

Transport
for NSW



Main Road, Dora Creek upgrade

Community Consultation Report

January 2024

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Introduction

Project background

Transport for NSW has developed a proposal to upgrade the Main Road and Dora Street intersection at Dora Creek.

Main Road at Dora Creek is a key arterial road servicing west Lake Macquarie that connects Morisset to the south with Toronto and Glendale in the north.

The proposed upgrade aims to improve traffic flow, safety and travel times for the 8,500 motorists who use this intersection each day and support further population growth in the west Lake Macquarie region.

The proposal

The proposal for the intersection includes:

- New alignment and upgrade of the Main Road and Dora Street intersection with traffic lights
- Two lanes of travel in each direction along Main Road with separate left and right turn lanes into Dora Street and Douglass Street
- Wamsley Street side road (old Main Road) to be converted into a cul-de-sac connecting to Douglass Street
- A new raised pedestrian crossing on Wamsley Street which requires the introduction of a 40km/h speed limit and 'no stopping' areas to maintain safe sight distance. The 'no stopping' areas will remove about seven parking spaces on the eastern side of the street in front of the shops and eight parking spaces on the western side of the street
- Upgrade of the existing carpark at Wamsley Street, which will add an extra 11 parking spaces to the carpark
- Indented bus bays in both directions on Main Road
- Improved pedestrian connections between Wamsley Street shops and Dora Creek train station with new pathways and accessible kerb ramps
- New concrete gutter, kerbing and a raised central median.

Consultation approach

Consultation objectives

We consulted with the community during November and December 2022 on the proposed design to:

- Seek comment, feedback, ideas, and suggestions for us to consider when developing the proposal, including consultation outcomes into the environmental impact assessment known as review of environmental factors (REF)
- Build a database of interested and concerned community members with whom we can continue to engage during the proposal's development.

Values

Our values underpin our decisions and behaviours when working with customers, colleagues, stakeholders and partners.

- **Customer focus** - We place the customer at the centre of everything we do
- **Collaboration** - We value each other and create better outcomes by working together
- **Solutions** - We deliver sustainable and innovative solutions to NSW's transport needs
- **Integrity** - We take responsibility and communicate openly
- **Safety** - We prioritise safety for our people and our customers.

How consultation was done

Community members were encouraged to provide their feedback, leave comments and make submissions via mail, email or phone contact with the project team.

Our key consultation tools are listed in Table 1 below:

Table 1

Project notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivered to 1220 residents and businesses in Dora Creek and Eraring on Wednesday 23 November 2022• Copy emailed to Lake Macquarie MP Greg Piper
Webpage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project webpage published on Friday 18 November 2022 with latest project information including project notification with proposed design
Media release	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A media release was issued by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Taylor Martin on Monday 21 November 2022
Facebook post	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Facebook post inviting comments on the proposal was published on Friday 30 November 2022
Door knock	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local businesses at Dora Creek and residents impacted by changes to access on Dora Street were door-knocked by the project manager on Wednesday 23 November 2022 to discuss the proposal.
Stakeholder briefings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project manager liaised with representatives from Lake Macquarie Council during development of the proposal development. The representatives were updated on the timing for consultation.

Consultation summary

Overview

Comments on the proposed intersection upgrade closed on Friday 16 December 2022.

During the four-week consultation period, we received 49 submissions. Most submissions included multiple comments and raised multiple issues. One submission was received from the Lake Macquarie MP Greg Piper.

Of the 49 submissions, 43 supported the proposal, 6 were less supportive or neutral and 49 provided suggestions or general feedback.

Key issues raised and comments received included:

- General support for the intersection upgrade to improve safety and efficiency
- Concerns about parking loss and impact to residents, elderly and disabled and local business
- Request for more carpark spaces
- Request for review of pedestrian paths and cycleways
- Request for other design options including a roundabout rather than traffic lights, changes to lane configuration, an upgraded bridge
- Concerns about traffic congestion and access for local road network including for trailers
- Request for train station upgrades, accessibility
- Request for review of bus bays
- Request to consider future developments and population growth.

