biodiversity Offset Guidelines as part of the detailed design.</p>
<p><b>Consultation Process</b> One Comment</p>	<p>I humbly seek a proper survey, or chance of discussion to gauge local opinion. It is our homes most affected. An option that considers the diversity of the people in this area is also essential. A letterbox drop is not an effective mode for something so important.</p>	<p>Roads and Maritime seek community feedback on proposed improvements to gather local knowledge of the area. The consultation process for this proposal was completed with a letter box distribution to 450 local residents and businesses as well as an email to key stakeholders including Blacktown City Council and local Members of Parliament. Additionally, Roads and Maritime Services Facebook page featured a paid post from Thursday 7 December, 2017 to Monday 18 December, 2017, reaching over 68,000 people in the community surrounding the intersection and transitional road users of the area.</p> <p>For information about Roads and Maritime consultation process please visit our Community engagement page via: <a href="http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/about/what-we-do/community-engagement.html">http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/about/what-we-do/community-engagement.html</a>.</p>
<p><b>Widening Reservoir Road</b> One comment</p>	<p>Reservoir Road should be two lanes between Kurrajong Crescent to Bungarribee Road.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>The purpose of this consultation is to seek feedback on the proposed intersection improvements on the Great Western Highway and Reservoir Road. Widening Reservoir Road between Kurrajong Crescent and Bungarribee Road is not part of the proposal and considered out of scope for this project.</p>

Category	Key Matters Raised	Response
<p><b>Cycleway</b> One comment</p>	<p>Consider providing a Shared User Pathway (SUP) cycleway along Reservoir from Wet N Wild to the Great Western Highway and then further along up Reservoir Road.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>The purpose of this consultation is to seek feedback on the proposed intersection improvements on the Great Western Highway and Reservoir Road, Blacktown. Improvements to cyclist safety and the installation of cyclist paths are not included within the scope of the proposal.</p> <p>To discuss the development of a cycleway please consider contacting Blacktown City Council. Should council wish to further investigate the option they can apply for development and/ or construction funding under the walking and cycling program.</p> <p>For more information relating to the program please visit the RMS web page <a href="http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/business-industry/partners-suppliers/lgr/active-transport/index.html">http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/business-industry/partners-suppliers/lgr/active-transport/index.html</a>.”</p>
<p><b>Out of Scope</b> Six comments</p>	<p>Is there any way that a “KEEP CLEAR” sign can be painted on the ground just before Clare Street (on Reservoir Road)?</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>The purpose of this consultation is to seek feedback on the proposed intersection improvements on the Great Western Highway and Reservoir Road. Clare Street is not part of the proposal and considered out of scope for this project.</p>
	<p>Completed closure (deletion) of both Honeman Close and Boiler Close.</p>	<p>Roads and Maritime thank you for your comments on the proposal. Honeman Close and Boiler Close are considered council roads.</p> <p>Please consider contacting Blacktown City Council with your feedback regarding the closure of Honeman Close and Boiler Close.</p>
	<p>How about not worrying about this and start upgrading Prospect Highway.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>The purpose of this consultation is to seek feedback on the</p>

Category	Key Matters Raised	Response
	<p>I am also surprised that the M4 Motorway/Northern Road intersection upgrade was not considered for a fully grade separated interchange.</p>	<p>proposed intersection improvements at the Great Western Highway and Reservoir Road.</p> <p>The Prospect Highway and Northern Road intersections are not part of the proposal and considered out of scope for this project.</p>
	<p>Reduction of the elevation change (hill) between The M4 Motorway and Great western Highway.</p>	<p>The NSW Government has committed \$300 million to its Urban Roads Pinch Points Program, which focuses on short to medium term solutions to reduce traffic congestion and improve travel times on Sydney's busiest corridors.</p> <p>The purpose of this consultation is to seek feedback on the proposed intersection improvements at the Great Western Highway and Reservoir Road. Constructing major infrastructure, such as a bridge, tunnel, or an underpass is not part of the proposal and considered out of scope for this project. The proposed improvements will help to reduce traffic congestion and improve travel times in the area.</p> <p>Note that the on and off ramps to the M4 at Reservoir Road will be upgraded as part of the Smart Motorways project. More details of the Smart Motorways project can be found on the RMS website at: <a href="http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-west/m4/index.html">www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-west/m4/index.html</a></p>
	<p>To ease traffic queuing on Reservoir Road at the Great Western Highway after exiting the M4 Motorway, a new exit ramp bridge could be built that would enable M4 Motorway west-bound off-ramp traffic to cross over both the M4 Motorway and Reservoir Road. A connection to this bridge could also be built to enable east-bound off-ramp traffic to also cross the Great Western Highway. This bridge could join Reservoir Road in the vicinity of the Workers Sports Club.</p>	
	<p>As an alternative, could the westbound &amp; eastbound lanes of the Great Western Highway be routed either on a bridge over Reservoir Road or on an underpass under Reservoir Road.</p>	

