29 June 2012

Feedback Received for Road into Manilla

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) invited feedback for the planned removal of a number of trees as part of work to upgrade a section of Manilla Road about five kilometres south of Manilla.

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said after consideration of community feedback, RMS and Tamworth Regional Council are investigating to see if some trees can be retained, possibly the Kurrajong trees.

“RMS has engaged Tamworth Regional Council to develop a landscape plan for the planting of new trees which will improve the entrance to Manilla.

“This plan is now being finalised by council.

“RMS will be continuing with the removal of the majority of trees along both sides of the road. These trees need to be removed as they are either in the path of the proposed work or are considered a road safety hazard due to their closeness to the road.

“The work will provide a smooth new road surface and sealed shoulders along a three kilometre stretch making the road wider and safer.

"Eleven submissions were received supporting and opposing the removal of the trees.

"Some of the feedback included:

- Support to remove the existing trees as they are considered unattractive and dangerous
- Opposition to the removal of the trees particularly Kurrajong trees
- Request for species which will thrive in the local conditions
- Maintenance issues for the trees, particularly under powerlines.
- A request to include a plan to manage the Poplar trees
- Request to keep trees which may have been planted by school children
- Comments the trees provide shade for travellers, bird’s nests and visual aesthetics.

"The project is progressing well and the majority of trees will be removed when work starts in July.

"The road improvements are expected to be completed by November, weather permitting,” Mr Anderson concluded.

ENDS

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