



Proposed right turn changes Botany Road, Beaconsfield

Community consultation report | September 2020

Contents

1	Executive summary.....	3
1.1	Consultation summary.....	3
1.2	Summary of decision and next steps	4
2	Consultation approach	6
2.1	Consultation objectives.....	6
2.2	How consultation was done	6
2.3	Consultation findings	8
2.3.1	Questionnaire	8
2.3.2	Support for proposal	8
2.3.3	Feedback received.....	8
3	Summary of feedback and TfNSW response	9
4	Consultation outcome	14
5	Appendix A: Community information sheet and distribution area.....	15
6	Appendix B: Website sample	17
7	Appendix C: Facebook posts	18

Author:	Transport for NSW
Date:	September 2020
Version:	1
Reference:	20.322
ISBN:	978-1-922463-23-4
Division:	Greater Sydney

1 Executive summary

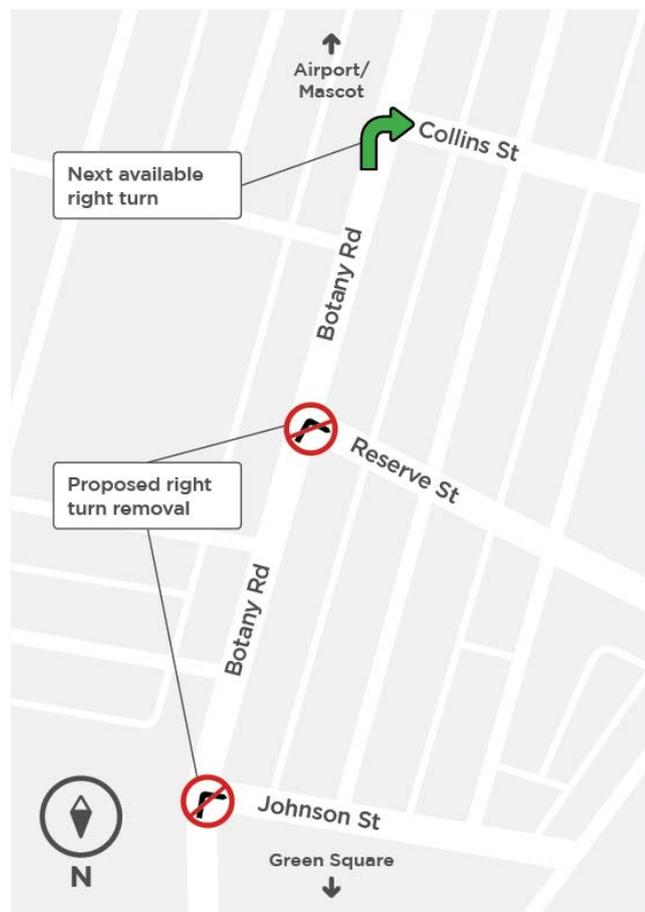
1.1 Consultation summary

This report provides a summary of the Transport for NSW (TfNSW) community consultation on the proposed removal of right turns from Botany Road, Beaconsfield, into Johnson Street and into Reserve Street.

Road users travelling southbound along this section of road experience congestion due to cars queueing to turn right from Botany Road into Johnson Street and into Reserve Street. Traffic incidents, such as rear-end and side-swiping, have been reported where vehicles weave in and out of the traffic lanes to avoid queuing vehicles.

The local community and NSW Police have shared their concerns about the risks associated with southbound traffic turning from Botany Road into Johnson Street and into Reserve Street. To help relieve traffic congestion and improve safety, TfNSW proposed to install full-time 'no right turn' restrictions into these roads.

Figure 1. Map of proposed changes



We invited the community and stakeholders to provide feedback on the proposal between Monday 13 July and Sunday 26 July. We promoted the consultation via a letterbox drop to 1,000 local residents and businesses, on social media, and on our [website](#).

The campaign reached around 265,484 people¹.