## 4. Decision

We thank everyone who provided comments and the community and stakeholders for considering the proposal.

After reviewing the feedback, we have decided to proceed with the proposal unchanged.

## 5. Next steps

Roads and Maritime will finalise the detailed design and environmental assessment for the project.

We will continue to keep the community informed as the project progresses.



## 6. Appendices

### 6.1. Appendix A – ‘Have your say’ letter December 2017



December 2017

#### **Have Your Say – Proposed improvements at the intersection of the Great Western Highway and Reservoir Road, Blacktown**

**The NSW Government is funding these improvements as part of its \$300 million Urban Roads Pinch Points Program, which aims to reduce congestion and improve travel time on Sydney’s busiest corridors**

Roads and Maritime Services is seeking feedback by **Monday 18 December** on proposed improvements at the intersection of the Great Western Highway and Reservoir Road, Blacktown. The proposed improvements include:

- a dedicated left turn lane for northbound traffic on Reservoir Road
- dual dedicated right turn lanes for northbound traffic on Reservoir Road
- widening of the left turn lane from Great Western Highway eastbound
- dual dedicated right turn lanes for westbound traffic on Great Western Highway
- minor widening of the left turn slip lane on the Great Western Highway westbound
- removal of vegetation

#### **Noise and vibration impact assessment**

A noise and vibration impact assessment of the proposal has recently been carried out. The assessment found that noise and vibration impacts were within appropriate limits and are not expected to cause adverse affects to properties.

#### **Key benefits**

The proposal will:

- improve the capacity of the intersection and reduce congestion
- improve travel times particularly in peak hours
- improve traffic flow at this intersection and approaches
- improve safety for pedestrians and road users

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

#### **Have your say**

Roads and Maritime welcomes your comments on the proposal by **Monday 18 December**. You can provide your comments by:

**Calling** 1800 572 004 and leaving a message for the project team  
**Emailing** [pinchpoint@rms.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pinchpoint@rms.nsw.gov.au)  
**Writing** Roads and Maritime Services PO Box 973, Parramatta NSW 2124

For more information on our projects, visit [rms.nsw.gov.au](http://rms.nsw.gov.au).


#### **Next Steps**

We will carefully consider all feedback received before deciding whether or not to proceed with this proposal. A community consultation report will be prepared, summarising the matters raised and our responses.