The Facebook post reached 24,664 people and received 7 reactions, 5 comments and 4 shares.

The commentary was consistent with the issues raised in formal submissions.

Issue category	Number of submissions	Issues raised	Our response
Parking	4	Concern about parking loss in general.	<p>The proposed upgrade has been designed to provide a pedestrian friendly environment. The new car parking arrangements and location would improve safety for pedestrians and improve connectivity from the car park to the shops.</p> <p>The raised pedestrian crossing requires increased sight distances and provision for no stopping. This has informed the proposed location and number of car parking spaces.</p> <p>Transport has consulted local businesses about the proposed car parking arrangements and no concerns have been raised about the proposed arrangements.</p> <p>The design would result in a net loss of 4 car parking spaces in the area. Fifteen car parking spaces would be removed with 11 new car parking spaces provided.</p>
	8	Request that parking next to the shops be retained, particularly for elderly and disabled.	
	3	Concern that the 'No stopping' signs will have a detrimental impact on local business.	
	10	Concern that local business will be affected by inadequate parking and that people will bypass local shops for large shopping centres.	
	3	Suggestion to allow 15 minute or short-term parking in front of shops and to install a pedestrian crossing with lights.	
	3	Suggestion the pedestrian crossing at shops does not need to be raised.	
	4	Comment that the net loss of 4 car spaces – removing 15 car spaces at Wamsley Street and expanding the existing car park by only 11 - will negatively impact	

		access to services and limit growth of shopping precinct.	
	11	Request to provide a car park and more parking spaces on the western side of the railway. Comment that loss of parking at the shops will put pressure on the car park and reduce commuter parking and once car park spaces are taken by early morning commuters, parking at the shops will be taken.	Transport will continue to explore opportunities for additional commuter car parking and will keep the community updated on progress.
	2	Concern drivers using the parking area at the rear of the shops as a thoroughfare between Dora Street and Doree Place is unsafe.	Transport would monitor the new car parking arrangements to ensure the safety of pedestrians and motorists.
Design	4	Suggestion of a roundabout instead of traffic lights.	Traffic modelling has demonstrated that traffic lights would improve the level of service for current and future traffic and pedestrian needs.
	1	Comment that heading north the right turn lane has space for only 5-6 cars which will be inadequate within months, potentially affecting ability to move into the two-lane section and will freeze the bridge. Spreading north bound traffic to two lanes for 200m will cause congestion on remerging. Suggestion to maintain two lanes turning into Walmsley Street and	Transport has increased the proposed length of the right turn lane to address this issue. The proposed design maximises the alignment within existing constraints and has increased the length of the right turn lane.

		one going north with same for southbound traffic.	
	1	Comment that the splitting into two lanes and then merging creates a bottleneck. Suggestion to keep single lanes with left or right turn bays.	
	1	<p>Comment that road users will be confused with left turn lane into Douglass Street and the separate left turn lane at the signalised intersection.</p> <p>Suggestion to have the turn lane continue through the intersection rather than having two separate turn lanes.</p>	<p>Appropriate signage would be installed to clearly delineate turning lane arrangements.</p> <p>The proposed arrangement provides a separation and benefit for motorists turning out of Douglass Street by providing safer turning movement.</p>
	1	<p>Suggestion to join the existing Main Road to Wamsley Street rather than a cul-de-sac.</p> <p>West bound traffic would pass through the new intersection and the North Dora Ck/Cooranbong traffic could turn down the extension past the shops and continue without passing through the new traffic lights.</p>	Traffic modelling has demonstrated that the proposed intersection would improve the level of service for current and future traffic and pedestrian needs.
	5	Comment that turning right from Dora St into Wamsley St will be problematic as cars in Walmsley St stopped at the lights may prevent a car in Dora St turning right.	<p>A keep clear zone has been included in the proposal to ensure safe separation between turning lanes.</p> <p>Traffic modelling has demonstrated that the current proposal would improve the</p>

