



Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services

Clearways Proposal – Princes Highway

Community consultation report

December 2014

RMS 14.571
ISBN 978-1-925217-50-6

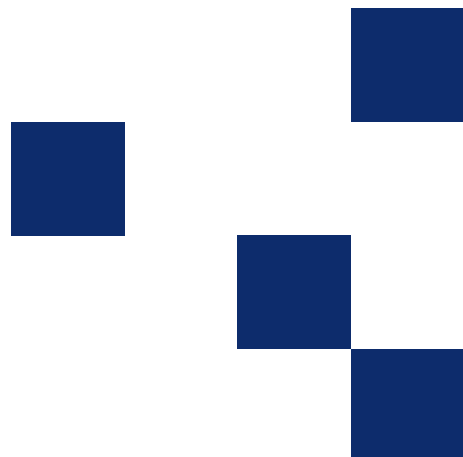


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1. Background

1.1 The Sydney Clearways Strategy

On 1 December 2013, the Minister for Roads and Freight announced the Sydney Clearways Strategy as one of the NSW Government's key initiatives to reduce congestion on Sydney's roads.

The Strategy outlines how to get more from Sydney's roads by introducing new or extending existing clearways on congested roads.

The NSW Government's Long Term Transport Master Plan outlines a number of responses to traffic congestion in Sydney, aimed at improving travel on Sydney's roads. One of the primary means to achieve this is the use of clearways.

The current clearways network has been in place for several decades, and there have been very few clearways added or extended in the past few years. Traffic growth in Sydney has reached a point where there is a need to consider further use of clearways to manage congestion, particularly on weekends, where traffic growth has led to congestion levels similar to that of weekday periods.

The Strategy proposes that when retail parking needs to be removed from a major road to extend a clearway, alternative parking (based on demand) will first be identified. The NSW Government has established a \$21 million fund to assist local councils with providing alternative business parking. The alternative business parking arrangements and allocation of funds will be assessed by Roads and Maritime Services, in collaboration with each local council, using the Sydney Clearways Strategy parking framework (see Attachment 2).

1.2 The Sydney Clearways Proposal – Princes Highway

The Sydney Clearways Strategy identifies Princes Highway, from King Georges Road, Blakehurst, to President Avenue, Kirrawee, as a priority route for the introduction of additional clearway measures.

Preliminary investigations show this section of Princes Highway fulfils the criteria for a clearway:

- Directional traffic flows exceed 800 vehicles per hour per lane
- Travel speeds are 30km/h or below during peak periods
- The road is a strategic bus or freight transport corridor for moving people and goods
- Alternative public parking close to local businesses can be found, taking into account the quantity and usage of parking removed to extend or introduce a new clearway.

Any new clearway needs to consider access to local businesses and services, ensuring there is no net loss in parking for businesses. One way to maintain accessibility for businesses is by providing parking close to the state road.

While the first two criteria have clear measures, the third requires consideration of a number of different factors. Some of the factors to be considered include the Long

Term Transport Master Plan, the NSW Government's strategic plan for buses, Sydney's Bus Future, and NSW Freight and Ports Strategy. Each of these documents sets out priority corridors that assist in making sure clearways support motorists, bus passengers and freight priorities.

The legal framework for the operation and enforcement for clearways is set out in Australian and NSW Road Rules (2008). Application of these rules in NSW is progressed by Transport for NSW.

This section of the Princes Highway already has existing clearways that operate:

- Mondays to Fridays from 6am to 10am (northbound)
- Mondays to Fridays from 3pm to 7pm (southbound).

Roads and Maritime Services has proposed operating clearways in both directions on the Princes Highway between King Georges Road and President Avenue:

- Mondays to Fridays from 6am to 10am (added southbound clearway).
- Mondays to Fridays from 3pm to 7pm (added northbound clearway).
- Saturdays and Sundays from 10am to 7pm (new clearway).

There are two shopping strip locations along the route that have been identified:

- Blakehurst Retail Area located on the northbound carriageway between 80 metres south of James Street and King Georges Road, Blakehurst,
- The Georges River Retail Area located on the northbound carriageway between approximately 10 metres and 50 metres south of Blake Street, Blakehurst.

Roads and Maritime Services and Kogarah City Council are working together to identify alternative parking options. A parking study has been completed to inform these decisions.

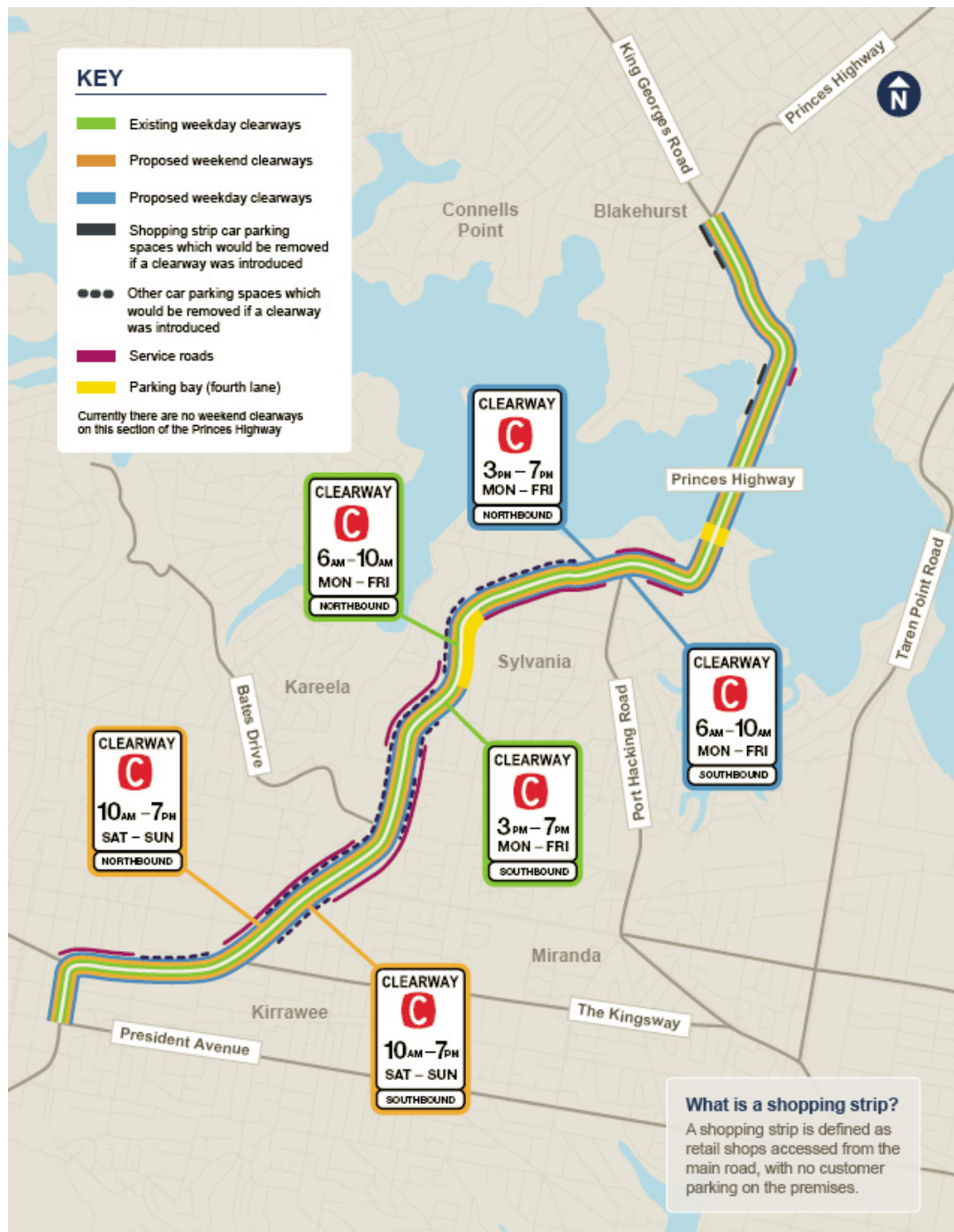


Figure 1 - The clearway proposal for Princes Highway – Kirrawee to Blakehurst

2. Scope of report

This report summarises the comments raised during the formal community consultation period for the Princes Highway clearway proposal.

