

JUNE 2014

The Prospect Highway upgrade

Display of concept design and Review of Environmental Factors

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1. About the project

What is happening?

Roads and Maritime Services is displaying the concept design and Review of Environmental Factors for the proposed upgrade of the Prospect Highway between Reservoir Road, Prospect and 200 metres north of St Martins Crescent, Blacktown.

Roads and Maritime is seeking feedback from the community for consideration in finalising the concept design. The comment period closes on **Monday 30 June 2014**. If there are any further changes to the design the community will be informed by Roads and Maritime when the Review of Environmental Factors is finalised.

Why is the Prospect Highway getting upgraded?

The Prospect Highway is generally an undivided two lane road. It forms the main road corridor connecting the city of Blacktown with the M4 Motorway. Traffic currently experiences extensive queuing and travel delays along the Prospect Highway. Roads and Maritime is planning for the future upgrade of the Prospect Highway between Reservoir Road and 200 metres north of St Martins Crescent, to reduce congestion and meet the future traffic growth expected in the area.

How will the Prospect Highway be upgraded?

Roads and Maritime is proposing to upgrade the Prospect Highway between Reservoir Road, Prospect and 200 metres north of St Martins Crescent, Blacktown to a generally four lane divided road with a central median. Kerbside bus lanes are proposed north of Lancelot Street where the corridor would be six lanes.

The main features of the upgrade include duplicating the bridges over the M4 Motorway and Great Western Highway and providing a new two-way link road between the Great Western Highway and the Prospect Highway, with traffic lights at either end of the new road. There would be new traffic lights at Stoddart Road, the M4 Motorway eastbound entry and exit ramps and Reservoir Road.

Refer to the Review of Environmental Factors, section three for more information about the proposed upgrade.

2. Design

Why are there more traffic lights in the proposed upgrade?

The existing road corridor currently operates at capacity during peak periods. The existing intersections without traffic lights contribute to delay and increased traffic queues. The proposed road upgrade works would increase the number of travel lanes and include traffic lights for safety. Traffic modelling of the proposed upgrade has been undertaken and it is expected that travel times and speeds would improve even with the additional traffic signals. For more information about the traffic assessment refer to the Review of Environmental Factors, section six.

What are the provisions for cyclists and pedestrians?

Upgrades to pedestrian and cyclist facilities include:

- The shared path on the western side of the Prospect Highway between the M4 Motorway westbound entry and exit ramps and Blacktown Road
- The pedestrian underpass between Old Church Lane and Keyne Street

A new pedestrian path is proposed on the eastern side of the Prospect Highway between Roger Place and Keyworth Drive

Why are there bus lanes along the corridor?

The existing bus stops interrupt the flow of traffic and require buses to merge with congested traffic. It is expected that the number and frequency of bus routes operating along the Prospect Highway, north of Blacktown Road would increase in the future. The existing road corridor does not cater for increased bus services and growth in traffic volumes.

Kerbside bus lanes would be provided between Lancelot Street and 200 metres north of St Martins Crescent. The kerbside bus lanes would allow buses to travel separately in dedicated bus lanes. Existing bus stops would be relocated behind the proposed kerbs.

General traffic is permitted to travel in bus lanes within 100 metres of entering/leaving a driveway or local side street. For more information refer to <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/usingroads/buses/index.html>.

What changes were made to the preliminary design since it was displayed?

In 2013 Roads and Maritime displayed an access strategy in April and preliminary concept design in October for the proposed Prospect Highway upgrade. As a result of the feedback received, there have been a number of changes to the road design. These changes include:

- The proposed two-way road linking the Great Western Highway with the Prospect Highway has been moved up to 10 metres south to lessen property and environmental impacts
- A new pedestrian crossing across Prospect Highway at the Blacktown Road intersection
- An upgrade of the existing Old Church Lane to Keyne Street pedestrian underpass to meet current design standards
- Bus stops:
 - Two new bus stops at Reservoir Road intersection

- Relocation of the bus stop northbound at Stoddart Road to about 30 metres north of Harrod Street
- Relocation of the bus stops at Blacktown Mega Centre south towards St Martins Crescent intersection
- A new pedestrian footpath on the eastern side of Prospect Highway between Keyworth Drive and Roger Place
- Retaining walls at:
 - St Bartholomew's Church and cemetery
 - The proposed two-way link road, continuing north along the Prospect Highway
 - In front of the electricity tower north-west of the M4.

What traffic benefit would the two-way link road provide for the corridor?

The proposed two-way link road would provide improved access between the Prospect Highway and the Great Western Highway. Currently access between the Great Western Highway and the Prospect Highway is via Ponds Road and the Great Western Highway eastbound entry/exit ramps.

During development of the concept design various options for the design and location of the two way link road were investigated. For more information about the options considered refer to section two of the Review of Environmental Factors.

3. Timing

When will this upgrade be constructed?

The timing of construction of the proposal is subject to funding being allocated and has not been confirmed.