		Suggestion to maintain right of way to traffic exiting Dora Street.	level of service for current and future traffic and pedestrian needs.
	2	Questions about what traffic movement studies have been done on right or left turns from Wamsley St and if there is a need to have two lanes turning north.	Traffic modelling has been completed as part of the project to inform the safest and most efficient design for the proposed upgrade.
Dora Creek Bridge	1	Comment that the bridge will be the biggest congestion point heading towards Toronto. Questioning if the lights give priority to traffic turning right into Dora Creek to avoid backup of traffic over the bridge and similarly coming out of Dora Creek and turning left.	<p>The traffic modelling for the project has demonstrated the current proposal provides the safest and most efficient design for the proposed upgrade.</p> <p>The phasing of the traffic lights would be monitored once the project has been completed and would be adjusted to ensure the required level of service is achieved.</p>
	1	Comment that bridge duplication or widening the current bridge to 4 lanes with associated roadworks is more expensive but needed to join to the Morisset bypass that has also been planned to go around the northern side of the shopping precinct. Having that bypass and a two-lane blockage at Dora Creek bridge will move the current blockage at the shopping precinct to the end of the proposed bypass.	<p>Transport is currently finalising a corridor strategy for Main Road Dora Creek which includes consideration of the future of Dora Creek Bridge.</p> <p>Transport will continue to keep the community informed of future upgrades for Main Road, Dora Creek and Dora Creek Bridge.</p>
	1	Suggestion to realign Dora Bridge to provide a safer line of sight.	The realignment of Dora Creek Bridge is outside the scope of this project.

			<p>Transport is currently finalising a corridor strategy for Main Road Dora Creek which includes consideration of the future of Dora Creek Bridge. Transport will continue to keep the community informed of future upgrades for Main Road, Dora Creek and Dora Creek Bridge.</p>
	1	<p>Comment that the easement and car park north and south across the creek were always set aside for a new 4 lane concrete bridge across Dora Creek. Suggestion to take out the dangerous misalignment at the end of the bridge. Comment that it is a new bridge we need with traffic lights.</p>	<p>Transport is currently finalising a corridor strategy for Main Road which includes consideration of the future of Dora Creek Bridge. Transport will continue to keep the community informed of future upgrades for Main Road and Dora Creek Bridge.</p>
	1	<p>Concern that the kink at the entry to the bridge from the Toronto side needs fixing and that the width of the bridge is too narrow and dangerous for bicycle riders. Suggestion a second bridge be built next to the current one to straighten the road on the southbound side, both lanes could be widened, and there would be space for cycleways/footpaths.</p>	
	1	<p>Comment that increased traffic from Morisset to Warners Bay will not be addressed and there will be a bottleneck on the bridge especially with more homes, the</p>	

		new Morisset shopping and entertainment hub.	
Pedestrian access and cycleways	2	Comment that the two new footpaths seem to go nowhere. The footpath on the eastern side leads up to the bridge but the pedestrian access to cross the bridge is on the western side so the path serves no purpose. Suggestion that the footpath be located on the railway side of the road and access with the pedestrian crossing at the new lights.	<p>The proposed footpath design will be reviewed during detailed design to address issues of connectivity that have been raised during the consultation process.</p> <p>The proposed project incorporates cycle lanes where safe to do so and has provided a widened northbound lane to give more separation for cyclists.</p> <p>The current situation for cyclists is to ride across the bridge or use the pedestrian walkway. Due to the constraint of the existing narrow bridge, a dedicated cycle lane across the bridge is not proposed as part of these proposed intersection upgrade works.</p>
	2	Request to provide a safe cycleway from the southern side of the bridge, heading north to connect with the pedestrian walkway on the western side of the bridge. Comment that the bridge is too narrow for cyclists and motorists to share.	<p>Cycling facilities outside of the road corridor have been included in the proposed design where possible.</p>
	1	Request to upgrade the bike path over the creek so bikes don't have to cross the bridge with vehicle traffic.	
	1	Requests adequate allowance and safety for cyclists using the intersection.	
Impact to local roads	1	Concern that the condition of Awaba Road and Douglas Street will further deteriorate with increased traffic during	A Construction Management Plan would be developed which would limit the amount of traffic utilising local roads during construction.

