Executive summary

This Community Consultation Report provides a summary of the community consultation carried out by Roads and Maritime Services to support the display of the concept design for the New England Highway and Wyndella Road intersection upgrade at Lochinvar.

Roads and Maritime Services is planning an upgrade of this intersection to accommodate future traffic growth on the highway associated with the Lochinvar Urban Release Area (LURA). The LURA will house up to 5000 new residential lots and is funded through the NSW Government Housing Acceleration Fund.

The proposed intersection includes:

- Installing traffic lights
- Road widening
- Building part of the future ‘Southern Ring Road’ opposite Wyndella Road
- Providing facilities for buses, cyclists and pedestrians.

Key issues raised by the community included concerns about traffic lights interrupting traffic flow, road safety and timing for construction. We will consider these issues in finalising the design of the project.

A majority of feedback related to issues on the nearby road network which are outside the scope of the project. These comments have been noted and passed on to Roads and Maritime’s Network and Safety team or Maitland City Council for consideration.

The decision

Following a review of the feedback received, we have decided to proceed with further development of the project. The key issues outlined in this report will be considered when finalising the upgrade design.
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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

Roads and Maritime Services is planning to upgrade the intersection of Wyndella Road and New England Highway at Lochinvar.

The New England Highway is part of the inland route of the Sydney to Brisbane National Land Transport Network and the primary route connecting the Upper Hunter with Maitland and Newcastle.

The highway is a key link between regional towns in the Hunter, including areas planned for future growth. Maitland City Council has rezoned about 650 hectares of rural land at Lochinvar, near Maitland, for the Lochinvar Urban Release Area (LURA).

The LURA will house up to 5000 new lots and Roads and Maritime has prepared a design for an upgrade at the New England Highway and Wyndella Road intersection to accommodate access from the highway into the new residential area.

This project is funded through the NSW Government Housing Acceleration Fund.

The upgrade will:

- Unlock land for housing development
- Providing transport infrastructure certainty
- Develop new infrastructure for public and active transport modes
- Accommodate future traffic growth along the New England Highway generated by the LURA and other developments within the Maitland local government area.

1.2. The proposal

The proposed intersection includes installing traffic lights, road widening, building part of the future ‘Southern Ring Road’ opposite Wyndella Road and providing facilities for buses, cyclists and pedestrians.
2. Consultation approach

2.1. Consultation objectives
We consulted with the community and key stakeholders on the proposal to:

- Inform the community and stakeholders of the proposal and possible impacts
- Seek feedback on the proposal and issues of concern for consideration in developing the detailed design and method of construction. The feedback will be incorporated into the environmental impact assessment known as the review of environmental factors (REF)
- Build a database of interested and concerned community members with whom we can continue to engage with during the proposal’s development.

2.2. Values
Our values underpin our decisions and behaviours when working with customers, colleagues, stakeholders and partners.

- **Customer focus** - We place the customer at the centre of everything we do
- **Collaboration** - We value each other and create better outcomes by working together
- **Solutions** - We deliver sustainable and innovative solutions to NSW’s transport needs
- **Integrity** - We take responsibility and communicate openly
- **Safety** - We prioritise safety for our people and our customers.
2.3. How consultation was done

We consulted with the community during April and May 2018 on the concept design. Community members were encouraged to provide their feedback, leave comments and make submissions via mail, email or phone contact with the project team. Our key consultation tools are listed below:

### Table 1

| Project Notification                                                                 | • Delivered via mail to 60 residents and property owners in the Lochinvar area. |
|                                                                                        | • Emailed to the freight network, emergency services and Maitland City Council. |
|                                                                                        | • A copy of the project notification is available at [Appendix A](#). |
| Media release                                                                         | • A media release inviting comment was issued to local media outlets on Monday 30 April by Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald. |
|                                                                                        | • A copy of the project notification is available at [Appendix B](#). |
| Targeted letter                                                                       | • Hand-delivered to three residents, who will have changes to their property access as a result of the project. |
|                                                                                        | • A copy of a targeted letter is provided at [Appendix C](#). |
| Webpage                                                                               | • Project website updated on Friday 27 April. |
|                                                                                        | • The webpage can be found at rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/hunter |
| Facebook                                                                              | • Facebook post inviting comment was published on the NSW Roads Facebook page on Monday 30 April. The post linked to the webpage and encouraged readers to provide feedback. |
|                                                                                        | • A copy of the Facebook post and summary of engagement is available at [Appendix D](#). |

3. Consultation summary

3.1. Overview

Comments on the proposed upgrade closed on Thursday 17 May, with eight submissions received about a range of issues. Some submissions included multiple comments and raised multiple issues.

