West Wyalong heavy vehicle alternative route
March 2016

Roads and Maritime Services is upgrading the West Wyalong heavy vehicle alternative route to improve safety and meet the demands of the increasing amount of freight being carried on the Newell Highway. The NSW Government has provided $4.7 million in 2015/16 to carry out work on Compton Road and Showground Road.

What work have we done and what are we doing now

In early 2015 Roads and Maritime carried out drainage improvements over an 800 metre length on Compton Road and constructed a new access into the Grain Corp Silo. Road strengthening, widening and improving turning movements at the Central Road intersection were carried out in late 2015.

Work on Compton Road, from near Fred Kalms Road to just before the Newell Highway intersection (850 metre length), is currently underway and involves road strengthening, providing wider lanes and shoulders, improving drainage and improving turning movements at Fred Kalms Road intersection.

Upcoming work

We are currently planning the next stage of work on Showground Road, which involves road strengthening, widening and drainage work as well as improvements to a number of intersections for turning vehicles. This work is expected to start in April 2016 and includes the permanent closure of some intersections.

Why are we doing the work?

The amount of freight on the Melbourne to Brisbane corridor (Newell Highway) will continue to increase and the West Wyalong heavy vehicle alternative route needs to be upgraded to meet that demand.

The heavy vehicle alternative route has a mix of through traffic, heavy vehicles and local traffic and includes 5 railway level crossings and 15 intersections. Residential areas also surround the road.

The work will improve road safety by widening the road, strengthening the road surface, improving the drainage and improving the layout of intersections. Once the whole length is complete, it will allow the use of Higher Productivity Vehicles. These vehicles can be longer and carry heavier loads.

The West Wyalong heavy vehicle alternative route was initially set up by Bland Shire Council as a local heavy vehicle bypass. In 2010 the route became a State Road with the aim to help remove heavy vehicles from the main street (Newell Highway) of West Wyalong.

Roads and Maritime funds and maintains both the Newell Highway through West Wyalong and the heavy vehicle alternative route.

The West Wyalong heavy vehicle alternative route will be upgraded in sections over a number of years as funding becomes available. It will stay on the same route it is on now.
Showground Road upgrade

Close Boltes Lane north access to Showground Road. Remove un-signalised railway crossing. Access to Showground Road via Church Street.

Upgrade Boltes Lane intersection to improve safety for right turning vehicles from Showground Road.

Close Airport Road access to Showground Road. Access to Showground Road would be via Boltes Lane.

Upgrade Bellarwi Road intersection to improve safety for right turning vehicles from Showground Road.

Close Green Street and construct a cul-de-sac. Currently entry on to Showground Road only.

Upgrade Church Street intersection to improve safety for right turning vehicles from Showground Road.
Close Old Hospital Road intersection and construct a cul-de-sac. Close railway crossing to vehicles. Access to Showground Road via Railway Road or Church Street.
Changes to intersections

To reduce the potential for accidents and significantly improve road safety, the upcoming work on Showground Road will include permanently closing four local intersections which includes two railway level crossings. The remaining intersections will be upgraded.

We plan to do the following:

• Permanently close Boltes Lane north access to Showground Road and remove the un-signalised railway crossing. Access to Showground Road would be via Church Street
• Permanently close Airport Road access to Showground Road. Access to Showground Road would be via Boltes Lane
• Permanently close Green Street access to Showground Road and construct a cul-de-sac. Access to Showground Road would be via Bellarwi Road
• Permanently close Old Hospital Road access to Showground Road and construct a cul-de-sac. Close railway crossing to vehicles. Access to Showground Road would be via Railway Road or Church Street
• Upgrade Boltes Lane, Church Street and Bellarwi Road intersections for right turning vehicles from Showground Road.

See map in the middle of this newsletter.

Project benefits

The key benefits of the upgrade to the community:

• Reduced conflict between local traffic and heavy vehicles
• Improved safety at intersections for turning vehicles
• Improved freight capacity
• No through traffic on Green Street and Old Hospital Road.

Information kiosk

You are invited to attend an information kiosk to ask the project team questions about the upgrade and permanent intersection closures.

Wednesday 30 March 2016, from 10am to 5pm
Bernardí’s Marketplace Supa IGA
12-20 Barnardo Street, West Wyalong

What happens next?

We will continue planning work to occur in 2016/17 and 2017/18 as funding becomes available. This work may include improvements to the intersection with the Newell Highway at the northern end of the heavy vehicle alternative route, straightening the road at the railway level crossing at Railway Road and options to improve the intersection with the Newell Highway at the western end of the heavy vehicle alternative route.

We will keep the community updated as this planning progresses.

Contact us

For more information about the project please contact the project manager, David Looney:

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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.