



# **Proposed intersection improvements at Princes Highway and Railway Road, Sydenham**

## **Community Consultation Report**

July 2017

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## Executive summary

This report provides a summary of Roads and Maritime Services consultation with the community and key stakeholders on proposed intersection improvements at Princes Highway and Railway Road, Sydenham.

The NSW Government is funding this proposal as part of its \$300 million Gateway to the South Pinch Point Program which will improve traffic flow on Sydney's key southern road corridors by upgrading major intersections.

The proposal includes:

- widening on the south western side of Railway Road to provide an additional southbound right turn lane from Railway Road onto the Princes Highway
- removing about five trees, and trimming about four trees to accommodate the additional turn lane
- relocating the existing pedestrian crossing on Princes Highway to the north eastern side of the intersection
- maintaining Stewart Lane access as left in and left out only
- upgrading traffic signals and phasing
- reconstructing the footpath and installing pram ramps on the southern side of Railway Road
- relocating utilities
- installing new drainage and signage
- road surfacing and painting line markings.

Roads and Maritime invited feedback on this proposal in April and May. We received feedback from nine people, including organisations, with the majority in favour of the proposal. The four people who opposed the proposal raised concerns involving:

- road widening
- lane widths
- congestion in the area
- additional turning lanes
- environmental impacts
- parking
- no stopping zones
- improvements to other intersections in the area.

## The decision

After considering all responses, along with the proposal's aims and design requirements, we have decided to proceed with the proposal with the addition of a signalised pedestrian crossing for the left slip lane from Railway Road on to Princes Highway.

Providing signals on the left slip lane will enable Roads and Maritime to better manage the demand and queuing of the left turn from Railway Road on to Princes Highway. It will also improve pedestrian safety and provide priority for vehicles to safely turn on to Princes Highway.

We will keep the community updated on the progress of the project and will consult on a night work construction schedule in mid to late 2018.

Construction is expected to start in late 2018.

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Background

The intersection of Princes Highway and Railway Road has been identified as part of the NSW Government's \$300 million Gateway to the South Pinch Point Program. Currently, a high volume of southbound road users turn right from Railway Road onto the Princes Highway, causing the left turning traffic to be blocked by vehicles queuing to turn right, causing congestion at the intersection, particularly during weekday peak periods.

Princes Highway, forming part of the A1 route, and Railway Road are both State roads that play a significant role in the road network.

The A1 route is nationally significant and sections are designated as part of the National Land Transport Network.

### 1.2. The proposal

Roads and Maritime is proposing to improve traffic flow and ease congestion at the intersection of Princes Highway and Railway Road.

The proposal included:

- widening on the south western side of Railway Road to provide an additional southbound right turn lane from Railway Road onto the Princes Highway
- removing about five trees, and trimming about four trees to accommodate the additional right turn lane
- relocating the existing pedestrian crossing on Princes Highway to the north eastern side of the intersection
- maintaining Stewart Lane access to left in and left out only
- upgrading traffic signals and phasing
- reconstructing the footpath and installing pram ramps on the southern side of Railway Road
- relocating utilities
- installing new drainage and signage
- asphaltting and painting line markings.

We have included a map to show the location of the proposed intersection improvements.

