



# **Nowra Bridge project: Out of hours work scheduling**

Consultation summary

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# 1 Introduction

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The Nowra Bridge project will improve conditions on the Princes Highway over the Shoalhaven River in Nowra. The project includes:

- A new northbound four lane bridge
- Reconfiguration of the existing concrete bridge to carry southbound traffic
- Intersection upgrades at Illaroo Road, Bolong Road and Bridge Road
- New Pleasant Way T-intersection
- Keeping the old southbound bridge for pedestrians and cyclists.

Key benefits of the project include:

- Improved safety, capacity and efficiency across the Shoalhaven River
- Improved freight movements and access to the South Coast
- Better traffic flow now and in the future
- Improved pedestrian connectivity
- Preserving the heritage of the old southbound bridge

Around 50,000 vehicles cross the Shoalhaven River on an average day meaning that a large portion of the work will need to be completed at night to minimise traffic impacts. This is particularly the case when considering the significant work required at the key intersections of Bolong Road, Illaroo Road and Bridge Road.

Transport for NSW consulted with nearby residents in July and August 2019 to gain an insight into the community sentiment towards out of hours work. The outcomes of the consultation have been used by the construction contractor to plan the construction program.

## 2 Consultation approach

### 2.1 Consultation approach

Transport for NSW sought feedback from nearby residents, close to the project, over a four week period from July – August 2019 for their views regarding out of hours work scheduling. The community was asked in an online survey to select their preferred of three options for out of hours work scheduling.

The objectives of this consultation were to:

- Inform the community on construction timeframes and out of hours work impacts
- Gain an insight for community sentiment toward these impacts to effectively plan and mitigate the impacts of the construction program
- Understand how impacted residents would like to be communicated with throughout construction.

Noise caused by the construction of the project has been predicted and assessed against the relevant noise criteria set by the Transport for New South Wales' 'Construction Noise and Vibration Guideline' (CNVG).

For the purposes of this consultation, Transport for NSW wanted to hear from residents who would potentially be affected by a rise in noise levels of 5db or more at night from out of hours work. The number of affected properties as identified in the project's Review of Environmental Factors (REF) is approximately 1200, including 38 multi dwelling properties.

### 2.2 Consultation methods

Consultation Method	Details
Notification to noise catchment areas – letterbox drop	A notification was distributed to the 1200 identified receivers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduce purpose of the consultation</li><li>• Invite participation in the online survey</li><li>• Invite people to closed community drop-in sessions</li><li>• Join email/text list for project updates</li></ul>
Online survey	Community members were directed to an online survey to select their preference of three night work options that were presented. The survey also allowed us to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gauge community sentiment regarding night work versus traffic impacts with daytime works</li><li>• Explain how night work affects construction timeframes (i.e. project will take much longer at current night work schedule)</li><li>• Find out how community want to be contacted</li></ul>

Consultation Method	Details
<b>Community drop-in sessions</b>	<p>Two community drop-in sessions were held at North Nowra Community Centre to provide further details about night work scheduling and the project in general. The drop in sessions provided the project team opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the reasons for night work and its impacts in more detail</li> <li>• Explain how programing of night work might look and gauge sentiment</li> <li>• Correct misinformation about construction impacts within community, particularly community perception around long term closures of Illaroo Road</li> </ul>
<b>Media</b>	<p>A Media release was issued to local media outlets to announce the consultation period and invite feedback from the community. A number of local media outlets ran stories and interviews were carried out with WIN news and ABC Illawarra.</p>
<b>Website</b>	<p>An update to the Nowra Bridge project webpage was created and contained a link to the online survey as well as information on the consultation process.</p>

## 3 Consultation results and summary

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### 3.1 Analysis of responses / outcomes

There were a total of 182 valid responses recorded as part of the online survey. Respondents were asked to number their choices in order of preference from three night work scheduling options. Those options were:

1. **Current program of two nights per week, six nights per month for duration of the project** - Working at individual locations, only two nights a week for the duration of the project. Residents would receive more respite on a weekly basis but work would take much longer to complete. It would also require much of the work to be completed during the day, resulting in daily traffic impacts. Work is estimated to take between three to four years to complete under this option.
2. **Ongoing spread out night works – two weeks on, one week off for duration of the project** - Working no more than two weeks continually at an individual location. Residents would receive respite every two weeks but work would take longer to complete at each location. This option could reduce the project completion time by up to six months.
3. **Multiple focused blocks of night work – up to three months of work at a time in one location, five nights a week** - Working in one particular location for a concentrated period of time. Residents may experience disruption for a longer concentrated period of time but this would result in longer term respite once work is completed at individual locations. Work would be completed much faster and could provide more opportunities to establish proper worksites with more effective temporary noise mitigation. This option could reduce the project completion time by up to 12 months.

