Review of Environmental Factors (REF)

RMS is preparing an environmental impact assessment called a REF. This will assess the potential environmental, economic and social impacts associated with the proposed upgrade. The REF will recommend measures to minimise any potential impacts identified.

Specialist studies to be carried out include:

- Assessments of flora and fauna.
- Noise and vibration.
- Visual impacts.
- Air quality.
- Traffic and community impacts.
- Archaeological and heritage.
- Other environmental considerations.

On completion of these specialist studies the REF and final concept design will be displayed. This is expected to be in mid 2013. The community and stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment and make a formal submission.

The submissions report will document all issues and responses raised during the REF display period. This report will be published on the project website. Provided satisfactory mitigation measures are identified to address any environmental issues identified in the REF, it is expected that the project will be approved. After project approval detailed design and other pre-construction activities such as land acquisition and adjustments to utilities may be able to start. RMS will continue to update the community with the progress of this project through the planning approval stage.

Stay involved

RMS would like to thank all community members who have attended community information sessions, contacted the project team or visited the Berry project office to provide valuable feedback.

RMS will continue to consult with the community and stakeholders about the concept design and REF. The community is encouraged to contact RMS with any questions, comments or concerns about the project.

What happens next?

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For more information

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Project information line: 1800 506 976 (free call)
Email: berrytobomaderryupgrade@rms.nsw.gov.au
Mail: Berry to Bomaderry upgrade, AECOM, PO Box Q410, QVB Post Office, Sydney NSW 2000
Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is planning for the future upgrade of the Princes Highway between Berry and Bomaderry. This community update outlines the changes made to the concept design as a result of community consultation, design reviews and environmental studies.

**Background**
In June 2009 Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) announced the preferred option for the upgrade of the Princes Highway between Gerringong and Bomaderry. RMS is now carrying out the planning and construction of these three projects separately:

- **Gerringong upgrade**, Mount Pleasant to Toolijooa Road (under construction).
- **Foxground and Berry bypass**, Toolijooa Road to Schofields Lane (in planning).
- **Berry to Bomaderry upgrade**, Schofields Lane to Cambewarra Road (in planning).

The Berry to Bomaderry upgrade would provide around 11.5 kilometres of four-lane highway with median separation between Schofields Lane, Berry and Cambewarra Road, Bomaderry.

**Key features**
The Berry to Bomaderry upgrade would include the following key features:

- Widening the Princes Highway to a four-lane highway with median separation between Schofields Lane and Cambewarra Road.
- An interchange at Meroo Road and Pestells Lane.
- A local road overpass at Strongs Road and a local road underpass at Morschels Lane.
- A part-time heavy vehicle inspection bay near Jaspers Brush.

**Key benefits**
- Improving safety for all road users and local residents accessing the Princes Highway.
- Improving traffic efficiency for road users on the NSW south coast.

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**Heavy vehicle rest area and part-time heavy vehicle inspection bay**
In response to feedback from the community and further investigations, RMS no longer proposes to build a combined northbound heavy vehicle rest area and part-time heavy vehicle inspection bay at Meroo Meadow, as part of the Berry to Bomaderry upgrade.

RMS' preferred option is now to:
- Further investigate upgrading the existing light vehicle rest area at Rotary Park on the Princes Highway, South Nowra to a heavy vehicle rest area.
- Move the part-time heavy vehicle inspection bay to an alternative location near Jaspers Brush (still within the Berry to Bomaderry upgrade).

The part-time heavy vehicle inspection bay will be included in the Berry to Bomaderry upgrade concept design and Review of Environmental Factors (REF). More information about the REF process is outlined in this update.

Preliminary investigations indicate that upgrading the Rotary Park facility to accommodate heavy vehicles appears feasible. RMS is continuing to work closely with Shoalhaven City Council and plans to carry out further investigations to better determine this.

If the upgrade of Rotary Park is not considered feasible, RMS will investigate alternative sites in consultation with Shoalhaven City Council and the community. RMS will keep the community informed as this project progresses. For more information about the heavy vehicle rest area visit the Rotary Park rest area project website at [www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects).
Refined concept design

Morschels Lane underpass

Removal of the previously proposed heavy vehicle facility at Morschels Lane and Devitts Lane

A local road underpass at Morschels Lane and Devitts Lane

Right turn in and u-turn bay

Left-in and left-out

An interchange at Meroo Road and Pestells Lane

Left-in and left-out

Right turn in and u-turn bay

Pestells Lane and Meroo Road interchange

A local road overpass at Strongs Road and Jaspers Brush Road

Right turn in and u-turn bay

Left-in and left-out

Right turn in and u-turn bay

Aerial photo

Aerial photography is dated 2010.
Refined concept design

RMS has been working with the local community to progress the planning for the Berry to Bomaderry upgrade. Community consultation, design reviews and environmental studies were carried out during 2012.

As a result of these investigations, RMS has adopted the following changes to the proposed concept design:

- Removal of the proposed heavy vehicle facility at Meroo Meadow.
  - An upgraded light and heavy vehicle rest area is now proposed at South Nowra.
  - A northbound part-time heavy vehicle inspection bay is now proposed near Jaspers Brush.
- The proposed Pestells Lane interchange has been aligned slightly to the north reducing impacts on local property owners.
- The proposed Strongs Road overpass remains and RMS will continue consulting with local residents to minimise impacts.
- The proposed left-in left-out arrangement at Boxsells Lane remains and RMS will continue consulting with the local community to minimise impacts.
- Increasing road shoulder widths to three metres where possible, and including vehicle breakdown bays at regular intervals. This is in line with the recently released Transport for NSW Breakdown Safety Strategy.
- Improving line marking and signage to better cater for cyclists.
- Improving pedestrian safety by identifying potential future pedestrian paths at all bridge structures, including creek crossings.
- An additional bus bay at Strongs Road to better cater for public transport.

Issues register

RMS has finalised an issues register which summarises questions, comments and concerns raised by the community and stakeholders about the concept design during 2012.

The final version of this issues register is available on the project website. The register offers a record of concerns raised during community focus group sessions, meetings with affected stakeholders, and from material gathered from visitors to the Berry project office. The register also details the reasoning behind decisions RMS has made about the concept design. During the REF a similar process will take place where the community and stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the final concept design in the form of submissions that will be addressed in a published Submissions Report.