IN THIS ISSUE
• Need for the link
• Previous studies and abandoned routes
• Study process and timing
• Community involvement
• Comment form

The study

The purpose of the study is to investigate options for a new National Highway connection between the Newcastle Freeway (F3) and the future Sydney Orbital. The new connection will replace Pennant Hills Road as the National Highway route.

The study is being funded by the Federal Government and coordinated by the New South Wales Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA). Sinclair Knight Merz has been commissioned to undertake the study.

Community consultation is an important part of the study. This newsletter provides information on the project and how you can have a say during this important investigation.

Why is the study needed?

As Sydney grows there is expected to be a large increase in travel demand, particularly in north and western Sydney where more than half of Sydney’s population is forecast to live by 2020 and where the majority of new residential developments will take place.

The Western Sydney Orbital from the M5 Motorway at Prestons to the M2 Motorway at West Baulkham Hills has already been approved. This road, when completed in 2007, will replace the Cumberland Highway as the current National Highway route.

The aim of this study is to identify a new route to meet current and future traffic demands on the National Highway north of the Sydney Orbital.

The new route would:
• provide an improved north–south National Highway through northern Sydney;
• reduce traffic, including heavy vehicles, on the interim National Highway corridor along Pennant Hills Road; and
• improve access for freight and other traffic from the Hunter Region and Central Coast to Sydney’s industrial centres, markets and ports.

The study area extends from the Newcastle Freeway (F3) at Kariong on the Central Coast, to the northern section of the Sydney Orbital from Dean Park in the west, to the M2 Motorway at Macquarie Park in the east.
What type of issues will be considered?

This will be a complex study and the study team will need to take into account many issues such as:

- current and future traffic levels;
- future planned land developments;
- public transport needs;
- potential environmental and social effects; and
- economic benefits.

What about previous studies?

Previous road planning studies considered a conventional highway link between the F3 at Wahroonga and the M2 Motorway. These options (known as the B2 & B3 Corridors) were abandoned in 1995 to preserve the bushland within the Lane Cove National Park and to avoid unnecessary community and social impacts.

The F3 to Sydney Orbital Link Study will not re-investigate these options. A surface route is not being considered along the previously abandoned B2 or B3 corridor.

Study process and timing

The study is proposed to be completed by November 2002, and will include the activities shown below. Please refer to the community involvement section for more information about how you can have input into the study process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study timing</th>
<th>Study activities</th>
<th>How you can be involved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April - June 2002</td>
<td>Preliminary investigations</td>
<td>Register on our mailing list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Identification of constraints and opportunities in the study area</td>
<td>Freecall number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Identification of feasible scheme options</td>
<td>Visit the study website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Information days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Community Focus Group meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Submissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July - September 2002</td>
<td>Commence detailed investigations</td>
<td>Community Focus Group meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Refinement of scheme options</td>
<td>Stakeholder meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Submissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September - November 2002</td>
<td>Evaluation of options</td>
<td>Newsletter No.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Report on preferred scheme(s)</td>
<td>Public displays of options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Submissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feedback on website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Community Focus Group meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stakeholder meetings</td>
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Community involvement

A comprehensive and inclusive community involvement program is an important part of this study. The program is designed to encourage community participation and to maximise opportunities to become involved. These activities will be promoted and advertised closer to their actual dates.

- **Newsletters** - Newsletters will keep you informed of project developments and describe the various ways you can obtain information and have a say about this project. Newsletters will be delivered to households, in and around, the study area and to everyone who has asked to be on the mailing list.

- **Information days** – See details on the back page of this Newsletter.

- **Community Focus Groups** - Nominations for the Community Focus Groups (CFG) are currently being sought. Those interested in nominating may use the freecall number or visit the website to register their interest. CFG members present community views and provide ongoing input into the study, and assist in disseminating information about the project back to the community. Nominations should be forwarded by 30 May 2002.

- **Public displays** - Feasible route options will be displayed publicly. You are encouraged to visit the displays and convey your views. The display locations will be advertised in local media.

It is important to remember that public input will continue as the project is further developed. Any new road project is subject to public and government scrutiny through an Environmental Impact Statement and formal approval process.

What to expect at the end of the study

At the end of the study period, the community will be presented with the findings of the study. It is envisaged that this will consist of:

- a recommended integrated transport scheme(s), and the reasons for its selection;
- a broad assessment of the potential environmental and social impacts of the preferred route and other options, and proposed ways to mitigate the impacts;
- estimates of costs and an economic evaluation;
- an account of the process of the community consultation, and the way the preferred scheme addresses community issues; and
- the next steps in the process.

Privacy statement

All information in representations received may be published in subsequent assessment documents. Where the supplier indicates at the time of supply of information that it should be kept confidential, the RTA will attempt to keep it confidential but there may be legislative or other legal justification for the release of the information, for example under the Freedom of Information Act 1989 or under subpoena or statutory instrument.
Information days

Information days provide an opportunity for you to meet some of the study team. There will be opportunities to ask questions and provide comments about the issues that are important to you.

The dates and locations for the information days are outlined below. Those interested are encouraged to come along, register an interest and convey your views.

**Parkway Plaza**
2-12 Comenarra Parkway
Thornleigh
Thursday 16 May 4pm - 8pm
Saturday 18 May 10am - 2pm

**Macquarie Centre**
Corner Waterloo and Herring Roads
North Ryde
Thursday 16 May 4pm - 8pm
Saturday 18 May 10am - 2pm

**Round Corner Village**
in the mall at Round Corner Village, Dural
Thursday 16 May 1pm - 5pm
Saturday 18 May 10am - 2pm

**Imperial Shopping Centre**
171 Mann Street
Gosford
Thursday 16 May 3pm - 7pm
Saturday 18 May 10am - 2pm

**Parklea Markets**
Corner Sunnyholt and Old Windsor Roads
Parklea
Saturday 18 May 10am - 2pm
Sunday 19 May 10am - 2pm

How to comment and get more information

- Send the attached Comment Form
- Call the study information line (Freecall): 1800 550 050.
  This is also the number to call to have your details included on the project mailing list.
- Visit the webpage:
- Email: f3tosydneyorbital@skm.com.au
- Post or fax a written submission to:
  Jo Moss, Community Liaison Manager,
  F3 to Sydney Orbital Link Study
  PO Box 164 St Leonards NSW 1590
  Fax: 02 9928 2502 (marked to attention of Jo Moss)

All comments, concerns, ideas and views will be considered by the study team. This will help guide the identification of a preferred scheme or schemes.

Questo documento contiene delle informazioni importanti. Per ulteriori chiarimenti telefonare al numero 131450 oppure al 1800 550 050

這份文件內有重要的資料。欲知更多的資料，請電 131 450 或 1800 550 050

"مستندات هذه الوثيقة على فحص كبير من أهمية، للمسرّد من المساعدة توجهك للاتصال على هاتف رقم 450 131 أو رقم 1800 550 050"