



Transport  
Roads & Maritime  
Services

# **ALFORDS POINT ROAD AND MENAI ROAD, MENAI**

## **INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT LEFT TURN LANE**

Pinch Point Program  
Community Consultation Report

JANUARY 2015

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Roads and Maritime Services is proposing to duplicate the southbound left turn lane at the intersection of Alfords Point Road and Menai Road, Menai.

The proposal includes:

- Duplicating the left turn lane from Alfords Point Road into Menai Road
- Constructing a retaining wall on the eastern side of Alfords Point Road
- Installing new drains and drainage pits
- Adjusting underground utilities and street lights
- Constructing new kerb and gutter and a pedestrian island
- Extending the existing concrete footpath
- Adjusting and installing new traffic light posts
- Realigning the existing pedestrian crossing on the eastern side of the intersection
- Installing new line marking.

Currently vehicles are queuing into the through lanes during peak periods, so through duplicating the left turn lane, Roads and Maritime is aiming to provide more capacity for vehicles turning left which would improve traffic flow and safety and reduce the risk of rear end crashes.

The proposal is part of the NSW Government's \$246 million Pinch Point Program which aims to reduce delays, manage congestion and maintain travel times on Sydney's main roads particularly during weekday peak periods.

Roads and Maritime invited the community and key stakeholders to provide their feedback on this proposal in September 2014.

We distributed 1250 letters in the local area inviting feedback on the proposal.

We received comments from 12 people and organisations with most supporting the proposal. Roads and Maritime considered all feedback in deciding to proceed with the proposal.

The community provided some comments on other turning lanes at the intersection that also need to be addressed as they are seen to be exceeding capacity and blocking the through traffic.

We will provide responses to all feedback both through this report and directly to the people and organisations who made comments.

Roads and Maritime would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who provided comments on this proposal and to the community and stakeholders for considering the project.

Roads and Maritime has decided to proceed with this project without any changes. Where appropriate, suggestions made by the community will be further investigated and may form the basis of another proposal to improve this intersection. If they proceed, we will consult with the community and stakeholders and continue to keep them informed.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Motorists travelling southbound on Alfords Point Road are experiencing delays during peak periods because vehicles queuing to in the left turn lane to turn into Menai Road are overflowing into the through lanes.

### 1.2 The proposal

The proposal is part of the NSW Government's \$246 million Pinch Point Program which aims to reduce delays, manage congestion and maintain travel times on Sydney's main roads particularly during weekday peak periods.

As part of this program, Roads and Maritime propose to carry out improvements at the intersection of Alfords Point Road and Menai Road, Menai. The proposal aims to:

- Reduce the frequency of the left turn bay overflow southbound along Alfords Point Road at Menai Road
- Improve the traffic flow and safety at the intersection of Alfords Point Road and Menai Road for both vehicles and pedestrians
- Maintain the alignment of the existing median, right turn lane, through lanes and bicycle lane
- Minimise impacts on the surrounding environment, community and all road users.

The work that would be carried out to deliver the intersection improvement includes:

- Duplicating the left turn lane from Alfords Point Road into Menai Road
- Constructing a retaining wall on the eastern side of Alfords Point road
- Installing new drains and drainage pits
- Adjusting underground utilities and street lights
- Constructing new kerb and gutter and a pedestrian island
- Extending the existing concrete footpath
- Adjusting and installing new traffic light posts
- Realigning the existing pedestrian crossing on the eastern side of the intersection
- Installing new line marking.

## 2.0 CONSULTATION APPROACH

### 2.1 Consultation objectives

We consulted with the community and key stakeholders on the preliminary concept design to:

- Seek comment, feedback, ideas, and suggestions for Roads and Maritime to consider when developing the proposal, including consultation outcomes into the environmental assessment known as review of environmental factors (REF)
- Build a database of interested and concerned community members who Roads and Maritime could continue to engage during the proposal's development.

### 2.2 How consultation was done

Consultation was open from Wednesday 3 September to Friday 3 October 2014. Community members were encouraged to provide their feedback, leave comments and make submissions via mail, email or phone.