Respondents were asked to identify which street they lived in so the project team could identify residents closer to the project area.

Responses were broken into two separate groups, those received from directly impacted residents, as identified in our distribution area, and those received from other areas outside the impacted zone.

Responses from directly impacted residents = 115

Responses from 'other' residents = 67

#### **Directly impacted residents**

Option 1 – 16 respondents selected this as their number 1 preference (14%)

Option 2 – 16 respondents selected this as their number 1 preference (14%)

Option 3 – 83 respondents selected this as their number 1 preference (72%)

**‘Other’ residents (from streets not identified as directly impacted)**

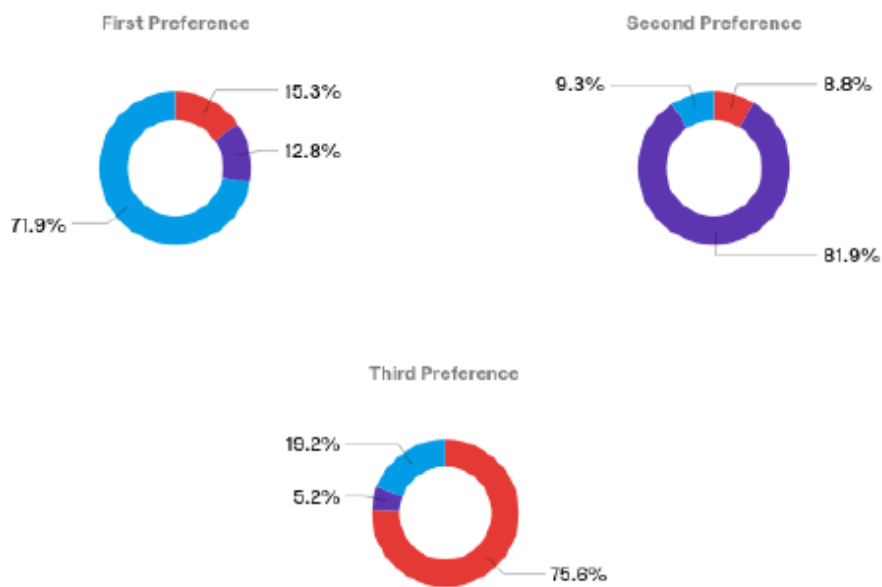
Option 1 – 8 respondents selected this as their number 1 preference (12%)

Option 2 – 7 respondents selected this as their number 1 preference (10%)

Option 3 – 52 respondents selected this as their number 1 preference (78%)

Overall, 135 of 182 (74%) of total respondents selected Option 3 (Multiple focused blocks of night work) as their preferred option to mitigate the construction impacts on the Nowra Bridge project.

**Recorded community preferences for night work scheduling**



**■** Current program of two nights per week, six nights per month for life of the project Working at individual locations, only two nights a week for the life of the project. Residents would receive more respite on a weekly basis but work would take much longer to complete. It would also require much of the work to be completed during the day, resulting in daily traffic impacts. Work is estimated to take between 3-4 years to complete under this option.

**■** Ongoing spread out night works – two weeks on, one week off for life of the project Working no more than two weeks continually at an individual location. Residents would receive respite every two weeks but work would take longer to complete at each location. This option could reduce the project completion time by up to six months.

**■** Multiple focused blocks of night work – up to three months of work at a time in one location, five nights a week Working in one particular location for a concentrated period of time. Residents may experience disruption for a longer concentrated period of time but this would result in longer term respite once work is completed at individual locations. Work would be completed much faster and could provide more opportunities to establish proper worksites with more effective temporary noise mitigation. This option could reduce the project completion time by up to 12 months.