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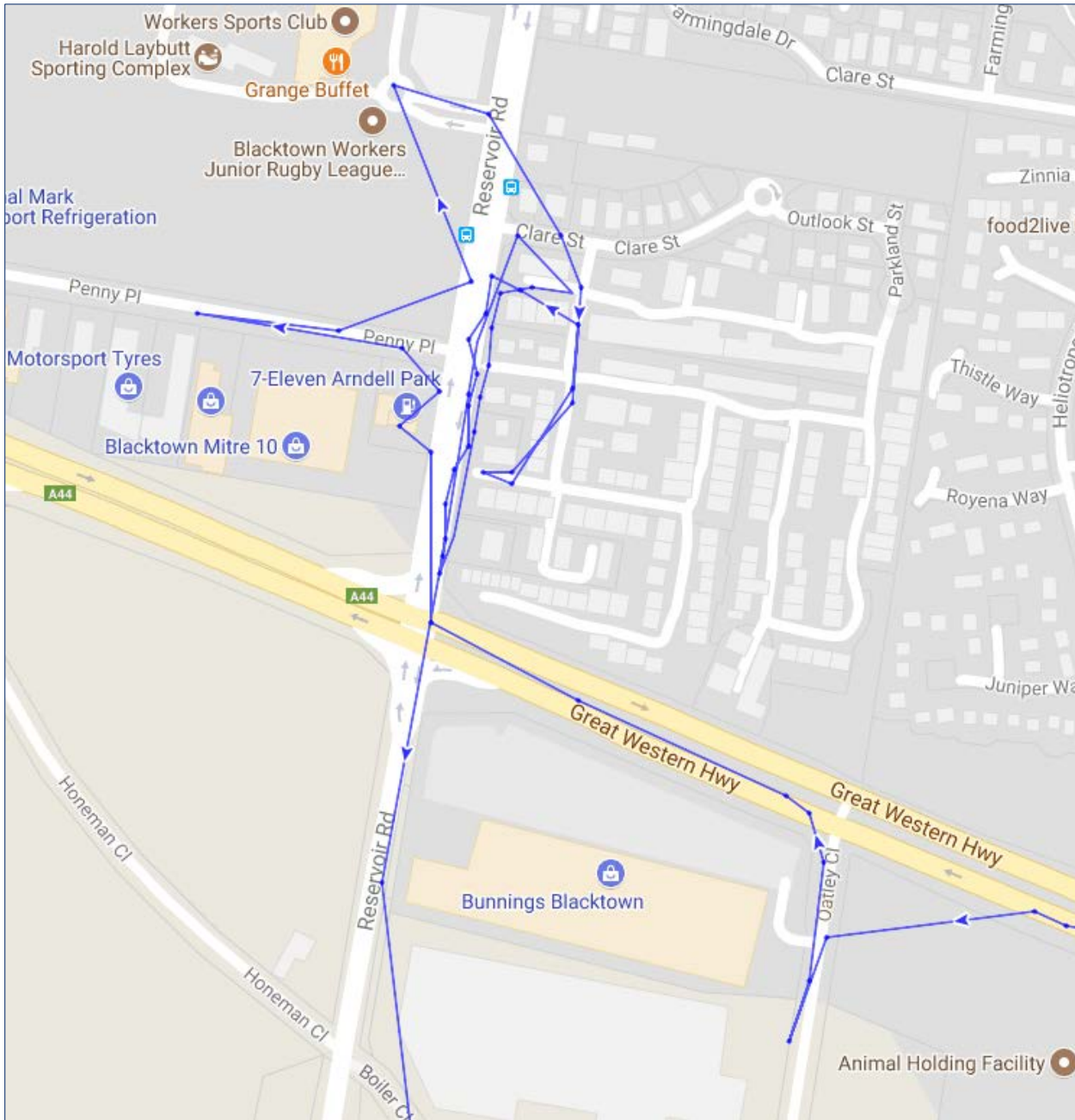
Proposed improvements on the Great Western Highway and Reservoir Road, Blacktown



 If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1800 572 004.



## 6.2. Appendix B – Distribution map





## 6.3. Appendix C – Facebook post

Post Details
✕


**NSW Roads**

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We want to get you to where you are going quicker.

Our plan is to put extra lanes on Reservoir Road at the intersection of the Great Western Highway at Blacktown.

Let us know what you think: <http://bit.ly/GWHReservoir>



👤
68473 people reached

Boost Post

👍👎❤️ 1k
277 Comments
91 Shares
🇺🇸

👍 Like
💬 Comment
➦ Share

**68,473** People Reached

**1,639** Reactions, comments & shares ⓘ

<b>1,074</b> 👍 Like	<b>1,048</b> On post	<b>26</b> On shares
<b>23</b> ❤️ Love	<b>22</b> On post	<b>1</b> On shares
<b>41</b> 😂 Haha	<b>39</b> On post	<b>2</b> On shares
<b>6</b> 😮 Wow	<b>5</b> On post	<b>1</b> On shares
<b>400</b> Comments	<b>351</b> On Post	<b>49</b> On Shares
<b>96</b> Shares	<b>91</b> On Post	<b>5</b> On Shares

**4,117** Post Clicks

<b>1,781</b> Photo views	<b>491</b> Link clicks	<b>1,845</b> Other Clicks ⓘ
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**NEGATIVE FEEDBACK**

8 Hide Post	1 Hide All Posts
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[rms.nsw.gov.au/pinchpoints](https://rms.nsw.gov.au/pinchpoints)



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