This is the first community consultation report that has been prepared following the initial consultation on the proposal.

3. Community consultation

3.1 Strategy

Roads and Maritime Services consults to understand the concerns and needs of the community, so that this feedback can be considered in deciding the final clearway solution and alternative parking arrangements.

Consultation allowed Roads and Maritime Services to:

- Build rapport with local businesses operators and residents, and use their knowledge and expectations to inform the project.
- Seek community feedback on Roads and Maritime Service's proposal.
- Advise directly affected stakeholders of the proposal and potential impacts.
- Reassure local business operators and owners that a clearway would not be implemented without a feasible alternative parking solutions.
- Advise the community about how they could obtain further information or communicate concerns, complaints or suggestions.

Available community feedback options included a dedicated:

- Feedback phone number 1300 706 232 (with interpreter and TTY services).
- Postal address.
- Email address at clearways@rms.nsw.gov.au.

Roads and Maritime Services will continue to consult with the community and publish a community consultation report at the end of each community feedback period.

3.2 Key stakeholders

3.2.1 Discussions with local councils

Pre-consultation briefings were held with Kogarah Council on 14 January 2014 and Sutherland Shire Council on 22 January 2014 to discuss the proposal, preliminary traffic data and options for alternative business parking solutions.

A number of comments and queries were raised. The councils:

- Expressed support for commencing consultation at the beginning of February 2014
- Requested information on timeframes and implementation.
- Asked Roads and Maritime Services to engage with owners of Smith's Seafood (as they had expressed concerns).

- Provided feedback on the distribution zone for community updates and locations for community information sessions.

Roads and Maritime Services held post-consultation meetings with Kogarah Council on 14 April 2014 and Sutherland Council on 15 April 2014 to discuss community feedback and alternative parking options that would be suitable. Roads and Maritime Services have continued these discussions with council to develop the proposed alternative parking options for the two retail areas.

3.2.2 Door knock of businesses in the Blakehurst and Georges River retail areas

To give local business operators on Princes Highway an opportunity to discuss the proposal, Roads and Maritime Services staff carried out a door knock on 25 February 2014.

Roads and Maritime Services staff explained the proposal to business operators, responded to questions and also provided them with a community update, which included contact details for further inquiries and the details of information sessions being held in March 2014.

Business operators located in the shopping strip on the Princes Highway provided feedback on the clearway proposal. Some business operators:

- Gave their full support for the clearway proposal.
- Were neither against nor in favour of the clearway proposal.
- Indicated that they were not impacted by introducing a clearway.
- Were in support of the proposed morning clearway hours but not afternoon clearway hours.
- Advised they would need to relocate their business if a clearway was introduced.
- Would support the clearway if parking was replaced.
- Suggested that a pedestrian bridge would provide safer access to unused parking on the eastern side of Princes Highway.
- Were concerned that the clearway proposal would present safety issues while entering and exiting the business site.
- Commented that there was an existing safety issue on the loop road under Tom Ugly's Bridge with speeding traffic on approach to the car parks for the restaurants south of Blake Avenue.

3.2.3 Business operator and owner meeting

Roads and Maritime Services staff met with Smith's Seafood on 20 February 2014 to discuss the Princes Highway clearway proposal. At the meeting, specific issues were raised and the impacts considered. Following this meeting, Smith's Seafood formally lodged its feedback detailing its concerns and requests. These form part of the comments and responses in this report.

Roads and Maritime Services has re-assured local business operators and owners that a clearway would not be progressed until alternative business parking is found.

Roads and Maritime Services continues to meet with local businesses on an as-needs basis to ensure business operators are kept informed and can raise any other concerns.

3.2.4 Other stakeholder meetings

Roads and Maritime Services provided briefings to the Local Members of Parliament on 24 February 2014. Briefings were held with business association representatives on the Princes Highway clearway proposal.

Roads and Maritime Services met with:

- NRMA on 4 March 2014
- NSW Business Chamber on 19 March 2014
- The Office of NSW Small Business Commissioner on 24 March 2014.

Although there were no specific issues raised, these groups requested that Roads and Maritime Services continue to keep them informed as the proposal progresses.

3.3 Activities

3.3.1 Community update

A community update asking for feedback was distributed to 4500 households and business operators and owners on 24 February 2014 (see Attachment 3).

Feedback was invited by phone, email, mail, through an online collaborative map and community information sessions.

3.3.2 Project webpage

A project webpage was published on the Roads and Maritime Services website to provide further information and updates on the proposal (Attachment 4). This can be found at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/clearways.

It included an online collaborative map that allowed members of the public to click on a location and leave a comment.

3.3.3 Advertising

A newspaper advertisement was published in The Leader on 4, 6 and 11 March 2014 (Attachment 5). The advertisement promoted the avenues for comment and invited the community to attend information sessions.

3.3. Information sessions

Two information sessions were held:

- Saturday 8 March at GyMEA North Public School
- Thursday 13 March at Sylvania Community Centre.

The information sessions provided residents, business operators and owners with an opportunity to speak to project representatives and to give feedback. Eleven community members attended the information sessions for the Princes Highway clearway proposal.

4. Feedback summary

4.1 Overview

Roads and Maritime Services received 70 feedback forms, letters, emails, phone calls and comments via the online collaborative map.

It is important to note that this does not necessarily mean there were 70 individual respondents. One person may use more than one avenue to provide feedback. For example, they may send an email with their feedback and also attend an information session, where they complete a feedback form.

It is possible for one submission to cover a variety of issues, for example, one piece of feedback could show support for the proposal, but also raise concerns about replacement parking.

Each point raised is allocated to its specific topic area and responded to separately.

Figure 2 shows the number of submissions received during the consultation period and indicates if the submission was either for or against the clearway proposal.

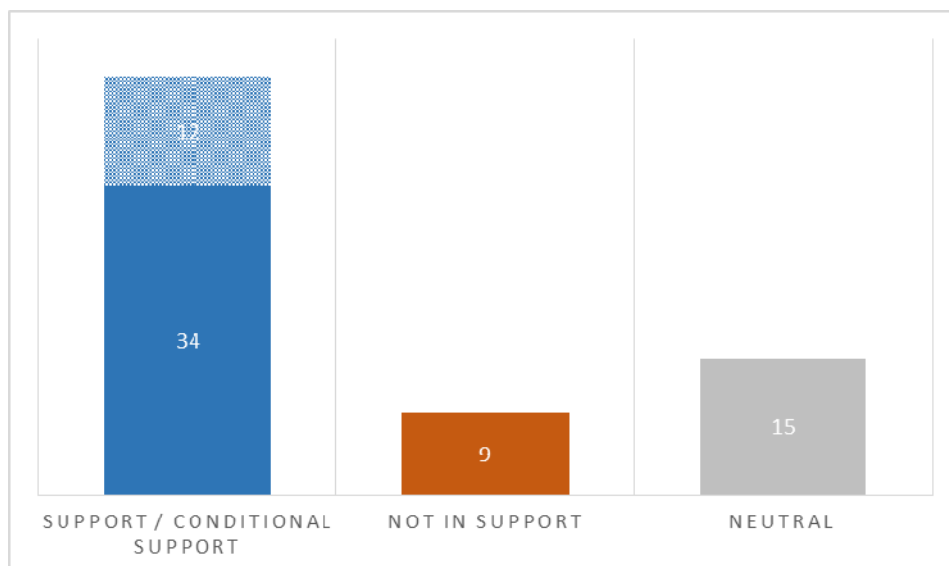


Figure 2 - Number of submissions received

Overall, the feedback shows support for the Princes Highway clearway proposal and most respondents have acknowledged the benefit of a clearway for reducing congestion.