**Table 2 Percentage of responses by street**

<b>Street</b>	<b>Percentage of total responses</b>
Beinda Street, Bomaderry	1.1% (2)
Bolong Road, Bomaderry	2.2% (4)
Bowada Street, Bomaderry	1.1% (2)
Brereton Street, Nowra	0.5% (1)
Bridge Road, Nowra	1.6% (3)
Brinawarr Street, Bomaderry	2.2% (4)
Colyer Avenue, Nowra	1.1% (2)
Crest Avenue, North Nowra	0.5% (1)
Daley Crescent, North Nowra	1.6% (3)
Elia Avenue, Nowra	1.1% (2)
Ferry Lane, Nowra	1.6% (3)
Hawthorn Avenue, Nowra	0.5% (1)
Hewlett Avenue, North Nowra	0.5% (1)
Illaroo Road, North Nowra	15.4% (28)
Lynburn Avenue, Bomaderry	1.1% (2)
Lyrebird Drive, Nowra	3.3% (6)
Maleen Street, Bomaderry	0.5% (1)
Mandalay Avenue, Nowra	0.5% (1)
Mattes Way, Bomaderry	0.5% (1)
Meroo Street, Bomaderry	1.1% (2)
Moss Street, Nowra	0.5% (1)
Nita Place, Bomaderry	1.1% (2)
Nundah Close, Bomaderry	0.5% (1)
Osbourne Street, Nowra	1.6% (3)
Other	36.8% (67)
Princes Highway, Bomaderry/North Nowra	8.2% (15)
Riverview Road, Nowra	2.2% (4)
Scenic Drive, Nowra	0.5% (1)
Shoalhaven Street, Nowra	1.6% (3)
Tarawara Street, Bomaderry	0.5% (1)
Terara Road, Nowra	1.6% (3)
Walsh Crescent, North Nowra	4.4% (8)
Wondalga Crescent, Nowra	1.6% (3)



A number of comments were also received as part of the online survey and these have summarised in the three topics below:

Topic/Issue	Comment
<b>Reduce construction time</b>	<p>The overwhelming majority of comments support reducing construction time by concentrating night work efforts at individual locations for longer than the default period of night works allowance.</p> <p>Many commented that the more hours available for work, including during the night, would limit the length of time that the community would be inconvenienced with noise and traffic impacts.</p> <p>A number of comments also highlighted the project should not schedule work on Friday and Saturday nights, public holidays and limiting working during school holidays and peak holiday periods.</p>
<b>Communication of night work</b>	<p>The community has flagged timely and effective communication of night work and traffic impacts as important throughout construction. Many responses addressed their expectations that any inconvenience be communicated through a range of different means including SMS, VMS, notifications and social media.</p>
<b>Access to Illaroo Road, North Nowra</b>	<p>Access to Illaroo road continues to be a key concern of residents, particularly those who access their property from Illaroo Road. A number of respondents also expressed their concern for emergency services access during night work.</p> <p>The project team can confirm that the current level of access to Illaroo Road will be maintained during construction and emergency services will not be hindered at any time.</p>

## 4 Next steps

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The feedback received during the 2019 consultation has been used by the project contractor when scheduling night work and has informed parts of the project's Environment Protection Licence, issued by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Feedback from the community, including complaints, will be monitored closely and provided to Transport for NSW regularly through community consultation reports.

Further steps that the project's contractor will take to reduce the impact of night works on the community include:

- Reducing the scheduling any out of hours work on Friday or Saturday nights or during public holidays. Out of hours work will also be reduced or limited during school holidays and peak holiday periods.
- Modelling noise impacts of all out of hours work and notifying potentially affected residents at least five days before this work takes place. The trigger for this action will be noise predictions of 5dBA or more above normal background levels at night.
- Delivering reminder flyers of predicted high noise impact work to the most affected properties 48-hours beforehand.
- Carrying out the loudest activities before 10pm where possible and minimising any non-essential noise and light nuisance e.g. no loud conversations or music, and focusing artificial lighting on work areas.
- Deploying variable messaging signs to alert motorists of changed traffic conditions at least five days before such changes are made to local roads and/or the Princes Highway.
- Utilising or deploying temporary sound barrier screens, where feasible, to reduce noise impacts.
- Conducting attended noise monitoring periodically to confirm noise modelling is correct. Noise predictions are always conservative as they assume worst case scenarios however if they are shown to be inaccurate then work practices will be adjusted accordingly.

The community can call the toll-free project enquiry line 24/7 on 1800 331 713 if they have any questions or concerns about any out of hours work.