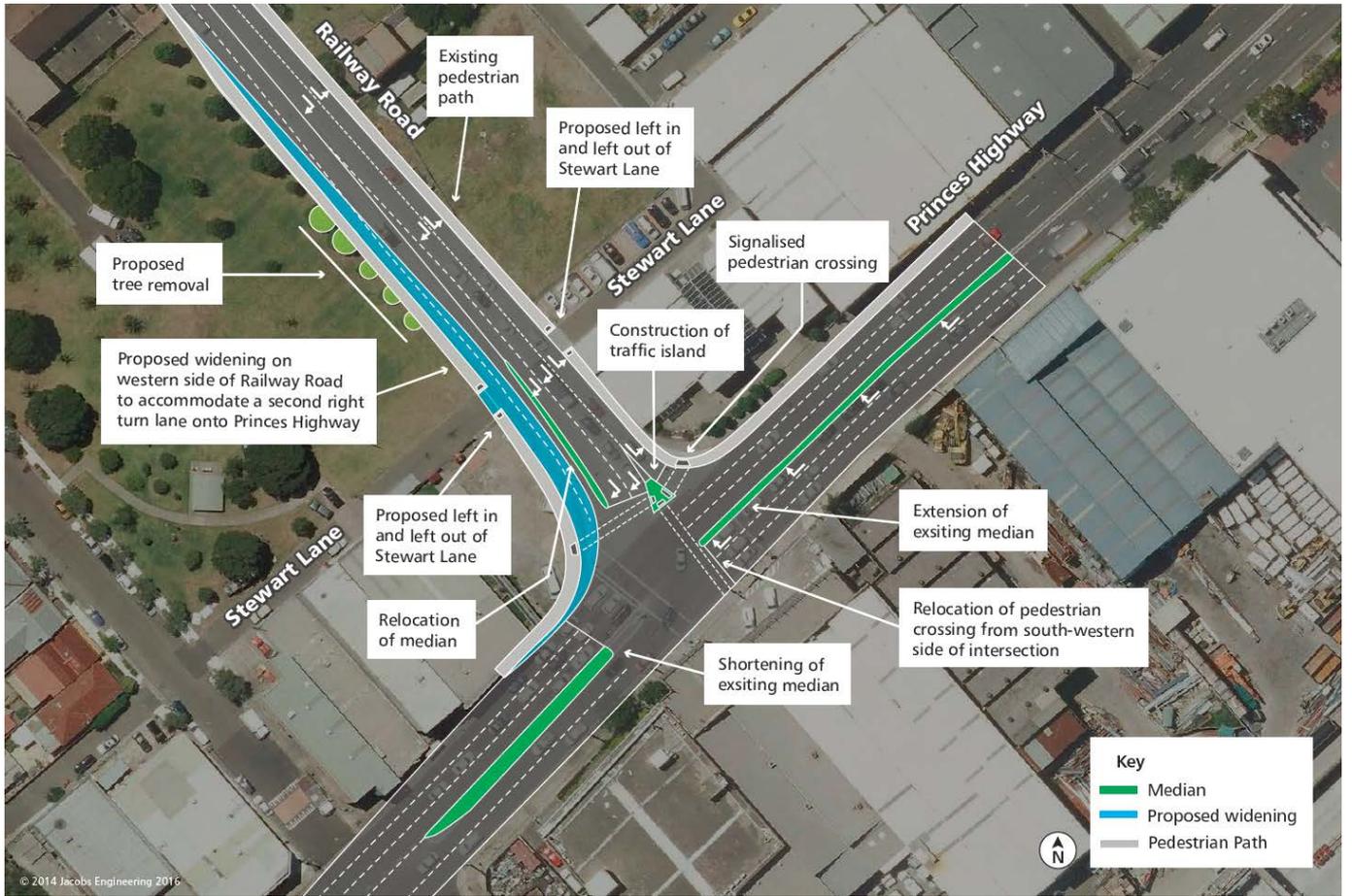


Figure 1- Proposed intersection improvements at the Princes Highway and Railway Road, Sydenham

## 2. Consultation approach

### 2.1. Consultation objectives

We consulted with the community and key stakeholders on the proposal to:

- Seek comment, feedback, ideas, and suggestions for us to consider when developing the proposal, including consultation outcomes into the environmental impact assessment known as a review of environmental factors
- Build a database of interested and concerned community members with whom we can continue to engage during the proposal's development and delivery.

### 2.2. How consultation was done

Community members and stakeholders were encouraged to provide their comments via email, mail or phone contact with the project team.

**Table 1 - How consultation was done**

Stakeholder meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Feedback on the proposal was sort from the Inner West Council in March 2017</li><li>• Feedback was received in May 2017 from Inner West Council.</li><li>• RMS met with Inner West Council in June 2017</li></ul>
Have your say community update – April 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Distributed 550 letters (Appendix A) to local residents and businesses (Appendix B) inviting feedback on the proposal</li><li>• Direct email and mail to MPs, council, emergency services, schools and universities, large businesses, religious centres and community groups in the local area.</li></ul>
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Roads and Maritime project webpage updated with latest project information including the community update on <b>Wednesday 26 April 2017</b>.</li></ul>

## **3. Consultation summary**

### **3.1. Overview**

We received feedback from nine people, including organisations, with the majority in favour of the proposal. The four people who opposed the proposal raised concerns involving:

- road widening
- lane widths
- congestion in the area
- additional turning lanes
- environmental impacts
- parking
- no stopping zones
- improvements to other intersections in the area.

### **3.2. Feedback and Roads and Maritime's responses**

Roads and Maritime has provided responses to all feedback received on this proposal. The responses have been provided directly to those who commented as well as in this report, which will be made available to the public.