The feedback received in formal submissions raised a number of issues including concerns about traffic lights interrupting traffic flow, road safety and timing for construction. One objection and one alternative proposal were submitted. A range of issues were also raised concerning the surrounding road network, which are outside the scope of this project.

After considering all responses, along with the proposal’s aims and design requirements, we have decided to proceed with the project unchanged. We have responded directly to all written comments.
### Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue category</th>
<th>Number of submissions</th>
<th>Issues raised</th>
<th>Roads and Maritime response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other road improvements in surrounding area</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Increased traffic due to the LURA will make Winders Lane an even more dangerous intersection. Winders Lane requires right and left turning bays.</td>
<td>No changes have been proposed for Winders Lane as part of this project. The LURA development involves making changes to the local road network which would connect Winders Lane to the new ‘Southern Ring Road’. This would provide access to the new traffic lights which would allow for safe traffic movements in all directions. Maitland City Council is currently assessing a development application for these changes to the local road network. Comments have also been provided to the Roads and Maritime Network and Safety team to consider for funding if interim or longer term improvements at Winders Lane are deemed necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Suggestion to widen Station Street or provide dedicated turning lanes as there will also be an increase in traffic due to the primary school.</td>
<td>Station Street is outside the project area. Comments have been passed on to Maitland City Council for consideration. Any traffic impacts associated with future development in the area will be managed and mitigated as part of the development process with Maitland City Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Request to widen Allandale Road due to the increase in traffic travelling to the Hunter Expressway to travel to Singleton, Newcastle or Cessnock.</td>
<td>Allandale Road is outside the project area. Comments have been passed on to Maitland City Council for consideration. Any traffic impacts associated with future development in the area will be managed and mitigated as part of the development process with Maitland City Council.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Design of proposed upgrades                        | 1                     | Preference for a roundabout over traffic lights | Different options for the intersection were reviewed in consultation with Maitland City Council, including a roundabout option and traffic light option. The traffic light option was selected as the preferred option for a number of reasons:  
- Further upgrades will be required to this intersection in the future |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Issues raised</th>
<th>Roads and Maritime response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>as the LURA expands. It will be more cost effective and efficient to add extra lanes to a set of traffic lights than replace a roundabout with traffic lights in the future.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• The LURA will develop on both sides of the highway and bus stops will be provided on the highway in the short term. The traffic lights provide a safe way for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the highway in this location to access these facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Selecting traffic lights as the preferred option avoided the need for any property acquisition as the upgrade could fit within the existing road corridor, which allowed for the project to be delivered faster.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timing of construction</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Query about when work will start on the intersection upgrade</td>
<td>Work on the intersection upgrade is expected to start in mid 2018.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property access</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Concerns about access to property during and after construction, including loss of right turn access</td>
<td>Roads and Maritime has consulted with affected property owners and will continue to engage with owners and residents during construction. Access for residents will be maintained during construction. Any temporary access restrictions will be discussed with residents before being put in place. Concerns about loss of right turn access have been noted. Roads and Maritime will work with residents to look at what options are available to ensure safe traffic movements when leaving and returning to their properties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objection to proposal</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Objection to the proposed traffic lights at the New England Highway and Wyndella Road intersection</td>
<td>Objection to proposal is noted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The morning sunrise is very bright when driving along the New England Highway towards</td>
<td>Objection to the proposal is noted. The intersection upgrade involves widening the New England Highway to provide two lanes eastbound and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue category</td>
<td>Number of submissions</td>
<td>Issues raised</td>
<td>Roads and Maritime response</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Maitland which can be dangerous for motorists.</td>
<td>a right turning lane into the new ‘Southern Ring Road’. Motorists will not have to merge on approach to the intersection, instead additional lanes would be provided to improve traffic flow. Traffic light controlled turning lanes would also improve safety at the intersection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Concerns that traffic lights and a merging lane at this location would result in many accidents. Objection to traffic lights proposal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for proposal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Support for proposal</td>
<td>Support for proposal is noted.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Facebook post reached 59,317 people during the consultation period to raise awareness of the proposal and consultation. The post received 963 reactions, comments and shares and 3,735 post clicks, including the webpage link. Of the reactions (eg. like/love/dislike) on the post, 82 per cent were positive. The commentary was mixed with some supportive of the proposal and many preferring a roundabout or concerned about other traffic issues in the surrounding road network.

