

# Picton bypass project

## Consultation report

Roads and Maritime Services | December 2018





# Executive summary

This report provides a summary and overview of submissions received from the community, motorists and stakeholders during two consultation periods in September and October 2018.

The consultation was carried out to gain a better understanding of the Picton area including the community's travel experiences around the area, and to help inform the planning and investigations for a bypass of Picton.

Congestion is occurring in the Picton town centre during peak times and Roads and Maritime Services is carrying out initial investigations for a bypass of Picton to provide a more direct route between Remembrance Driveway and Picton Road, especially for heavy vehicles.

Key issues raised by the community included:

- Congestion being experienced on roads around Picton
- Support and suggestions for a bypass of Picton
- Victoria Bridge and Prince Street – including congestion, safety, heritage issues
- Concerns about heavy vehicles, road safety, vehicle speeds
- Environmental and heritage concerns around the Picton area.

Responses received during the submission period have been reviewed and summarised. This information will be considered as part of planning and investigations for a potential bypass of Picton.

Roads and Maritime asked community members and stakeholders about their preferred method of communication for receiving project updates:

- Email
- Webpage
- Social media (Facebook)
- Post
- Newspaper

Roads and Maritime will consider these preferences to help inform how we engage with the community in the future. The results of this feedback are detailed within this report.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Project background

Roads and Maritime Services is currently carrying out planning and investigations for a bypass of Picton.

Project benefits include:

- Reducing traffic congestion in Picton and improving amenity for the local community
- Providing an alternative and more direct route between Remembrance Driveway and the Hume Highway, via Picton Road
- Improving safety and increasing journey reliability for road users.

Roads and Maritime is carrying out planning and investigations including:

- Traffic data collection
- Identifying and reviewing environmental constraints in and around the Picton area
- Asking the community for feedback about their experiences travelling around the Picton area.

## 2. Consultation approach

### 2.1 Consultation objectives

Roads and Maritime consulted with the community in September 2018 on their preferred method of communication for the project. The objectives of this consultation were:

- To inform how we engage with the local community in future
- To raise awareness of the project with the community
- Provide project contact information
- Invite interested community members to register their details for project updates.

In September and October 2018 Roads and Maritime consulted the community and motorists in the area to gain feedback about their experiences of travelling around the Picton area. The objectives of this consultation were:

- To gain a better understanding of the community's experiences when travelling around the Picton area
- To identify issues and opportunities in the Picton area to help inform further planning and investigations for a bypass of Picton
- To update the community on project progress.

## 2.2 Consultation methods

### 2.2.1 Survey preferred communication methods – September 2018

Roads and Maritime asked the community to respond to a survey about their preferred method of communication for the Picton bypass project. Our methods of asking the community for their communication preferences are listed below.

**Table 1**

Consultation and engagement method	Details
Project leaflet and postal survey	Delivered to residents and businesses in Picton, Thirlmere and Tahmoor (more than 7000 in total)
Project webpage and online survey	Project webpage updated with project information, survey details and link to online survey
Social media	Facebook post with project information and link to online survey targeted to members of the public who live or have driven through Picton area

### 2.2.2 Interactive online mapping tool for Picton bypass – September and October 2018

Roads and Maritime asked the community to provide information of their experiences travelling around the Picton area using an interactive online mapping tool. This enabled community members to place comments and pins at specific locations covering the following categories:

- Traffic and road safety
- Property and access
- Environment
- Public transport
- Pedestrians and cyclists
- Freight
- Other.

Comments were sought on the area bound by the Nepean River, Picton Road, Remembrance Driveway and Racecourse Creek.