All comments have been considered to help Roads and Maritime make decisions on this proposal. Matters raised during consultation that are not within Roads and Maritime's area of responsibility have been forwarded to the relevant departments.

Table 2 - Feedback summary and Roads and Maritime's responses

Category	Number of submissions received	Comments made	Roads and Maritime's response
<p><b>In favour of the proposal</b></p>	<p>Five submissions.</p>	<p>I support the widening works and think it is well overdue.</p>	<p>Roads and Maritime thank you for your comments on the proposal, we acknowledge and appreciate your support.</p>
		<p>The proposed second right turn lane is a very good solution for our area.</p>	
		<p>I think the proposed improvements are great and would make a difference to the evening peak.</p>	
<p><b>Opposed to the proposal</b></p>	<p>Four submissions.</p>	<p>Concerned the proposed changes will not ease congestion.</p>	<p>The proposal aims to improve performance and reduce congestion by providing an additional right turn lane from Railway Road onto Princes Highway and removing the conflict with pedestrians crossing Princes Highway. Traffic modelling indicates that the proposed design layout improves the efficiency of the overall intersection by reducing the average delay per vehicle in AM and PM peak by nine seconds and 37 seconds respectively.</p>
		<p>Princes Highway access should not be changed because of Westconnex. Railway Road changes are not part of the Westconnex plan and should not be changed to accommodate the problems that Westconnex does not recognise, address or avoid. This alteration will make no difference at all except to allow people who should not be driving through the area to avoid the tolls that Westconnex will require.</p> <p>If southbound travellers are using this road, they should use Westconnex roads to avoid additional traffic being forced on to Railway and Unwins Bridge Roads, which are already at capacity.</p>	<p>The proposed improvements at Princes Highway and Railway Road are not being funded as part of WestConnex. The proposed improvements are being funded as part of the NSW Government's \$300 million Gateway to the South Pinch Point Program which will improve traffic flow on Sydney's key southern road corridors by upgrading major intersections.</p>

Category	Number of comments	Matters raised	Roads and Maritime's response
<b>Additional right turn lane onto Princes Highway</b>	One comment.	The additional turning lane should be twice as long so more cars can be accommodated when the lights are red. This will further relieve congestion on Railway Road and the traffic on the bridge.	The length of the additional right turn lane on Railway Road was designed to optimise benefits at the intersection of Princes Highway while minimising impacts on adjacent properties and heritage items.
<b>Road widening</b>	One comment.	Widening should be from Princes Highway to Unwins Bridge Road.	In order to widen the road further, several more properties would have to be acquired which Roads and Maritime deem unnecessary to achieve improved traffic flow at this intersection.
		A house on Railway Road recently sold for \$1.387 million. Roads and Maritime should purchase it and widen the road more.	<p>In order to widen the road further, several more properties would have to be acquired which Roads and Maritime deem unnecessary to achieve improved traffic flow at this intersection.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime aim to avoid acquiring property wherever possible due to the high impact on the community and property owner/s. The current proposal for improvements at Princes Highway and Railway Road will provide benefits to road users and aims to minimise the impact to community members and property owners.</p>
<b>Lane widths</b>	Two comments.	Widen the width of the lanes to accommodate heavy vehicles more safely. Currently it's almost impossible without crossing over into the oncoming traffic lane to allow another heavy vehicle to pass on the left.	<p>The existing lanes on Railway Road are between 2.5 metres and 2.9 metres wide. As part of the proposal we will be widening these lanes to be between 3.3 metres and 4.5 metres wide at the intersection with Princes Highway. The lanes will gradually narrow along Railway Road to match back into the existing lane widths, of 2.5 metres to 2.9 metres.</p> <p>The proposal has been designed to consider the turning paths of heavy vehicles. Semi-trailers up to 19m in length will be able</p>

