



Roads and Traffic Authority
www.rta.nsw.gov.au

PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE



MOORLAND TO HERONS CREEK

Community Newsletter No. 1

October 2000

Introduction

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) is proposing to upgrade the Pacific Highway between Moorland and Herons Creek as part of the NSW Government's \$1.6 billion contribution to the Pacific Highway Upgrading Program.

The project will extend approximately 22 km from Camp Obadiah, Johns River, to the existing dual carriageway at Herons Creek. The project will include highway improvements at Kew and Johns River.

Objectives

The project will target the objectives of the Pacific Highway Upgrading Program which are:

- significantly reduced road accidents and injuries
- reduced travel times
- reduced freight transport costs
- a community satisfied with the physical development of the route
- a route that supports economic development
- reconstruction of the route managed in accordance with Ecologically Sustainable Development Principles
- maximum effectiveness of expenditure.

Bringing you up to date

The RTA has commissioned Ove Arup & Partners, environmental and engineering consultants, to carry out the planning and assessment work required to develop this project.

The RTA is very keen to ensure that the community is given wide-ranging opportunities to have input into all aspects of this study. This newsletter describes how you can be involved in the project. The newsletter also provides general

information on the project, describes the study area and explains the main steps in the project's development.

Community consultation

A comprehensive community involvement program has been prepared for the project. This program has been developed to ensure on-going opportunities for community involvement in the project and includes:

- Community Information Sessions
- regular distribution of Community Newsletters
- availability of a freecall number (1800 353 670) and website (www.arup.com.au/moorland)
- information displays at Taree, Johns River, Kew and Port Macquarie
- establishment of representative Community Focus Groups
- meetings with individual residents and property owners, community groups and other stakeholders throughout the project.

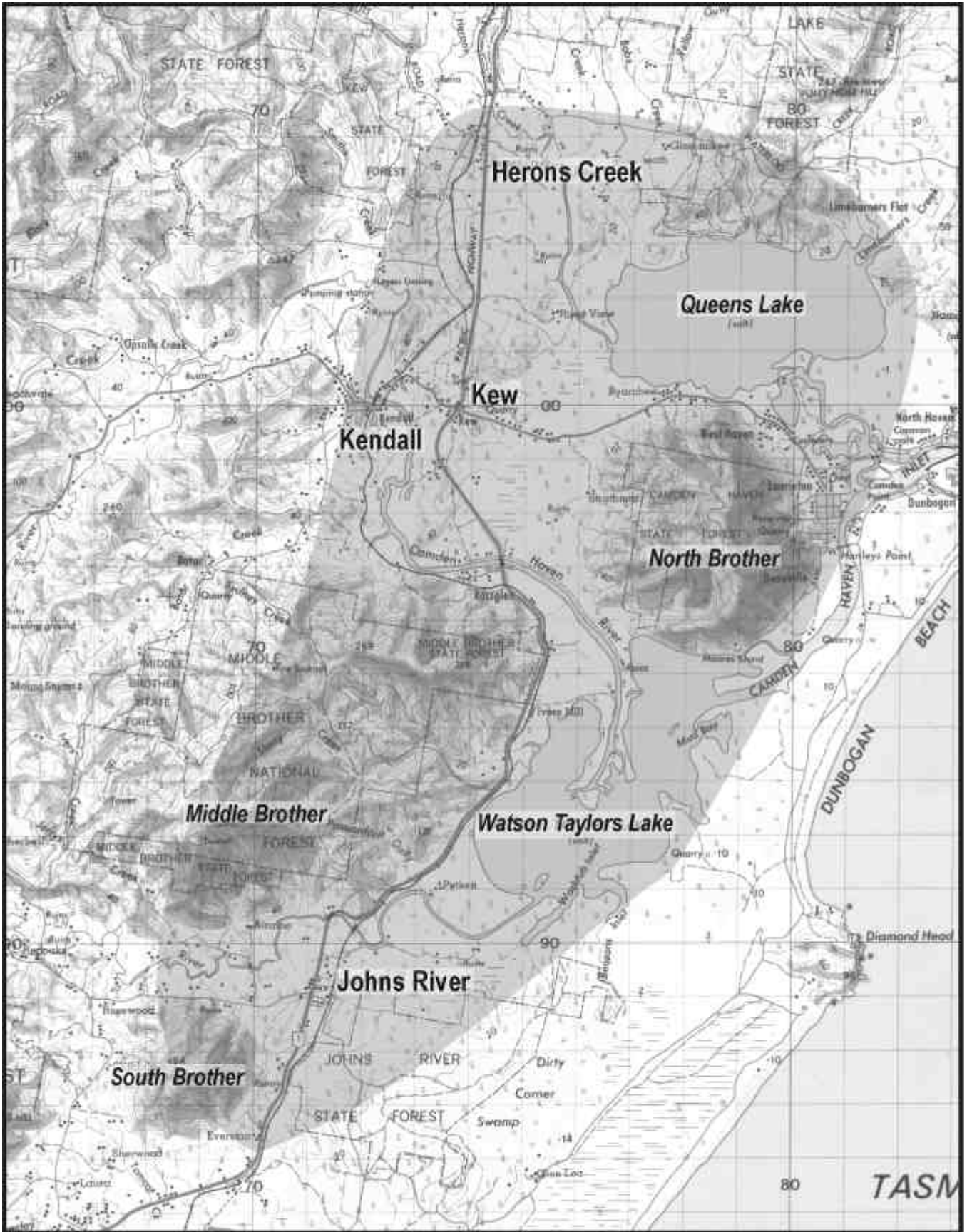
Details of how to be involved in this project are provided on the back page of this newsletter.