Our methods of asking the community for their communication preferences are listed below:

**Table 2**

Consultation and engagement method	Details
Local media	Media release issued by Roads and Maritime Services on Friday 28 September
Project webpage and online survey	Project webpage updated with project information, survey details and link to online survey Direct email to registered stakeholders with project webpage update and link to online interactive mapping tool consultation
Social media	Facebook post with link to online interactive mapping tool targeted to members of the public who live or have driven through the Picton area

### 3. Consultation results and summary

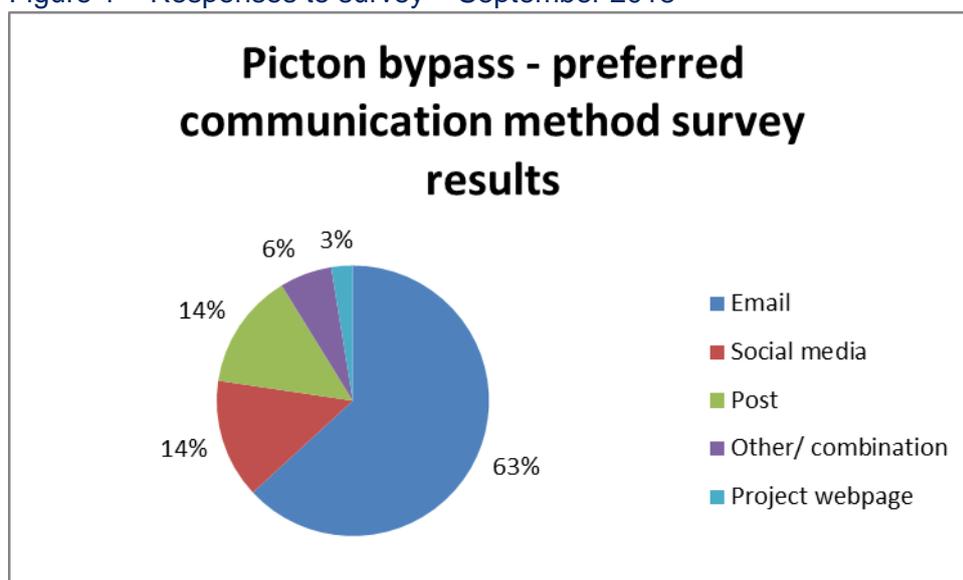
#### 3.1 Preferred communication method poll – September 2018

Roads and Maritime received 274 responses to the survey about the community’s preferred method of communication. More than 82 per cent of respondents completed the survey using the online survey, with the remainder responding to the postal survey.

The majority of respondents (63 per cent) indicated they preferred Roads and Maritime communicate with them about the project via email. Other preferred methods were via social media (14 per cent) and post (14 per cent). For more details on responses see **Figure 1** below.

Roads and Maritime will ensure these results are considered in future communications about this project.

Figure 1 – Responses to survey – September 2018



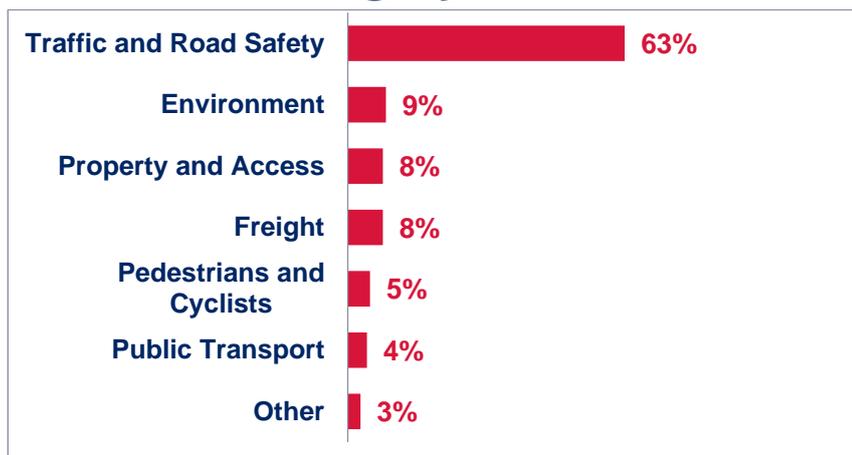
## 3.2 Interactive online mapping tool – September to October 2018

Roads and Maritime received 146 submissions about the community's experiences travelling in the Picton area.