Members of the local community and key stakeholders were contacted using a range of tools including:

<b>Tool</b>	<b>Method</b>
Community letter (Appendix 1)	Delivered to 1250 residents in Menai (see map Appendix 2) Delivered to Sutherland Shire Council Direct mailed to emergency services, government agencies, local councils, schools, large businesses, aged care centres, religious centres and community groups in the local area
Doorknocking	Roads and Maritime doorknocked the affected residents close to the intersection to explain the proposal and invited comment.
Website	Details about the project were provided on the NSW Government's community consultation website.

## 3.0 CONSULTATION SUMMARY

### 3.1 Overview

Roads and Maritime received comments from 12 people and organisations with all generally in support of the proposal. Eleven people supported the proposal with nine of these suggesting further improvements at the intersection. Sutherland Shire Council supported the proposal. One person did not identify their support or opposition to the proposal – there were no people who opposed the proposal.

## Feedback summary and Roads and Maritime responses

Issue category	Number of submissions	Issues raised	Roads and Maritime response
<b>Design and pedestrian safety</b> (Pedestrian Islands)	One submission Ref # 1	It is quite scary to think you could be stranded on the proposed pedestrian island with traffic zooming past.	The new pedestrian island is designed to provide sufficient space for pedestrians as it has been designed to meet current Roads and Maritime guidelines.  The island aims to provide pedestrians storage so they can cross the road in two stages at the traffic lights. This also helps maintain traffic flow and improves safety by splitting up the movements.
<b>Design</b> (Extend the southbound right turn lane)	One submission Ref # 2, 8, 10	Extend the southbound right turn lane from Alfords Point Road into Old Illawarra Road. It allows more cars to turn right and not block traffic.  Currently traffic is diverting onto Old Illawarra Road further back to avoid the lights at the intersection.	Roads and Maritime has considered the extension of the right turn lane and will be investigating whether an extension of the southbound right turn lane is feasible. Further details will be forwarded onto the local community if Roads and Maritime decide to proceed with a proposal to extend the right turn lane.
<b>Design</b> (Extend the northbound left turn lane)	One submission Ref # 10	Extend the northbound left turn lane from Alfords Point Road into Old Illawarra Road, as it blocks through traffic.	Roads and Maritime will continue to monitor the queuing length of the northbound left turn lane and alter the phasing of the traffic lights at the intersection appropriately. There are significant site and constructability constraints but we will monitor traffic and safety conditions and investigate further improvements.  This work is outside the scope of this project.

<p><b>Design</b> (Pedestrian crossing)</p>	<p>One submission Ref # 4, 9</p>	<p>The traffic queuing back on the southbound lanes of Alfords Point Road is due to the impact of the pedestrian crossing and the turning traffic. Is there a need for a pedestrian crossing at the intersection? A better alternative would be to scrap the pedestrian crossing at the new intersection and encourage pedestrians to cross Menai Road at the Old Illawarra crossing approximately 150m to the east.</p>	<p>Traffic and pedestrian counts as well as onsite observations at the intersection of Alfords Point Road and Menai Road show that pedestrians use the crossing on the eastern side of Alfords Point Road to cross Menai Road.</p> <p>Removing the crossing would mean pedestrians are not be able to cross the road safely under the traffic lights.</p> <p>The southbound left turn lane movement runs during the majority of the traffic light operation cycle so this will help reduce queuing in the turning lane.</p> <p>The proposed pedestrian crossing linked to the pedestrian island will only be activated when someone presses the button. This will alleviate unnecessary delays for southbound vehicles turning left.</p>
		<p>Crossing Menai Road at the new intersection means that they will be back-tracking away from their target destination. It is likely that this new intersection will get little use.</p>	
		<p>Remove the footpath between the existing crossing and Old Illawarra Road/ Menai Road traffic lights removing the maintenance burden that currently exists.</p>	
		<p>The pedestrian crossing on the eastern side of Menai Road is a redundant crossing and should be removed altogether. Pedestrians should use the crossing at the Old Illawarra Road and Menai Road intersection. The path on the northern side of Old Illawarra Road should be removed.</p>	