Category	Number of comments	Matters raised	Roads and Maritime's response
		<p>The major issue is that the lanes are too narrow for the many large trucks and buses that heavily use this road. There is no room for trucks or buses to pass the vehicles in the adjacent lane when traffic is lined up, this stops the vehicles behind it or it goes over the footpath endangering people's lives. The way to solve this would be to widen both lanes from Unwins Bridge Road to the Princes Highway. Then this road would be fit for the types of vehicles that use it.</p>	<p>to safely make all movements at the intersection including the dual right turn with a car in the outside lane.</p> <p>It is likely that B-Doubles will need to continue to operate with reduced clearances or encroach into the adjacent lanes due to their length.</p>
<b>Congestion in the area</b>	One comment.	<p>A large source of the traffic congestion around the area is the small number of bridges that cross the railway lines.</p>	<p>The intersection of Princes Highway and Railway Road was identified as part of the Gateway to South Pinch Point Program which focuses on addressing pinch points on the Princes Highway (A1), King Georges Road (A3) and Heathcote Road (A6) corridors.</p> <p>The purpose of this consultation was to seek feedback on the proposed intersection improvements at Princes Highway and Railway Road, Sydenham. The number of rail bridge crossings in the area is not part of the proposal and considered out of scope for this project. The proposed improvements will help to ease congestion and improve traffic flow in the area.</p>
<b>Right turn lane into Railway Road</b>	One comment.	<p>Two right turning lanes from the Princes Highway into Railway Road would be fantastic. There are many times especially in the afternoon and on Saturdays where traffic is backed up all the way to Hungry Jacks.</p>	<p>Roads and Maritime aim to avoid acquiring property wherever possible due to the high impact on the community, businesses and property owner/s. The current proposal for improvements at Princes Highway and Railway Road will provide benefits to road users and aims to minimise the impact to community members and property owners.</p> <p>Widening of Princes Highway to allow for an additional right turn lane into Railway Road would have required the full acquisition of several more properties and businesses which Roads and Maritime deem unnecessary to achieve improved traffic flow at this intersection.</p>

Category	Number of comments	Matters raised	Roads and Maritime's response
<b>Left turn lane onto Princes Highway</b>	One comment.	Capacity should be added to the left turn lane from Railway Road onto Princes Highway as the right turn in the AM peak is not an issue, the left turn is the issue.	<p>Roads and Maritime undertook traffic surveys and modelling at this intersection and found that the intersection experienced congestion during the peak periods, particularly on Railway Road during the PM peak hours.</p> <p>Traffic modelling indicates that the proposed design layout improves the efficiency of the overall intersection by reducing the average delay per vehicle in AM and PM peak by nine seconds and 37 seconds respectively.</p> <p>During the AM peak, the proposed dual right turn provides additional capacity to the intersection which will allow additional green time to be allocated to the critical intersection movements, including the left turn from Railway Road.</p> <p>The right turn from Railway Road onto Princes Highway experiences significant delays and queuing in the PM peak hours which the proposal aims to reduce.</p>
	One comment.	The lane turning left on to Princes Highway from Railway Road is a left turn lane only, so anyone turning right from that lane is doing so illegally. Instead of widening the road it should be policed.	Road safety is a key concern for Roads and Maritime, however, the NSW Police are responsible for the enforcement of the road rules including illegal turning. Please report any illegal road activity to the NSW Police.
<b>Environmental impacts</b>	One comment.	Concerned about the proposed tree removal, tree relocation, tree growth, and tree trimming and pruning.	Roads and Maritime Services has a statutory responsibility under the <i>NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> and <i>Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> to consider the impacts of its activities on the environment. A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) is being prepared for the proposed improvements at Princes Highway and Railway Road, Sydenham. The impact to biodiversity and trees in this area has been assessed in the REF. Due to the highly developed urban environment; there is a low likelihood of threatened flora and fauna species to occur. Roads and Maritime will consult with Inner West Council regarding a landscaping plan in the park post construction

Category	Number of comments	Matters raised	Roads and Maritime's response
<b>No stopping zone and parking</b>	Three comments.	Make the northern side of Railway Road up to Princes Highway "no stopping" in the afternoon peak (as it is in the morning peak) because parked cars cause the most trouble in afternoons.	<p>The intersection analysis of the proposal indicates the right turn from Railway Road onto Princes Highway experiences significant reduction in delays and queuing during in the PM peak hours.</p> <p>The existing impact of the eastbound parking on Railway Road is expected to reduce with the likely reduction in the right turn queue.</p>
		Expand the current no stopping zone times.	
		Remove the one hour parking on Railway Road and Unwins Bridge Road and make it a clearway, as all residents have rear lane access.	
<b>Unwins Bridge Road intersection</b>	Four comments.	In the morning, peak traffic banks up to Unwins Bridge Road wanting to turn left onto the Princes Highway. The phasing of the lights are timed to preference traffic on the Princes Highway travelling North but two left turning lanes would be ideal in addition to the two right turning lanes.	<p>The purpose of this consultation was to seek feedback on the proposed intersection improvements at Princes Highway and Railway Road, Sydenham. The intersection of Unwins Bridge Road and Railway Road is not part of the proposal and considered out of scope for this project. The proposed improvements will help to ease congestion and improve traffic flow in the area.</p> <p>Safety concerns regarding the intersection of Unwins Bridge Road and Railway Road have been referred to our Network and Safety department for consideration.</p>
		The safety of left turn from Unwins Bridge Road on to Railway Road could be improved.	
		The intersection at Unwins Bridge Road and Railway Road Sydenham has already seen a number of pedestrian and traffic accidents which cause chaos and mayhem. Adding another turning lane from Railway Road onto Princes Highway does nothing but bring more and more traffic on to the road and more and more traffic into the area.	
		Ban the right turn during the peak hours from Unwin bridge road into Railway Road. Concerned with safely along Unwin Bridge Road.	

