The NSW Government is providing $1.5 million this year to continue planning for the Pacific Highway upgrade between Ourimbah Street and Parsons Road at Lisarow to improve traffic flow and safety.

A concept design and review of environmental factors have been carried out to identify potential impacts of the proposal and mitigation activities.

Stakeholders and the community are invited to comment on the draft review of environmental factors by 9 March 2015. Roads and Maritime will consider feedback to finalise the concept design and review of environmental factors.

Background
Since 2009 Roads and Maritime has carried out extensive investigations and community consultation in order to finalise a preferred route for the upgrade of the Pacific Highway between Narara and Lisarow.

The preferred option for the section of highway between Ourimbah Street and Parsons Road at Lisarow was displayed for community comment in November and December 2013.

The feedback received was considered and extensive investigations have been carried out to prepare the concept design and draft review of environmental factors.

Roads and Maritime is also planning for the future upgrade of the section of highway between Parsons Road and the Manns Road and Narara Creek Road intersection.

The proposal
The proposed upgrade involves widening the Pacific Highway to provide two lanes in each direction between Ourimbah Street and Parsons Road.

Key features include:
• Two lanes in each direction on the Pacific Highway
• A new bridge over the rail line, replacing the existing narrow bridge near Railway Crescent
• New traffic lights at the Railway Crescent and Tuggerah Street (formerly Macdonalds Road) intersections
• Upgrading the existing traffic lights at Chamberlain Road
• Improved pedestrian and cycle paths along and across the highway
• Improved access to the parking area at Lisarow Railway Station.

Benefits
Key benefits of the proposed upgrade include:
• Improved traffic flow and more consistent travel times on the Pacific Highway
• Improved access to connecting roads
• Improved safety for all road users
• Improved pedestrian and cycle network.
Review of environmental factors

Roads and Maritime is carrying out a review of environmental factors to assess the potential environmental and social impacts of the proposal and identify activities to manage and mitigate these impacts.

The draft review of environmental factors was prepared in consultation with a range of key stakeholders including technical specialists and considered feedback received from the community.

The investigations found that the proposal would not significantly affect the community with the application of a range of mitigation and management measures.

Key considerations for assessment

The following key areas of potential impact have been identified in the environmental investigations. The draft review of environmental factors describes these impacts and activities to reduce them.

Hydrology and flooding

The study concluded that mitigation and management measures would be required to minimise potential flood events, including provision of increased floodplain storage during construction and after completion of the upgrade. With increased flood storage measures in place, the overall impact on the proposed upgrade area has been assessed as low.

Traffic and transport

Construction may be carried out in several stages to minimise impacts to motorists. Construction would also require traffic switches and lane closures but one lane in each direction would be maintained at all times and a reduced speed limit of 40 km/h would be implemented for the duration of the construction period.

Dora Street at its intersection with Railway Crescent may need to be closed for a period of time during some construction stages in order to construct the new bridge. Traffic diversions would be signposted and residents advised in advance.

Construction noise and vibration

Some construction activities would generate substantial noise including earthworks, piling activities and bridge construction and demolition. Construction noise levels near the Pacific Highway and Railway Crescent intersection and Lisarow Cemetery may be high.

Management measures would include limiting high level noise related work to standard construction hours, notifying property owners located nearby in advance of noise related work taking place and minimising noise generated by machinery wherever possible.

Some night work would be required as part of the proposal to minimise traffic disruptions and ensure the safety of workers. Night work would be carried out for emergency, safety, environmental or other related purposes and would be limited to activities with low noise impact.

Operational traffic noise

Operational traffic noise modelling was carried out with the results showing that operational noise would increase gradually over the 10 year environmental assessment period due to predicted traffic growth. However, the marginal changes in noise levels are unlikely to be perceptible to the human ear.

Potential management measures outlined in the draft review of environmental factors include quieter road surfaces, road design and traffic management.

Biodiversity

The biodiversity impact assessment identified two threatened flora species and potential habitat of several threatened fauna species within the proposal area.