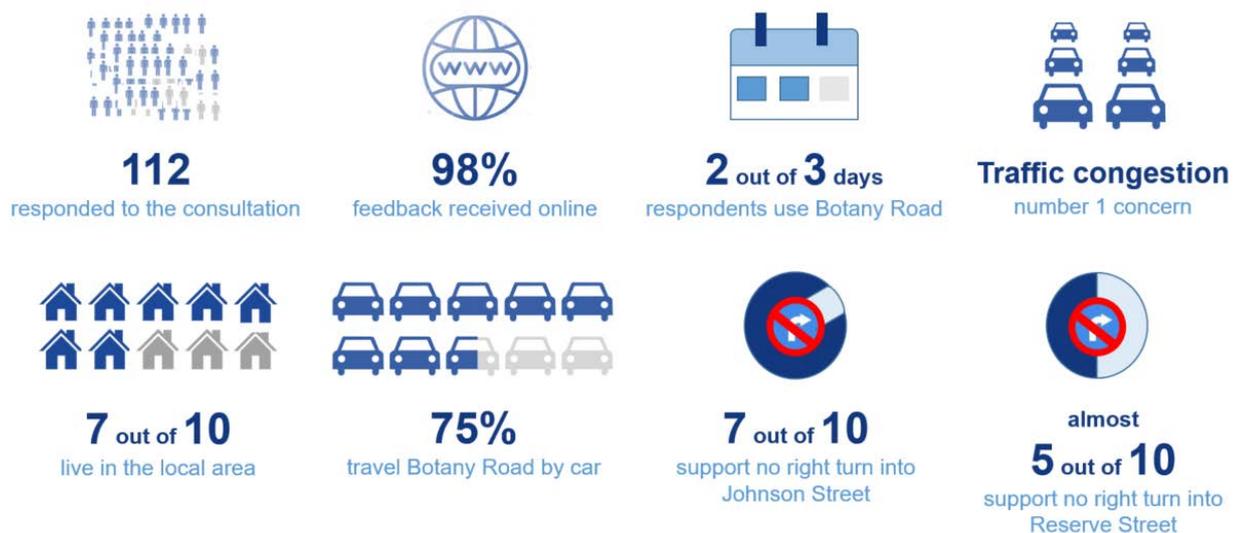
We received 112 responses from community members, stakeholders and from the Member for Heffron.

Overall, the majority of respondents support the removal of the right turn into Johnson Street, and just over half do not support the removal of the right turn into Reserve Street.

We also received 91 comments where people shared their concerns and suggestions. The key topics included:

- concerns about increased traffic congestion
- suggestions to remove right turns from other roads
- concerns about reduced access to businesses and residential properties
- suggestions to change current parking restrictions in the area
- suggestions to implement the proposed right turn restrictions during peak hours only.

Figure 2. Snapshot of key consultation findings



1.2 Summary of decision and next steps

TfNSW would like to thank everyone who took the time to consider our proposal and provide feedback.

Following careful consideration of all responses to the consultation, we have decided to proceed with the proposal and install full-time 'no right turns' from Botany Road into Johnston Street and from Botany Road into Reserve Street, to relieve traffic congestion in these areas and improve safety.

¹ This number includes the combined reach of two Facebook posts, Facebook responses, unique website visits, questionnaire responses, email correspondence and phone calls received and sent, and letterbox drop recipients.

We received additional feedback that was outside the scope of works for this project, and as outlined in [section 3](#) of the report, we will share this information with the respective organisations and have noted some for future planning.

It is expected that the right turn restrictions will come into effect by the end of October 2020 and we will notify the community and stakeholders in advance of the changes being implemented.

2 Consultation approach

Consultation was targeted at Beaconsfield local residents, businesses and stakeholders, regular users of the road, as well as people from surrounding suburbs.

Due to the COVID-19 situation and social distancing requirements we designed the consultation to minimise risk to our staff, the community and stakeholders.

Consultation was open for two weeks between Monday 13 July and Sunday 26 July, and we provided five options for people to safely share their feedback.

2.1 Consultation objectives

- To inform community and stakeholders of the proposed changes and the benefits
- To encourage the community and stakeholders to have their say on the proposed changes
- To build a database of community members interested or affected by the project who we could continue to engage with and inform as the project progressed
- To report project learnings and outcomes from stakeholder and community consultation

2.2 How consultation was done

TfNSW received 112 responses via four consultation channels:

- Online questionnaire
- Email
- Comments on the Facebook posts
- Phone conversations

We also offered the option for people to post their written comments to us however we didn't receive any responses via this consultation channel.

