

Project update – Empire Bay Drive and The Scenic Road intersection upgrade at Kincumber

The NSW Government is providing \$1.5 million this financial year for planning to upgrade the Empire Bay Drive and Scenic Road intersection.

Roads and Maritime Services is upgrading the existing roundabout at Empire Bay Drive, The Scenic Road and Cochrone Street at Kincumber to reduce congestion and improve safety for road users.

The project involves upgrading the roundabout from one lane to two lanes in each direction, building new shared pathways and footpaths, resurfacing the road and improving safety at nearby intersections.

The concept design and review of environmental factors (REF) for the upgrade were displayed for community feedback from 19 March to 13 April 2018. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to provide feedback.

Community feedback

A total of 29 submissions were received during the public display including one in support of the proposal, two opposed to the proposal and the remaining 26 submissions providing feedback or suggestions on one or more elements of the design.

Fifteen of the submissions made suggestions for alternative upgrade options ranging from new road corridor alignments, extension of shared paths past the limit of works, reconsideration of a traffic light option and intersection modifications to Kerta Road and Bridge Street. Many of the suggestions are beyond the scope of the proposal and will be listed for future investigations.

Other issues raised included pedestrian safety, scope and justification of work, traffic congestion, property access, construction impacts, parking, biodiversity impacts and property impacts.

We have published a submissions report summarising feedback received, our responses and details of changes to the design and REF made after feedback from the community during the display period. A copy of this report can be viewed or downloaded from the Roads and Maritime website at rms.nsw.gov.au.

What changes have been made to the concept design?

We have listened to community feedback and refined the concept design to further improve safety. Four design changes have been made to address issues raised in the submissions, including:

- Extending the stop line at Bridge Street closer to Empire Bay Drive to improve sight distance for motorists
- Addition of 'Keep Clear' signs at the Kerta Road/Empire Bay Drive intersection to improve right and left turn movements out of Kerta Road onto Empire Bay Drive

- Including additional advance warning signs to inform motorists of the pedestrian refuge near Kerta Road
- New line marking to divert the main traffic away from the kerb and driveways along The Scenic Road. New line marking will also formalise areas for on-street parking.

In addition, the following design refinements have also been made since the REF display:

- Extending line marking along Empire Bay Drive to Avoca Drive, 100 metres west along Cochrone Street and 100 metres east along The Scenic Road during construction to help with traffic control
- Drainage work along the eastern side of Empire Bay Drive to properties north of Sundowner Avenue to reduce the potential for flooding post construction
- Including a short length of path to connect the new bus stop north of Bridge Street to the existing path along the property boundary
- Additional drainage work along the eastern side of Empire Bay Drive, south of The Scenic Road and just north of Kerta Road.

We have also included six additional safeguards and mitigation measures in the REF to address some of the remaining issues raised in submissions including traffic safety, pedestrian safety and property. For further information, please view the submissions report on our website.

What happens next?

We will now finalise the concept design and continue to work with key stakeholders and the community as the project progresses into construction.

Early construction work including new footpaths, drainage and installation of pedestrian controlled traffic lights is expected to start in mid-2018.

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact our Project Manager, Tony Lai on 02 4394 6251 or tony.lai@rms.nsw.gov.au.

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