Comments have been sorted under a generic label, meaning feedback on an issue like 'clearway hours' may be negative, neutral or positive

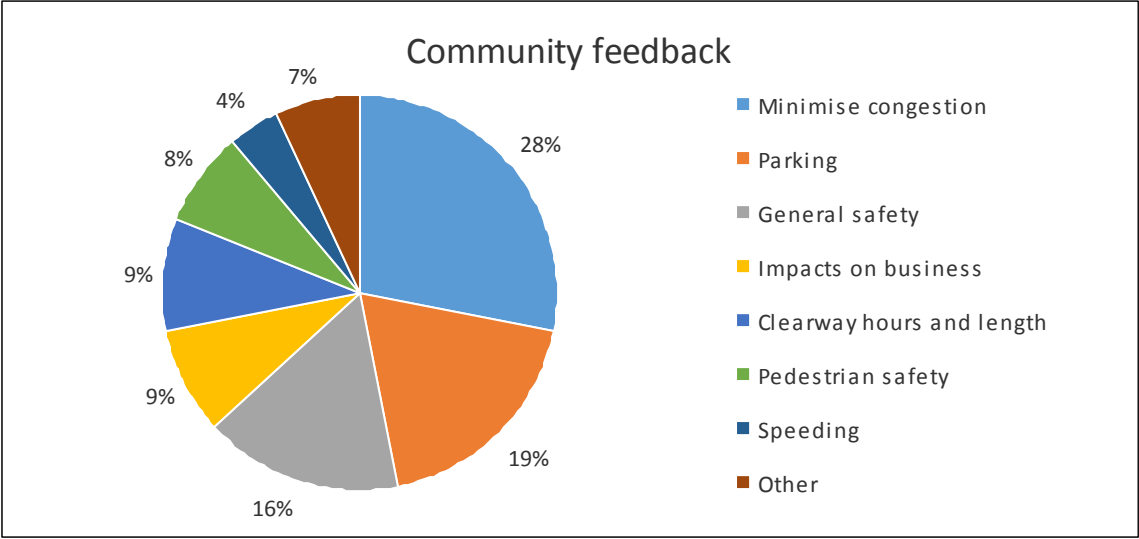


Figure 3 - Breakdown of topics from feedback submissions

4.2 Comments and responses

Issue category	Issue raised	Roads and Maritime Services response
Parking availability		
General	On-street parking should not be used as a private car park.	Under the proposal, parking would be removed from the Princes Highway between King Georges Road, Blakehurst, to President Avenue, Kirrawee Mon-Fri 6am-10am and 3pm-7pm and Sat-Sun 10am-7pm. The proposed new clearway times are in accordance with the Transport for NSW Sydney Clearways Strategy. Outside of clearway times parking would be available to any road user with a registered vehicle in accordance with the signage.
	Residents need on-street parking.	An independent parking study was commissioned by Roads and Maritime Services to identify the current parking usage along this section of Princes Highway. The study found there was very low on-street parking on the Highway in residential areas on weekends (two vehicles observed over two weekends) and weekdays (three vehicles over the week). It is expected that these few vehicles would be able to find alternate parking in private properties or in adjoining side streets. Princes Highway between King Georges Road, Blakehurst, to President Avenue, Kirrawee would retain existing on-street parking outside of the proposed clearway hours.
	Kogarah City Council should develop or provide adequate parking to compensate for the loss of on-street parking as a result of the proposed clearway extensions.	The NSW Government has established a \$21 million fund to assist local councils to provide alternative business parking. This funding will be allocated for local councils across all areas impacted by changed clearways. Roads and Maritime Services will assess the alternative business parking arrangements and allocation of funds, in collaboration with the local council, using the Sydney Clearways Strategy parking framework. The Princes Highway clearway assessment identified two shopping strips along the route that would require alternative parking arrangements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blakehurst Retail Area on the northbound carriageway between 80 metres south of James Street and King Georges Road, Blakehurst.

Issue category	Issue raised	Roads and Maritime Services response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Georges River Retail Area on the northbound carriageway between approximately 50 metres and 10 metres south of Blake Avenue, Blakehurst. Roads and Maritime Services is working with Kogarah City Council to identify and agree on alternative parking arrangements at these two locations. The clearway proposal will not proceed until alternative parking arrangements have been confirmed.
	<p>A weekend clearway on the western side of Princes Highway near Water Street, Blakehurst is not appropriate, as parking is required and there are already three existing lanes to cater for northbound traffic.</p>	<p>The NSW Government has established a \$21 million fund to assist local councils to provide alternative business parking. This funding will be allocated for local councils across all areas impacted by changed clearways. Roads and Maritime Services will assess the alternative business parking arrangements and allocation of funds, in collaboration with the local council, using the Sydney Clearways Strategy parking framework.</p> <p>The Princes Highway clearway assessment identified the Blakehurst Retail Area located on the northbound carriageway between 80 metres south of James Street and King Georges Road, Blakehurst would need alternative parking arrangements. Roads and Maritime Services is currently working with Kogarah City Council to identify and agree on alternative parking arrangements at this location.</p> <p>When considering the Princes Highway as a priority route for the Sydney Clearways Strategy, preliminary traffic data was taken into consideration and analysed separately for each direction. This preliminary data concluded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekday traffic flows exceed the threshold value of 800 vehicles per hour per lane in each direction from 5am to 7pm Average travel speeds during the AM and PM peaks were below 30km/h. During weekends, traffic flows exceed the threshold value from 8am to 7pm and the average travel speeds during peak periods are similar to that of weekday peak periods. <p>Based on this information, the Princes Highway from Blakehurst to Kirrawee meets the criteria for a clearway to be installed.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime Services also used the data to determine the operational hours of the proposed clearway to ensure it would effectively reduce congestion and minimise</p>

Issue category	Issue raised	Roads and Maritime Services response
		<p>delays at signalised intersections on this section of the Princes Highway during peak periods on weekdays and weekends. The proposed operational hours are Mon-Fri 6am-10am and 3pm-7pm, Sat-Sun 10am-7pm.</p> <p>The Princes Highway has three northbound lanes 50 metres north of Water Street. It then widens to create a fourth northbound lane over approximately 60 metres, which includes a shared through and right lane towards King Georges Road and Princes Highway.</p> <p>North of where the fourth lane develops, parking is permitted on approach to King Georges Road.</p> <p>This parking means cars have to change lanes and this impedes the flow of traffic and poses safety risks. Vehicles also stop to access parking spaces which delays vehicles travelling in this lane.</p> <p>Removal of the parking during the proposed clearway times would increase safety and improve traffic flow through the intersections.</p>
	<p>No one parks on the Princes Highway anyhow. The proposed clearway to be implemented would only formalise what is existing.</p>	<p>An independent parking study was commissioned by Roads and Maritime Services to identify the current parking usage along this section of Princes Highway.</p> <p>The study found there was very low levels of on-street parking on the Princes Highway in residential areas on weekends (two vehicles observed over two weekends) and weekdays (three vehicles over the week). It is expected that these few vehicles would find alternate parking in private properties or in adjoining side streets.</p> <p>The Princes Highway between King Georges Road, Blakehurst, to President Avenue, Kirrawee would retain existing on-street parking outside of the proposed clearway hours.</p> <p>The proposed clearway times, on the Princes Highway between King Georges Road, Blakehurst, to President Avenue, Kirrawee are Mon-Fri 6am-10am and 3pm-7pm, Sat-Sun 10am-7pm both directions.</p>