The study area

A map of the study area is provided on the next page.

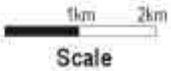
At its southern end, the project will connect with the northern end of the proposed Cooperook to Moorland upgrade at Camp Obadiah. This proposal is currently going through the final stages of environmental assessment. At its northern end, the project will connect with the existing dual carriageway Highway near Bobs Creek Road at Herons Creek.

The extent of the study area will vary according to the nature of the environmental or engineering aspect being investigated but will be contained within the shaded area shown on the map.



**Pacific Highway Upgrade
Moorland to Herons Creek
Study Area**

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www.dlm.nsw.gov.au



Specialist investigations

Assessment of the issues that will influence the location and design of a highway upgrade within the study area is currently under way. This assessment will involve a review of existing background information together with fieldwork to provide detailed information on the physical, social and economic aspects of the study area.

Areas of specialist investigation include:

- survey
- traffic and road safety
- public utilities and services
- land use and planning
- socio-economic characteristics
- cultural heritage (indigenous and non-indigenous heritage issues)
- water quality
- air quality
- drainage and flooding issues
- geotechnical and soil issues
- noise and vibration
- landscape and visual quality.

As you may be aware, specialist investigations are already underway in the study area. Where any of these investigations require access to and/or investigations on private property, direct contact is made beforehand with the relevant property owners to seek permission for this access and to organise suitable access and investigation arrangements. The information collected during these investigations is providing a useful basis for the discussions that will be held during the community consultation programme.

The findings of these investigations, together with input from the community, will be used to identify feasible alternative routes within the study area.



Project process

Development of the project will involve two main stages:

Stage One – Route Selection

The outcomes of the initial investigations and community consultation will be the identification of a number of feasible highway upgrade options. A concept design, which integrates environmental, social and engineering aspects, will be prepared for each option. These options will be displayed for public comment.

Community input will be sought and taken into account in comparing the various feasible options as part of determination of the Preferred Route. One or more Value Management Workshops, involving community representatives, will be conducted to assist in comparing the available options.

Details of the Preferred Route will be displayed for community comment. Comments received from the community will be considered in refining the design for the Preferred Route.

The dates, times and venues of the displays during this stage will be advertised through local newspapers, and notices in local businesses. Additional newsletters will be distributed.