4. Water management

Is there a likelihood that this road would flood? Will this impact my property?

The existing road corridor has known drainage and flooding issues. The proposed upgrade is designed to provide 1 in 100 year flood immunity. The proposed drainage design includes upgrades to the drainage network and increased detention basin capacity to control runoff in up to a 1 in 100 year storm event. The proposed upgrade does not increase the risk of flooding for any adjacent development in the study area. For more information refer to the Review of Environmental Factors, section 6.5.

Will widening the road create more stormwater runoff?

The Prospect Highway currently does not have sufficient drainage infrastructure to control and capture stormwater runoff. The proposal includes new kerb, gutter and road drainage (pits and pipes) that would capture all runoff from the road pavement and discharge it into existing drainage water courses. The road pavement drainage system is designed to cope with peak stormwater runoff during a 1 in 10 year storm event.

5. Access

Can I use the bus lanes to access my property?

The proposed bus lanes for the upgrade are primarily for buses but can be used by general traffic to travel up to 100 metres to: turn into or out of a street or to enter or leave a property adjacent to the bus lane. For more information about using bus lanes go to <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/usingroads/buses/index.html>.

With the access changes, how will I be able to access my property?

For safety reasons the proposal includes a central median on the Prospect Highway which will remove right in and right out access to some local roads and properties along the highway.

Right in and out access to the local road network will be available through the intersections with traffic lights at Blacktown Road, Lancelot Street, Keyworth Drive and St Martins Crescent.

The proposal includes a right turn into Roger Place due to there only being no reasonable alternate route being available to access the street. Right out will be through Keyworth Drive.

For properties fronting the Prospect Highway access will become left in and left out.

For more information about proposed access arrangements, refer to the Review of Environmental factors, section 6.1.

6. Property

Will there be any property acquisition?

The proposed upgrade works are mostly within the existing road corridor boundary. Affected property owners will be contacted by Roads and Maritime during the Review of Environmental Factors comment period.

If property acquisitions are required how and when will I know if my property is affected?

Roads and Maritime will inform you if any of your land is required for the project. In addition, the properties likely to be impacted are highlighted in the concept design and Review of Environmental Factors, section three.

Acquisitions are expected to occur after the Review of Environmental Factors is determined.

7. Noise mitigation

Will I get noise walls and/or noise treatments?

Roads and Maritime engaged an acoustic specialist to investigate the impact of the upgrade on existing residences as part of the environmental assessment in accordance with Roads and Maritime Services' Road Noise Policy. The study has identified that noise mitigation measures would be required for about 230 acute receivers within the study area. The assessment has identified four potential noise barrier locations within the study area. These barriers and other noise mitigation measures would be subject to a reasonable and feasible assessment during detailed design.

16. How will construction noise be managed?

Roads and Maritime will require construction contractors to use noise management measures as set out in the Roads and Maritime Environment Noise management standards and guidelines. Noisy construction will be planned to minimise impacts on sensitive receivers. In addition, local residents will be given notice in advance of any planned night works.

8. Environmental

Threatened species may be found along the route. What is Roads and Maritime doing to protect these?

A biodiversity assessment including site surveys was completed by qualified ecologists as part of the environment assessment to assess the potential biodiversity impact of the proposal. About five hectares of Cumberland Plain Woodland was identified near the two way link road. The design has been refined to minimise the impact to critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland. The proposal is not considered to have a significant impact on biological diversity and ecological integrity. For more information about the ecological assessment and appropriate site specific safeguards refer to the Review of Environmental Factors, section 6.3.

9. More information

What happens next?

Community comments regarding the concept design and Review of Environmental will be carefully considered by Roads and Maritime Services in finalising the concept design. This would be followed by detailed design of the proposal.

Construction of the proposal, would then be planned and undertaken subject to the availability of funding...

Where can I find out more information?

Roads and Maritime Services invites your comments on the concept design and Review of Environmental Factors for the Prospect Highway upgrade via a feedback form and reply paid envelope, email, letter or attendance at a community information session.

You can submit comments up to **Monday 30 June 2014**.

Roads and Maritime Services will hold two community information sessions at Shelley Public School, Hadrian Avenue, Blacktown on:

- Saturday 14 June between 10am and 2pm
- Wednesday 18 June between 3.30pm and 7pm

If I need to contact someone to discuss this project, who do I contact?

For further information about the Prospect Highway upgrade between Reservoir Road, Prospect and St Martins Crescent, Blacktown please contact the project team on 1300 660 275 (during business hours) or email ProspectHighway@rms.nsw.gov.au

More information is also available on Roads and Maritime Services website at: www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects under 'Prospect Highway Upgrade'

How do I make my submission/comments regarding this project?

If you wish to submit any comments about the project you can either email your comments to: prospecthighway@rms.nsw.gov.au or they can be mailed to:

Prospect Highway upgrade
Roads and Maritime Services
PO Box 973

PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

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