Continuing involvement of the community

RMS values your input to help identify local constraints and issues, discuss the draft preliminary route options as well as the assessment methodology and criteria. The project team will be available at two sessions to discuss the investigations, answer your questions and receive your feedback.

You are invited to:

- A community meeting held on
  Thursday 14 March 2013 at 5pm
- The community meeting will feature a presentation from the project team outlining the preliminary route options, development processes and question-and-answer session.
- A ‘drop in’ information session held on
  Friday 15 March 2013 from 9am to 12noon

The ‘drop in’ session will not feature a presentation, however the project team will be available for you to meet, discuss the project’s progress, ask questions and provide your feedback.

Both sessions will be held at Sir Henry Parkes Memorial School of Arts, Rose Street, Tenterfield.

If you are planning to attend either of these sessions, please contact the project team by calling 1800 810 680 prior to the day for room setup purposes.

New England Highway, Tenterfield

— Heavy Vehicle Bypass

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is working with the community to identify a preferred route for a heavy vehicle bypass of Tenterfield.

Background

The Australian Government has committed $8 million for planning of a Tenterfield heavy vehicle bypass and safety works at Bolivia Hill as part of the Nation Building Program.

The New England Highway is a major link from the Hunter Region to the New England area and beyond. The highway passes through Tenterfield’s central business district, causing traffic and safety issues.

The purpose of the planning is to determine a preferred heavy vehicle route to bypass Tenterfield. The preferred bypass route must be considered in how the following objectives:

- Improve road safety.
- Improve road transport productivity, efficiency and reliability of travel.
- Minimise the impact on the natural, cultural and built environment.
- Provide sustainable economic outcomes for the local community.
- Minimise social impact on the local community.
- Provide value for money.

Although construction funding has not been allocated, it is important to plan now for a heavy vehicle bypass. This provides certainty for the future development of Tenterfield.

Current status

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) engaged GHD to assist in the investigation and shortlisting of route options for a future heavy vehicle bypass of Tenterfield. RMS held two drop-in community information sessions in Tenterfield during October 2012. The sessions were attended by nearly 100 members of the community who provided feedback to the project team on a number of issues, including the need to improve pedestrian and traffic safety, travel efficiency and management of economic, community and environmental impacts.

RMS is now seeking community input on the draft preliminary route options as well as known constraints within the study area. This feedback will assist in selecting the preliminary route options to be considered for short listing and further investigation.

Desktop studies have also been completed, which assist in identifying the various constraints to potential route options for the heavy vehicle bypass. A range of constraints and route options identified through these processes are shown on the map in page 3. Extensive community involvement will continue throughout the route identification and preliminary assessment stages. The process to identify a preferred route option for a heavy vehicle bypass is shown in the project timeline on page 2.
Assessment methodology and criteria

RMS is also seeking your feedback on the draft assessment methodology and criteria. The assessment methodology and criteria will identify the proposed process and criteria for RMS to consider in the evaluation of the route options to be shortlisted for further detailed investigations. They will also be used later in the project to assess each short listed route option in the process of identifying a preferred route.

The draft assessment methodology and criteria presented in the feedback form on page 5 have been prepared based on the project objectives and experience with similar projects. To ensure that the assessment methodology and criteria reflect the interests and needs of the Tenterfield community and other stakeholders, we are seeking your feedback.

Each of the draft preliminary route options will be assessed against these criteria. An assessment framework will be developed to determine an overall ranking against the criteria and the value for money of each preliminary route option.

Preliminary heavy vehicle bypass route options

Twelve draft preliminary route options have been identified for a future heavy vehicle bypass of Tenterfield and are shown on the map opposite. These route options have been developed by the project team and through suggestions from the community. The project team is now seeking your feedback.

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