Assessments found that the proposal is likely to have a significant impact on one threatened flora species identified as Melaleuca biconvexa.

Roads and Maritime will prepare a Species Impact Statement required under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. A referral is required in order to proceed with the current proposal under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 when a matter of National Environmental Significance has been identified. Assessment of the referral application by the Australian Government is expected to take place in 2015.

Management and mitigation measures for the remaining identified threatened species and potential fauna habitat would include pre-clearing surveys for fauna habitat in the proposal area, supervision of clearing activities by an experienced ecologist and relocation of fauna where required. Some removal of native vegetation and fauna habitat is required, however the upgrade has been designed to minimise these impacts.

Heritage

The proposal would result in permanent changes to the Lisarow Cemetery frontage, which includes relocating the old cemetery gates to a nearby location, vegetation clearing and reducing the distance between the grave sites and highway.

Potential mitigation measures include managing vibration levels, planting fast growing tree species along the perimeter of the cemetery and installing safety barriers to ensure there is no accidental damage to the headstones and above ground components of the grave sites.

Design changes since the 2013 public display

There have been several minor changes made to the design since the 2013 public display to improve access to Tuggerah Street and maximise traffic flow along the Pacific Highway at Lisarow.

The changes consider community feedback received and further investigations. They include:

- Realignment of the Pacific Highway and Tuggerah Street
- The new access to the Lisarow Station carpark moved slightly towards the north
- Bus bays at Tuggerah Street have been removed as they were no longer required due to the proximity of other bus stops.
**Pacific Highway upgrade between Ourimbah Street and Parsons Road, Lisarow**

**Key**
- Shared pedestrian/cycle path
- New footpath
- Bus bay/station
- Retaining wall
- Road

**As previously displayed in November 2013**

**Modified since the previous display in November 2013**

- Dual left turn lanes from Chamberlain Road to the Pacific Highway
- Dual right turn lanes from the Pacific Highway to Chamberlain Road
- New shared pedestrian/cycle path
- New traffic lights
- New footpath
- New access to car park moved towards the north
- Retaining wall along front of cemetery
- No impact on grave sites

**Pacific Highway Two lanes in each direction**

**New shared pedestrian/cycle path moves towards the north**

**New traffic lights**

**No pedestrian access**

**Modified since the previous display in November 2013**
Involving the community and stakeholders

Roads and Maritime is committed to working with the community and stakeholders during the planning process to identify issues and minimise potential impacts of the upgrade and construction activities.

The preferred option was displayed in November 2013 for community comment. The feedback received has been considered in preparing the draft review of environmental factors and the concept design.

Stakeholders and the community are invited to comment on the draft review of environmental factors by 9 March 2015.

Roads and Maritime will consider the feedback received when finalising the review of environmental factors and concept design.

Next steps

Upcoming planning activities include:

- Community and stakeholder discussions
- Prepare the Species Impact Statement
- Finalising the review of environmental factors
- Detailed design.

A construction timeframe has not yet been confirmed. Staging options for construction would be considered as part of further investigations.

Please send us your feedback by:

Phoning: Teresa Ting, Project Manager on (02) 4379 7001 (during business hours)

Emailing: Central.Coast.Office@rms.nsw.gov.au

Writing to: Teresa Ting, Project Manager
RMS Central Coast Office
PO Box 766
Woy Woy NSW 2256

Community information display

Stakeholders and the community are invited to view the draft review of environmental factors and find out more information at a staffed display to be held on Tuesday 17 February between 10am and 2pm at Lisarow Plaza, located on the corner of the Pacific Highway and Parsons Road at Lisarow.

Information is also available on the website at rms.nsw.gov.au

Project development process

- PLANNING AND INVESTIGATIONS
- CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED UPGRADE
- CONCEPT DESIGN AND DRAFT REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS
- APPROVAL TO PROCEED
- DETAILED DESIGN
- CONSTRUCTION

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