

JULY 2013



Pacific Highway through Wyong Planning Study Revised option

In November 2011 Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) displayed a revised option for a future upgrade of the Pacific Highway at Wyong for community and stakeholder comment. RMS has altered the proposal after taking into consideration comments received during the display period. RMS will now move from the planning study phase of investigations into concept design involving specialists from many areas to further refine and improve the proposal.

Background

The Pacific Highway through Wyong is currently a single lane in each direction. Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) and RMS studies and displays resulted in an outcome of any future upgrade being along the route of the existing Pacific Highway. This was confirmed in March 2013 by the Minister for Roads and Ports following an independent review by Evans & Peck.

RMS reviewed the option displayed in November 2011 and took into account comments received from the community where possible.

This display builds on previous displays and seeks further community input in order to finalise strategic planning and proceed into the design phase.

What has happened since November 2011?

Independent evaluation of project options

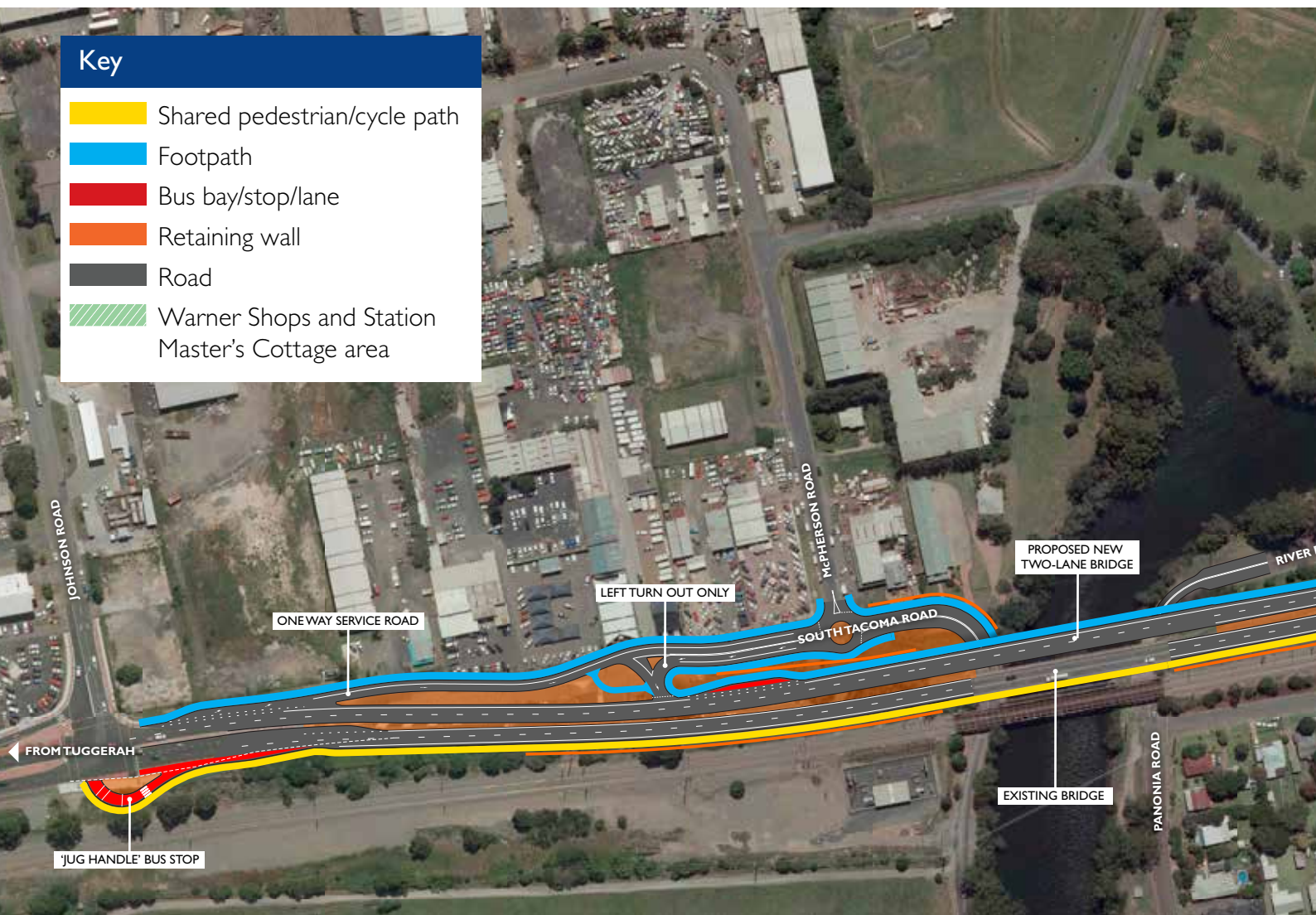
Evans & Peck Pty Ltd was appointed to carry out an independent evaluation for the Office of the Minister for Roads and Ports. The evaluation was guided by the terms of reference which were endorsed by the Minister. The draft report was available for comment direct to Evans & Peck in late 2012.

