

# The Horsley Drive, Polding & Nelson Streets, Fairfield

Close of Consultation Report  
April 2024

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## Executive summary

Transport for NSW is developing a proposed design and planning approval for the upgrades of two intersections on The Horsley Drive at Polding Street and Nelson Street, Fairfield. The proposals are located around 2.5 kilometres north of the A22 Hume Highway and 1.5 kilometres southeast of the A28 Cumberland Highway.

These intersection upgrades would improve travel times and road user safety and are being done as separate projects under separate planning approvals and would be delivered as part of NSW State Government Funded Urban Road Congestion Program (URCP).

Proposed work at The Horsley Drive and Polding Street includes the following:

- an additional right turn lane on Polding Street western approach
- an additional right turn lane on The Horsley Drive southern approach
- left turn slip lane on Polding Street North with larger corner island
- a southern pedestrian crossing at the traffic signals
- roadwork improvements on The Horsley Drive and Polding Street
- footpaths and verges along The Horsley Drive and Polding Street
- minor roadwork improvements in Douglas Street, at The Horsley Drive
- adjustment and relocation of the existing overhead and underground utility services, including powerlines, Telstra and NBN, water and sewer and other utilities along The Horsley Drive and along Polding Street
- establishment of temporary site compounds

Douglas and Cunninghame streets will change to left in, left out traffic movements

- no right turn from The Horsley Drive to Douglas and Cunninghame streets.

Proposed work at The Horsley Drive and Nelson Street includes the following:

- increasing The Horsley Drive westbound to 3 lanes
- reconstruction of the dual slip lane from Court Road onto The Horsley Drive
- relocating existing median pedestrian fence to the new median
- roadworks on The Horsley Drive, and Nelson Street and Court Road
- footpaths and verges along The Horsley Drive, Nelson Street and Court Road

- adjustment and relocation of the existing overhead and underground utility services, including powerlines, Telstra and NBN, water and sewer and other utilities along The Horsley Drive and along Nelson Street and Court Road
- establishment of temporary construction site compounds.

An advanced notification of the project was sent out to community and stakeholders on Monday 17 October 2022 to seek community feedback on the project. Consultation closed on Friday 28 October 2022.

Consultation aimed to outline the proposed design, key benefits, project approval process, construction impacts and property impacts. It also provided a summary of what happens next and how to provide feedback.

Transport received 14 submissions in response to the display of the proposed design for the projects. The community was broadly in support of the proposed design, raising questions about potential traffic and property impacts.

### Work completed to date

1. Strategic design – 2021
2. Concept design - 2023
3. Investigations and preparation of environmental assessments – 2023
4. Invite community and stakeholder comments on proposed concept design with release of community consultation report – 2023

### Way forward

Transport will take the community and stakeholder feedback into account as separate assessments under Division 5.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) are prepared. The review of environmental factors (REF) assesses and fully considers all matters affecting or likely to affect the environment because of the proposals.

These assessments will inform the detailed design of the upgrades.

### Background

The proposal is part of the Easing Sydney's Congestion program, a Transport initiative to improve the reliability of roads in Sydney for all road users, ease traffic congestion and improve travel times in Sydney. Funding for the proposal is being provided through the Urban Road Congestion Program. The NSW Government has committed \$450 million towards the Urban Road Congestion Program, with a focus on improving locations within the road network that experience high levels of congestion and traffic bottlenecks. The proposal is consistent with the NSW Government's roadmap to deliver the state's future transport network, the Future Transport Strategy 2056.

Figure 1: The Horsley Drive intersection upgrades at Polding Street and Nelson Street



## Project objectives

The project aims to:

- Increase traffic through put on The Horsley Drive
- Improve traffic reliability on The Horsley Drive
- Increase accessibility for pedestrians
- Minimise or eliminate uncontrolled conflicts between competing travel modes with high demands at the intersection to improve safety whilst enhancing intersection performance
- Improve network performance with additional lanes
- Improve network performance with additional lane capacity on The Horsley Drive westbound.
- Improve road safety where practicable
- Provide appropriate levels of safety for road users

## Consultation objectives

The communications and engagement objectives for the public display of the proposed intersection upgrades in October 2022 included:

- Providing information to increase community and stakeholder awareness and understanding of the proposals
- Outlining the concept design
- Engaging with community and stakeholders in proximity of the intersection upgrades and capture feedback to help identify any issues
- Building relationships and a database of interested community members with whom we can continue to engage as the projects progress.