		construction as the roads are narrow with poor drainage.	
	3	Comment that the area is subject to flooding and drainage issues and potholes need fixing.	Transport has completed investigations during the development of the project to ensure that drainage issues are identified and addressed in the proposal.
	3	Comments that exiting Dora St to Main Rd will be very difficult when traffic is high in the mornings and afternoons and when more people live on the north side of the rail line.	Traffic modelling has informed the design which would improve the turning movements of vehicles turning in and out of Main Road.
	2	Concern that traffic lights will encourage local traffic to use Douglass St and Awaba Rd and make it dangerous and that there will be impact to local traffic flow as it is already difficult to get onto Main Road from Stingaree Point Road and Marconi Road.	Traffic modelling has informed the design and traffic lights would improve movements in and out of Main Road. It would be more difficult for motorists to loop around to Douglass Street and wait for a safe gap at an uncontrolled intersection to turn into Main Road.
	1	Comment that it is unclear whether right hand turns from Douglass Street onto Main Road will be allowed and if not this will compound the problem for residents of Douglass and Awaba Streets having to use Dora Street.	The design allows for a right-hand turn from Douglass Street into Main Road.
	1	Comment that it appears Dora Street is cut off from the Main Road.	The proposed intersection design would improve the storage for motorists turning onto Main Road.

	1	Comment that cars in Wamsley Street stopped at the lights may prevent a car in Dora Street turning right.	
Cars with trailers	2	Comment that there is a very popular boat ramp at the end of Dora Street used by the whole of South Lakes area and it is unsafe to pull out of Dora Street across 4 lanes with a boat trailer to access Morisset or the Morisset peninsular.	Turning paths would be assessed during project development to ensure that movements are safe for vehicles with trailers.
Upgrade of train station	6	Request to improve pedestrian access to the station.	The proposed design improves access to the station by providing dedicated pedestrian crossings and pedestrian paths.
	2	Question as to how cars and bicycles from Wamsley St, Dora St, Douglass St and Toronto can access the station car park.	Commuters would be encouraged to use the car park in Wamsley St or the proposed kiss and ride facility for quick drop off and pick-ups.
	5	Request to upgrade the station, make it accessible, provide toilets, address station steps that are too steep and narrow, and lack of disabled access to the Western platform.	The NSW Government is funding the Transport Access Program, an initiative delivering safe, modern and accessible public transport infrastructure across the state. The upgrades are designed to improve access to train stations for people with disability or limited mobility, and parents and carers with prams. Dora Creek Station would be considered for a TAP upgrade in the next tranche of funding. Transport will keep the community informed as the program progresses
	1	Question how traffic lights will affect the drop off zone to the	A kiss-and-ride is proposed on the northern side of the intersection and a turning arrow is therefore not required.