<p><b>Design</b> <i>(Drainage)</i></p>	<p>One submission Ref # 11</p>	<p>When designing the intersection improvements ensure there is consideration of the stormwater issues in the area. It is important that the drainage is adequate and that the ponds and spillways infrastructure is maintained.</p>	<p>The design for the proposed intersection improvements has considered the stormwater drainage requirements for the area and they also meet current Roads and Maritime guidelines.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime monitor the drainage systems on state roads and will continue to maintain the drains as required.</p>
<p><b>Traffic Lights</b> <i>(More green time for pedestrians)</i></p>	<p>One submission Ref # 1, 4</p>	<p>The time allowed for people to cross the lights is very short. You reach half way and the 'Don't walk' sign starts to flash. The proposed pedestrian island is further away at Menai Road and some people can't walk very fast.</p>	<p>The pedestrian signals at traffic lights have green and red pedestrian phases and both signals can be used for people to complete their crossing.</p> <p>The green pedestrian signal is displayed for a short period of time to enable pedestrians to leave the kerb to start crossing the road.</p> <p>The flashing red pedestrian signal is then displayed for a length of time that enables a slow moving pedestrian to cross the full width of the roadway. The walking speed used to determine this time is less than a normal walking speed, taking into account elderly and disabled people as well as children.</p> <p>The pedestrian times at the intersection have been examined and all meet Roads and Maritime guidelines. We will continue to monitor traffic and safety conditions at this intersection.</p>
<p><b>Traffic lights</b> <i>(adjusting lights)</i></p>	<p>Ref # 10, 12</p>	<p>Motorists travelling southbound wanting to turn right into Old Illawarra Road need more green time for them to turn.</p> <p>Turn the red arrow off during off-peak times to allow southbound motorists to turn right into Old Illawarra Road.</p>	<p>Traffic lights in NSW are controlled by the Sydney Coordinated Adaptive Traffic System (SCATS), which allocates the length of green time based on real time traffic flow. Sensors beneath the road measure the flow and density of traffic approaching the light in each direction and the green time is allocated accordingly. The length of time the light stays green varies in response to changing traffic conditions.</p> <p>The right turn red arrow for southbound traffic on Alfords Point Road to turn right into Old Illawarra Road cannot be turned off during non-peak periods. This intersection is currently within an 80km/h speed zone. Roads and Maritime guidelines do not allow for the right turn red arrow to not be displayed in an 80km/h zone where the vehicles have to turn across more than two lanes. At this particular intersection, southbound traffic on Alfords Point Road need to cross three lanes of opposing traffic.</p>

		Turn the left turn green arrow off and replace it with a left turn with caution for motorists travelling southbound wanting to turn left into Menai Road. This should be trialled.	<p>The distance is too far between the stop line on Alfords Point Road southbound and the pedestrian crossing on Menai Road to allow drivers sufficient sight distance when turning.</p> <p>The new design allows for a dedicated dual left turn lane that will increase the capacity for left turn movements.</p>
<b>Noise</b> <i>(Closer to properties)</i>	Two submissions Ref # 6, 7	Concerned that the additional lane will be closer to properties and there will be additional noise.	<p>The area has an existing noise mound which will remain if this project progresses. The road will move about three metres closer to residential properties, so road traffic noise levels are not expected to substantially change.</p> <p>Pre-construction and post construction noise monitoring will be carried out if the project progresses. Increases in operational noise &gt;2dB(A), where the Environment Protection Authority base criteria are already exceeded, would be mitigated where feasible and reasonable. Any treatments would be developed in consultation with an experienced acoustic specialist and the affected property owners.</p>
<b>Cyclists</b>	One submission Ref # 6	Concerned how cyclists will manoeuvre safely around the pedestrian island if they wish to turn left into Menai Road.	Cyclists who want to turn left into Menai Road should use the left turn lane closest to the kerbside. This lane is 3.5 metres wide.

## **CHANGES TO PROPOSAL/RECOMMENDATION**

On the basis of community consultation, no changes to the proposal are recommended.

Roads and Maritime will be investigating the feasibility and constructability of extending the southbound right turn lane into Old Illawarra Road. Outcomes from the investigations including underground utilities, onsite activities and the cost benefit will help determine whether the extension would be included in this project. The community and stakeholders will be kept informed about this investigation as appropriate.

## **NEXT STEPS/WAY FORWARD**

The design will now be finalised and an environmental assessment completed, which will include a Review of Environmental Factors. We will continue to keep the community informed of the project as it progresses.