Issue category	Issue raised	Roads and Maritime Services response
Business impacts – due to loss of parking	Shops should provide their own off-street parking arrangements.	<p>Roads and Maritime Services and councils determine the off-street parking requirements for new retail shops during the Development Application stage using the Austroads Guide to Traffic Management Part 11: Parking.</p> <p>For developments on the local and regional roads applications are assessed by Councils.</p> <p>Kogarah City Council or Sutherland Council and Roads and Maritime Services assess any new development in this local area impacting the state road network to ensure that impacts on traffic flow and road safety are minimised.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime Services will continue to work with Councils to assess development applications and, where possible, include the conditioning of onsite parking within any new developments.</p> <p>In addition, the NSW Government has established a \$21 million fund to assist local Councils with providing alternative parking for existing businesses when it is being removed for a clearway proposal.</p> <p>This funding will be allocated for local councils across all areas impacted by changed clearways.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime Services will assess the alternative business parking arrangements and allocation of funds, in collaboration with the local council, using the Sydney Clearways Strategy parking framework.</p>
	Introduce timed parking on the Princes Highway outside of existing clearway hours to improve the turnover of available parking spaces on the Princes Highway to minimise the impact on businesses.	<p>Under the clearway proposal, unrestricted parking is still permitted on the Princes Highway between King Georges Road, Blakehurst, to President Avenue, Kirrawee outside of clearway hours (Mon-Fri 6am-10am and 3pm-7pm, Sat-Sun 10am-7pm).</p> <p>Roads and Maritime Services does not consider timed parking on the Princes Highway to be necessary, at this time.</p>
	Rear lane access for businesses should be provided or improved.	<p>The provision of rear lane access for new retail premises is determined at the Development Application stage. For developments on the local and regional roads these applications are assessed by Councils.</p> <p>Kogarah City Council or Sutherland Council and Roads and Maritime Services assess any new development in this local area impacting the state road network to ensure that impacts on traffic flow and road safety are minimised.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime Services will continue to work with Councils to assess development applications and, where possible, request the inclusion of rear-lane access and off-street parking.</p>

Issue category	Issue raised	Roads and Maritime Services response
	<p>Alternative parking arrangements should be considered for affected businesses.</p> <p>Businesses require shopfront parking to operate their business, i.e. for deliveries.</p>	<p>The NSW Government has established a \$21 million fund to assist local councils with providing alternative business parking. This funding will be allocated for local councils across all areas impacted by changed clearways.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime Services will assess the alternative business parking arrangements and allocation of funds, in collaboration with the local council, using the Sydney Clearways Strategy parking framework.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime Services is working with Kogarah City Council to address the parking and loading requirements for businesses. The proposed clearway extensions on the Princes Highway would still allow parking for deliveries and customers outside of clearway times.</p> <p>The Princes Highway clearway assessment identified two retail areas along the route that require alternative parking arrangements to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Blakehurst retail area on the northbound carriageway between 80 metres south of James Street and King Georges Road, Blakehurst.</p> <p>There is sufficient parking available in other streets close to the Blakehurst Retail Area to cater for the parking demand during the proposed clearway hours. The parking study recommended minor changes, such as time-limited parking at some locations, and changing the hours of operation of some side-street parking. Roads and Maritime Services is working with Kogarah City Council to develop a timed parking strategy for existing on-street parking on local roads. Additionally Roads and Maritime Services is proposing to formalise the Water Street public car park to meet peak parking demands at the Blakehurst Retail Area.</p> <p>Georges River retail area located on the northbound carriageway between approximately 50 metres and 10 metres south of Blake Avenue, Blakehurst.</p> <p>An independent parking study by PeopleTrans in late 2013 assessed the parking requirements of this retail area. The parking study identified six existing parking spaces (three signposted ¼P and three untimed). There are another five marked parking spaces within Blake Avenue adjacent to Dover Park West.</p> <p>The parking study showed that on weekends there is high demand on the existing parking spaces on the Princes Highway and in Blake Avenue.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime Services is working with Kogarah City Council on a proposal to provide additional parking in Blake Avenue and Dover Park West. This proposal includes widening Blake Avenue to provide approximately 10 additional parking spaces, which would better cater for the parking demand of the Georges River</p>

Issue category	Issue raised	Roads and Maritime Services response
		<p>retail area.</p> <p>This additional parking would allow the removal of the six parking spaces on the Princes Highway in the kerbside lane during clearway times.</p>
	<p>The proposal would severely impact upon the profitability of 'Blakehurst Vet'.</p> <p>Clients of 'Blakehurst Vet' are often frail or disabled and carry large packages to their cars.</p>	<p>"Blakehurst Vet" is located at 653 Princes Highway, Blakehurst, within the Blakehurst retail area on the northbound carriageway.</p> <p>An independent parking study by PeopleTrans in late 2013 concluded that there is sufficient parking available in close proximity to the Blakehurst retail area to cater for the parking demand between King Georges Road and James Street Blakehurst.</p> <p>The parking study recommended minor changes, such as time-limited parking at some locations, and changing the hours of operation of some side-street parking. Roads and Maritime Services is working with Kogarah City Council to develop a timed parking strategy for existing on-street parking on local roads. Roads and Maritime Services is also proposing to formalise the Water Street public car park to meet peak parking demands at the Blakehurst retail area.</p>
	<p>Blake Avenue can be widened by 8.0m to allow for timed angled parking on the southern side of Dover Park West.</p> <p>Alternative parking for Smith's Seafood customers could be provided by expanding the existing parking lot in Blake Avenue on the northern side into Dover Park West.</p>	<p>As part of the Sydney Clearways Strategy, Roads and Maritime Services proposes to find alternative business parking, where parking is removed for clearways.</p> <p>The NSW Government has established a \$21 million fund to assist local councils with providing alternative business parking. This funding will be allocated for local councils across all areas impacted by changed clearways.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime Services will assess the alternative business parking arrangements and allocation of funds, in collaboration with the local council, using the Sydney Clearways Strategy parking framework.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime Services is working with Kogarah City Council on a proposal to provide additional parking in Blake Avenue and Dover Park West. This proposal includes widening Blake Avenue to provide approximately 10 additional parking spaces, which would cater for the parking demand of the Georges River retail area.</p> <p>This additional parking proposal would allow the removal of the six parking spaces on the Princes Highway in the kerbside lane during clearway times (Mon-Fri 6am-10am and 3pm-7pm, Sat-Sun 10am-7pm). This is expected to reduce congestion for northbound motorists travelling along the Princes Highway between Kirrawee and Blakehurst and improve road safety.</p>