Evans & Peck collated all submissions received and delivered them directly to the Minister for Roads and Ports. The final Evans & Peck independent evaluation report along with the submissions were considered by the Minister in confirming the way forward for the future upgrade of the Pacific Highway at Wyong. A total of 49 submissions were received, 40 of which outlined concerns with an eastern corridor option and supported a through town, widened carriageway proposal. The report and comments submitted are available on the RMS website.

In March 2013, after considering the independent review and the submissions received, the Minister for Roads and Ports announced that any future upgrade of the Pacific Highway would be along the existing highway alignment, through the township of Wyong.

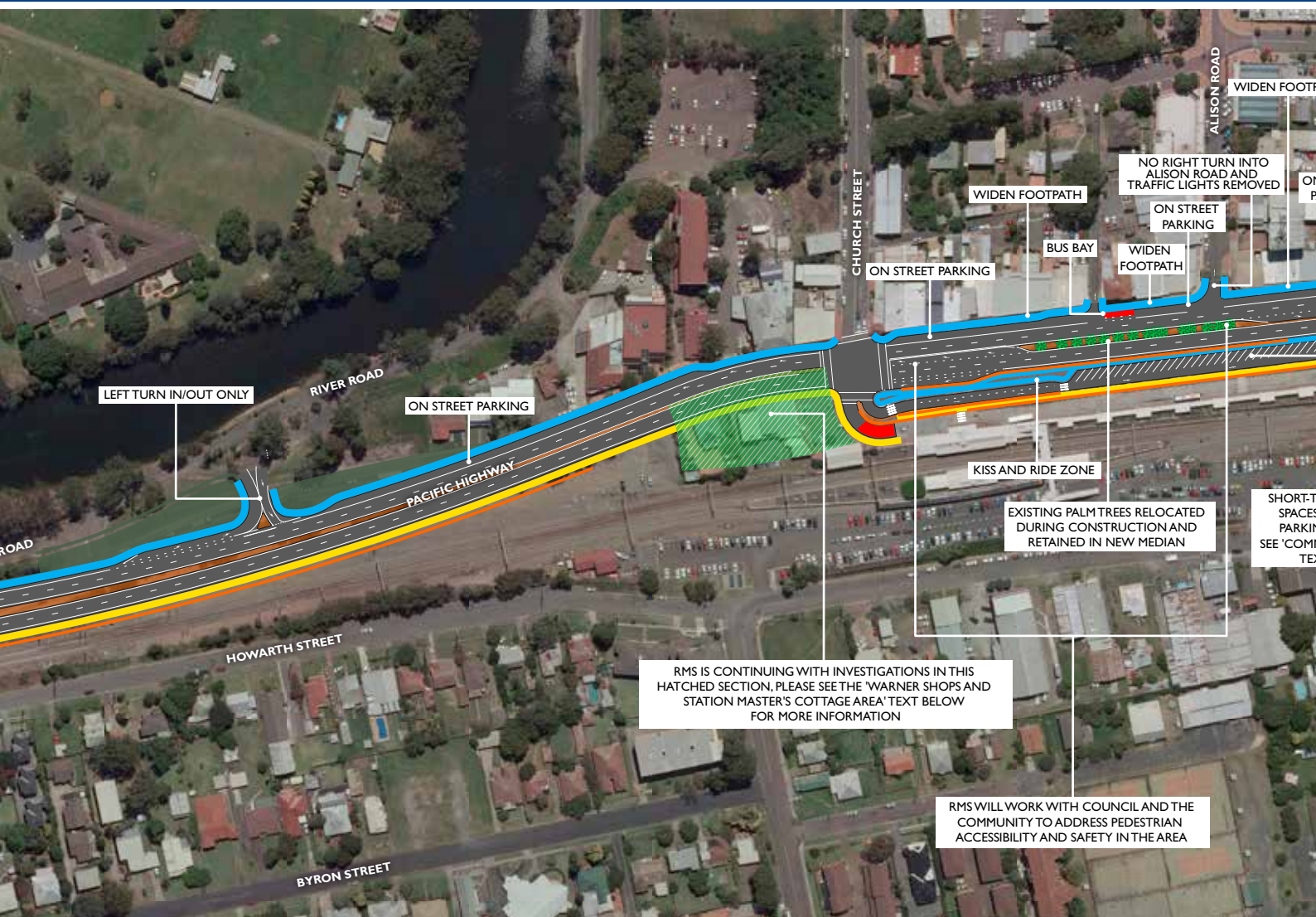
The next steps as outlined by the Minister were for RMS to consider feedback and issues raised by the community to refine and improve the through town proposal.

