

1. The Program

The Princes Highway is a critical road link in NSW. Since 2011 the Australian and NSW governments have invested \$2.5 billion upgrading the Princes Highway in NSW to create safer and more efficient journeys. A further \$1.9 billion has been committed to upgrade the Princes Highway between Nowra and the Victorian border as part of the 20 year plan, Roadmap to 2040.

Five priority projects have progressed to the design phase including the Jervis Bay Road and Princes Highway intersection, Jervis Bay to Sussex Inlet Road upgrade, Milton Ulladulla bypass, Burrill Lake to Batemans Bay upgrade and Moruya bypass.

The Princes Highway Upgrade Program will progressively deliver a range of new and improved infrastructure and service projects as sections receive approval and further funding is allocated. A detailed list of the priorities of the 20 year roadmap can be found at <https://princeshighway.nsw.gov.au/tfnsw/phu/roadmap2040>

2. The Moruya bypass

A bypass of Moruya would unlock opportunities to improve the feel of Moruya town centre for the benefit of locals, pedestrians and businesses and complement the appealing, tourist-friendly experience of the town.

Transport identified a preferred strategic bypass corridor, (known as the Orange option) in May 2021, and has since received a mix of positive and negative feedback on the selection. Transport has considered this feedback received and has responded to the community's request to provide additional feedback on the three shortlisted corridors – Purple, Orange and Yellow.

Consultation on the three shortlisted corridors is open until 5 June 2022, and Transport will use the feedback received as it continues its planning for the bypass.

Transport is seeking feedback on the three shortlist corridors – Purple, Orange and Yellow:



3. Purpose of the Flood Focus Group

Transport is establishing a Flood Focus Group for the Moruya bypass. Similar groups were established in the planning phases of other projects, including Albion Park Rail bypass, where community members provided valuable insights which were used during planning.

Transport has conducted preliminary investigations in and around Moruya, which includes flood studies. We know flooding is an important issue for the Moruya community and some have expressed interest in gaining a deeper understanding about the flood assessment process and how this increased level of understanding can be used in the future.

In partnership with Transport for NSW, the Flood Focus Group will act as a conduit for information sharing on local flooding issues during the planning process.

The group will not be a formal decision making body, but will provide input into planning for the bypass. It will help Transport understand the issues surrounding flooding so these can be considered as part of the bypass planning process.

3.1 Group aims

- The Group will consist of 8 to 12 community members to represent the wider community who are concerned about flooding in the area
- To assist Transport in obtaining additional local knowledge about flooding history and flooding concerns.
- To better inform community members about the flood modelling used to date

The Group will help ensure a coordinated and transparent approach to the development of the Moruya bypass.

3.2 Group limitations

- The Princes Highway upgrade program objectives and goals
- The project's route and funding considerations
- The Focus Group is not a decision making body
- Some questions from the Group may not be addressed until a final concept design for the bypass is developed.

3.3 Roles and responsibilities of participants

Four meetings are planned between May and June 2022. Meetings will be held in Moruya on a weeknight between 5:00pm and 8:00pm at the following locations:

- Monday 16 May at the Moruya Showground
- Monday 30 May at the Moruya Golf Club
- Wednesday 15 June at the Moruya Golf Club
- Wednesday 29 June at the Moruya Golf Club

A site tour will also to be held to enable the Group to view and inspect specific locations to assist in understanding information presented. Dates and details of this site tour will be confirmed.

3.3.1 Expectation of the Group

- Attend the four planned meetings of the Flood Focus Group
- Participates to actively engage within a constructive framework
- Take responsibility for action items and provide feedback at meetings

- Initiate timely communication with other members of the Group to address issues or to update on any significant matters between meetings
- Endeavour to exchange information and contribute data and local knowledge regarding flooding in the area
- Respect other members and each other's opinions and be able to tolerate and respect differing viewpoints and interests that may be opposed to personal or local community position
- Be able to represent broader community interests and view
- Provide information from the wider community
- Provide information from the meeting to the relevant stakeholders within your community.

3.3.2 Eligibility

Members of the Group must:

- Demonstrate connection to the Moruya local community
- Be willing to adhere to the Group's Terms of Reference
- Be neither an elected official nor seeking election to either local, state or federal government.

3.3.3 Role of Participants

The Flood Focus Group will be made up of representatives from the local community, together with a representative from Eurobodalla Shire Council, the Department of Planning and Environment and members of the Transport's Moruya bypass project team.

3.3.4 Role of Transport

Transport will provide information to the Flood Focus Group in a timely manner and will work to keep the Group informed. The information gained from the Flood Focus Group will be shared with the project technical experts and will be considered as the design process continues and assist in informing the Environmental Impact Statement process.

3.3.5 Group remuneration

Members are not eligible to receive sitting fees or reimbursement of any out of pocket expenses associated with attending meetings. Transport will provide Group members with a light meal on the evening of the meetings.

4. Decision making

Community members of the Flood Focus Group will not have decision making powers, but will have the ability to present their views, opinions and feedback for consideration.

5. Confidentiality

The Flood Focus Group will operate in an open and transparent manner for members. The Flood Focus group does not have any specific confidentiality requirements.

Members of the Group will be encouraged to share information and discuss matters considered at meetings with other members of their local community.

When discussing matters outside of meetings, members agree not to formally identify individuals.

If a member wishes to discuss issues or table documents at meetings that need to remain confidential, the following procedure will be adopted:

- In every case, a discussion will be held first about the matter and the length of the time for which it should remain confidential
- In any case, if a member of the Group feels they cannot maintain confidentiality they will excuse themselves from the meeting while the matter is discussed. When a matter is accepted as confidential, all members of the Group will be obligated to keep it confidential. Failure to do so could result in the member being excluded from the Group.

6. Facilitator and secretariat duties

An independent professional facilitator will be engaged by Transport to provide professional third-party facilitation to the Group. The facilitator will manage the meeting agendas.

The facilitator will engage the whole Group in discussion and workshops to create shared understanding, agree and deliver outcomes, and identify options to resolve disputes.

The facilitator will record and agree decisions and actions by the Group which will be agreed by the Group at the end of each meeting. The facilitator will be responsible for taking action items and maintaining and monitoring a log of actions arising from the Group.

Transport will manage the secretariat duties such as distribution of actions and meeting materials to members, coordination of meetings and manage the correspondence log.

7. Meeting proceedings

This Group will follow good meeting practice and adopt standard procedures. The Facilitator working with the secretariat will:

- Formulate the agenda for all meetings in consultation with the Group
- Convene and run meetings in a fair and independent manner
- Support constructive dialogue
- Facilitate discussion to ensure all members have an opportunity to speak and share their views.
- Resolve disagreements or differences of opinion in a fair, transparent and supportive manner.

7.1 Meeting agendas

Any member may propose a matter for inclusion on the agenda up to 72 hours prior to a meeting, providing the matter is within the purpose of the Group.

A final agenda and any associated papers will be provided to the Group 24 hours prior to each meeting.

7.2 Meeting notes (action items)

- High level meeting notes and action items will be provided to the Group after each meeting.
- The meeting notes will clearly identify the actions to be taken before the next meeting, who is responsible for these actions and a timeline for completion.
- Meeting notes and presentations will be published on the project's webpage after each meeting.