Issue category	Issue raised	Roads and Maritime Services response
Traffic congestion		
General	Trucks should be prohibited to travel on the right lane to minimise congestion along the Princes Highway.	The Princes Highway Clearway proposal would improve traffic flow along the Princes Highway from Blakehurst to Kirrawee. There is no evidence to suggest that prohibiting heavy vehicles from travelling on the outer-right lanes would improve average travel speeds or improve the flow of traffic along the Princes Highway. The removal of parking from the kerbside lane during clearway periods may result in more heavy vehicles using the left lane, as they would be confident there are no parked cars. Currently the potential for parked cars and the required lane changing means the kerbside lanes are underused.
	Service stations should improve the management of vehicles entering and exiting the service station to minimise traffic disruption along the Princes Highway.	Service stations provide a valuable service to road users. The provision of access to service stations is determined as part of the development assessment process. Roads and Maritime Services and Councils assess any new development impacting the state road network in the local area to ensure that traffic and safety impacts are minimised. Service Stations are required to accommodate customers waiting for fuel within their property. The queuing of traffic on the state road network is illegal. Roads and Maritime Services has requested NSW Police undertake additional targeted enforcement along the Princes Highway to minimise this illegal behaviour.
	More pedestrian bridges crossing the Princes Highway should be considered to minimise congestion.	Roads and Maritime Services considers requests for new pedestrian bridges in accordance with the Transport for NSW Active Transport Program and Sydney's Walking Future. The eligibility assessment is used to determine if a suggested pedestrian bridge is an appropriate infrastructure solution. The assessment considers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing pedestrian infrastructure • Pedestrian crossing demand and waiting times • Pedestrian safety and crash history • Vehicle volumes • Land use • Alternate options • Bridge feasibility • Other proposals and prioritisation. Roads and Maritime must allocate funds on an objective priority basis, particularly given the high number of sites throughout the Sydney Region where pedestrian

Issue category	Issue raised	Roads and Maritime Services response
		bridges are warranted. Funds are limited for these projects and so funding must be allocated to projects of the highest priority and which provide the greatest benefit when installed.
Georges River Retail Area (north of Tom Ugly's Bridge)	Prohibit on-street residential parking to alleviate congestion on Princes Highway, especially 100m north of Tom Ugly's Bridge, where the northbound carriageway narrows from three to two lanes.	There is an existing 'No Stopping Zone' on the northbound carriageway of the Princes Highway between Tom Ugly's Bridge and 100m north of the bridge.
	<p>A truck belonging to Smith's Seafood is often parked on the kerbside lane on Princes Highway northbound outside of the existing clearway hours and days, and contributes to traffic congestion and dangerous merging movements. There is no existing signage to provide advanced warning to drivers of these parked vehicles.</p> <p>Existing parking provided outside Smith's Seafood can cause traffic congestion issues along Princes Highway.</p>	<p>The proposed clearway extension on the Princes Highway would prohibit stopping and parking during the clearway hours (Mon-Fri 6am-10am and 3pm-7pm, Sat-Sun 10am-7pm). This is expected to reduce congestion and delays for northbound motorists travelling along the Princes Highway, and to improve road safety.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime Services is also working with Kogarah City Council on a proposal to provide additional parking in Blake Avenue and Dover Park West. This proposal includes widening Blake Avenue to provide approximately 10 additional parking spaces, which is expected to cater for the parking demand of the Georges River retail area.</p> <p>This proposal does not include provision to install signs to warn of parked cars on Princes Highway outside of clearway hours.</p>

Clearway hours and length		
	<p>A 24-hour clearway should be implemented on Sundays to improve traffic flow.</p> <p>Junior sports held at Kareela Oval starts at 8:30am on Saturdays.</p> <p>The proposal to implement a northbound clearway on Princes Highway during Monday to Friday, 3pm-7pm is not necessary as there is not that much northbound traffic on the road during those times.</p> <p>Peak traffic on weekends occurs during the hours of 3pm-6pm only. The proposed weekend clearway hours should be changed to reflect this.</p>	<p>When developing Sydney Clearways Strategy, preliminary traffic volume and speed data was taken into consideration and analysed separately for the Princes Highway in each direction.</p> <p>This preliminary data concluded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekday traffic flows exceed the threshold value of 800 vehicles per hour per lane in each direction from 5am to 7pm • Average travel speeds during the AM and PM peaks were below 30km/h. • During weekends, traffic flows exceed the threshold value from 8am to 7pm and the average travel speeds during peak periods are similar to that of weekday peak periods. <p>Based on this information, the Princes Highway from Blakehurst to Kirrawee meets the criteria for a clearway to be installed.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime Services also used the data to determine the operational hours of the proposed clearway to ensure it would effectively reduce congestion and minimise delays at signalised intersections on this section of the Princes Highway during peak periods on weekdays and weekends. The proposed operational hours are Mon-Fri 6am-10am and 3pm-7pm, Sat-Sun 10am-7pm.</p>

Road safety		
General	<p>Existing kerbside parking provided outside Smith's Seafood on Princes Highway is a road safety hazard as approaching northbound vehicles travelling along the kerbside lane may not be aware of the stationary parked vehicles.</p> <p>The truck belonging to Smith's Seafood parked on the kerbside lane outside of existing clearway hours is a safety hazard for road users.</p>	<p>The proposed clearway on the Princes Highway between Blakehurst and Kirrawee would remove parking in the kerb-side lane during the proposed clearway hours (Mon-Fri 6am-10am and 3pm-7pm, Sat-Sun 10am-7pm).</p> <p>This is expected to reduce congestion and delays for motorists travelling along the Princes Highway between Blakehurst and Kirrawee, and remove the need for cars to change lanes in the vicinity of Smith's Seafood. This should improve safety.</p> <p>To reduce the need for vehicles to park on the kerb-side lane of the Princes Highway, Roads and Maritime Services is working with Kogarah City Council to increase the available off-street parking in this retail area.</p> <p>A proposal is being considered, which includes widening Blake Avenue to provide approximately 10 additional parking spaces, which is expected to cater for the parking demand of the Georges River retail area.</p>
	Parked cars on the kerbside lane are a safety hazard for road users.	<p>The proposed clearway on the Princes Highway between Blakehurst and Kirrawee would remove parking in the kerb-side lane during the proposed clearway hours (Mon-Fri 6am-10am and 3pm-7pm, Sat-Sun 10am-7pm).</p> <p>This is expected to reduce congestion and delays for motorists travelling along the Princes Highway between Blakehurst and Kirrawee and improve safety.</p>
	<p>Parked cars on the kerbside lane provide a buffer for vehicles reversing out of driveways and onto Princes Highway.</p> <p>Removing parked vehicles on the kerbside lane during the proposed clearway hours would reduce safety for vehicles entering and exiting from driveways adjacent to the Princes Highway.</p>	<p>The proposed clearway on the Princes Highway between Blakehurst and Kirrawee would remove parking in the kerb-side lane during the proposed clearway hours (Mon-Fri 6am-10am and 3pm-7pm, Sat-Sun 10am-7pm).</p> <p>This is expected to reduce congestion and delays for motorists travelling along the Princes Highway between Blakehurst and Kirrawee and improve safety.</p> <p>A review of the crash history for Princes Highway between Tom Ugly's Bridge and Blake Avenue from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2013 indicates that there have been 22 reported crashes, one involving vehicles entering or exiting from driveways.</p> <p>Removal of parked cars on the kerbside lane during the proposed clearway hours would improve line-of-sight for vehicles exiting driveways and vehicles travelling along the kerbside lane. Roads and Maritime Services expects the proposal would improve road safety along Princes Highway between King Georges Road and President Avenue.</p>