## Method of Consultation

The community and stakeholders were invited to provide feedback, leave comments, and make submissions through a range of communication channels via email, post or by phoning the project team.

## Communication channels


Publicly available contact details for the project:

- Email: [projects@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:projects@transport.nsw.gov.au)
- Phone: 1800 684 490
- Mail: Transport for NSW, The Horsley Drive, Polding/Nelson intersection upgrades, PO Box 973, Parramatta NSW 2124
- Web: [nswroads.work/thdpoldingandnelsonst](https://nswroads.work/thdpoldingandnelsonst)

## Communication materials

The project team developed communication materials to support the consultation process. A notification was distributed to residents and businesses surrounding and near to the proposed intersection upgrades. This was also available on the project webpage for downloading.

### Materials produced include:

Communication materials	Distributed / Hosted
<p><b>Project notification</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letterbox dropped to residents and businesses near the proposed intersection upgrades</li> <li>• Available on the project webpage</li> </ul>

Communication materials	Distributed / Hosted
<p><b>Map of The Horsley Drive – Polding Street and Nelson Street intersection upgrades</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letterbox dropped to residents and businesses near the proposed intersection upgrades</li> <li>Available on the project webpage</li> </ul>

Communication materials	Distributed / Hosted
<p><b>Consultation report</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This report is available for download on the project webpage</li> </ul>

Communication materials	Distributed / Hosted
<p><b>Project webpage</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project webpage can be found at <a href="https://nswroads.work/thdpoldingandnelsonst">nswroads.work/thdpoldingandnelsonst</a></li> </ul>



## Email

Emails were sent to stakeholders on 17 October 2022 and in the following days after. The email linked recipients to the project webpage, where they could view information and the notification to find out more about the proposed intersection upgrades and how to provide feedback.

An email was also sent to the local schools to provide information to the school community.

## Other engagement activities

Community engagement activities such as door knocking affected properties, meeting in person, or holding face-to-face community information sessions about proposed design.

The project team undertook the following engagement activities consistent with restrictions in place at the time to limit the spread of COVID-19:

Engagement activities	Stakeholder group
Door knocking affected properties	On Monday 17 October 2022 the Project Manager and the Personal Relationship Manager, Acquisition doorknocked affected properties to provide information about the proposal and the need to acquire part of their property. Anyone not available at the time was followed up with alternative options for a discussion.
Council officer briefing	A briefing was held with council officers on Thursday 27 October 2022.
Phone enquiries	Phone enquiries were responded to as needed during the consultation period.
Email enquiries	Email enquiries were responded to as needed during the consultation period.

## Consultation summary overview

Transport received fourteen submissions in response to the display of the proposed intersection upgrades. The community was broadly in support of the proposed design, raising questions about potential traffic and property impacts.

The feedback received has been considered and our responses are detailed in the table on page 11 of this report.

## Analysis of key themes

Consideration of public submissions indicate a range of views about the desire for and/or perceived effectiveness of the upgrade.

The key themes included:

- traffic and transport
- design
- property acquisition and impacts on the community and environment
- consultation period

Residents raised concerns about the tonne load limit, impacts of removing the right turn movements into and out of Douglas Street, and signage along The Horsley Drive. Additionally, residents expressed concerns about noise impacts, safety, property values and availability of parking due to proposal.

Some residents expressed positive support for the proposed intersection improvements on the Horsley Drive at Nelson Street and Polding Street, while others suggested alternative options.

There were also concerns about air pollution and noise resulting from the proposal and an increase in illegal turns.

Not all comments related to this project. Where possible we have sourced responses and passed on this feedback to the relevant teams within Transport.

Every instance of the same feedback has been mentioned once, for example, although most people said they support the proposal, this is listed just once.

