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# Duplication of Tourle Street and Cormorant Road, Kooragang

Roads and Maritime Services is upgrading Tourle Street and Cormorant Road at Kooragang to improve traffic flow and cater for future traffic growth. This community update includes information on project progress, including the detailed design investigations and preparation for construction.

## Background

Kooragang Island is home to a major industrial and employment centre in NSW and is part of the world's largest coal export port.

Tourle Street and Cormorant Road form the main corridor connecting Kooragang Island to Newcastle and the southern section of the Port of Newcastle. The road is also the main transport corridor connecting Newcastle with Newcastle Airport and Port Stephens. About 33,000 vehicles use the corridor each day, including more than 3000 heavy vehicles.

Roads and Maritime is upgrading the corridor to improve traffic flow and cater for the forecast increase in traffic movements due to future urban development in Port Stephens, the expansion of Newcastle Airport and growth of industrial development on Kooragang Island.

Tourle Street Bridge was replaced in 2009 to improve heavy vehicle loading capacity. The bridge was built as the first stage of providing four continuous travel lanes between Industrial Drive at Mayfield West and Fern Bay. Duplication will ensure the corridor has sufficient capacity to accommodate current and projected traffic volumes.

The Australian and NSW governments have each committed \$51.9 million for the upgrade.

## Project update

The review of environmental factors (REF) was finalised in December 2014 following consultation with stakeholders and the community.

A total of eight submissions were received with the main issues relating to design refinements, ongoing consultation and construction management. A submissions report summarising the comments, responses and details of the decision has been published on the project website.

The REF assessed the potential project impacts and identified a range of mitigation activities. The report is available to view at [rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects](http://rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects)

The detailed design for the project has been completed. It addresses the requirements and mitigation measures detailed in the REF including community and stakeholder feedback.

Work is now under way to prepare the construction tender documentation. Tenders to construct the project are expected to be called later this year.

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## The proposal

Key features of the proposed upgrade include:

- Duplicating 3.8 kilometres of the road between Industrial Drive, Mayfield West and Egret Street, Kooragang to provide two lanes in each direction
- A new two lane bridge on the western side of the existing bridge
- 2.5 metre shoulders along Cormorant Road to cater for on-road cyclists
- Minimising impact on the Long Pond by mainly widening the road on the southern side of the existing Cormorant Road
- Maintaining access to existing businesses along Cormorant Road
- Catering for future industrial development on Kooragang Island next to the existing road.

## Benefits

Key benefits of the proposed upgrade would include:

- Catering for forecast traffic growth as a result of future development within the Port of Newcastle
- Improving access to/from Newcastle Airport and Port Stephens to cater for forecast increases in commercial, industrial and domestic traffic
- Improving traffic flow and travel times for motorists
- Improving road safety for through and local traffic as well as catering for cyclists.

## Proposed construction

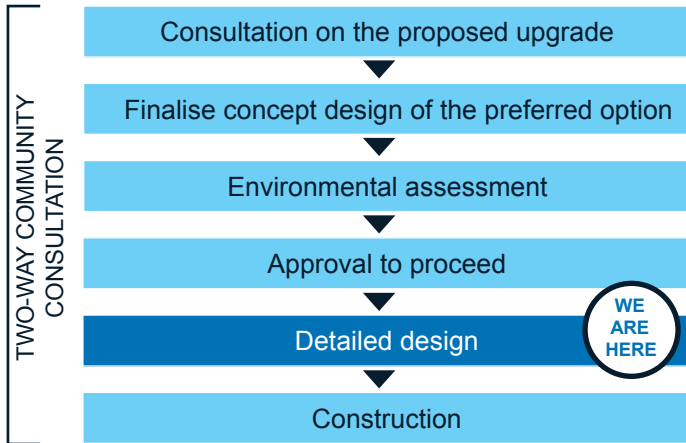
There would be no closure of Tourle Street, the existing bridge or Cormorant Road for motorists during the proposed construction work. A minimum of one lane of traffic in each direction would be maintained during peak periods. A reduced speed limit would be implemented for traffic through the construction zone. Lane widths may be reduced to accommodate construction and barriers required for worker safety. Short term lane closures would be required but would be restricted to off peak hours.

## Involving the community and stakeholders

Roads and Maritime is working with the community and stakeholders to identify issues and minimise potential impacts of the proposed upgrade and construction activities.

More information about the construction program will be provided to motorists and the community as the project progresses.

## Next steps



## Further information

Please contact the project manager Chris Sutherland for more information about the project by:

Phone: 02 4924 0449 (during business hours)  
 Email: Christopher.Sutherland@rms.nsw.gov.au  
 Mail: Chris Sutherland  
 Roads and Maritime Services  
 Locked Bag 2030  
 NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

Information is also available on the road projects website at [www.rms.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au)



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