Pedestrian safety	<p>Reducing the number of parking spaces on the western side of the Princes Highway may encourage dangerous crossing for patrons of Smith's Seafood parked on the eastern side of Princes Highway, south of Dover Park.</p>	<p>A review of the crash history for Princes Highway between Tom Ugly's Bridge and Blake Avenue for the five year period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2013 indicates that there have been 22 reported crashes, one involving a pedestrian.</p> <p>The proposed clearway extensions on the Princes Highway would still allow parking for deliveries and customers outside of clearway times along the route. Roads and Maritime Services is working with Kogarah City Council to address the parking and loading requirements for businesses at the Georges River retail area when the clearway is in operation.</p> <p>A parking study undertaken for the Georges River retail area in 2013 showed that on weekends there is high demand for the existing parking spaces on the Princes Highway and in Blake Avenue. Roads and Maritime Services and Kogarah City Council are proposing to provide additional parking in Blake Avenue and Dover Park West, including widening Blake Avenue to provide approximately 10 additional parking spaces. This additional parking would allow the removal of the six parking spaces on the Princes Highway in the kerbside lane during clearway times (Mon-Fri 6am-10am and 3pm-7pm, Sat-Sun 10am-7pm). This is expected to reduce congestion for northbound motorists travelling along the Princes Highway between Blakehurst and Kirrawee and improve road safety.</p> <p>The proposed expansion of the Blake Avenue car park south of Dover Park West would allow more customers of the Georges River Retail Area to safely park in an off-street facility. Customers currently parked on the eastern side of the Princes Highway south of Dover Park would be provided more opportunity to park on the western side of the Princes Highway (via the Tom Ugly's Bridge loop road); this would minimise the requirement for pedestrians to cross six lanes of traffic, improving pedestrian safety. In addition, Roads and Maritime Services will install signs to direct southbound motorists approaching Dover Park to available parking on Blake Avenue.</p>
	<p>Drivers often ignore the signalised, pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Acacia Road and Flora Street, Kirrawee. Northbound motorists approaching this</p>	<p>Although this is outside of the project scope, Roads and Maritime Services has reviewed the crash history for Acacia Road between the Princes Highway and President Avenue, Kirrawee from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2013. The crash history revealed that there have been no crashes involving pedestrians.</p>

	crossing often think these signals are associated with the signalised intersection 150m further the north at the intersection of Princes Highway and Acacia Road. They also treat the red signal phasing as flashing amber, and proceed past the stop line and marked pedestrian crossing.	Notwithstanding, Roads and Maritime Services has investigated your concerns and has tilted the traffic lights display on Acacia Road between the Princes Highway and Flora Street to minimise confusion at these two, closely-spaced intersections.
Traffic speeds	The existing 80 km/hr speed limit on Princes Highway south of Tom Ugly's Bridge is a safety issue.	The current posted speed limit on the Princes Highway is 70 km/h between King Georges Road, Blakehurst and President Avenue, Kirrawee in both directions; including the section south of Tom Ugly's Bridge. This speed limit is in accordance with the NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines and considered appropriate by Roads and Maritime Services.

Other – outside of project scope

	<p>The following main roads should be considered for a clearway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taren Point Road • General Holmes Drive • Grand Parade at Brighton Le Sands • Sandringham Street at Sans Souci • Princes Highway at Heathcote 	<p>The Sydney Clearways Strategy has identified a number of priority routes and these are being investigated by Roads and Maritime Services.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime Services has implemented a northbound clearway on the Princes Highway through Heathcote Town centre between Jennings Road and Heathcote Road in March 2011. The clearway is operational on Sundays between 3pm and 7pm from October through to April and on public holidays.</p>
	The existing 'No Parking' zone on the Kingsway westbound carriageway near the intersection with the Princes Highway should be extended. This would reduce weaving traffic and improve safety.	Roads and Maritime Services inspected the westbound carriageway of the Kingsway between the Princes Highway and Hotham Road, Kirrawee. The request to extend the existing 'No Parking' zone to improve road safety will be investigated and assessed. Roads and Maritime Services would consult the community to seek feedback before making any changes.
	Reversing out of driveways should be illegal.	Under the Australian Road Rule, vehicles are legally allowed to reverse out of driveways to enter the main traffic flow. Removal of parked cars on the kerbside lane during the proposed clearway hours would improve line-of-sight for vehicles exiting driveways and vehicles travelling along the kerbside lane. Roads and Maritime Services expects the proposal would improve road safety along Princes Highway between King Georges Road and President Avenue.
	Would my property be affected by the	The proposed clearway extensions on the Princes Highway between Blakehurst and

	proposed clearway on the Princes Highway?	Kirrawee would remove parking in the kerb-side lane during the proposed clearway hours. This project would not involve any property acquisition.
	Provide indented bus bays along Princes Highway to minimise congestion.	Requests to provide indented bus bays on a main state road require investigation by Roads and Maritime Services. Roads and Maritime Services has considered indented bus bays along State roads, however bus travel times are affected by utilising bus bays as buses have to re-enter the traffic flow when a safe gap is provided.
	Remove existing 40 km/h zone on The Boulevard outside of Gymea Technology High School.	40 km/h school zones are provided on roads with an active direct access point from the school, and on roads where a Roads and Maritime Services School Crossing Supervisor is stationed. Gymea Technology High School and Gymea North Public School have school access points on the Princes Highway and therefore a 40 km/h school zone is required to minimise risks to pedestrians.
	Provide more safe cycle ways for push bikes to access. There are no existing paths for push bikes travelling south to use.	As part of Transport for NSW's Sydney's Cycling Future 2013. Council is able to nominate routes and seek funding under this program. RMS has forwarded your request to Council for consideration.
	If the F6 extension was built years ago, then this proposal would not be required.	This issue is considered to be outside of the scope of this proposal.

5. NEXT STEPS

- Roads and Maritime Services will:
 - Work with Sutherland Shire Council and Kogarah City Council to consider community and stakeholder feedback
 - Work with Kogarah City Council to develop an alternative parking proposal and prepare an environmental assessment
 - Seek approval for the clearway
 - Implement the proposed clearway (if approved).

Attachment 1 – Clearway Criteria

Roads and Maritime Services is considering introducing new clearways on sections of road where:

- Travel speeds are less than 30km/h during peak times.
- Directional traffic flow exceeds 800 vehicles per lane per hour during peak times
- The road is an important public transport and/or freight route for moving people and goods.
- Alternative public parking close to local businesses can be found.

Attachment 2 – Sydney Clearways Strategy parking framework

Where there is to be an extension to an existing clearway either for the weekday, weekend or proposed introduction of a new clearway where one does not currently exist, the following matters have been considered:

1. The estimated parking spaces to be removed to introduce the clearway are to be recorded including the average turnover times for each car space for the extended period of operation (that is, quantifying the impact).
2. The adjacent land use on the major road is to be assessed in terms of importance as a local shopping strip, commercial outlets, and / or other uses.
3. The local road network on both sides of the clearway are assessed in terms of land use, whether residential, commercial or other, and the prevailing parking conditions are to be reviewed, including any parking restrictions.
4. Existing car parks operated by local councils or other groups in the vicinity are to be assessed including: occupancy rates, wayfinding signage to the facilities from the major road, cost of parking, and time restrictions to enforce turnover of parking spaces.
5. In consultation with the local council, an assessment is to be made of whether the parking removed for the clearway can be accommodated through:
 - changes to the parking arrangements in adjacent streets by placing time restrictions to encourage turnover of parking spaces; AND/OR
 - improvements to signage and introduction of parking time restrictions in existing off street parking facilities identified and assessed as part of point 4; AND/OR
 - the need for new off street parking facilities on local council's road network; AND
 - mitigating community impacts from the changes, to the extent practicable.
6. Once the local council has made an assessment of the most appropriate response, it may submit to Roads and Maritime Services a bid for a funds contribution towards supporting the changes to on street parking, changes to existing off-street parking or for the establishment of new off-street parking.
7. Roads and Maritime Services will apply simple criteria for each funds request taking into account: the quantity and usage of parking removed from the clearway, the traffic capacity and travel time benefit from removing that parking, the adjacent land use, that all options have been explored, proposed in kind contributions, and the total grant funds available for all clearways compared to the funding request for a single location.