Pacific Highway through Wyong Planning Study



Features and benefits of displayed option

- Provides two through lanes in each direction.
- Retains much of the on-street parking on the western side of the highway between Church Street and North Road.
- Integrates with the bus-rail interchange. All day parking spaces for commuters would be relocated and the short term parking reconfigured.
- Pedestrian crossings across the Pacific Highway between Church Street and North Road. Crossings would be located at Church Street, Rose Street (railway overbridge), Anzac Avenue and North Road. A pedestrian facility near Alison Road will be considered in the next phase of planning.
- Improves Wyong township access by upgrading key intersections with the Pacific Highway at Church Street, Rose Street, Anzac Avenue and North Road.
- Configures Anzac Avenue as the main entry and exit to the town centre on the western side of the highway.
- Provides an off-road shared pathway through the town centre along the eastern side of the highway that connects to the existing cycleway on Tuggerah Straight.
- Retains many of the existing palm trees.
- Retains the right turn into Church Street.



What has changed since the last display

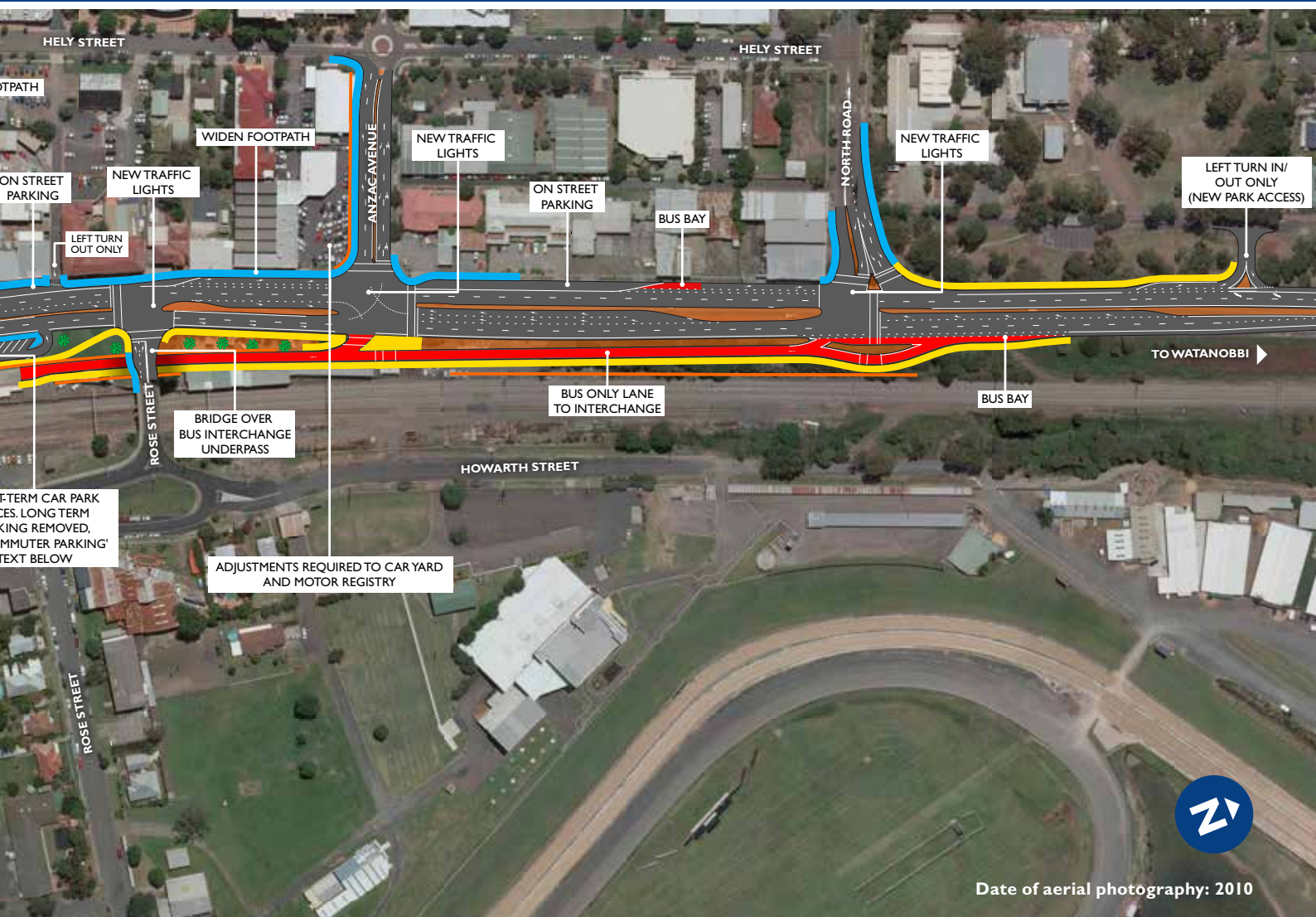
Based on community stakeholder consultation improvements that have been investigated include:

