

3 JULY 2015

HAVE YOUR SAY ON PLANS FOR SINGLETON RAILWAY UNDERPASS

Michael Johnsen, Member for Upper Hunter is reminding community members to provide feedback on plans progressing for the widening of the Singleton railway underpass with feedback to the review of environmental factors (REF) due by Tuesday 7 July.

"I would invite and encourage the members of our Singleton community to give feedback to the REF which details the planned upgrade and proposed mitigation measures designed to reduce environmental impacts," Michael said.

"Roads and Maritime together with the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) plan to upgrade the Singleton railway underpass, locally referred to as the Gowrie Gates.

"The New England Highway through Singleton forms part of the National Land Transport Network connecting Newcastle with the Upper Hunter.

"The Main Northern Railway Bridge over the highway restricts access for wide load heavy vehicles so a widened underpass on the New England Highway is in planning to improve road and rail freight access through the Hunter Valley."

Michael said the proposed upgrade would provide continued light and heavy vehicle access through Singleton as a bypass of the town is built in the future.

"The NSW Government has allocated \$500,000 this year to progress planning for the upgrade and the proposal and REF is now on display for community feedback," Michael said.

"The proposal includes replacing the rail bridge to provide increased highway width and minimise disruptions to trains on the Main Northern Railway Line.

"Widening work would allow for two travel lanes with wide sealed shoulders to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

"Roads and Maritime is also proposing to build a temporary road about 20 metres south of the existing rail bridge to be used for short durations during scheduled rail track possessions to reduce the impact to road users.

"The temporary road would aim to ensure motorists avoid a lengthy detour during rail track possessions.

"Residents can visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au for more information.

"Residents of our community are reminded to view the REF and collect a community update from the Roads and Maritime Services regional office, Singleton Motor Registry or Singleton Council until 7 July," Michael Johnsen said.

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