Great Western Highway and Pages Road, St Marys
Intersection improvements
Community Consultation Report
Roads and Maritime Services | February 2018
Executive summary

This report provides a summary of Roads and Maritime Services consultation with the community and key stakeholders on proposed Intersection improvements at the Great Western Highway and Pages Road, St Mary’s.

The NSW Government is funding this proposal as part of its $225 million Pinch Point Program, which aims to reduce traffic delays, manage congestion and improve travel times on Sydney’s major roads.

The proposed intersection improvements include:

- adjusting the southbound approach of Pages Road to improve line of sight for right turning vehicles on Pages Road and Charles Hackett Drive
- extending the right turn bays on the north and south approaches
- changing the left only lanes to through and left turning lanes for the north and south approaches
- providing an additional lane on the southern exit on Pages Road
- adjusting the traffic lights and utilities on Pages Road
- adjusting and lengthening the median in Pages Road to improve safety.

Roads and Maritime invited feedback on the proposal in October 2017. We received feedback from eleven people with three people supporting the proposal, seven people against the proposal and one person who did not state a preference. Key matters raised included:

- lengthening the median on Pages Road
- placing speeding humps on Pages Road
- adding an additional lane on the Pages Road approach to the intersection.

We thank everyone for considering the proposal and taking time to provide their feedback.

The decision

After considering all responses, along with the proposal’s aims and design requirements, we have decided to implement further changes to the proposal including:

- reducing the length of the proposed new median on Pages Road

This will allow delivery trucks over six metres in length to turn right at the southern entrance into the Pages Road commercial centre. This access will be entrance only and “no exit”.

We have directly responded to all community members who provided feedback.

We will continue to keep the community and stakeholders informed as the project progresses.
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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

The NSW Government is funding this proposal as part of its $225 million Pinch Point Program, which aims to reduce traffic delays, manage congestion and improve travel times on Sydney’s major roads.

As part of this program, the intersection of the Great Western Highway and Pages Road has been identified by Roads and Maritime’s Network Optimisation Planning as a potential project for this initiative.

Due to existing traffic conditions, congestion during AM and PM peaks is experienced at this intersection causing excessive queues and illegal road movements resulting in crashes and safety concerns.

The objective of the proposal is to improve the intersection’s operational efficiency, reduction in crashes, improve safety and mitigate the congestion causes at the above intersection particularly during peak periods.

The proposed intersection improvements would:

- improve line of sight for right turning vehicles on Pages Road and Charles Hackett Drive
- reducing the risk of a crash
- reduce congestion through the intersection
- improve safety for pedestrians and road users.

1.2. The proposal

Roads and Maritime Services is proposing improvements at the intersection of the Great Western Highway and Pages Road, St Mary’s.

Improvements include:

- adjusting the southbound approach of Pages Road to improve sight distances for right turning vehicles on Pages Road and Charles Hackett Drive
- extending the right turn bays on the north and south approaches
- changing the left only lanes to “through and left” for the north and south approaches
- providing an additional lane on the southern exit on Pages Road
- adjusting the traffic lights and utilities on Pages Road
- adjusting and lengthening the median in Pages Road to improve safety.

We have included a map to explain the proposal.
Figure 1: Proposed intersection improvements at the Great Western Highway and Pages Road, St Mary’s
2. Consultation approach

2.1. Consultation objectives

We consulted with the community and key stakeholders on the proposal to:

- Seek comment, feedback, ideas, and suggestions for us to consider when making a decision
- Build a database of interested and concerned community members with whom we can continue to engage during the proposal’s development and delivery.

2.2. How consultation was done

Consultation on the proposed intersection improvements was carried out from Friday 6 October to Friday 20 October 2017. Community members and stakeholders were encouraged to provide their feedback and make comments via email, mail or phone contact with the project team.

The following table outlines the communication tools used to inform the community about the proposal:

Table 1: How Consultation was done

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Have Your Say community update – October 2017 (Appendix A)</th>
<th>Distributed to over 1000 local residents, businesses and key stakeholders in the St Mary’s area (Appendix B)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Direct emails and letters sent to businesses, utilities, emergency services, schools, hospitals, community groups and relevant stakeholders in the local area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Direct email to Penrith Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Details of the proposal uploaded on the Roads and Maritime website.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>An interactive community consultation online tool was placed on the website and social media.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Consultation summary

3.1. Overview

Roads and Maritime invited feedback on the proposal in October 2017. We received feedback from eleven people with three people supporting the proposal, seven people against the proposal and one person who did not state a preference. Key matters raised included:

- lengthening the median on Pages Road
- placing speeding humps on Pages Road
- an additional lane on the Pages Road approach to the intersection.

We thank everyone for considering the proposal and taking time to provide their feedback.

3.2. Feedback and Roads and Maritime’s responses

Roads and Maritime has provided responses to all feedback received on this proposal. The responses are provided directly to the person who commented, as well as in this report, which will be made available to the public.