- The Wyong town centre palm trees could remain in their current location and this area would become a new median dividing the northbound and southbound lanes (the palm trees may need to be removed during the construction period and re-instated after works have been completed).
- The transport interchange arrangement has been altered to improve safety by separating out bus, taxi and general road transport areas. This has led to a more efficient arrangement for general traffic entering the interchange area.

- Greater bus provisions have been provided in the scheme to allow patrons to utilise the bus services of the town centre and surrounding areas with increased efficiency.

Commuter parking

As part of the proposal approximately 116 long term car parks will need to be removed from the commuter car park on the western side of the transport interchange. RMS together with Transport for NSW will be working towards replacing these car spaces on the eastern side of the transport interchange, and several options are currently being investigated.



Warner Shops and Station Master's Cottage Area

RMS has carried out investigations on many aspects of the Warner Shops and Station Master's Cottage area including:

- Heritage assessment and statement of impact
- Structural relocation assessments
- Building façade surveys
- Utility detection
- Preliminary geotechnical investigations

RMS recognises that any upgrade of the Pacific Highway through the town centre needs to fit in with the existing built environment, infrastructure and themes of the town, and this includes the precinct around the Warner Shops and Station Master's Cottage.

To ensure a good outcome for the community, RMS plans to develop the proposal in close collaboration with heritage experts, urban and landscape design consultants, property owners and Council. For this reason the detail around these buildings has not been presented at this stage.

Detailed and comprehensive analysis will continue during the concept design phase to ensure that the highway upgrade contributes to Wyong town centre functioning as a vibrant, attractive and liveable place.

What happens next?



TWO-WAY COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Where to from here?

At this time planning for the proposal is the primary task and moving forward RMS will:

- Finalise the strategic design following consideration of comments received.
- Work with Council and the local community to address pedestrian safety and accessibility in the area.
- Investigate the best outcome for relocation or adjustments to the heritage buildings in the Station precinct.
- Undertake additional detailed survey and geotechnical investigations along the Pacific Highway to progress to concept design.
- Continue to investigate boundaries along the entire alignment for planning purposes and to inform landowners.
- Commence concept design and environmental impact assessment (REF).

- Investigate constructability constraints.
- Engage with the community through the RMS website to keep everyone informed of progress.
- Display the REF for comment prior to finalising the design.

Further information

For more information or to comment on the proposal, please contact the project team:

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Information is also available on the RMS website at: **www.rms.nsw.gov.au**

Further copies of this community update are available at the RMS Central Coast Office, The Pavilion Building, Upper Level, 29 George Street, Woy Woy. 9.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

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