

Questions and answers – Airport North precinct proposal

May 2016

Background

Q: What is the Airport North precinct proposal?

Roads and Maritime Services is planning to upgrade roads north of Sydney's Kingsford Smith Airport to improve traffic flow and connections to the airport and Port Botany.

Q: Why is it needed?

Sydney Airport and Port Botany are two of Australia's most important international gateways. The roads around the airport and Port Botany are becoming increasingly congested and need to be upgraded.

Roads and Maritime is planning to upgrade roads north of Sydney's Kingsford Smith Airport to improve traffic flow and connections to the airport and Port Botany. This includes widening O'Riordan Street to three lanes in each direction between Bourke Road and Robey Street.

Q: What are the key features of the Airport North precinct proposal?

The key features of the proposal include:

- Converting the southern sections of Robey Street and O'Riordan Street into one way roads
- Widening O'Riordan Street to provide six through lanes between Bourke Road and Robey Street
- Reconfiguring the existing traffic lights on O'Riordan Street between Qantas Drive and Bourke Road
- Upgrading the footpath on the eastern side of O'Riordan Street.

Q: What are the benefits?

The benefits of the Airport North precinct proposal would include:

- Improved traffic capacity and reduced congestion along O'Riordan Street
- Improved access to Sydney Airport domestic terminals
- Improved connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists.

Q: What else is being done to upgrade roads around the airport?

The Airport North precinct proposal is part of a suite of upgrades to improve traffic flow around Sydney Airport. Roads and Maritime is also upgrading roads east and west of the airport:

- Airport West – Widening Marsh Street, Arncliffe to three lanes in each direction between Giovanni Brunetti Bridge and the M5 interchange. Work started earlier this year and will be completed in late 2017.

- Airport East – Widening Joyce Drive and General Holmes Drive between O’Riordan Street and Mill Pond Drive and replacing the General Holmes Drive rail level crossing with a road underpass that links General Holmes Drive, Botany Road and Wentworth Avenue. Work started in late 2015 and will be completed by mid-2018.

More information about these projects is available at rms.nsw.gov.au/sydneyairport.

Community involvement

Q: How has the community been consulted on the proposal?

Roads and Maritime began consultation with the local community and stakeholders on the proposed upgrades around Sydney Airport in 2013.

In August and September 2015 we invited feedback on the preferred option for the Airport North precinct proposal and received comments from 25 people and organisations. Matters raised included the effectiveness of the road upgrades in addressing traffic congestion in the area, impacts that the Botany Bay Council work on Baxter Road may have on the project and driving hazards at some intersections in the area. The community also provided requests for new bus routes in the area, more infrastructure and project information including construction timelines and funding.

Following the consultation period we prepared a consultation report outlining the feedback received and our responses. Responses were provided to stakeholders and community members who provided feedback. No changes were made to the proposal as a result of the consultation.

Throughout the development of the Airport North precinct proposal we have consulted with Sydney Airport, City of Botany Bay Council and other key stakeholders.

Impacts

Q: What are the expected impacts of the Airport North precinct proposal?

Expected impacts during construction of the proposal would include:

- Temporary changes to footpaths, bus stops and on-street parking
- Traffic changes including lane and road closures
- Temporary disruption to private property access
- Noise and vibration during construction activities
- Removal of about 80 trees along O’Riordan Street. These would be replaced as part of the proposal.

We would work closely with any affected residents and businesses to reduce any construction impacts and ensure they are notified in advance of the work being carried out.

The operational impacts of the proposal would include:

- Minor increase in traffic noise for some adjacent residents
- Minor change to the visual amenity of the road corridor.

Q: How would traffic impacts be minimised during construction?

