



**Transport**  
Roads & Traffic  
Authority

# **THE NORTHERN ROAD UPGRADE**

The Old Northern Road to Mersey Road  
Access strategy

Report on community consultation

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# I Background

The NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has commenced planning for the progressive upgrade of The Northern Road in tandem with the development of the South West Growth Centre.

A community update outlining an access strategy for The Northern Road was distributed in July 2010. The community update invited comments on the proposed access strategy. Comments closed on Friday 27 August 2010.

All identified stakeholders were sent copies of the community update and advertisements were placed in local papers to promote the exhibition. Two information sessions were held in August 2010. Advertisements were placed in the South Western Rural Advertiser, Macarthur Chronicle and Liverpool Leader.

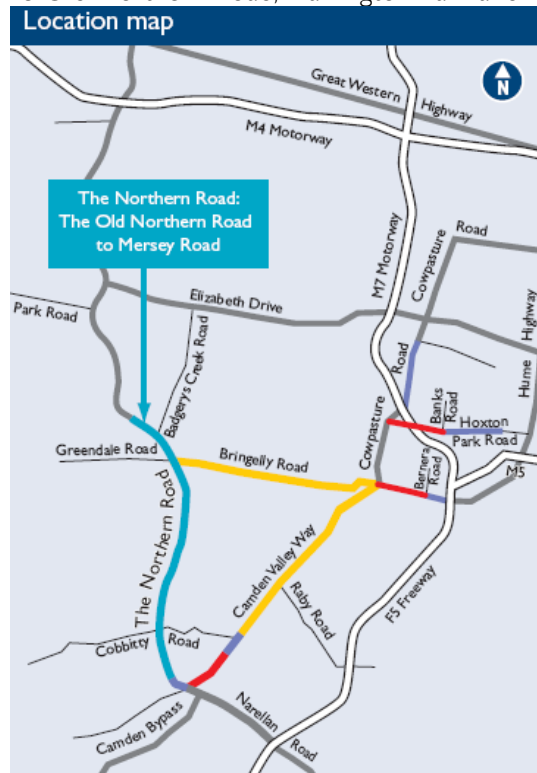
A letterbox drop to 6,000 households and businesses was completed in the Camden, Kirkham, Oran Park, Narellan, Bringelly, Luddenham, Badgerys Creek and Harrington Park areas.

The access strategy was on display at Narellan Library and Narellan Motor Registry between 29 July 2010 and 27 August 2010.

The Northern Road upgrade is expected to be constructed in stages in parallel with the development of precincts in the south west.

This round of community consultation was to obtain feedback on proposed access arrangements for the future upgrade.

This report documents community consultation regarding the proposed access strategy for The Northern Road between The Old Northern Road, Harrington Park and Mersey Road, Bringelly.



## LEGEND

- UNDER CONSTRUCTION
- CURRENTLY BEING PLANNED
- CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED
- PROJECT UNDER CONSIDERATION

## 2 Key issues

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Following the distribution of the July 2010 community update, the community was invited to provide their comments. Two community information sessions were held to answer questions and receive feedback.

The RTA anticipated that the community would raise questions around property acquisitions, interim access arrangements, and the timeframe for the upgrade to be fully implemented. The impact of closing some intersections and establishing others was also identified as a key community issue.

Community feedback indicated concern about:

- Timeframe for the road upgrade.
- Road closures.
- Some locations of link roads to The Northern Road.

Community specific concerns focused on:

- Intersection locations.
- Impacts on local roads.
- Interim arrangements.
- Location and number of intersections with traffic lights.
- Property access.
- Impacts on heritage items.
- Operational and construction noise.
- Safety and condition of existing road.
- Land acquisition.
- Provision of bicycle facilities.

Government agencies were consulted and provided feedback.

Further discussions were initiated to involve those identified as most affected by the road upgrade process.

A total of 49 formal submissions were received.

Sections 4 and 5 of this report provide a summary of the key issues raised and provides details of the issues, ideas and concerns put to the RTA for investigation.

The RTA will consider these issues in its development of the concept design and environmental impact assessments.