Key issues about the proposed upgrades raised in the comments on the Facebook post included:

- Support for the intersection upgrade
- Preference for a roundabout
- Objection to another set of traffic lights on the New England Highway
- Support for traffic lights as it will improve safety at the intersection
- Queries about the funding source and why an intersection for future development is being prioritised.

Other issues raised but not specific to the proposed upgrade included:

- Major upgrades required for the New England Highway and Allandale Road to cope with increased traffic due to the future development in the area
- Concerns about safety at the Winders Lane intersection
- Concerns about traffic congestion and safety on Station Street
- Traffic congestion at the Maitland Roundabouts
- Singleton Bypass is needed to improve safety and traffic flow
- Priority should be given to the New England Highway and Golden Highway intersection
- Funding should be used for other projects around the Hunter region.

### 3.2. Recommendations

A majority of feedback related to issues on the nearby road network which are outside the scope of the project. These comments have been noted and passed on to Roads and Maritime’s Network and Safety team or Maitland City Council for consideration.

Feedback was also received on the design of the project. These comments have been noted and the performance of the intersection will be monitored.

Based on this feedback, we will be proceeding with further development of the project.
We will work closely with stakeholders and local residents in relation to the potential impacts of this project. We will do this by:

- Informing the community and stakeholders of consultation outcomes and the next steps for the proposal via publication of this report
- Ensuring community and stakeholder comments and suggestions are considered when finalising the detailed design
- Continuing to carry out communication activities as the project progresses and informing the community through the Roads and Maritime website and project notifications.

3.3. Next steps

We have considered all submissions and will ensure our project team is aware of concerns raised by the community. We will ensure that issues highlighted by stakeholders and the community are appropriately addressed when finalising the detailed design.

We will continue to keep the community informed of the project progress.
Have your say – New England Highway and Wyndella Road intersection upgrade at Lochinvar

The NSW Government is funding an intersection upgrade to accommodate future traffic growth associated with the Lochinvar Urban Release Area.

Roads and Maritime Services is seeking your feedback on a proposal to upgrade the New England Highway and Wyndella Road intersection at Lochinvar.

The New England Highway is a key link between regional towns in the Hunter, including areas planned for future growth. Maitland City Council has rezoned around 650 hectares of rural land at Lochinvar, near Maitland, for the Lochinvar Urban Release Area (LURA).

The LURA will house up to 5000 new lots and we have prepared a design for an upgrade at the New England Highway and Wyndella Road intersection to accommodate access from the highway into the new residential area.

This project will be funded through the NSW Government Housing Acceleration Fund.

Project features

We have included a diagram to show the proposed intersection upgrade which includes:

- Installing traffic lights
- Carrying out road widening
- Building part of the future ‘Southern Ring Road’ opposite Wyndella Road
- Providing facilities for buses, cyclists and pedestrians.

The New England Highway would have:

- Two through lanes westbound
- One through lane and one shared through/left lane eastbound
- Single right turn lane for westbound and eastbound
- Separate left turn lane onto the proposed future road.

Wyndella Road would have:

- Shared through/left/right turn lane onto the highway
- Single departure lane from the highway.

Any future development on the northern side of the highway would involve other changes to Wyndella Road, however they are not part of this intersection upgrade.
The ‘Southern Ring Road’ is a proposed future road associated with the planned residential development for this area. Construction of this road is not part of our proposed intersection upgrade.

We will discuss access arrangements with directly affected residents and consult with bus companies to ensure the locations of bus stops meet their needs and those of local residents.

How can you give feedback?

You are invited to provide feedback by Thursday 17 May 2018 to our Project Manager, Ken Aziz at ken.aziz@rms.nsw.gov.au or:

Ken Aziz
Roads and Maritime Services
Locked Bag 2030
Newcastle NSW 2300

We will consider your feedback and continue to keep you updated as the project progresses. Work is expected to start on the project in mid 2018.