		station and will there be a turning arrow.	
Bus bays	1	Suggestion for a footpath from the lights to the Bus Bay. Extending the footpath beyond the Bus Bay heading south is not necessary and will only encourage illegal crossing to the train station.	The footpath design will be reviewed during detailed design and will address issues of connectivity that have been raised during the consultation process.
	1	Queries whether the proposed bus bays on the main road will be adequate at peak times or whether there will be a bank-up of traffic that will be dangerous for school children.	It is proposed for bus stops to be located at the intersection where there are two dedicated through lanes. Buses would have right of way and queuing is not expected to be significant.
	3	Comment there should be a fenced footpath from the western bus bay directly to the train station or to the signalised pedestrian crossings.	Fencing is proposed from the western bus bay to the signalised pedestrian crossings.
	1	Request for a footpath on the western side of Main Road from the northbound "Bus Bay" going south past the new intersection and continuing up to Dora Creek station waiting area and to delete the indicated footpath from the south end of the southbound "Bus Bay" to the Dora Creek bridge.	The footpath design will be reviewed during detailed design and will address issues of connectivity that have been raised during the consultation process.
Other	1	Request for another letterbox drop. Suggestion that some residents and businesses did not	Transport has door-knocked and provided notifications to businesses in the area.

		receive the feedback notice.	
	5	Suggestion to also provide a roundabout at Stingaree Point Road and Marconi Road.	This suggestion is outside the scope of the current project.
	1	Comment that motorists are currently speeding in and around the Dora St/Wamsley St intersection.	The proposed design would provide a pedestrian friendly environment and includes a reduced speed limit in Wamsley Street of 40km. The proposed design also provides a traffic calming device in Wamsley Street which would slow motorists.
	1	Comment that it is dangerous for the elderly to cross a 4-lane road to get to the shops.	The proposed upgrade has been designed to provide a pedestrian friendly environment.
	1	Request to not remove the existing concrete median as it makes local residents feel safer from main road traffic. Request to not remove the tree as it provides shade and privacy. Comment that the proposed new road makes it unsafe to turn out of the street and impossible to come around to go towards Sydney or Newcastle on daily travel.	Pedestrian crossings are included in the proposed upgrade which would improve safety for pedestrians. Transport would minimise tree removal as far as possible in the delivery of the upgrade. The upgrade would provide a signalised intersection which would make it safer for vehicles to turn onto Main Road.
	1	Concern a raised central median will be a hazard for those crossing the road, will affect traffic flow through the intersection and will impact access to shops and eateries.	The provision of a pedestrian crossing would improve safety and access for pedestrians by providing right of way for pedestrians.

	1	Comment that the whole area is probably not being planned correctly given these links to the Morisset Town Centre plan and the Showground development show it would inhibit the bypass on the northern side of the shops.	Transport is currently finalising a corridor strategy for Main Road which includes consideration of the future of Dora Creek Bridge. Transport will continue to keep the community informed of future upgrades for Main Road, Dora Creek and Dora Creek Bridge.
	1	Comment that Morisset needs to be bypassed as it seems there are more than the stated 8,500 cars per day around the proposed upgrade.	Transport is currently finalising a corridor strategy for Main Road which includes consideration of the future of Dora Creek Bridge. Transport will continue to keep the community informed of future upgrades for Main Road, Dora Creek and Dora Creek Bridge.

Recommendations

After considering all feedback received from the community, along with the proposal's objectives and design requirements, Transport has decided to proceed to the next stage of the project.

Next steps

We have considered all submissions and will ensure our team is aware of concerns raised by the community. We will ensure that issues highlighted by stakeholders and the community are appropriately addressed throughout the next phase of the project to further develop the design and prepare a review of environmental factors for the proposed project.

We will continue to keep the community informed of project progress.

Appendix – Communication collateral

Have your say notification

Transport for NSW



Proposed intersection upgrade at Main Road, Dora Creek

Have Your Say on the concept design – November 2022

Community feedback is being invited on a proposed upgrade at the intersection of Main Road and Dora Street to improve traffic flow and safety for all road users.

Main Road intersection upgrade, Dora Creek
Have Your Say

Transport for NSW is seeking your feedback on the new alignment and upgrade of the Main Road and Dora Street intersection.

Main Road is a key arterial road servicing west Lake Macquarie that connects Morisset to the south with Toronto and Glendale in the north.

