

INTRODUCTION

The preferred option for upgrading the Pacific Highway between Moorland and Herons Creek was displayed in March 2002. Since then, considerable work has been done and a refined concept design is now on display for further comment.

The Moorland to Herons Creek upgrade will provide a further 22 kilometres of dual carriageway conditions resulting in improved road safety for local and highway traffic.

It is funded by the NSW Government as part of its \$1.6 billion commitment to the 10 year Pacific Highway Upgrading Program.

The project is managed by the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA).

PROJECT UPDATE

Since the display of the preferred option, a number of activities and investigations have taken place. The RTA has consulted with individual property owners to gain a better understanding of how the preferred option affects them.

The main change to the preferred option is on the Johns River bypass. An overpass for Stewarts River Road is now proposed instead of staggered T-junctions. Concern about school bus safety and other access issues was raised in community consultation. It is now proposed that Stewarts River Road traffic would travel over the highway. Northbound access to and from Johns River would be via on and off ramps at Stewarts River Road. Southbound traffic would enter or leave Johns River by use of the existing highway.

Investigations were carried out into alternative south and northbound access to and from Kew. These arrangements were found to be less safe and more costly than the access proposed in the preferred option. As a result, the preferred option will remain unchanged at these locations.

Detailed environmental and geotechnical investigations and ground survey have also been undertaken.

Preliminary discussions have also been held with business communities, Greater Taree City Council and Hastings Council about planning for the potential economic impact of bypasses of Kew and Johns River.

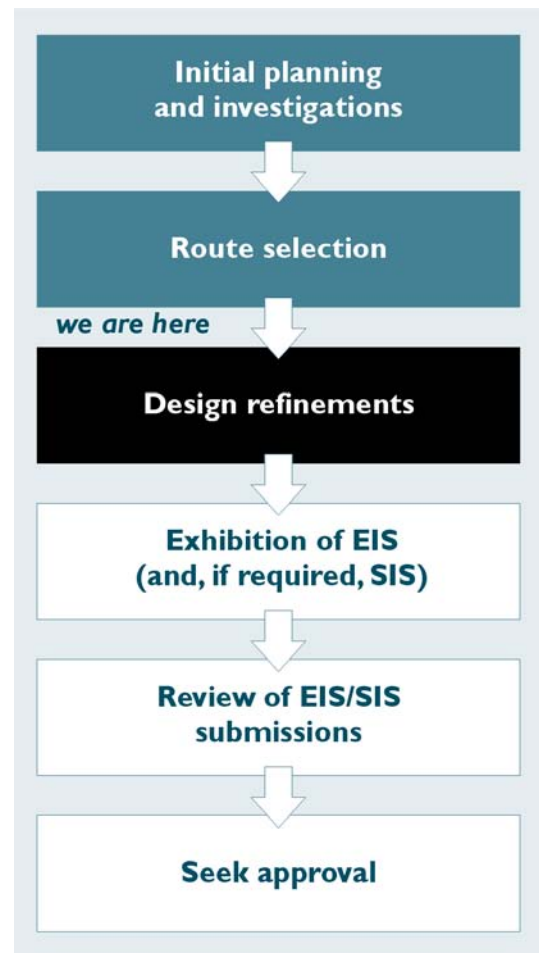
THE DISPLAY

The refined concept design will be on display from Wednesday 27 November to Friday 13 December. The display will present:

- A plan showing the approximate road reserve boundaries, local landmarks and street names.
- Illustrations of road cross-sections at specific locations.
- The proposed overpass at Stewarts River Road on the Johns River bypass.
- Details of the proposed carriageways (four-lane divided highway), intersections, earthworks and arrangements for local access.

Display locations and times are listed on the back page. Times when project representatives will be available to answer your questions are also shown on the back page.

The flowchart below indicates where we are up to in the project planning process.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The project team will carefully consider all community responses and suggested improvements in response to the display. Any further refinements will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A Species Impact Statement (SIS) may also be undertaken to assess the impact of the proposed upgrade on threatened flora and fauna species. The community will be invited to comment on the EIS, and the SIS if required, when they are exhibited next year.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Community comment is invited on all aspects of the refined concept design.

Written submissions should be forwarded to the Community Liaison Manager (contact details below) by Friday 20 December 2002.

If you need more information, or would like to be included on a mailing list to receive future newsletters and information, please call the project toll free number 1800 353 670 or visit the RTA website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au/pacific.htm.

Community comment will continue to be an important part of this project's development. Ongoing consultation activities include:

- Further meetings with affected landowners to discuss the impact of the project and any land acquisitions required.
- Additional Community Focus Group meetings at Kew and Johns River.

Display locations and times - 27 November to 13 December 2002

Town	Venue	Dates and Times
Kew	Visitor Information Centre Pacific Highway, Kew	9am to 5pm, 7 days per week #2pm to 6pm, Friday 29 November
Johns River	Johns River Community Hall Pacific Highway, Johns River	9am to 5pm, 7 days per week #Johns River Market, Saturday 30 November
Laurieton	Laurieton Library Laurie Street, Laurieton	8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday 9am to 12.30pm, Saturday
Taree	RTA Motor Registry 7 Macquarie Street, Taree	8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday 9.00am to 12.30pm, Saturday
Port Macquarie	RTA Motor Registry Cnr Central Road & Barton Crescent, Port Macquarie	8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday 9am to 12.30pm, Saturday
Wauchope	RTA Motor Registry Cnr Young & Hastings Streets, Wauchope	8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday 9am to 12.30pm, Saturday

Project representatives available for discussion

FREECALL 1800 353 670



Pacific Highway Upgrading Program

This is the single largest construction program in NSW for the last 40 years. Twenty-one major projects and 19 smaller projects have been opened to traffic. Four major construction projects are underway - Karuah Bypass, Halfway Creek Realignment, Coopernook Bypass and Taree to Coopernook Upgrade. A further 14 projects are at various stages of planning and development including the Bulahdelah, Brunswick Heads to Yelgun and Kempsey to Eungai upgrades.

The program has brought enormous improvements to road conditions and travel times. From 1997 to 2002, travel times between Hexham and the Queensland border have been reduced by around 55 minutes for passenger vehicles and just over an hour for heavy vehicles. Notorious accident spots have been removed with the completion of the Bulahdelah to Coolongolook Freeway, Yelgun to Chinderah Freeway, Raleigh Deviation and Ewingsdale Interchange.

As well as boosting tourism and transport efficiency, providing safer and more consistent overtaking opportunities has saved lives and reduced the incidence of serious injury accidents.

For more information contact:

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www.rta.nsw.gov.au/pacific.htm

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BUILDING A SAFER HIGHWAY