Key themes and Affected Intersection	Project response
<b>Design</b>	
<p>Concerns regarding noise impacts and safety as a result of the road design closer to residents (3)</p> <p>Affects both intersections – The Horsley Drive / Polding Street Intersection and The Horsley Drive / Nelson Street Intersection.</p>	<p>The proposed design of the intersection will be in accordance with applicable Australian and Industry Standards to ensure safety and compliance.</p> <p>Additionally, a noise assessment for the operation of the intersection was undertaken as part of the assessment that concluded that the increase in noise levels associated with operation are expected to be negligible.</p>
<b>Design – Suggestions to include in the proposal</b>	
<p>Request to consider removing the pedestrian crossing on The Horsley Drive towards Polding Street. (7)</p> <p>Affects The Horsley Drive / Polding Street Intersection.</p>	<p>Removal of pedestrian crossings creates disadvantages to pedestrians and cyclists and may create a safety hazard in that they may conduct illegal and unsafe manoeuvres and therefore this recommendation will not be supported.</p>
<p>Request to consider removing right turn into Adam Street or to consider adding an extra lane into Adam Street. (7).</p> <p>Affects The Horsley Drive / Polding Street Intersection.</p>	<p>The proposed design does not include the upgrade of Adam Street as it involves acquiring more property, which is outside of our project scope. There will be no planned changes to how you access Adam Street.</p>
<p>Comment relating to the design that the road should be widened to three lanes. (8)</p> <p>Affects both intersections – The Horsley Drive / Polding Street Intersection and The Horsley Drive / Nelson Street Intersection.</p>	<p>The proposed improvements to the intersection includes adding a new lane in northbound direction on The Horsley Drive at the Nelson Street intersection. This will improve the operations and reduce the queues on The Horsley Drive.</p> <p>The proposed design does not include widening The Horsley Drive at the Polding Street intersection to three lanes as it involves acquiring more property, which is outside of our project scope. Instead, an additional right turn lane will be provided on The Horsley Drive southern approach onto Polding Street to improve traffic efficiency.</p>

Key themes and Affected Intersection	Project response
<p>Suggestions to include additional design for the proposal including fencing/traffic signal for pedestrian crossing, realignment of the junction and having two right turn lanes from Polding Street onto The Horsley Drive. (9)</p> <p>Affects The Horsley Drive / Polding Street Intersection.</p>	<p>The proposed improvements to the intersection includes dual right turn lanes from Polding St eastbound to The Horsley Drive southbound and improvements to the alignment.</p>
<b>Traffic and Transport</b>	
<p>Query regarding whether the proposal will maintain the current 5 Tonne load limit restriction. (1)</p> <p>Affects The Horsley Drive / Polding Street Intersection.</p>	<p>Transport will retain the current 5T load limit on Polding Street North.</p>
<p>Request regarding visibility of signs 100 metres before traffic lights. (7)</p> <p>Affects both intersections – The Horsley Drive / Polding Street Intersection and The Horsley Drive / Nelson Street Intersection.</p>	<p>This will be reviewed / considered in the detailed design phase.</p>
<p>Comments noting that the adjustment of traffic signals at the intersections may be an improvement to the intersection rather than the proposal. (13)</p> <p>Affects The Horsley Drive / Polding Street Intersection.</p>	<p>The proposed improvements work on The Horsley Drive and Polding Street intersection includes a design and upgrade of the traffic signals.</p>
<b>Removal of the right turn moves</b>	
<p>Concerns regarding the availability of parking as a result of the removal of the right turn movements on Douglas Street. (3)</p> <p>Affects The Horsley Drive / Polding Street Intersection.</p>	<p>TfNSW has identified the need to undertake improvements to the existing intersection. The improvements will provide benefits to the local residence and to the whole of community. To enable the improvements, it is necessary for TfNSW to acquire strips of land, specifically for the improvement works only.</p>
<p>Concerns regarding the need for the proposed removal of the right turn movements from Douglas Street. (5)</p> <p>Affects The Horsley Drive / Polding Street Intersection.</p>	<p>The proposed improvements to the intersection will require the inclusion of dual right turn from The Horsley Drive to Polding Street and will require a solid median between the northbound lanes and southbound lanes. This will disable vehicles to turn right from The Horsley drive to Douglas St and disable vehicles to turn right from Douglas Street to The Horsley Drive.</p>