The proposed upgrade aims to improve traffic flow, safety and travel times for the 8,500 motorists who use this intersection each day and support further population growth in west Lake Macquarie region.

Key design features

We have included a diagram below to show key features of the initial concept design, which include:

- New alignment and upgrade of the Main Road and Dora Street intersection with traffic lights
- Two lanes of travel in each direction along Main Road with separate left and right turn lanes into Dora Street and Douglass Street
- Wamsley Street side road (old Main Road) to be converted into a cul-de-sac connecting to Douglass Street
- A new raised pedestrian crossing on Wamsley Street, which requires the introduction of a 40km/h speed limit and 'no stopping' areas to maintain safe sight distance. The 'no stopping' areas will remove about seven parking spaces on the eastern side of the street in front of the shops and eight parking spaces on the western side of the street
- Upgrade of the existing carpark at Wamsley Street, which will add an extra 11 parking spaces to the carpark
- Indented bus bays in both directions on Main Road
- Improved pedestrian connections between Wamsley Street shops and Dora Creek train station with new pathways and accessible kerb ramps
- New concrete gutter, kerbing and a raised central median

How can you give feedback?

You are invited to provide feedback by **Friday 16 December 2022** to our Project Manager, Viet Nguyen via:

Email: Viet.Nguyen2@transport.nsw.gov.au
Phone: 1800 844 131
Mail: Attn: Viet Nguyen
Transport for NSW
Locked Bag 2030
Newcastle NSW 2300

Next Steps

We will carefully consider your feedback and continue to keep you updated as the project progresses. A Community Consultation Report will be published in early 2023.

Transport for NSW will be undertaking site and environmental investigation work over the next six months to prepare a Review of Environmental Factors (REF).

More information

If you have any questions about the concept design or would like more information on the upgrade please contact our project manager Viet Nguyen on 1800 844 131 or Viet.Nguyen2@transport.nsw.gov.au