## 3 Purpose of consultation

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Consultation was undertaken to:

- Involve relevant government agencies, community representatives, residents, and landowners in providing input to the proposed access strategy.
- Inform the community of the RTA's plan to upgrade the road corridor.
- Canvas comments and issues about the proposed upgrade and proposed access arrangements from those who may be affected.
- Seek community ideas to be considered in the concept design.
- Advise potentially directly affected stakeholders of the project and its design impacts.
- Advise affected stakeholders how they could obtain further information or communicate concerns, complaints or suggestions.
- Provide potentially affected stakeholders with access to information from the Department of Planning's Strategies and Land Release Unit to better understand the precinct planning process and timeframes.

In all sessions, conversations were documented for the project issues register and to assist with follow up meetings.

### 3.1 Community information sessions held in August 2010

Community information sessions were held at:

- Bringelly Community Centre, Saturday 7 August 2010, 25 people attended; and
- Narellan Library, Saturday 14 August 2010, 12 people attended.

Venues were selected at either end of the proposal to facilitate and encourage community participation.

Conversations with members of the community were on a one-to-one basis, enabling the RTA representatives to answer questions and take on board issues and/or suggestions regarding alternative arrangements or impediments to the proposal.

Representatives from the Department of Planning were able to participate at the first information session on 7 August 2010 and Sydney Water were able to attend the following Saturday 14 August 2010.

Both agencies were able to answer questions in relation to precinct planning and the installation of current and future water supplies to the developing precincts within the South West Growth Centre.

The Department of Planning displayed a structure plan for the south west which highlighted the 18 precincts within the South West Grow Centre and those that have been released for precinct planning. This raised a lot of interest from members of the community with regards to precinct planning and when their land was likely to be acquired or approved for development.



Community information session held on 7 August 2010 at Bringelly Community Centre.



Community information session held on 14 August 2010 at Narellan Library.

## 3.2 Meetings

Meetings were held in early 2010 with government agencies such as the Department of Planning, Camden Council, Liverpool City Council, and Transport Construction Authority. The aim of these meetings was to brief these government agencies on the proposed access strategy for the upgrade of The Northern Road between The Old Northern Road and Mersey Road, Bringelly.

The RTA project team also met with a number of residents and landowners wishing to develop property. The meetings were held in response to enquiries made in relation to the RTA's planning for the upgrade of The Northern Road.

Mr Geoff Corrigan, Member for Camden was informed of the RTA's community consultation.

## 3.3 RTA Website

The RTA's project website was visited by 304 people between 1 July 2010 and 31 August 2010. There were 94 downloads of the July 2010 community update.

## 3.4 Advertising

Newspaper advertisements appeared in the South Western Rural Advertiser and the Macarthur Chronicle on 20 July 2010 and the Liverpool Leader on 21 July 2010. The advertisement invited the community to attend one of the two community information sessions. Written comments were invited on the proposed access strategy.

## 4 Issues raised at the community information sessions

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The following issues were raised by community members:

### 4.1 Access issues and road closures

- Concerns were raised about the current location of Marylands Link Road 2.
- Concerns were also raised about arrangements for Marylands Link Road and Oran Park Link Road 3.
- Issues were raised about the possibility of Avon Road being closed.
- Concerns were raised about the left in/left out arrangement at Loftus Street being implemented before development.

### 4.2 Timeframe issues

- The majority of property owners wanted to know when the road upgrade would take place.
- There was a lot of interest raised regarding construction staging, precinct planning and development timeframes used by the Department of Planning Strategies and Land Release section.

### 4.3 Traffic light issues

- Residents were concerned about the number of proposed traffic lights at controlled intersections on The Northern Road as they might impede traffic flow and increase travel times.

### 4.4 Safety issues

- The general response from the community was that the upgrade would improve road safety.

### 4.5 Environmental impacts

- There were concerns in relation to large trees that may require removal in association with the widening. Requests were made to retain them where possible.
- Objections to the use of noise walls were made as they “look ugly and block views”.
- There were concerns raised about the importance of landscaping and the need to revegetate affected land so that flora and fauna can be maintained for threatened species.
- Concerns raised about noise from increased traffic, especially heavy vehicles.

### 4.6 Heritage issues

- Concerns raised about the heritage value of Bringelly Public School and potential impacts to the Maryland estate's gatehouse.

