Other options considered

Roads and Maritime Services received feedback during two community information sessions in March 2015 and considered a number of options to improve the intersection. The options that were considered include:

- Realigning the highway to remove the existing curve. This would require major earthworks including deep cuttings, large embankments and greater property acquisition resulting in significantly higher costs estimated at $30 to $50 million.
- Upgrading the existing intersection to a ‘seagull’ arrangement. A ‘seagull’ intersection would provide dedicated lanes for vehicles turning right out of and left into Little Forest Road. This arrangement would not improve the short distance currently available to see other vehicles at the existing intersection. Other considerations for ‘seagull’ intersections are discussed below.
- Moving the intersection of Little Forest Road and the Princes Highway to another location with a ‘seagull’ arrangement. This option has not been selected due to emerging safety concerns related to seagull intersections in high speed zones (where the posted speed limit is 80km/h or above). Roads and Maritime is experiencing high rates of crashes at a number of other locations with ‘seagull’ arrangements and as a consequence they are not considered as suitable in high speed environments as they previously have been.
- Lowering the speed limit. Roads and Maritime has considered the NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines, which take into account factors including the type of road, amount of roadside development, the alignment of the road and the crash rate and believes the 100km/h speed limit at this location is appropriate.

Removing the overtaking lane and providing a dedicated left turn lane into Little Forest Road.

Due to the small amount of traffic accessing Little Forest Road and the number of vehicles travelling the highway, this option has not been selected. The new intersection location will have an improved two metre road shoulder compared to the existing location.

The current proposal offers effective, value for money safety improvements for this section of road.

Next steps

A detailed design and environmental assessment is underway with construction due to start in late 2015.

The community will be kept up to date with project details and timing as the construction of this important safety project starts.

Contact us

For more information about the project please contact Clare Jefferson, Roads and Maritime Project Manager by:

- 02 4221 2728 (during business hours)
- clare.jefferson@rms.nsw.gov.au
- Roads and Maritime Services
  Southern Office
  PO Box 477, Wollongong NSW 2520

If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1300 761 923.

Princes Highway and Little Forest Road, Milton – Intersection Improvements

Community update – October 2015

Background

The Australian Government has provided $3.2 million for a new intersection that will improve road safety for motorists and residents under the Gilmore Safety Package.

The intersection of the Princes Highway and Little Forest Road is currently located on the crest of a hill with poor sight distance. It is difficult to find a gap in the traffic to turn right out of Little Forest Road onto the Princes Highway. It is also difficult for vehicles to turn left into Little Forest Road from the Princes Highway because vehicles have to slow down in front of 100km/h traffic.

Project benefits

Roads and Maritime Services will make changes to Little Forest Road so it intersects with the Princes Highway at a new location. This will improve safety and visibility for motorists by:

- Improving sight distance so motorists turning out of Little Forest Road onto the Princes Highway can safely select a gap in highway traffic
- Improving visibility of the intersection and turning vehicles for motorists on the Princes Highway.

Key features

- Little Forest Road will be moved to intersect with the Princes Highway 380 metres south of the existing intersection
- The existing intersection will be closed
- A dedicated right turn lane into Little Forest Road on the Princes Highway will be retained.
Existing intersection will be closed (details to be confirmed)

Princes Highway and Little Forest Road, Milton – Intersection improvements

Location map

KEY
- New Little Forest Road alignment
- Existing roadway (to be closed)
- New cul-de-sac proposed
- Princes Highway upgrade (showing new lane markings)
- Princes Highway (showing existing lane markings to remain)

Intersection layout

New Little Forest Road alignment (two way)

New intersection location