## **APPENDIX**

Appendix 1 Community letter

Appendix 2 Letterbox distribution area of community letter

# Have your say



SEPTEMBER 2014

## Have your say – Proposal for intersection improvements on Alford's Point Road, Menai

The NSW Government is funding this proposal to improve traffic flow and safety for motorists.

Roads and Maritime Services is proposing to duplicate the southbound left turn lane at the intersection of Alford's Point Road and Menai Road. This would improve traffic flow capacity and safety by providing more room for motorists wishing to turn left from Alford's Point Road into Menai Road because currently turning traffic is queuing into the through lanes during peak periods. This would reduce the risk of rear end crashes.

The proposed work includes:

- Duplicating the left turn lane from Alford's Point Road into Menai Road
- Constructing a retaining wall on the northern side of Alford's Point Road
- Installing new drains and drainage pits
- Adjusting underground utilities and street lights
- Constructing new kerb and gutter and a pedestrian island
- Extending the existing concrete footpath
- Adjusting and installing new traffic light posts
- Realign the existing pedestrian crossing on the eastern side of Menai Road (Old Illawarra Road)
- New line marking.

We have provided a diagram to help you better explain our proposal.

We would appreciate your feedback by **Friday 3 October**. Please send your written comments to:

Communications and Stakeholder Engagement  
Leighton Boral Amey Joint Venture  
PO Box 838  
Rockdale NSW 2216  
or email: [nswenquiries@lbajv.com.au](mailto:nswenquiries@lbajv.com.au)

Roads and Maritime will consider feedback in finalising its decision about this proposal to improve travel times and safety at this intersection. We will continue to keep the community and stakeholders updated about this proposal.

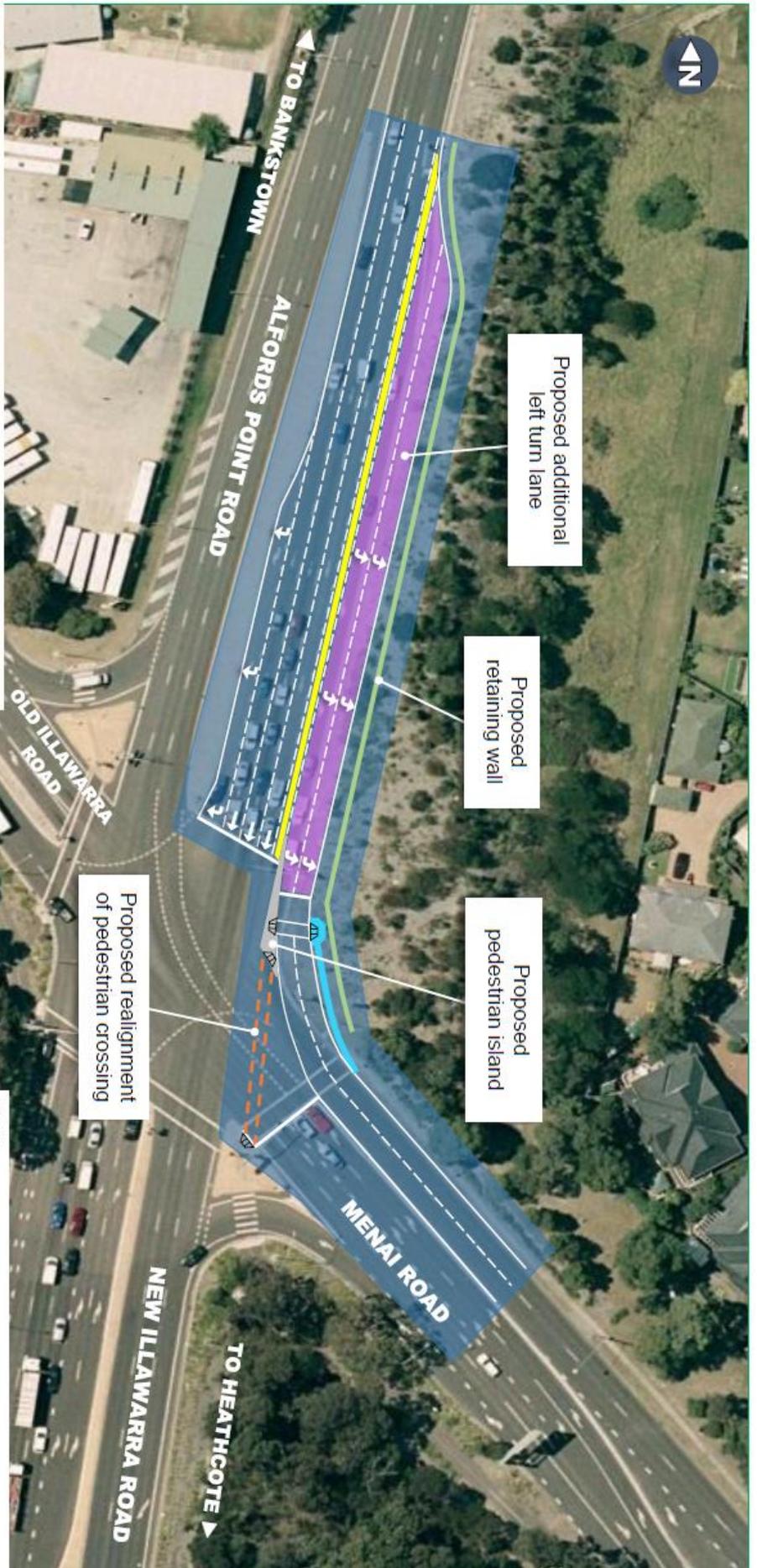
For more information please contact Roads and Maritime's delivery partner Leighton Boral Amey Joint Venture on 1800 677 700 or email [nswenquiries@lbajv.com.au](mailto:nswenquiries@lbajv.com.au)