All comments have been considered to help Roads and Maritime make decisions on this proposal.
Table 2: Feedback summary and Roads and Maritime’s responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Key Matters Raised</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lengthening the median</strong></td>
<td><strong>Seven comments</strong>&lt;br&gt;The proposal to introduce a median strip on Pages Road will directly impact business in the area.</td>
<td>Roads and Maritime thank you for your comments on the proposal. Roads and Maritime will reduce the length of the proposed new median on Pages Road to allow delivery trucks over six metres in length to turn right at the southern entrance into the commercial centre. This access will be entrance only and “no exit”. Roads and Maritime acknowledges that the proposed new median will prevent the right turn in and out movement for vehicles under six metres and may still cause inconvenience for a small proportion of local business customers and road users. On balance the overall safety benefits, including reducing the number of injury crashes, are expected to outweigh the inconvenience to local business customers and road users. The proposal will also improve sight distances for right turning vehicles on Pages Road and Charles Hackett Drive, reducing the number of crashes. Additionally, the proposed improvements are expected to reduce congestion at the intersection and allow increased traffic movement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lengthening the median strip and preventing cars from turning right into the car park will inconvenience the customers of local businesses, causing more congestion around the roundabout further up the road.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Please do not block right hand turn as this will inconvenience the customers of the local businesses and will not solve all problems.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Suggested alternatives to the proposal</strong></td>
<td>During peak hour it is extremely hard to get out of Ropes Crossing Boulevard. You should remove the roundabout and put a set of lights at the entrance to Ropes Crossing.</td>
<td>Roads and Maritime thank you for your comments on the proposal. The purpose of this consultation was to seek feedback on the proposed intersection improvements on the Great Western Highway and Pages Road, St Marys. Ropes Crossing Boulevard is not part of the proposal and considered out of scope for this project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nine comments</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Key Matters Raised</td>
<td>Response</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>How about some speed humps on Pages Road to prevent people from speeding?</td>
<td>Roads and Maritime thank you for your comments on the proposal. Pages Road is classified as a local road and is managed by Penrith City Council. Please consider contacting Penrith City Council with your feedback regarding speed humps on Pages Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I believe there would be more benefit by having designated right hand turn arrows on the intersection lights from Pages Road and Charles Hackett Drive onto the Great Western Highway.</td>
<td>Roads and Maritime thank you for your comments on the proposal. The proposed improvements include adjusting Pages Road and Charles Hackett Drive to increase the capacity for through traffic and improve line of sight for right turning vehicles from Pages Road and Charles Hackett Drive. The improved sight lines along with the increased capacity for north and southbound through traffic will provide additional time for the right turning vehicles from Pages Road and Charles Hackett Drive to move through the intersection and onto the Great Western Highway. The new alignment allows for the future implementation of protected right turns from the side roads, if required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There is insufficient light time to turn right onto the Great Western Highway from Charles Hackett Drive.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| The hatched kerbside lane on Pages Road (northbound) should be a left turn only lane and the shared through / left lane should be a through lane or a dual left and through. | Roads and Maritime thank you for your comments on the proposal.  
Roads and Maritime investigated the option of a short left turn lane. However, this short lane would hold no more than three vehicles.  
Any queues that develop in the turning lane, especially when held for pedestrian movements, are likely to spill back into the adjacent through lane and block traffic.  
A Road Safety Audit on this option identified that this presents a direct rear-end crash conflict with vehicles in the through lane who intend to proceed straight ahead into Charles Hackett Drive.  
Therefore on balance it was considered that the inclusion of a short left turn lane presented a greater safety risk which outweighed the moderate traffic benefits. |
|---|---|
| The Pages Road approach to the intersection should include a fourth lane as a dedicated left turn lane. | A designated turning lane into the businesses would be of more benefit with a keep clear section to allow cars to enter exit efficiently.  
Roads and Maritime thank you for your comments on the proposal.  
Roads and Maritime investigated the option of a dedicated turning lane and a keep clear section. However neither of these modifications would fully address the right and through crashes, which is the most common crash type at this location.  
A dedicated right turn lane cannot be provided into the business park without major property acquisition or by significantly shortening the right turn lane from Pages Rd onto the Great Western Highway. |
4. Decision

Roads and Maritime would like to thank everyone who took the time to consider our proposal and provide feedback.

After considering all responses, along with the proposal’s aims and design requirements, we have decided to implement further changes to the proposal including:

- reducing the length of the proposed new median on Pages Road

This will allow delivery trucks over six metres in length to turn right at the southern entrance into the Pages Road commercial centre. This access will be entrance only and “no exit”.

We have directly responded to all community members who provided feedback.

Roads and Maritime thanks everyone who reviewed the proposal and provided feedback.

5. 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 this project.

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

6.1. Appendix A – ‘Have your say’ letter October 2017

October 2017

Have Your Say – Proposed intersection improvements at Great Western Highway and Pages Road, St Mary’s

The NSW Government is funding this proposal as part of its $225 million Pinch Point Program, which aims to reduce traffic delays, manage congestion and improve travel times on Sydney’s major roads.

Roads and Maritime Services is seeking feedback by Friday 20 October 2017 on a proposal to make improvements at the intersection of Great Western Highway and Pages Road, St Mary’s.

The proposed improvements include:

- adjusting the southbound approach of Pages Road to improve line of sight for right turning vehicles on Pages Road and Charles Hackett Drive
- extending the right turn bays on the north and south approaches
- changing the left only lanes to through and left turning lanes for the north and south approaches
- providing an additional lane on the southern exit on Pages Road
- adjusting the traffic lights and utilities on Pages Road
- adjusting and lengthening the median in Pages Road to improve safety.

We have included a map to show the location of the work.

Key benefits

The proposal will:

- improve line of sight for right turning vehicles on Pages Road and Charles Hackett Drive reducing the risk of a crash
- reduce congestion through the intersection
- improve safety for pedestrians and road users.

Have your say

Roads and Maritime welcomes your comments on the proposed improvements by Friday 20 October. You can provide your comments by:

Calling our Project Team, on 1800 572 004 during business hours
Emailing pinchpoint@rms.nsw.gov.au
Writing to Pinch Point Program Project Team, Roads and Maritime, PO Box 973, Parramatta, NSW, 2124.

For more information on our projects, visit rms.nsw.gov.au
Next Steps

We will carefully consider all feedback received before proceeding with this proposal. A community consultation report will be prepared, summarising the matters raised and our responses. This will be made available on our website. We will keep you updated as the proposal progresses.
6.2. Appendix B – Distribution map