More than half of the responses were received through the online questionnaire. **Figure 3** breaks down the number of responses received via each consultation channel and **Table 1** outlines the ways we promoted the consultation and the number of people reached.

Figure 3. Channels used to collect feedback and the number of responses received²

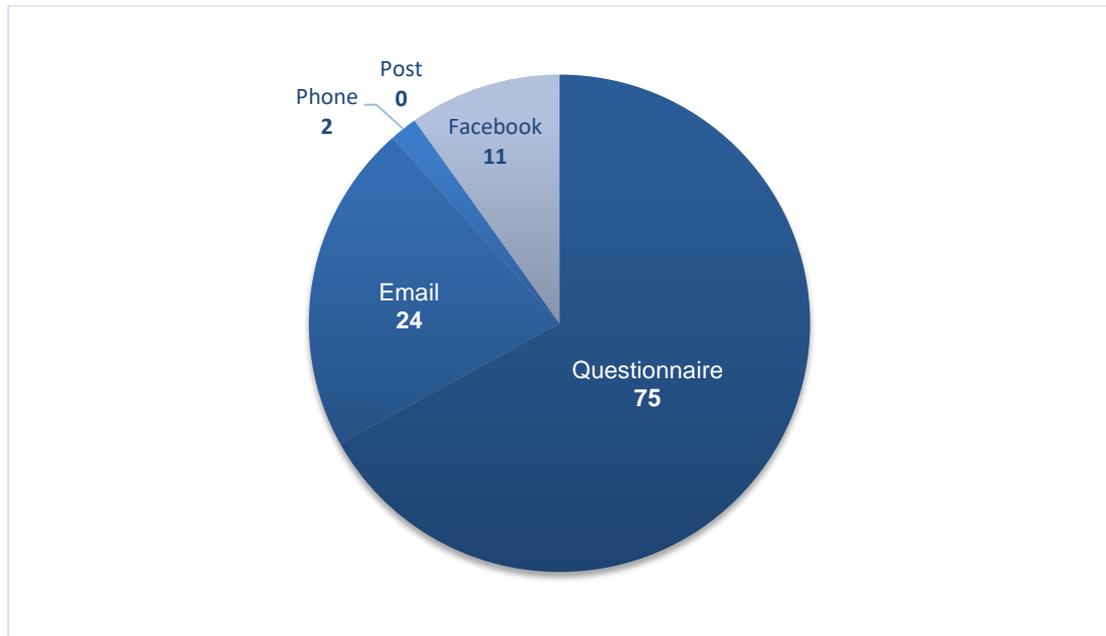


Table 1. Communication tools and channels used to promote the consultation and the number of people reached

Communication tool / channel	Dates	Target audience	Detail	Audience reach ³
Letterbox drop (Appendix A)	13 July	Local residents and businesses	1,000 information sheets	1,000
Email outbound	13 July	NSW Police and City of Sydney Council stakeholders	Contained information about the project and link to the website	2
Website (Appendix B)	13 July	People interested in project	Contained information about the project	518
Facebook post ad 1 (Appendix C)	15 July	Residents and businesses within Beaconsfield and surrounding suburbs	Advert with link to the website	141,385
Facebook post ad 2 (Appendix C)	22 July	Residents and businesses within Beaconsfield and surrounding suburbs	Advert with link to the website	122,467

² Facebook comments that only contained information about 'tagged' people were not counted as a response.

³ During the consultation period.

2.3 Consultation findings

2.3.1 Questionnaire

Key insights from the questionnaire responses include:

- 72% are from the local Beaconsfield area (postcode 2015)
- 80% live, work or own a business in the area
- 75% typically travel through the area by car, while 18% walk or cycle
- 80% are regular users of the road, travelling at least 20 days or more a month.