Stage Two – Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Engineering Design

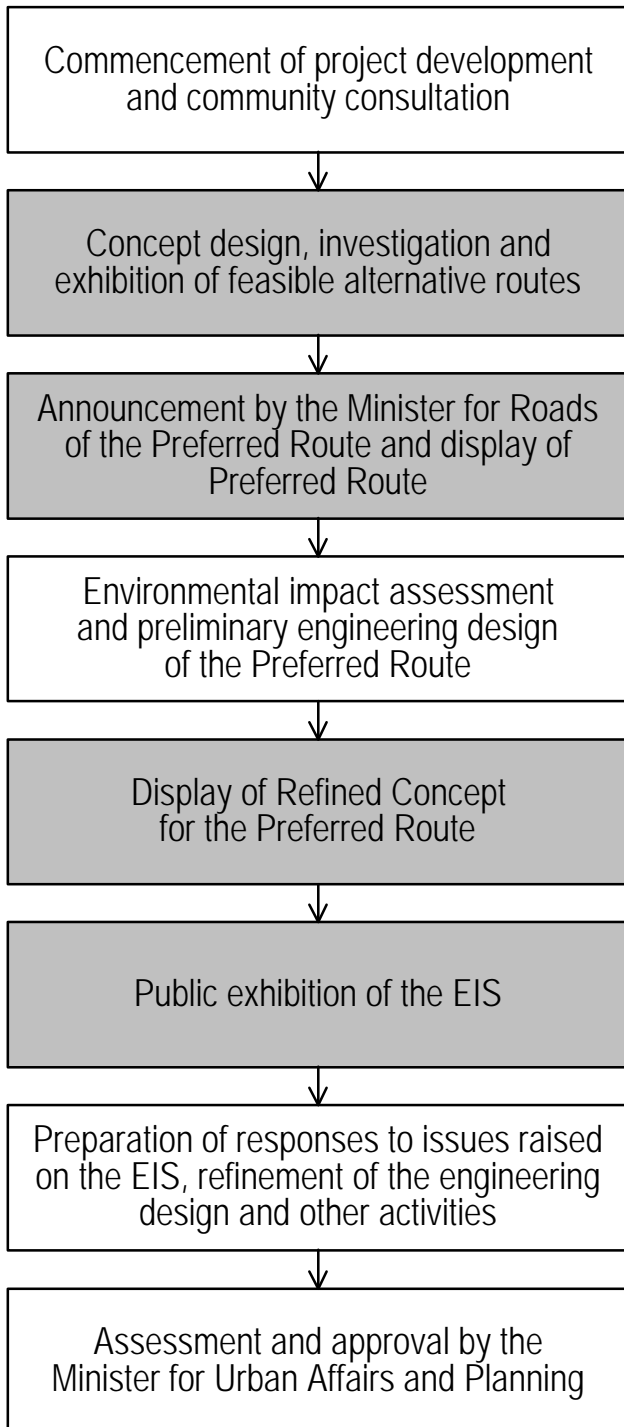
Detailed environmental assessment and preliminary engineering design for the Preferred Route will be undertaken in this stage. This assessment will involve detailed consideration of environmental, social, land use, economic, engineering and traffic impacts.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared to present the findings of the environmental assessment of the Preferred Route. This EIS and any other relevant documentation will be placed on display for public exhibition. Formal submissions will be invited from the community as part of this process.

View of the existing Pacific Highway at Kew (looking southwards)

Project timing

The project will be developed with the intention of gaining planning approval in approximately three years. The key stages in the project development are shown below. Stages which include public display periods are indicated by the shaded boxes. Community consultation will continue throughout the development of the project.



Community Focus Groups

The selection of a preferred route will be based on community issues, and environmental, engineering and economic considerations.

Interested members of the community can be involved in this process by nominating to be a member of the Community Focus Groups which will meet regularly throughout the project's development.

The Community Focus Groups will play an important role in assisting the project team to understand local issues and community concerns while developing a proposal for the highway upgrade.

Nomination forms for the Community Focus Groups are available from the project team.

Would you like further information?

If you have any questions, need further information on the project or would like to be included on the mailing list to receive further newsletters, please call the project freecall number **1800 353 670** or visit the project website at **www.arup.com.au/moorland**.

Any written comments and suggestions relating to the project may be sent to:

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Comments from the community are welcome at any time throughout the project.