To keep up to date with the project please visit nswroads.work/doracreek

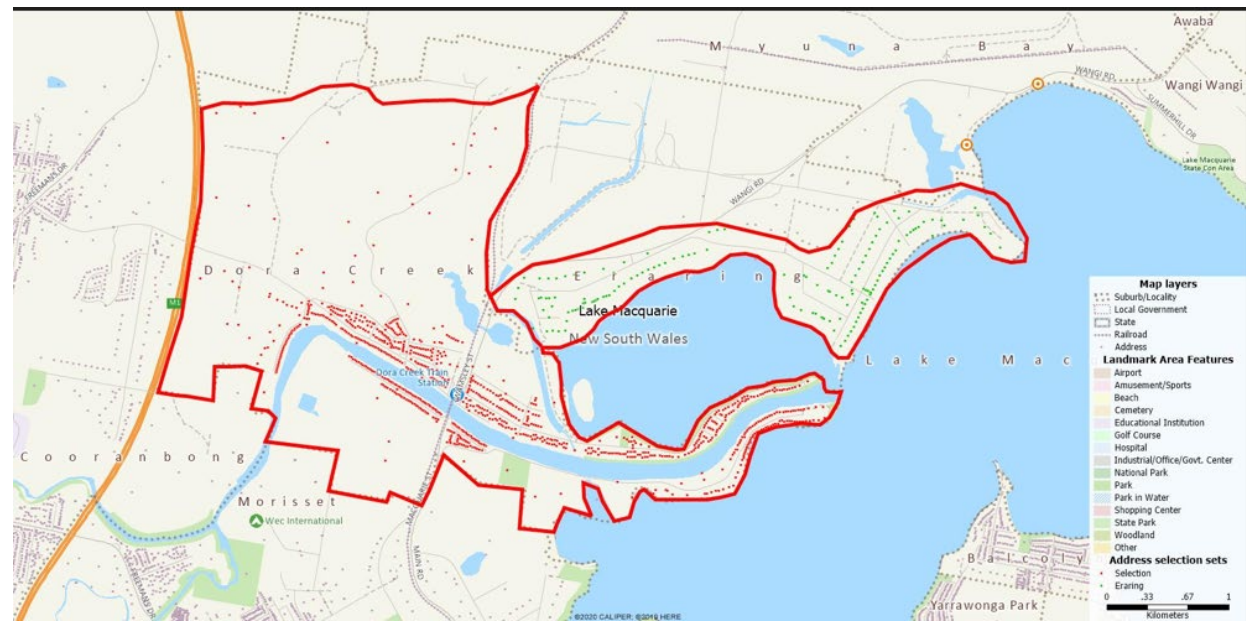
Translating and interpreting service

If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1800 844 131.

Main Road intersection upgrade, Dora Creek - concept design



Notification – distribution area



Facebook post

Transport for NSW
29 November at 16:21

Have your say by Friday Dec 16 on the concept design of the Main Rd intersection upgrade at Dora Creek featuring new traffic lights

Submit feedback by Friday 16 December 2022

NSW

NSWROADS.WORK/DORACREEK

Have your say

Main Rd intersection upgrade

Learn more

7

4 shares

Media release



Taylor Martin
Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 21 November 2022

HAVE YOUR SAY ON DORA CREEK INTERSECTION

A plan to help future proof and improve safety at an intersection at Dora Creek is now open for public comment.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Taylor Martin said residents and other interested parties were invited to comment on a concept design for improvements to the intersection of Main Road and Dora Street, Dora Creek.

"The western region of Lake Macquarie continues to grow and we want to make sure the community gets the chance to have its say on the concept design for this increasingly busy intersection," Mr Martin said.

"Community feedback will help the project team understand what the community sees as important and to deliver the best outcomes for the community."

Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Sam Faraway said improving safety and traffic flow at the intersection were the main considerations in the upgrade.

"The proposed upgrade aims to improve traffic flow, safety and travel times for the 8,500 motorists who use this intersection each day and support further population growth," Mr Faraway said.

"The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government are securing a brighter future by building the infrastructure that matters."

"We're getting on with the planning and development of this proposed upgrade to make daily life easier for commuters in the Lake Macquarie region."

The concept design features:

- New alignment and upgrade of the Main Road and Dora Street intersection with traffic lights
- Two lanes of travel in each direction along Main Road with separate left and right turn lanes into Dora Street and Douglass Street
- Wamsley Street side road (old Main Road) to be converted into a cul de sac connecting to Douglass Street

- A new raised pedestrian crossing on Wamsley Street and the upgrade of the existing carpark, adding an extra 11 parking spaces
- Indented bus bays in both directions on Main Road
- Improved pedestrian connections between Wamsley Street shops and Dora Creek train station with new pathways and accessible kerb ramps
- New concrete gutter, kerbing and a raised central median

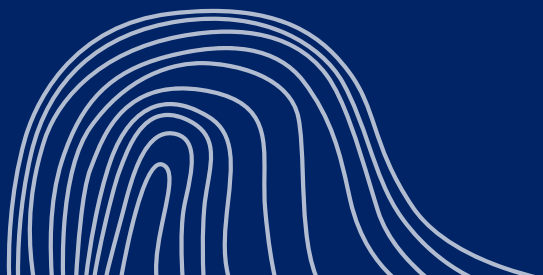
Consultation on the initial concept design will be open for one month, with submissions closing at 5pm on Friday 16 December 2022.

Feedback can be provided by phone, email or in writing. Anyone interested is encouraged to find out more about the project by visiting nswroads.work/doracreek

Transport for NSW has started site investigation work to inform environmental assessments in the Review of Environmental Factors (REF). The community will be invited to provide feedback on the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) in about mid-2023.

Transport for NSW will continue to keep the community informed about progress on the proposed upgrade. More information is available at nswroads.work/doracreek

MEDIA: Todd Kirby 0450 669 393



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