2.3.2 Support for proposal

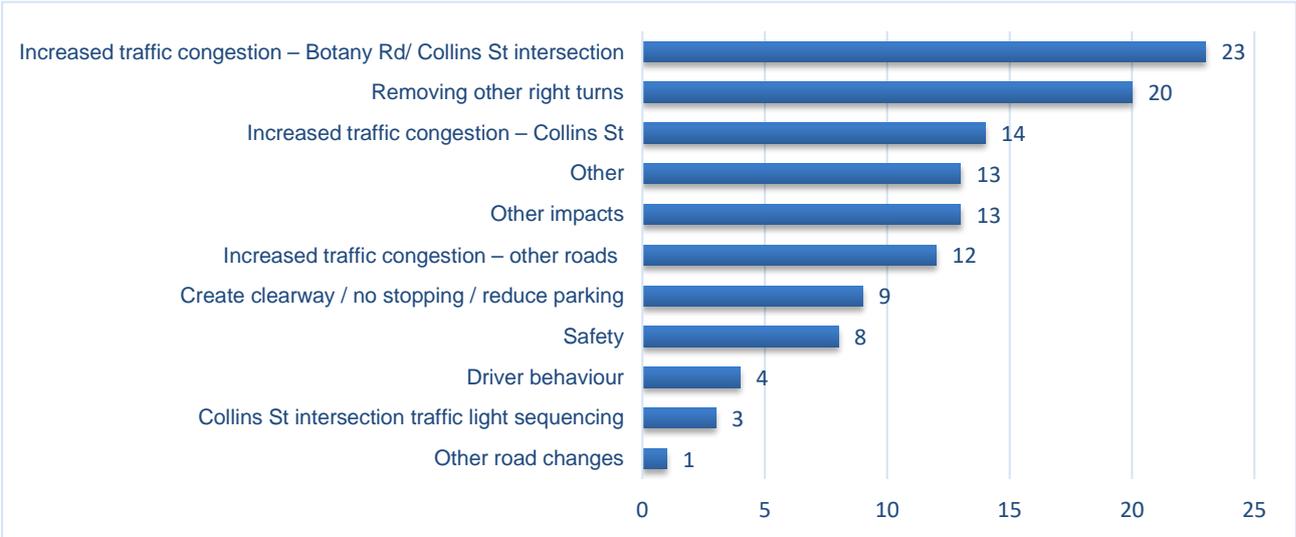
- The majority are supportive of the removal of the right turn from Botany Road into Johnson Street, with 69% supportive of the change and 31% not supportive of the change.
- Just over half are not supportive of removing the right turn from Botany Road into Reserve Street, with 56% not supportive of the change and 44% supportive of the change.

2.3.3 Feedback received

We received 91 comments through the questionnaire, Facebook, email and phone. The main topics discussed include concerns about impacts such as increased traffic congestion and reduced access to businesses and residential properties, and suggestions such as removing right turns from alternative roads, implementing the proposed changes for peak hours only, and changing parking restrictions – **Figure 4** outlines the key topics raised.

You can read a summary of the feedback and our response in [section 3](#).

Figure 4. Key topics raised and the number of times each was mentioned



3 Summary of feedback and TfNSW response

We have summarised the 91 comments received and provided our responses in the table below.

Category	Feedback summary	Transport for NSW response
Thanks	Thank you for letting me have my say.	Thank you for your feedback.
	Thank you for making this change.	
Increased traffic congestion	Concerns that the changes will cause increased traffic congestion on Botany Road, at the intersection of Botany Road and Collins Street, and on local roads including Collins Street, Victoria Lane, Queen Street, William Street, Beaconsfield Lane and Ralph Street.	<p>The proposal aims to address traffic congestion and safety concerns on Botany Road at the right turns into Johnson Street and into Reserve Street.</p> <p>TfNSW will monitor congestion on Botany Road and at the Collins Street intersection and may implement changes to the traffic light sequencing if warranted.</p> <p>Traffic congestion on local roads is monitored by the City of Sydney Council (Council) – we will pass these concerns on to them.</p>
Other impacts	Concerns that the changes will have a negative impact on access, including for pedestrians and cyclists, access to residential garages, to local businesses (including for delivery drivers), to local roads, and to the northern part of suburb.	<p>TfNSW will continue to monitor traffic congestion and safety on Botany Road and at the Collins Street intersection.</p> <p>Vehicles accessing local roads or residences will experience a slight increase in travel times due to these changes. However, local road users travelling on Botany Road also experience improved traffic flow.</p> <p>Traffic congestion and access issues on local roads is monitored by the local Council. We will pass these comments on to the Council for their consideration.</p>
	Buses make it hard for cars to pass and the proposed changes will make this worse.	<p>Congestion can make it difficult for traffic to move between lanes. Removal of the right turn into Johnson Street and into Reserve Street will improve traffic flow in this area of Botany Road.</p> <p>In June 2020, we also removed three parking spaces on the eastern side of Botany Road, south of Cressy Street, to help improve traffic flow in the area.</p>