### 4.7 Property acquisition issues

- A lot of property owners wanted to know how much of their land would need to be acquired and when this would happen.
- Concerns were raised that in the past property owners hadn't been informed of zoning changes.
- The majority of property owner enquiries centred on the land development timeframe. Some landowners were concerned about the planning for property acquisition and what land would be acquired for the road upgrade.

### 4.8 Level of information and agency co-operation

- Several people commented that it was good that the RTA, Sydney Water, and the Department of Planning are working closely together.



## 4.9 Other issues

- Concerns were raised regarding traffic congestion on The Northern Road when the southern end is upgraded to four lanes and much of the remainder of The Northern Road will only be two lanes.
- Concerns were raised in relation to the South Western Rail Link not being extended to new areas between Leppington and Oran Park before homes are built.
- A number of residents suggested that the four lane road proposal should allow for six or eight lanes to serve traffic for the long term.

## 5 Key questions and answers from the community

1.	What is happening with the upgrade of The Northern Road?	<p>The RTA has developed a proposed access strategy that would be implemented as The Northern Road is progressively widened from a two lane road to a four lane divided road, between The Old Northern Road, Harrington Park and Mersey Road, Bringelly.</p> <p>The RTA is seeking feedback from the community, businesses and property owners along the route on any issues or concerns for consideration in the road design.</p>
2.	How were the intersection locations determined?	<p>The intersection spacing shown in the proposed access strategy would provide sufficient access for the future growth precincts whilst maintaining the performance of The Northern Road as a principal arterial road. Where possible, and subject to maintaining principal arterial road performance, intersections have been located to provide access at some existing side roads. The proposed intersections are also aligned with the Department of Planning's strategy as shown in the Indicative Layout Plan.</p>
3.	What is the timetable for upgrading The Northern Road?	<p>There is no funding allocated by the Government for construction at this time.</p> <p>The timing of the upgrade will be determined by future land releases and the availability of funds. It is most likely that the southern end of The Northern Road will be upgraded first, as the Harrington Park estate is well established and the release of land in the Oran Park precinct has begun.</p>
4.	What will happen when?	<p>The Northern Road upgrade is at the beginning of the project development phase with community consultation having commenced in July 2010. Environmental and engineering investigations have commenced and will continue over several months along the route.</p> <p>The preliminary concept design is expected to be displayed for community comment during 2011.</p> <p>The review of environmental factors (REF) and the detailed concept design are expected to be displayed in late 2012.</p>
5.	Will there be any property acquisition?	<p>Yes, if a property lies along the route or near the location of the proposed intersections, there is the possibility that some or all of the land may be acquired for this project.</p>

6.	When will you acquire my land?	Property acquisitions would most likely be staged in accordance with proposed construction staging. Property acquisitions would typically occur following planning approval for the proposed upgrade. The proposed concept design would be placed on display prior to planning approval with the opportunity for further community and stakeholder comment.
7.	How will I know if my land will be required?	The next community update will show the potential impacts to properties along The Northern Road. In undertaking environmental impact assessment (s) for the proposal, the RTA will write to inform the owner if any of their land is affected by the proposal. In addition, the RTA will have meetings with affected land owners.
8.	When we go to four lanes, can we turn left and right out of my property onto The Northern Road?	When the road is upgraded to four lanes; direct access to existing properties will be limited to left in/left out to meet road safety requirements. Temporary U-turn facilities will be provided at selected future link roads in order to allow travel in both directions along The Northern Road. As land is developed, these left in/left out access arrangements will be progressively removed, with developments required to access The Northern Road through their internal network at key intersections.
9.	Threatened species may be found along the route. What is RTA doing to protect these?	The RTA will investigate this as part of its environmental impact assessment with a view to minimising the impact of road construction. Discussions will be held with Department of Climate Change and Water (DECCW) and Department of Planning (DoP) to develop required management strategies.