Category	Number of comments	Matters raised	Roads and Maritime's response
<b>Park Road improvement suggestions</b>	One comment.	Consider either a "no left turn" from Princes Highway into Park Road or making Stewart Lane a "no entry" from Park Road.	Thank you for submitting your comments. The purpose of this consultation period was to gain feedback on the proposed improvements for the intersection of Princes Highway and Railway Road. Whilst Park Road is not part of this proposal, the proposed improvements to the intersection will help to ease congestion and traffic flow in the area, including the left turn from Princes Highway into Railway Road.
		All side streets south of Park Road are no left turn from the Princes Highway which has left Park Road as run to Railway Parade to cut out the lights.	
		Monday to Friday the businesses on each corner of Park Road and Princes Highway have multiple cars, vans parked from corner to corner, they also have delivery trucks being loaded by forklifts on the street at all hours of the day.	
		There is a significant amount of traffic that drives down Park Road, Sydenham in an effort to avoid the intersection of Railway Road and Princes Highway.	

## **4. Decision**

We thank everyone who provided comments and the community and stakeholders for considering the proposal.

After considering all responses, along with the proposal's aims and design requirements, we have decided to proceed with the proposal and signalise the left slip lane from Railway Road on to Princes Highway.

Providing a signalised pedestrian crossing on the left slip lane will enable Roads and Maritime to better manage the demand and queuing of the left turn from Railway Road on to Princes Highway. It will also improve pedestrian safety and provide priority for vehicles to safely turn on to Princes Highway.

## **5. Next steps**

Roads and Maritime will keep the community updated on the progress of the project and consult on a night work construction schedule in mid to late 2018.

Construction is expected to start in late 2018.

## 6. Appendices

### 6.1. Appendix A – ‘Have your say’ letter April 2017



April 2017

#### **Have Your Say – Intersection improvements at Princes Highway and Railway Road, Sydenham**

**The NSW Government is funding a proposal as part of its \$300 million Gateway to the South Pinch Points Program which aims to ease congestion and improve journey reliability on Sydney’s key southern corridors.**

Roads and Maritime Services is inviting your feedback by **Wednesday 10 May 2017** on a proposal to widen Railway Road to accommodate an additional right turn lane from Railway Road onto the Princes Highway.

Currently, a high volume of southbound road users turn right from Railway Road onto the Princes Highway, causing the left turning traffic to be blocked by motorists queuing to turn right.

The proposal includes:

- widening on the south western side of Railway Road to provide an additional southbound right turn lane from Railway Road onto the Princes Highway
- removing about five trees, and trimming about four trees to accommodate the additional turn lane
- relocating the existing pedestrian crossing on Princes Highway to the north eastern side of the intersection
- maintaining Stewart Lane access to left in and left out only
- upgrading traffic signals and phasing
- reconstructing the footpath and installing pram ramps on the southern side of Railway Road
- relocating utilities
- installing new drainage and signage
- asphaltting and painting line markings.

We have included a map to show the detail of the proposal.

#### **Have your say**

Roads and Maritime welcomes your feedback on our proposal by **Wednesday 10 May 2017**.