Contact

If you have any questions about the proposed intersection upgrade, please call our Project Manager, Ken Aziz on 02 6575 2305 during business hours or email ken.aziz@rms.nsw.gov.au.

For more information on our projects, visit rms.nsw.gov.au.

For more information about the Lochinvar Urban Release Area please contact Maitland City Council on 02 4934 9700 or visit maitland.nsw.gov.au.

If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 02 6575 2305.
New England Highway and Wyndella Road intersection upgrade, Lochinvar

- One through lane and one shared through/left lane eastbound
- Provision for on-road cyclists
- Single right turn lane eastbound
- Provision for bus stop
- Traffic light controlled intersection
- Single right turn lane for westbound traffic
- Separate left turn lane
- Two through lanes westbound
- Provision for bus stop
- Proposed future road
- Existing road surface
- Proposed new road surface
- Raised concrete islands and medians
- Concrete paths and ramps
- Grassed area
- Property accesses to be built
- Proposed future road

New England Highway and Wyndella Road intersection upgrade, Lochinvar
FEEDBACK SOUGHT ON INTERSECTION UPGRADE AT LOCHINVAR

The Maitland community is invited to provide feedback on the proposal to upgrade the intersection of New England Highway and Wyndella Road at Lochinvar.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC said the NSW Government provided $1.5 million this financial year through the Housing Acceleration Fund to continue planning for the intersection upgrade, and to start utility adjustment work.

“The New England Highway provides a vital connection between communities and regional towns in the Hunter including Singleton, Maitland and areas planned for future growth,” Mr MacDonald said.

Mr MacDonald said Maitland City Council had rezoned around 650 hectares of rural land near Maitland at Lochinvar, for the Lochinvar Urban Release Area.

“The Lochinvar Urban Release Area could house up to 5000 new lots in the future, so in preparation Roads and Maritime Services developed a concept design for the upgrade of this intersection.”

“This upgrade will accommodate access from the New England Highway and future traffic growth associated with planned residential development in the area.”

“The proposed intersection upgrade will involve installing traffic lights, road widening, building part of the future entrance road opposite Wyndella Road and providing facilities for buses, cyclists and pedestrians.

“The New England Highway would be widened to provide two lanes in each direction with right and left turning lanes at the intersection.”


Submissions are open until Friday 18th by mailing Wyndella Road Project, Roads and Maritime, Locked Bag 2030, Newcastle NSW 2300. Feedback can also be sent by email to Project Manager, Ken Aziz at ken.aziz@rms.nsw.gov.au.

Media:
Scot MacDonald | 0408 450 032
Appendix C
Dear Name

Please find enclosed information about the proposed upgrade of the New England Highway and Wyndella Road intersection at Lochinvar.

The enclosed information includes a copy of the proposed intersection layout and some information explaining the work. You will see on the design that the work would incorporate rebuilding your access at the same location to align with the new road level.

Please review the proposal and call me on 02 6575 2305 or email me at ken.aziz@rms.nsw.gov.au to arrange a suitable time that we can meet to discuss the proposed changes to your access and the arrangements that would be put in place during construction.

Yours sincerely

Ken Aziz
Project Manager
Roads and Maritime Services
Dear Name

Please find enclosed information about the proposed upgrade of the New England Highway and Wyndella Road intersection at Lochinvar.

The enclosed information includes a copy of the proposed intersection layout and some information explaining the work. You will see on the design that the work would incorporate rebuilding your access to align with the new road level.

Due to the new concrete median in the centre of the highway, the proposal does involve your access becoming left in and left out only.

Please review the proposal and call me on 02 6575 2305 or email me at ken.aziz@ rms.nsw.gov.au to arrange a suitable time that we can meet to discuss the proposed changes to your access and the arrangements that would be put in place during construction.

Yours sincerely

Ken Aziz
Project Manager
Roads and Maritime Services
Appendix D
We’re planning to upgrade the New England Highway and Wyndella Road intersection at Lochinvar.

New traffic lights would allow for future residential development in the area.

Check out our proposed design and send us your feedback at http://bit.ly/wyndellaroadd