Key themes and Affected Intersection	Project response
	<p>Those vehicles travelling in the northbound direction wanting to enter Douglas Street will need to turn right onto Polding Street North and then turn right into Ace Street. Those vehicles from Douglas Street wanting to travel north along The Horsley Drive will need to turn left onto Polding Street North from Ace Street and then turn right onto The Horsley Drive or continue straight along Polding Street towards Cumberland Highway.</p>
<p>Request for the consideration of different design options to limiting the right turn movements from Douglas Street.</p> <p>Affects The Horsley Drive / Polding Street Intersection.</p>	<p>The disabling of the Right Turn movements in/out of Douglas Street is a result of our risk assessment undertaken as part of our design. We are introducing dual right turn lanes from The Horsley Drive into Polding Street North and the removal of the right turn movement into Douglas Street will eliminate the traffic incidents and potential delays associated with vehicle blocking the dual right turn lanes awaiting an uncontrolled turn into Douglas Street.</p> <p>We are also introducing a solid median between the Northbound and Southbound traffic along The Horsley Drive and this is required due to the slight misalignment of the travel lanes heading in the Southbound direction along The Horsley Drive as they cross the intersections.</p> <p>These added features to the intersection will improve the overall efficiency and safety of the intersection for all vehicles using the intersections.</p>
<b>Property – impact on value</b>	
<p>Concerns regarding property values following the proposal (3)</p> <p>Affects The Horsley Drive / Polding Street Intersection.</p>	<p>TfNSW has identified the need to undertake improvements to the existing intersection. The improvements will provide benefits to the local residence and to the whole of community. To enable the improvements, it is necessary for TfNSW to acquire strips of land, specifically for the improvement works only. The acquisitions will be via discussions and negotiations with the property owner and compensation will be provided in accordance NSW accredited valuation procedures.</p>
<b>Concerns and objections for the proposed upgrades</b>	
<p>Concerns regarding the impacts to the community and environment as a result of the proposal including air pollution and noise. (13)</p>	<p>The proposal is subject to an environmental assessment under Part 5 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>. A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) based on the proposal has been prepared that examines and considers to the fullest extent possible all matters affecting or likely to affect the environment. Chapter 6 'Environmental Assessment' of the REF provides a detailed description of the potential environmental</p>

Key themes and Affected Intersection	Project response
Affects both intersections – The Horsley Drive / Polding Street Intersection and The Horsley Drive / Nelson Street Intersection.	<p>impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposal including noise and air quality impacts.</p> <p>Further, a noise assessment for the operation of the intersection was undertaken as part of the assessment that concluded that there is no increase in noise levels greater than the criteria and that noise impacts associated with operation are expected to be negligible.</p>
<p>Disapproval of the proposal overall due to the perceived costs outweighing the benefits. (13)</p> <p>Affects both intersections – The Horsley Drive / Polding Street Intersection and The Horsley Drive / Nelson Street Intersection.</p>	<p>To reduce congestion and delays at the intersection, as well as improve safety for drivers, the proposal considered the costs, intersection and network performance, road safety, transport improvements, constructability, and land acquisition requirements. These have been assessed with the REF. The proposal objectives are considered to be met, balanced with minimising environmental and social impacts.</p> <p>The short term and long-term impacts of the proposed intersection upgrade would benefit both current and future generations. For these reasons, the proposal is considered to be justified as it would ease congestion, reduce travel times, and improve safety for this road corridor.</p> <p>The upgrades to the intersection will improve the overall efficiency and safety of the intersections for all vehicles using the intersections.</p>
<b>Support for the proposal</b>	
<p>Positive support for the proposals to reduce congestion at both of intersections on The Horsley Drive. (4)</p> <p>Affects both intersections – The Horsley Drive / Polding Street Intersection and The Horsley Drive / Nelson Street Intersection.</p>	Noted, thank you.
<b>Consultation</b>	
<p>Comments regarding the consultation strategy to affected residents and community including extending the consultation period and notification to be redistributed in additional languages. (1) (2) (10)</p> <p>Affects both intersections – The Horsley Drive / Polding Street Intersection and The Horsley Drive / Nelson Street Intersection.</p>	<p>You may provide your comments at any time that suits you via the telephone number or the website.</p> <p>In terms of translating the notifications to those languages - TfNSW would be happy to organise translation on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the phone number on the notification so that we can organise translation.</p>
<b>Request for further information</b>	