Attachment 3 – Community update brochure



Sydney Clearways Strategy – Keeping Sydney Moving

Princes Highway – Blakehurst to Kirrawee

The NSW government is acting to reduce congestion and delays on Sydney's roads. We know installing and extending clearways on weekdays and weekends can help reduce congestion in many areas of Sydney by allowing motorists to use all traffic lanes.

The *Sydney Clearways Strategy* identifies Princes Highway, from King Georges Road, Blakehurst, to President Avenue, Kirrawee, as a priority project for the introduction of a clearway to manage congestion. Before changes are made, we want your feedback on this proposal.

Roads and Maritime Services understands and appreciates the importance of finding a balance between the reduction of congestion and the needs of road users, local business operators and people accessing services. To balance the needs of road users and local businesses, we've created a \$21 million fund to help identify alternative parking. We would like your comments by **Friday 28 March** on how we can be better using clearways to reduce congestion on Princes Highway while minimising impacts on businesses and the community.

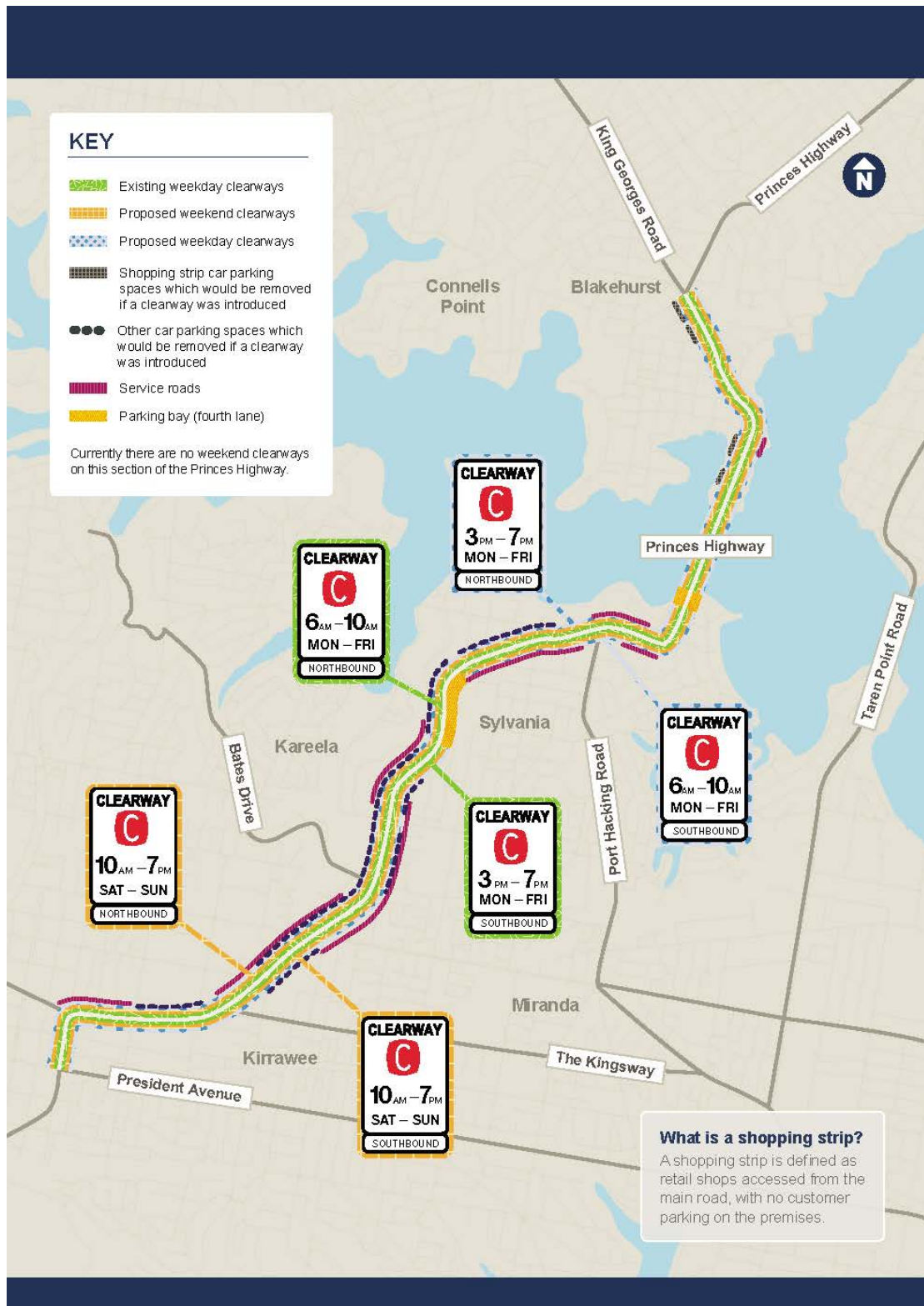
Background

Princes Highway between Blakehurst and Kirrawee is an important urban arterial road which is part of the A1. The A1 connects south coast towns and Wollongong to Sydney. It also provides access to major roads including the M5 Motorway, A3 King Georges Road, A36 Princes Highway (city) and M1 Pacific Highway. It is also identified as an important bus route in *Sydney's Bus Future**, for fast and frequent bus services.

There are existing clearways on a critical section of Princes Highway between Blakehurst and Kirrawee. These clearways operate during the morning and afternoon peak periods, Monday to Friday from 6am to 10am northbound and 3pm to 7pm southbound.

Alternative parking options on service roads are available running parallel to Princes Highway.

*Sydney's Bus Future is a NSW Government long term plan. For more information visit transport.nsw.nsw.gov.au and search 'Sydney's Bus Future'





North of Tom Ugly's Bridge, Blakehurst.



North of Holt Road on Princes Highway, Sylvania.

Preliminary investigations

Roads and Maritime is considering introducing new clearways on sections of road where:

- Travel speed are less than 30km/h during peak times
- Directional traffic flow exceeds 800 vehicles per lane per hour during peak times
- The road is an important public transport and/or freight route for moving people and goods
- Alternative public parking close to local businesses can be found.

Early investigations show this section of Princes Highway fulfils these criteria. It is estimated this proposal would affect 23 shopping strip parking spaces which are used regularly. The other affected parking spaces (about 378) along the route are rarely used as off street parking and unrestricted parking is available along side streets and service roads. Further investigations including analysis of community feedback and additional parking studies will be carried out to assess the best clearway proposal and alternative parking arrangements.

What hours of operation are proposed?

Based on initial investigations, Roads and Maritime is considering operating a clearway along Princes Highway on:

- Weekdays from 6am to 10am (southbound)
- Weekdays from 3pm to 7pm (northbound)
- Weekends from 10am to 7pm (in both directions).

We welcome your comments on these proposed hours.