## 6 Issues summary

### 6.1 Summary of issues raised from July 2010 – November 2010

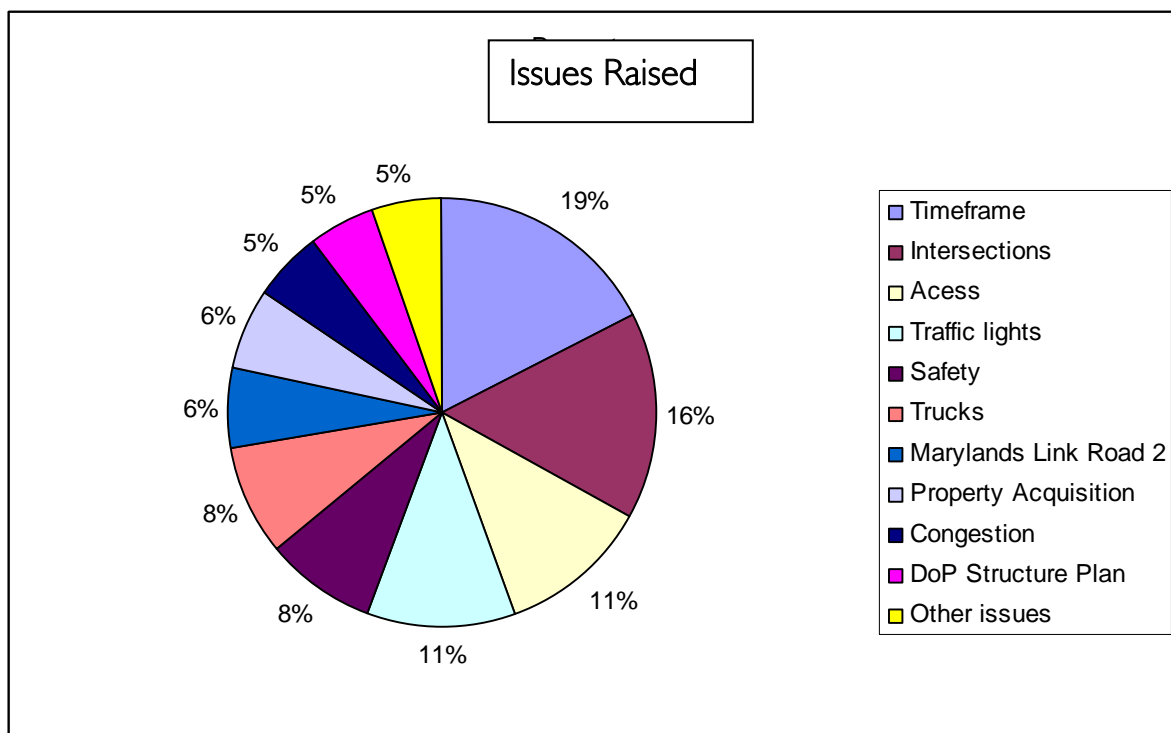
In addition to speaking with government agencies, community members and potentially directly affected property owners, the RTA received 49 submissions in response to its overall access strategy for The Northern Road. These included feedback forms, letters and emails.

Issues raised from 1 July 2010 to 1 November 2010 are summarised in the table below. The issue of when The Northern Road would be upgraded was a key issue as was the location of intersections and access arrangements for property owners along The Northern Road. Safety was another issue raised.

The table below highlights the main frequency of issues raised by the community from 1 July 2010 to 1 November 2010 following the display of the access strategy.

Issue raised	Percentage
Timeframe	17%
Intersections	15%
Access	11%
Traffic lights	11%
Safety	8%
Trucks	8%
Marylands Link Road 2	6%
Property acquisition	6%
Congestion	5%
DoP Structure Plan	5%
Other issues	5%

Other issues raised during the consultation process (each representing 2% or less of total responses recorded) were: construction issues, stormwater management, noise and heritage impacts.



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## 7 Next steps

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The next steps will be:

- Prepare the concept design and incorporate appropriate changes to the original access strategy that have been suggested during the consultation process.
- Incorporate feedback on issues raised by the community in the next community update on the concept design. The concept design is expected to be placed on display for community comment by late 2011.
- On-going meetings with local councils, government agencies and community stakeholders. Each stakeholder issue will be recorded and considered by the RTA.
- Progress the concept design and environmental impact assessment.

## Attachment A – The Northern Road photographs

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Photo 1 – Looking north along The Northern Road from Hillside Drive



Photo 2 - Narellan Creek bridge travelling north