

Newcastle Inner City Bypass – Rankin Park to Jesmond

Project update

Roads and Maritime Services – April 2018

The NSW Government is funding the fifth section of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass between Rankin Park and Jesmond. The Department of Planning and Environment placed the environmental impact statement on public exhibition between 16 November and 16 December 2016.

Roads and Maritime Services is carrying out additional investigations to allow a submissions and preferred infrastructure report to be prepared which will document all issues raised and provide responses.

Background

The Newcastle Inner City Bypass is a critical link between the Pacific Highway at Bennetts Green and the Pacific Highway at Sandgate.

The bypass provides improved traffic flows across the western suburbs of Newcastle and connects key regional destinations such as Bennetts Green, Charlestown and Jesmond shopping centres, John Hunter Hospital precinct, the University of Newcastle and the Pacific Highway.

The road network surrounding the Rankin Park to Jesmond project area has high levels of traffic congestion and delays for motorists at key intersections.

The proposed Rankin Park to Jesmond section of the bypass would provide traffic relief to the existing route of Lookout Road, Croudace Street and Newcastle Road, which is currently used by about 40,000 to 60,000 vehicles each day.

When completed, motorists travelling north-south on the proposed section of bypass would avoid up to 11 sets of traffic lights along the existing route, which is expected to reduce travel times by up to 80 per cent during the morning and afternoon peaks.



Southern interchange (looking north)



Northern interchange (looking west)



Hospital interchange (looking south)



To Charlestown and Bennetts Green

To M1 Pacific Motorway



RANKIN PARK

ELERMORE VALE

George
McGregor Park

WALLSEND

Jesmond
Shopping
Centre

John Hunter
Hospital

Hospital interchange

Northern interchange

To University,
Shortland and
Sandgate

Key

- Design change
- Road
- Bridge structures
- Existing shared path
- Proposed shared path
- Proposed northbound cycleway
- Existing on-road cycleway
- Proposed on-road cycleway
- Earthworks fill (adding soil)
- Earthworks cut (removing soil)
- Fauna underpass

Bypass is two lanes in each direction

Bridge to provide bushwalker access, fauna movements and drainage

Shared path bridge over Newcastle Road

Blackbutt Reserve

NEW LAMBTON HEIGHTS

LAMBTON

Jesmond Park

To Newcastle

McCaffrey Drive

Lookout Road

Newcastle Road

Newcastle Road

Design updates

A number of design changes have been made in response to community submissions during the environmental impact statement exhibition.

We have also made changes through the ongoing review of the concept design and consultation with other government agencies.

The changes are shown on the project map and include:

Design changes at Northern interchange

- 1 An east-west grade separated shared path would now be provided for the Jesmond Park cycleway to improve accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists. A shared path bridge would lead to an underpass of the bypass.

Design changes at Hospital interchange

- 2 South facing ramps added to deliver a full interchange, providing access in all directions between the bypass and the hospital precinct for all hospital users including public, staff and emergency services.
- 3 Traffic lights added at the shared path crossing of the southbound off-ramp to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Design changes at Southern interchange

- 4 A northbound cycleway connection added from Lookout Road to the bypass to improve safety for on-road cyclists.
- 5 A southbound cycleway connection controlled by traffic lights added from the bypass to Lookout Road to improve safety for on-road cyclists.
- 6 The proposed pedestrian footpath on the northern side of McCaffrey Drive would now be replaced with a wider shared path for use by both pedestrians and cyclists.
- 7 The pedestrian crossings on the left turn from McCaffrey Drive onto Lookout Road, and across Lookout Road would now both be shared path crossings controlled by traffic lights.

Features

The Rankin Park to Jesmond section of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass is a proposed new 3.4 kilometre bypass between Lookout Road at New Lambton Heights and Newcastle Road at Jesmond, to the west of the John Hunter Hospital.

The proposed bypass would provide two lanes in each direction separated by a median, as well as three interchanges designed to improve traffic flow and increase connectivity:

- Northern interchange providing access to Newcastle Road and the existing Jesmond to Shortland section of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass. The full interchange provides all movements to/from the bypass and Newcastle Road
- Hospital interchange providing access between the John Hunter Hospital precinct and the bypass. The full interchange provides all movements to/from the bypass and the hospital precinct
- Southern interchange providing access to Lookout Road and the existing Kotara to Rankin Park section of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass. The bypass would travel under McCaffrey Drive. The half interchange provides connection in both directions on Lookout Road.

The project would include upgrades to connecting roads, pedestrian and cycling facilities, noise barriers as required and permanent operational water quality treatment measures.

The project would also include structures along the bypass for drainage, animal and bushwalker access.

Involving the community

We are working with the community and stakeholders during the planning process to understand issues and minimise potential impacts.

We will keep the community updated as the project progresses.

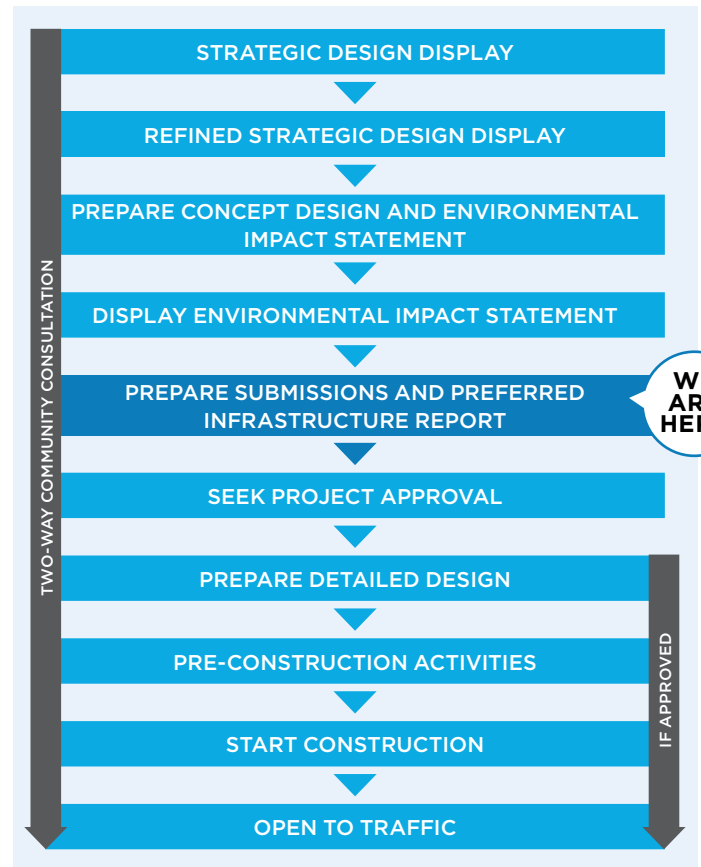
What happens next?

Upcoming activities include:

- Community and stakeholder discussions continuing
- Complete additional studies including geotechnical investigations
- Prepare the submissions report and preferred infrastructure report for lodgement to the Department of Planning and Environment. This report is expected to be finalised in mid-2018.
- Seek NSW and Australian Government project approval
- Detailed design for early work packages, including the shared path bridge over Newcastle Road
- Detailed design for the main bypass work.

Construction timing is subject to project approval and funding.

Project progress chart



An updated 3D visualisation of the project has been developed to help understand the design refinements, key features and benefits of the project. This can be viewed on the project website rms.nsw.gov.au/rp2j



Further information



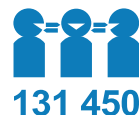
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