Clearways are not proposed where there are currently three lanes of through traffic and a parking lane. These

are located immediately south of Tom Ugly's bridge and at Sylvania Heights between Sylvan Street and Holt Road.

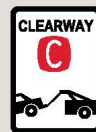
Investigations and community consultation

Investigations to identify and reduce impacts on the local community including:

- Working collaboratively with Sutherland Shire Council and Kogarah City Council, including consideration of its planning strategies
- Carrying out parking surveys to determine specific locations where parking is an issue
- Finding alternative parking facilities nearby
- Looking at ways to encourage sustainable and active transport
- Considering pedestrian safety and amenity
- Consulting with the community.

See the *Sydney Clearways Strategy* transport.nsw.gov.au/sydneyclearwaysstrategy for information on extending weekday clearways and introducing weekend clearways.

What is a clearway?



You must not stop or park on a length of road where a clearway sign applies. The drivers of public buses and taxis are permitted to stop when dropping off or picking up passengers. If your vehicle is left on a clearway it will be towed away, usually to a nearby street and fines apply.

Have your say

Roads and Maritime welcomes your comments by **Friday 28 March** on how clearways can be better used to reduce congestion along Princes Highway while minimising impacts on businesses and the community. Your suggestions will help us to determine the best way forward.

You can provide comments on the Princes Highway proposal or find out more by:

- **Visiting** rms.nsw.gov.au/clearways
An interactive map is available to provide feedback at specific locations along the route
- **Calling** 1300 706 232
- **Emailing** clearways@rms.nsw.gov.au
- **Writing to Clearways**, Roads and Maritime Services, PO Box 973 Parramatta CBD NSW 2124
- **Nominate** another clearway at transport.nsw.gov.au/sydneyclearwaysstrategy
- **Coming along to one of our drop in community information sessions to discuss the project with the project team.**

Community information sessions

Saturday 8 March	Thursday 13 March
9am to 11am	6pm to 8pm
Gymea North Public School	Sylvania Community Centre
Ruby Road	Canberra Road
Gymea NSW 2227	Sylvania NSW 2224

Next steps

Investigations will continue into the feasibility of a clearway. A community issues report will be prepared summarising all of the comments we receive. This report will be made available on the Roads and Maritime website.

Timeframes for the project will depend on the ongoing investigations. We will keep the community informed as the project progresses.



Translating and Interpreting Service

If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on **131 450** and ask them to telephone Roads and Maritime Services on 1300 706 232.

Arabic

إذا كنتم بحاجة إلى مترجم، الرجاء الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الخطية والشفوية (TIS National) على الرقم 1300 706 232، والطلب منهم الاتصال بوكالتكم Roads and Maritime Services على الرقم 131 450.

Cantonese

若你需要口譯員，請致電 131 450 聯絡翻譯和口譯服務署 (TIS National)，要求他們致電 1300 706 232 聯絡 Roads and Maritime Services。

Mandarin

如果你需要口譯員，請致電 131 450 联系翻译和口译服务署 (TIS National)，要求他们致電 1300 706 232 联系 Roads and Maritime Services。

Greek

Αν χρειάζεστε διερμηνέα, παρακαλείσθε να τηλεφωνήσετε στην Υπηρεσία Μετάφρασης και Διερμηνείας (Εθνική Υπηρεσία ΤΙΣ) στο **131 450** και ζητήστε να τηλεφωνήσουν Roads and Maritime Services στο 1300 706 232.

Italian

Se desiderate l'assistenza di un interprete, prego telefonare al Servizio Interpreti e Traduttori (TIS National) al **131 450** chiedendo di contattare Roads and Maritime Services al 1300 706 232.

Korean

통역사가 필요하시면 번역통역서비스 (TIS National) 에 **131 450** 으로 연락하여 이들에게 1300 706 232 번으로 Roads and Maritime Services 에 전화하도록 요청하십시오.

Vietnamese

Nếu cần thông ngôn viên, xin quý vị gọi cho Dịch Vụ Thông Phiên Dịch (TIS Toàn Quốc) qua số **131 450** và nhờ họ gọi cho Roads and Maritime Services qua số 1300 706 232.

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RMS 13.541



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Attachment 4 – Project webpage

**Roads & Maritime**

Roads Maritime Business & Industry **Projects** About Contact

Key build program

Sydney Inner

Sydney North

Sydney South

- Alfords Point Road
- Centenary Drive & Arthur Street intersection
- Deadmans Creek Bridge
- Heathcote Pedestrian Bridge
- King Georges Road & Roberts Road clearways
- M5 East
- Moore Park - pathway over Anzac Parade
- Penshurst - Bridge Street & King Georges Road

Princes Highway clearways

- Revesby - Milperra Road & The River Road
- Sydney Airport - WestConnex enabling works
- Taren Point to Caringbah - Taren Point Road

Sydney West

Northern NSW

Hunter

Central Coast NSW

Illawarra

South Eastern NSW

Home > Projects > Sydney South > Princes Highway clearways

Princes Highway clearways

The [Sydney Clearways Strategy](#) identifies Princes Highway, from King Georges Road, Blakehurst, to President Avenue, Kirrawee, as a priority project for the introduction of a clearway to manage congestion.

In March 2014 Roads and Maritime Services asked the community to comment on a proposal to implement a clearway on Princes Highway.

Preliminary investigations

Roads and Maritime is considering introducing new clearways on sections of road where:

- Travel speeds are less than 30km/h during peak times
- Directional traffic flow exceeds 800 vehicles per lane per hour during peak times
- The road is an important public transport and/or freight route for moving people and goods
- Alternative public parking close to local businesses can be found.

What hours of operation are proposed?

Based on initial investigations, Roads and Maritime is considering operating a clearway along Princes Highway on:

- Weekdays from 6am to 10am (southbound)
- Weekdays from 3pm to 7pm (northbound)
- Weekends from 10am to 7pm (in both directions).

What happens next?


- Investigations will continue into the feasibility of a clearway.
- A community issues report will be prepared summarising all of the received comments. This report will be made available on the Roads and Maritime website.
- Timeframes for the project will depend on the ongoing investigations.

Roads and Maritime will keep the community informed as the project progresses.

Community updates

View or download the [February 2014 Community Update](#) (PDF, 1MB).

Have your say




An [interactive map](#) is available to provide feedback at specific locations along the route.

Project contact

For further information about this project contact:

- Phone: 1300 706 232
- Email: clearways@rms.nsw.gov.au

Attachment 5 – Newspaper advertisement

**Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services**

Have your say
Princes Highway Clearway
Kirrawee to Blakehurst

Roads and Maritime Services is acting to reduce congestion and delays on Sydney's roads through the use of clearways. One of the roads we are looking at is Princes Highway, from President Avenue, Kirrawee to King Georges Road, Blakehurst.

Investigations are continuing and your feedback will help us finalise a proposal. Written comments are invited by **Friday 28 March 2014**.

Website: rms.nsw.gov.au/clearways

Write: Clearways
Roads and Maritime Services
PO Box 973
Parramatta CBD NSW 2124

Email: Clearways@rms.nsw.gov.au

Visit: Community information sessions:
**Saturday 8 March,
9am to 11am**
Gymea North Public School
Ruby Road
Gymea NSW 2227
**Thursday 13 March,
6pm to 8pm**
Sylvania Community Centre
Canberra Road
Sylvania NSW 2224

Please feel free to drop in any time during these information sessions. We appreciate your feedback.

**For further information visit
rms.nsw.gov.au/clearways or call
1300 706 232**