Upgrading the Central Coast main road network

Narara to Lisarow – Best performing route option approved

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) has been investigating route options in order to identify the preferred route for the future upgrade of the Pacific Highway between Narara and Lisarow.

As part of the Pacific Highway planning study between Narara and Lisarow, RMS short listed four viable route options for a potential upgrade for this section.

The approval of the best performing route option follows numerous investigations and studies, together with community input, a value management workshop and a technical workshop. All these inputs have been considered, and a recommendation made to the NSW Minister for Roads and Ports.

The Minister has approved the RMS recommended option as that along the existing Pacific Highway and Manns Road alignment (the Pink option).

Further details of each route option considered and project reports can be viewed or downloaded on the project webpage www.rms.nsw.gov.au/road projects.
Narara to Lisarow – Best performing route option approved

How the decision was made

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

In March 2012, community consultation commenced on four short listed options. This consultation included static and staffed displays, distribution of brochures, and community briefing sessions with individual members of the community when requested. The community feedback showed fairly even support for all four options, and revealed concerns that cut across options to varying degrees.

VALUE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

An independently facilitated value management workshop (VMW) was undertaken in July 2012. Representatives from the community (including local residents and business owners) were invited to participate in the process. Additionally, there was representation from Gosford City Council, RailCorp and RMS.

The group identified its own assessment criteria, being: Flood Access, Property Access, Ecology, Business Impacts, Traffic Impacts, Construction Stageability, Property Impacts and Geotechnical Risk.

The group then entered a process of ranking and scoring each option against these criteria and the Red option was calculated with the highest value ratio by a small margin.

At the VMW there was discussion on the need for some additional investigations.

ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATIONS

Following the VMW, the identified additional investigations were undertaken. These included:

- More detailed ecological studies in the Narara Valley Flood plain, in the vicinity of the 5(d) Planning corridor to better define likely impacts at this location.
- Noise assessment to confirm the assessment previously undertaken.
- It was also confirmed that the western route option would not provide flood free access for the local road network, and it would still be flood affected.

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP AND DECISION

A technical workshop was undertaken by RMS. This internal assessment examined each option against the project objectives and took into account the outcomes of the VMW and the additional investigations.

It was confirmed that reducing impacts on the natural environment; achieving earlier improvement to traffic congestion for road users; the ability to more easily stage the works and reducing business impacts were key criteria.

High cost construction stages were identified as unavoidable at the southern end for all but the Pink option and were found to have low early road user benefits. Long lengths of these options would need to be constructed before any congestion benefit could be gained.

The potential impact on the Endangered Ecological Communities of these same three options was found to also be ‘highly likely’.

Considering all factors, the Pink option was identified as the best performing and accordingly this corridor was recommended for approval to the Minister for Roads and Ports. The Minister endorsed RMS’ recommendation.
Approved route option - Pink alignment

This diagram shows the preferred route option for the future upgrade of the Pacific Highway. For more information, please visit the project webpage at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/road projects or phone the project team on (02) 4379 7001.

KEY
- APPROVED ROUTE
- STATE ROAD
- OTHER KEY ROAD
- MAIN NORTHERN RAILWAY LINE
- RAILWAY STATION

Date of aerial photography: 2010
Where to from here?

While at this time no construction timeframe has been identified, RMS will:

• Finalise the strategic concept design, with regard to feedback received to date.

• Undertake additional detailed survey work along the alignment to progress the design.

• Identify boundaries along the entire alignment for planning purposes and to inform landowners.

• Commence concept design and environmental impact assessment for the first stage of the upgrade – the intersection of the Pacific Highway and Railway Crescent at Lisarow.

• Staging options will be developed in more detail by RMS guided by issues raised by the community.

• Separately RMS is continuing with the detailed design for the four-lane upgrade of the Pacific Highway between Ourimbah Street, Lisarow and Glen Road, Ourimbah. The detailed design is due for completion mid 2013.

For further information

If you would like further information please contact the project team:

(02) 4379 7001 | Central.Coast.Office@rms.nsw.gov.au

RMS Central Coast Office, Upper Level, The Pavilion, 29-37 George Street (PO Box 766) Woy Woy 2256

Privacy

Roads and Maritime Services ("RMS") is subject to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (or PPIP Act) which requires that we comply with the Information Protection Principles set out in the PPIP Act. All information in correspondence is collected for the sole purpose of assisting in the assessment of this proposal. The information received, including names and addresses of respondents, may be published in subsequent documents unless a clear indication is given in the correspondence that all or part of that information is not to be published. Otherwise RMS will only disclose your personal information, without your consent, if authorised by the law. Your personal information will be held by RMS at the Central Coast Office, Upper Level, The Pavilion, 29-37 George Street, Woy Woy, NSW, 2256. You have the right to access and correct the information if you believe that it is incorrect.