Key themes and Affected Intersection	Project response
<p>Requests for further information on how the proposal will decrease travel times and improve safety.</p>	<p>Transport has undertaken traffic modelling which showed that the project will deliver improvements to the intersections by reducing travel times and congestion.</p> <p>Safety improvements for both vehicle users and pedestrians have been identified based on the proposal. Safety would improve for vehicle users by providing additional capacity at the intersection and the addition of medians to separate opposing traffic directions would improve vehicle safety. The reduced queue lengths and reduced waiting time translates to improved driver behaviour, which in turn reduces the number of incidents / crashes and this provides a safer vehicle movement through the intersection. The left-in-left-out only arrangement at the intersections at Ferguson Avenue, Douglas Street and Cunninghame Street will eliminate traffic incidents associated with vehicles undertaking uncontrolled right turns into and out of these side streets.</p> <p>Safety improvements for pedestrians include the installation of a signalised pedestrian crossing on the southern approach of The Horsley Drive and Polding Street intersection, and the installation of additional light poles and adjustment to luminaires along The Horsley Drive. This would improve sighting for pedestrians and road users at night and increase the safety of the intersection.</p>
<p>Request for further information on the proposal costs. Affects both intersections – The Horsley Drive / Polding St Intersection and The Horsley Drive / Nelson St Intersection.</p>	<p>Currently, the proposal costs is confidential information and may jeopardise our procurement process in undertaking the delivery of the project. The cost of work is not finalised and will be subject to the final design. Once funding has been approved and the procurement process is completed this information will be provided to the public.</p>
<p>Request for further information on the proposal including construction impacts including compound sites and utility outages. (13)</p> <p>Affects both intersections – The Horsley Drive / Polding St Intersection and The Horsley Drive / Nelson St Intersection.</p>	<p>Ancillary facilities would be required during construction including compound sites and stockpiling locations to facilitate the works. Environmental and community impacts from ancillary sites including proposed site compounds have been assessed as part of Section 6 of the REF. Safeguards have been prepared to ensure that the impacts on the community and environment are minimised during the works.</p> <p>The relocation and reconnection of utilities associated with the proposal may require short-term outages of services for a small number of residents (see section 3.5 and 6.12) Consultation would occur with affected residents to discuss this in more detail and possible timings of outages during construction.</p>

**Outside of scope**

Comments requesting consideration to improving other areas of congestion within the Fairfield City area and/or its immediate surrounds. (i.e., Smart Street and Sackville Street intersection and footpaths).(4)

The proposed project at the intersection of The Horsley Drive and Nelson Street will not be proceeding. However, The Horsley Drive and Polding Street intersection will be moving forward as planned.

Any upgrade requests beyond these areas are not part of the project's scope. We will pass on such request to the Fairfield City Council for their review and consideration.

Comments requesting the inclusion of the rehabilitation of sewage drains on adjacent streets that require upgrades to rectify blockages. (14)

The proposed works by TfNSW do not include upgrades of the assets owned by Sydney Water - these are managed by Sydney Water only and the issues you raise need to be directed to them.

Affects both intersections – The Horsley Drive / Polding Street Intersection and The Horsley Drive / Nelson Street Intersection.



## Next Steps

Transport appreciates the time taken to consider the proposals and we thank the community and stakeholders for providing feedback during the consultation period.

We recognise the importance of progressing the upgrades at the intersections of The Horsley Drive at Polding Street and Nelson Street in Fairfield.

Reviewing feedback has been an important part of informing the Review of Environmental Factors under the project approval process. Feedback captured has provided better understanding of issues in the area and how to maximise the project design to ensure improvements are realised in the area.

We will continue to work with Fairfield City Council, stakeholders and the local community while progressing the proposals and we will provide updates as the project progresses.

