Northern Beaches Hospital
Road Connectivity and Network
Enhancement Project

January 2016

Background

The NSW Government is planning to upgrade roads around the Northern Beaches Hospital with work proposed to be completed in time for the hospital opening in 2018. The upgrades would provide customers with a better travel experience, increased capacity on the road network and improved access through the area, including for pedestrians and cyclists.

Roads and Maritime Services is delivering the road upgrades in two stages:

• Stage 1 Connectivity Work will provide essential access to the Northern Beaches Hospital
• Stage 2 Network Enhancement Work would help increase the capacity of the road network and reduce congestion.

Roads and Maritime received planning approval on 29 June 2015 for the Concept Proposal and Stage 1 Connectivity Work in accordance with Part 5.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Further information on the project’s approval is available on the NSW Department for Planning and Environment’s website at www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=6434

Stage 2
Environmental Impact Statement

Roads and Maritime prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Stage 2 Network Enhancement Work. The EIS was placed on public display from 22 July to 21 August 2015 with community and stakeholders invited to make a submission to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

The EIS outlined the key features of the proposal and the potential environmental, social and economic impacts resulting from the proposal during construction and operation. It also outlined measures to minimise and manage potential impacts.

There were 55 submissions received from the community, interest groups, government agencies and Warringah Council. Roads and Maritime has prepared a Submissions Report which responds to the matters the community and stakeholders raised. The report also provides additional information about design refinements proposed to the design displayed in the EIS.


Following a competitive tendering process Roads and Maritime has contracted Ferrovial York Joint Venture to construct the road upgrades around the Northern Beaches Hospital.
Key features of the Stage 2 Network Enhancement Work:

1. Western entry and exit points to and from the underpass for through traffic
2. Removing the bus stop and relocating to the bus stop at Maxwell Parade
3. Changing the access at Fitzpatrick Avenue East
4. New shared pedestrian and cycle bridge
5. Lengthening the bus bay
6. Intersection of Forest Way and Warringah Road remains at surface with underpass extending beneath for through traffic
7. Warringah Road widened to the south to provide two through lanes in each direction in the underpass and three lanes in each direction at the surface for access to the local road network
8. Breakdown bay in underpass
9. No straight across access from Hilmer Street to the hospital (and vice versa)
10. Intersection of Hilmer Street and Warringah Road remains at surface with underpass extending beneath for through traffic
11. Intersection of Wakehurst Parkway and Warringah Road remains at surface with underpass extending beneath for through traffic
12. Westbound on-ramp into the underpass from surface (traffic travelling south from Wakehurst Parkway)
13. Eastern entry and exit points to and from the underpass for through traffic
14. Widening Wakehurst Parkway to two lanes in each direction
15. New connection to/from Aquatic Drive
16. Retain existing pedestrian bridge
17. Widening of Allambie Road and upgrading the intersection with Warringah Road

This map refers to the Stage 2 Network Enhancement Work only and does not include details of the Stage 1 Connectivity Work. Maps are indicative only. A more detailed layout is provided in the Submissions Report.
Key matters raised by submissions to the EIS

A total of 55 submissions were received in response to the display of the EIS for the Stage 2 Network Enhancement Work including:

• Six submissions from government agencies (or advisory bodies)
• One submission from Warringah Council
• One submission from Shore Regional Organisation of Councils (SHOROC)
• The remainder from members of the community and interest groups.

The most common points raised in the submissions include:

• Justification for the project, including the scale of the proposed Stage 2 Project and consideration of future public transport initiatives
• Project context with regard to local planning and development
• Traffic and transport including:
  – changes to local traffic arrangements
  – provision for pedestrians and cyclists
  – provision for public transport
  – car parking
  – alternative transport routes during construction
  – suggested design changes to improve performance of specific intersections
• Construction and traffic noise impacts
• The effectiveness of proposed noise mitigation measures
• Direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on biodiversity, including fauna connectivity and Duffys Forest Ecological Community
• Direct and indirect impacts on properties and businesses
• Reduced amenity in the local area, particularly with regard to the changed landscape character and visual impacts associated with noise barriers and other project elements.

The matters raised in submissions from the community and interest groups are outlined with a response provided in Chapter 3 of the Submissions Report. Chapter 4 of the Submissions Report provides a response to the matters raised in submissions by government agencies.

Design refinements

A number of design refinements have been made since the display of the EIS for the Stage 2 Network Enhancement Work. The refinements aim to address commitments made in the EIS, address comments received from the community, interest groups and government agencies, or result from further work carried out by Roads and Maritime since the display of the EIS.

The design refinements include a range of measures to improve bus priority, safety and traffic efficiency. Bus priority measures include the provision of eastbound bus priority lanes on Warringah Road on the approach and departure side of the intersections with Forest Way and Wakehurst Parkway.

Measures to improve safety and traffic efficiency include changes to the traffic lane arrangements on Forest Way and Wakehurst Parkway at the intersections with Warringah Road, together with improvements to lane merging arrangements eastbound on Warringah Road between Wakehurst Parkway and Allambie Road.

We have included a map to show the design refinements. For more information on these and other design refinements please also refer to Chapter 5 of the Submissions Report.

Revised safeguards and management measures

The EIS identified a range of environmental outcomes and management measures that would be needed to avoid or reduce the environmental impacts during construction and operation. Roads and Maritime has revised the environmental management measures for the project where appropriate after considering matters raised by the community and stakeholders in submissions.

