

INTRODUCTION

The Moorland to Herons Creek upgrade will provide a further 22 kilometres of dual carriageway on the Pacific Highway south of Port Macquarie, resulting in improved road safety for highway and local traffic.

Planning for this project is funded by the NSW Government as part of the 10 year Pacific Highway Upgrading Program. The project is managed by the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA).

KEW INTERCHANGE

The refined concept for the preferred option was publicly displayed in November 2002. Since then, further consultation and investigation of alternative interchange options at Kew has been undertaken.

The interchange arrangement that was shown on previous displays provided for southbound off and on-ramps at Ocean Drive (Option 1). An alternative design has now been developed for separate interchanges to the south and north of Kew (Option 2). Both options provide for northbound and southbound access to and from Kew.

In addition, the following proposed modifications would apply to both options:

- A landscaped mound to mitigate visual and noise impacts in the area to the south of Ocean Drive and to the east of the bypass.
- Access arrangements have been improved at the junction of Sunnyvale Road and the existing highway by the addition of a two-way link road between the existing highway and the northern end of Sunnyvale Road.

PUBLIC DISPLAY

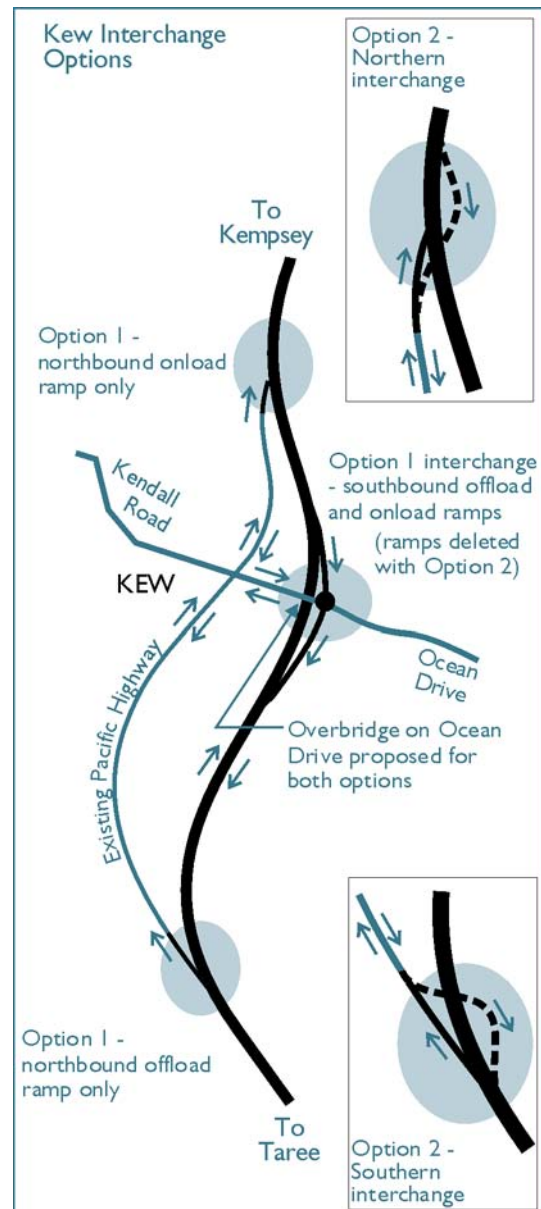
The interchange options for Kew will be on display from Friday 12 December 2003 to Friday 30 January 2004. Display locations and times are listed overleaf.

The public display presents the key features of both options in relation to engineering, cost, property acquisition and environmental considerations.

The display includes:

- Concept designs for the interchange at Ocean Drive included in Option 1, as well as Option 2 with interchanges to the south and north of Kew.
- Plans for both options showing the approximate road reserve boundaries, proposed locations for noise and visual mitigation measures, and local features.
- Artist's impressions of the interchanges for both options.

The sketch below shows the indicative layout of Option 1 and insets show Option 2.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

After reviewing community comments and suggestions in response to the public display, the RTA will consider refinement of the preferred option. Any refinements would then be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the overall project. A Species Impact Statement (SIS) may also be required 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 one is required). It is expected that these documents will be exhibited in 2004.

HOW TO COMMENT

Community comment is invited on all aspects of the Kew interchange options.

Written submissions should be forwarded to the Community Liaison Manager, Moorland to Herons Creek Upgrade, PO Box 5279, Port Macquarie NSW 2444, by Friday 30 January 2004.

If you need more information, or would like to be included on the project mailing list, please call the project information line 1800 353 670 or visit the RTA website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au/pacific (click on **Moorland to Herons Creek** next to the map).

Community comment will continue to be an important part of developing this project. Consultation activities include:

- Meetings with affected landowners to discuss the impact of the project and any land acquisitions required.
- Meetings with the Community Focus Group, which includes representatives from throughout the project area.

Display locations and times - 12 December 2003 to 30 January 2004

Town	Venue	Hours and Days of Opening
Kew	Visitor Information Centre Pacific Highway, Kew	9am to 5pm, 7 days per week
	This site will be staffed:	10am to 6pm, Friday 12 December 2003 10am to 6pm, Tuesday 13 January 2004
Laurieton	Laurieton Library Laurie Street, Laurieton	9.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday 9am to 12noon, 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
	Grafton	RTA Pacific Highway Office 21 Prince Street, Grafton

Project Information Line
1800 353 670 (Freecall)



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 - including Karuah Bypass, Halfway Creek Realignment, Coopernook Bypass and Taree to Coopernook Upgrade. A further 15 projects are at various stages of planning and development including the Bulahdelah, Moorland to Herons Creek and Kempsey to Eungai upgrades.

The program has brought major 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 serious injury accidents.

For more information contact:

Community Liaison Manager

Mr Murray Curtis
PO Box 5279
Port Macquarie NSW 2444
Telephone: 1800 353 670 (Freecall)
Email: Murray.Curtis@erm.com

RTA Project Development Manager

Mr Roger Fenner
Pacific Highway Office
PO Box 546
Grafton NSW 2460
Telephone: 02 6640 1000
Freecall: 1800 653 092
Email: roger_fenner@rta.nsw.gov.au

Or visit the RTA website at:

www.rta.nsw.gov.au/pacific