For more information contact Leighton Boral Amey JV

T: 1800 677 700 | E: [nswenquiries@lbajv.com.au](mailto:nswenquiries@lbajv.com.au)

PO Box 838 Rockdale NSW 2216

REF: T80802.1



Proposed additional left turn lane

Proposed retaining wall

Proposed pedestrian island

Proposed realignment of pedestrian crossing

**KEY**

- Work area
- Proposed additional left turn lane
- Bicycle lane
- Proposed retaining wall
- Proposed extension of pedestrian path
- Proposed realignment of existing pedestrian crossing
- Proposed pedestrian island
- ▲ Pedestrian ramps

### 131 450 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 Leighton Borai Amey JV on 1800 677 700.

**Arabic**  
إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مترجم أو منادٍ، يرجى الاتصال بخدمات الترجمة والتفسير الوطنية (TIS National) على الرقم **131 450** وطلب منهم الاتصال بـ Leighton Borai Amey JV على الرقم **1800 677 700**.

**Cantonese**  
如果你需要口譯員，請致電 **131 450** 聯絡翻譯和口譯服務中心 (TIS National)，要求他們致電 **1800 677 700**，聯絡 Leighton Borai Amey JV。

**Mandarin**  
如果您需要口譯員，請致電 **131 450** 尋求翻譯和口譯服務中心 (TIS National)，要求他們致電 **1800 677 700** 聯絡 Leighton Borai Amey JV。

**Greek**  
Αν χρειάζεστε διαγλώσσα, παρακαλούμε να τηλεφωνήσετε στην Υπηρεσία Μετάφρασης και Διαγλώσεων (Εθνική Υπηρεσία ΤΙΣ) στο **131 450** και ζητήστε να τηλεφωνήσει Leighton Borai Amey JV στο **010 1800 677 700**.

**Italian**  
Se desiderate l'assistenza di un interprete, prego telefonare al Servizio Interpreti e Traduttori (TIS National) al **131 450** chiedendo di contattare Leighton Borai Amey JV al **1800 677 700**.

**Korean**  
통역사나 통역서비스를 필요로 하시면 (TIS National)에 **131 450** 으로 연락하여 이들에게 **1800 677 700** 번으로 Leighton Borai Amey JV 에 전화하도록 요청하십시오.

**Vietnamese**  
Nếu cần thông ngôn viên, xin gọi về gọi cho Dịch Vụ Thông Dịch (TIS National) qua số **131 450** và nhờ họ gọi cho Leighton Borai Amey JV qua số **1800 677 700**.

## Appendix 2 – Letter box distribution area