If the project receives planning approval, the environmental management measures will guide the detailed design and delivery phases of the project.

The environmental management measures are detailed in Chapter 6 of the Submissions Report.
What are the key features of the Stage 2 Network Enhancement Work?

Proposed Warringah Road underpass
The Stage 2 Network Enhancement Work would involve widening on the southern side of Warringah Road from west of Fitzpatrick Avenue to west of Allambie Road and include:

- Providing four through lanes on Warringah Road (two lanes in each direction for east-west traffic) within a grade separated underpass (open slot) for about 1.3 kilometres. The underpass would be below ground level and below the intersections with Forest Way, Hilmer Street and Wakehurst Parkway.
- Providing entry and exit points to and from the underpass at:
  - Warringah Road near Fitzpatrick Avenue East (western side)
  - Warringah Road about 350 metres east of the Wakehurst Parkway grade separated intersection (eastern side)
  - Providing a two-lane on-ramp (merging into one lane) from Wakehurst Parkway (southbound) into the underpass (westbound).

Proposed Warringah Road surface roads
The Stage 2 Network Enhancement Work would involve widening on the southern side of Warringah Road from west of Fitzpatrick Avenue East to west of Allambie Road to provide surface level lanes for the length of the proposal including:

- Westbound travel lanes on the southern side of Warringah Road
- Eastbound travel lanes on the northern side of Warringah Road
- Traffic using the Warringah Road underpass would travel below the intersections with Forest Way, Hilmer Street and Wakehurst Parkway. These intersections would form a surface level bridge for local access
- Upgrading/adjusting existing intersections of Warringah Road with Fitzpatrick Avenue East, Rodborough Road and Allambie Road.

Other proposed surface road upgrades
The Stage 2 Network Enhancement Work would also include:

- Widening Wakehurst Parkway from the intersection of Warringah Road to south of Aquatic Drive
- Providing a new connection at Aquatic Drive including the following movements:
  - Right in from Wakehurst Parkway (northbound)
  - Left in from Wakehurst Parkway (southbound)
  - Left out from Aquatic Drive onto Wakehurst Parkway (southbound).

Proposed upgrades for pedestrians and cyclists
The Stage 2 Network Enhancement Work would also include:

- Providing new shared bridges (pedestrian and cyclist):
  - Across Warringah Road west of the intersection of Forest Way (removal and replacement of the existing pedestrian bridge)
  - Across Warringah Road on the western side of the intersection with Hilmer Street (new pedestrian bridge)
- Removing the existing pedestrian crossing on Warringah Road at Hilmer Street
- Providing shared paths (pedestrian and cyclist) and footpaths on sections of Warringah Road, Wakehurst Parkway, Forest Way, Aquatic Drive and Allambie Road.

What happens next?

Stage 2 Network Enhancement Work
The NSW Department of Planning and Environment will consider the responses Roads and Maritime has provided to the submissions as part of its assessment of the project.

The Minister for Planning will then decide whether or not to approve the project and identify any conditions of approval that would apply. If approved, Roads and Maritime would continue to consult with the community, government agencies and other stakeholders during the detailed design and construction phases of the project.

Stage 1 Connectivity Work
Roads and Maritime received planning approval on 29 June 2015 for the Concept Proposal and Stage 1 Connectivity Work. Roads and Maritime is due to start construction of the Stage 1 Connectivity Work in December 2015. Construction will be carried out in stages and will start at the intersection of Wakehurst Parkway and Frenchs Forest Road. Construction activities for the Stage 1 Connectivity Work will include:

- Clearing trees and vegetation
- Relocating utilities and services including electricity, water, gas and telecommunications
- Installing boundary fencing around work areas to ensure safe separation of construction activity from traffic, pedestrians and cyclists
- Removing existing kerbs, footpaths, road barriers and median strips
What are the next steps?

- Preliminary investigations and planning
- Community consultation on strategic design
- Submit state significant infrastructure application to NSW Department of Planning and Environment
- NSW Department of Planning and Environment issue secretary’s environmental assessment requirements (SEARS)
- Continue studies on options for Warringah Road
- NSW Government decision on preferred option / announce preferred option and prepare Environmental Impact Statement
- Display Environmental Impact Statement for comment
- Publish Submissions Report responding to all issues raised in formal submissions / update community on availability of Submissions Report
- Stage 2 Network Enhancement Work considered for approval by the Minister for Planning
- Update community on approvals outcome
- If approved, complete detailed design and undertake project construction / ongoing consultation with community about final designs and construction impacts
- Complete construction

For more information
For more information about the proposal please contact the project team:

Phone: 1300 367 459
Email: nbhroadwork@rms.nsw.gov.au

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.

Privacy: Roads and Maritime Services ("RMS") is subject to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 ("PPP Act") which requires that we comply with the Information Privacy Principles set out in the PPP Act. All information in correspondence is collected for the sole purpose of assisting in the assessment of this proposal. The information received, including names and addresses of respondents, may be published in subsequent documents unless a clear indication is given in the correspondence that all or part of that information is not to be published. Otherwise RMS will only disclose your personal information, without your consent, if authorised by the law. Your personal information will be held by RMS at 27 Argyle Street, Parramatta NSW 2150. You have the right to access and correct the information if you believe that it is incorrect.