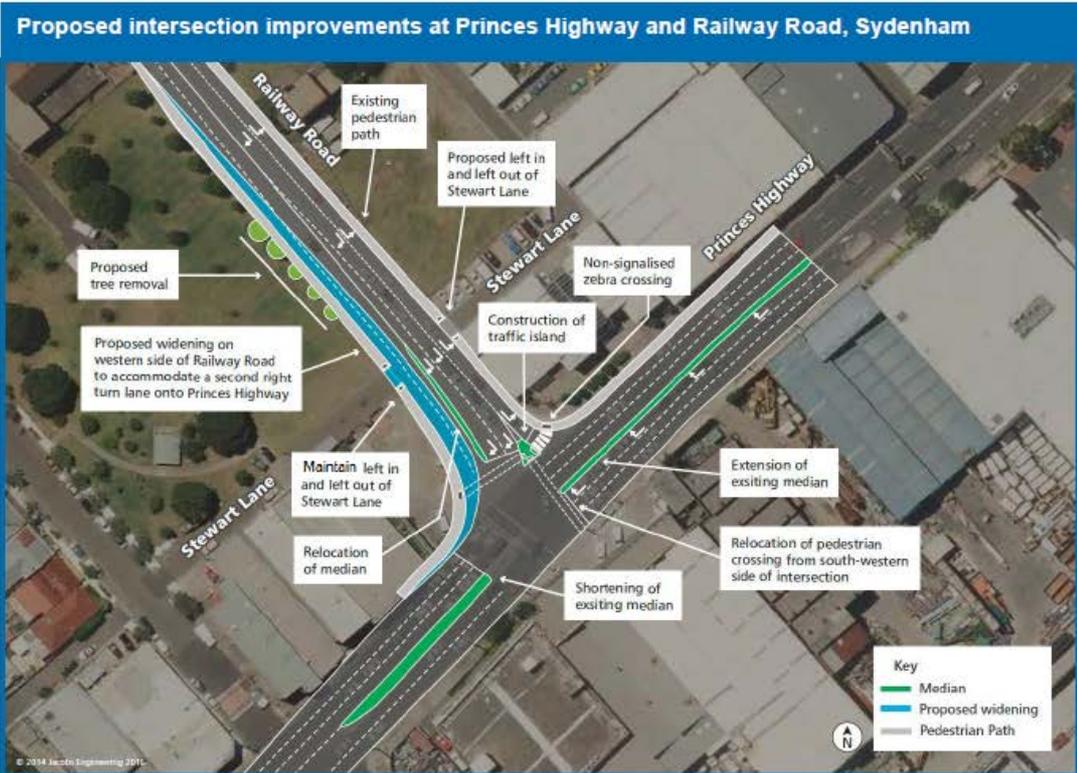
Please send your comments to our Project Manager, Kaitlin Reidy, [G2S@rms.nsw.gov.au](mailto:G2S@rms.nsw.gov.au), 0404 893 456 or

Gateway to the South Pinch Point Program,  
Roads and Maritime Services,  
PO Box 973,  
Parramatta NSW 2124.

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## Next Steps

We will carefully consider all feedback received before deciding to proceed with the proposal. A community consultation report will be prepared, summarising the matters raised and our responses. This will be made available on our website. We will keep you updated as the proposal progresses.



### Translating and Interpreting Service

If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on **131 450** and ask them to telephone Roads and Maritime Services on 0404 893 456

**Arabic**  
إذا كنتم بحاجة إلى مترجم، الرجاء الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الخطية والشفوية (TIS National) على الرقم 0404 893 456، والطلب منهم الاتصال بوكالتكم Roads and Maritime Services على الرقم **131 450**

**Cantonese**  
若你需開口譯員，請致電 **131 450** 聯絡翻譯和口譯服務署 (TIS National)，要求他們致電 0404 893 456 聯絡 Roads and Maritime Services。

**Mandarin**  
如果你需要口譯員，請致電 **131 450** 联系翻译和口译服务署 (TIS National)，要求他们致电 0404 893 456 联系 Roads and Maritime Services。

### Greek

Αν χρειάζεστε διαμερμένα, παρακαλούμε να τηλεφωνήσετε στην Υπηρεσία Μετάφρασης και Διαμερμένας (Εθνική Υπηρεσία ΤΙΣ) στο **131 450** και ζητήστε να τηλεφωνήσουν Roads and Maritime Services στο 0404 893 456

### Italian

Se desiderate l'assistenza di un interprete, prego telefonare al Servizio Interpreti e Traduttori (TIS National) al **131 450** chiedendo di contattare Roads and Maritime Services al 0404 893 456

### Korean

통역사가 필요하시면 번역통역서비스 (TIS National) 에 **131 450** 으로 연락하여 이들에게 0404 893 456 번으로 Roads and Maritime Services 에 전화하도록 요청하십시오.

### Vietnamese

Nếu cần thông ngôn viên, xin quý vị gọi cho Dịch Vụ Thông Phiên Dịch (TIS Toàn Quốc) qua số **131 450** và nhờ họ gọi cho Roads and Maritime Services qua số 0404 893 456



Transport  
Roads & Maritime  
Services

## 6.2. Appendix B – Distribution map





[rms.nsw.gov.au](http://rms.nsw.gov.au)



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