We would prepare a construction traffic management plan to minimise the impact on the road network during construction. This plan would include input from the Transport Management Centre and Sydney Airport. Under this plan we would:

- Implement traffic controls and signage to regulate traffic movements
- Minimise traffic switching throughout construction
- Coordinate work vehicle movements to minimise traffic delays
- Work with City of Botany Bay Council to ensure an integrated response to traffic management in the project area
- Implement traffic zones around the work area
- Implement controls to prevent traffic restrictions during peak periods
- Include detours and signage for pedestrians and motorists
- Identify heavy vehicle routes to help minimise impacts on local routes
- Maintain local road and property access where possible
- Notify the local community about any temporary detours, access restrictions or road closures
- Alert road users about changes in conditions with electronic message signs
- Coordinate with other work in the area to minimise cumulative traffic impacts.

Q: What trees would be replanted?

To build the proposal, about 80 trees would need to be removed along O’Riordan Street including eucalypts and other large species. No threatened species would be impacted as part of this proposal.

Removal of trees and vegetation would be offset by replanting once the proposal is built. Roads and Maritime has prepared an urban design strategy which outlines our proposal for replanting and revegetating along the road corridor. We are proposing to plant large trees including eucalypts and spotted gums as well as smaller plantings and ground cover to reinforce the boulevard character of the road corridor.

All revegetation and replanting would take place in accordance with City of Botany Bay Council’s tree management plan to help ensure a consistent planting theme throughout the area.

Q: Would any properties be impacted by the proposal?

Yes. Five properties would need to be fully acquired and demolished by Roads and Maritime to build the project. Two properties have already been fully acquired, including one residential property previously acquired as part of a road reservation from the 1990s, and the other three are currently being acquired through negotiations with the property owners.

Another six properties would need to be partially acquired to facilitate the road widening.

Roads and Maritime is liaising directly with impacted property owners throughout the acquisition process.

Construction

Q: Would night work be needed during construction?

While most of the work would be carried out during the day, some night work would be required for certain construction activities due to the high traffic volumes on O’Riordan Street to reduce any impact on the road network. Activities that need to be carried out at night would include utility adjustments, road widening, resurfacing work and traffic switches.

All work outside of standard construction hours would be carried out in accordance with the relevant approvals and residents and businesses would be notified in advance of any night work.

Q: How long would it take to build the proposal?

The proposed Airport North precinct upgrades, if approved, would start in mid-2018 and take up to 24 months to complete, weather permitting.

Display of the Review of Environmental Factors

Roads and Maritime has prepared a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) to examine the potential impacts of the Airport North precinct proposal and outline measures to reduce and manage these impacts. The REF is on display for community and stakeholder feedback from Monday 23 May to Monday 13 June 2016.

Q: Where can I view the REF?

We will host two community information sessions where you can view the REF and ask questions of the project team. Feel free to drop in any time:

Saturday 28 May, 10 to midday or Thursday 2 June, 5pm to 7pm

Eastlakes Community Hall
2 Florence Avenue, Eastlakes

Copies of the REF are available to view in person at:

City of Botany Bay Council Administration Centre
141 Coward Street, Mascot

Mascot Library
2 Hatfield Street, Mascot

You can also view or download it online at rms.nsw.gov.au/airportnorth.

Q: How do I provide feedback?

Roads and Maritime is seeking community and stakeholder feedback on the Airport North concept design and REF from Monday 23 May to Monday 13 June. Written comments should be sent to:

Email: airportnorth@rms.nsw.gov.au

Mail: Airport North precinct
Roads and Maritime Services
PO Box 973, Parramatta CBD NSW 2124

Next steps

Following the display of the REF, Roads and Maritime will prepare a submissions report outlining the feedback received and our responses. We will consider all comments in finalising the proposal and will continue to keep the community information as it progresses.

If the project proceeds, the next step will be to finalise the detailed design and invite tenders for construction.

Q: How can I find out more information?

For more information about the project, please contact:

Phone: 1300 852 557

Email: airportnorth@rms.nsw.gov.au

Post: Airport North precinct
PO Box 973, Parramatta NSW 2124

Web: Visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au/airportnorth