Most comments were provided under the traffic and road safety category, followed by environment as shown in **Figure 3** below.

Figure 3

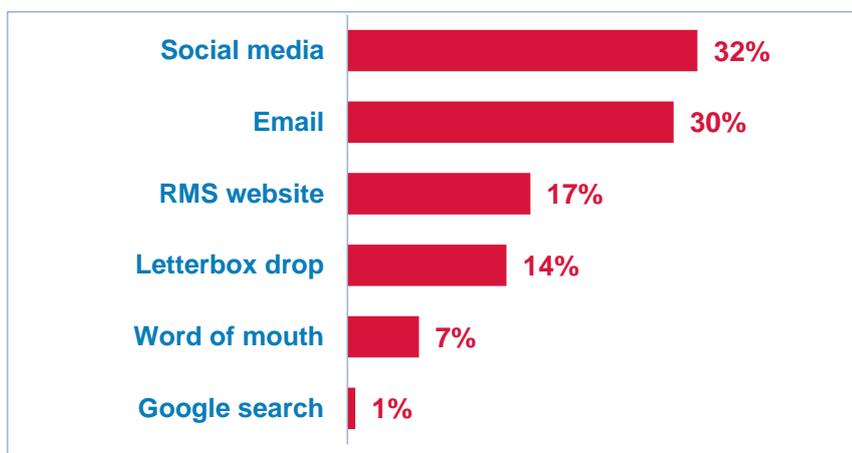
### Feedback category (published comments)



Results from the consultation also showed the majority of respondents received information about the survey online, via social media, email and the project webpage, as shown by **Figure 2** below.

Figure 2

### Discovery method (unique users)



Analysis of the comments showed the main themes or key issues provided during this consultation were:

Topic/ issue	Comment
Support / suggestion for a bypass	A majority of responses received noted support for a bypass of Picton or provided suggestions for where a bypass could be located, features and facilities that could be provided or noted benefits from the construction of a bypass depending on location.
Congestion	A high number of comments reported congestion as a significant issue on the roads leading into and in Picton town centre and reported queuing on main routes in the area, especially during peak times.
Victoria Bridge/ Prince Street	Issues reported on Victoria Bridge included congestion, height restrictions and single lane traffic arrangement on the bridge, heavy vehicles, requests to provide another crossing to replace Victoria Bridge and removing all traffic from the bridge, pedestrian safety, protecting Victoria Bridge for future generations.
Environment and heritage	Respondents noted a number of environment and heritage issues for consideration in the area, including protecting wildlife, rivers and gorges and protecting habitats for endangered fauna.
Heavy vehicles	Many respondents were concerned about the volume of heavy vehicles travelling through the area, especially in Picton town centre and near residential areas.
Road safety/ speed	A high number of respondents noted their concern about road safety at various locations in the study area, often related to heavy vehicles or vehicle speeds and congestion.
Resident or property impacts	Comments and concerns were highlighted about the potential for a bypass to impact on residents, businesses or property depending on location.
Pedestrian and cyclist access	Respondents noted concerns about safety for pedestrians and cyclists across the study area and called for improvements at specific locations.

Roads and Maritime will consider the information provided by the community while continuing investigations for a potential bypass.

**Appendix 1** detailed submissions received noting key themes/ topics.

**Appendix 2** summarises the key topics by location, noting locations which received the most comments or common themes as part of the interactive online mapping tool.

## 4. Next steps

Roads and Maritime will carry out more detailed traffic analysis, including building a traffic model of the existing road network and using it to help assess options for a potential bypass.

These options will consider the feedback received from the community.

The community is expected to be consulted on potential options in 2019.



[rms.nsw.gov.au/pictonbypass](https://rms.nsw.gov.au/pictonbypass)



1800 270 726



[pictonbypass@rms.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pictonbypass@rms.nsw.gov.au)

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