Category	Feedback summary	Transport for NSW response
Driver behaviour	Comments about current unsafe driver behaviour including speeding vehicles and unsafe truck driving.	We will pass these comments on to the local NSW Police and the Council. Community members should report any illegal driver behaviour directly to the local police.
Safety	Concerns for pedestrian and cyclist safety, particularly at the Collins Street intersection and crossing Collins Street.	The TfNSW network and safety team will continue to monitor road safety on Botany Road and at the Collins Street intersection. Community members should report any illegal driver behaviour directly to the local police. We will pass the comments relating to Collins Street to the Council as it is a local road.
	Concerns for safety of residents due to increased traffic on local roads.	We will pass comments relating to local roads on to the Council.
Remove alternate right turns	Suggestions to remove alternate right turns, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right turn from Johnson Street into Botany Road • Right turn from Reserve Street into Botany Road • Right turn from O'Riordan Street into Reserve Street • Right turn from Botany Road into Cressy Street. 	Removal of right turns from local roads such as Johnson Street and Reserve Street into Botany Road are for the City of Sydney Council to consider. We will pass these comments on to them. Suggestions for changes to right turns from roads managed by the NSW Government into side roads have been noted for future consideration.
Create clearway / no stopping / reduce parking	Suggestions to free up curb-side lanes by installing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/7 clearway along Botany Road (at Johnson and Reserve) • 'No stopping' restriction on Botany Road (at Reserve Street and Collins Street intersections) • 'Keep clear' road marking on Botany Road • 'Keep clear' road marking on Collins Street at Beaconsfield Lane • Install roundabouts or 'keep clear zones' on the crossroads along Collins Street • Limit all day parking on Collins Street • Changes on other local roads. 	Changes to clearways, 'No Stopping' signage and 'Keep Clear' line marking on Botany Road are outside the scope of this project. These comments have been noted by TfNSW for future planning. To help with traffic flow in the area, in June this year, we removed three parking spaces on Botany Road, south of Cressy Street. TfNSW does not support the suggestion to install a roundabout at Botany Road and Collins Street because the size of the area is not suitable and it may not be efficient given traffic volumes and movements. Suggestions for roundabouts and changes to parking on Collins Street and other local roads will need to be raised with the local Council. We will pass this information on to them.

Category	Feedback summary	Transport for NSW response
Collins Street intersection traffic light sequencing	Suggestion to change traffic light sequencing to allow more time for traffic turning right.	TfNSW will monitor traffic at the intersection and may change light sequencing if warranted. The through traffic along Botany Road is prioritised as the road is an important traffic movement corridor.
Other road changes	Install a new 'right turn only' lane on Botany Rd into Johnson Street.	The Botany Road lane widths in this area are too narrow to fit a dedicated right turn bay from Botany Road into Johnson Street. The road would need to be widened and this is outside the scope of this project.
Other comments	Make the 'no right turn' restrictions for peak hour traffic only.	TfNSW prefers to make the restrictions full-time to avoid road user confusion by providing a more consistent road network to assist in modifying road user behaviour and maintaining compliance. Part-time restrictions generally have lower compliance and can become a safety risk for pedestrians.
	Install easy-to-read signage.	This comment has been noted by the team who will organise installation of the signs.
	Install traffic lights at Reserve Street and Botany Street.	Installing traffic lights at Reserve Street and Botany Street intersection so close to the existing signals at Botany Road and Epsom Road would hold back traffic flow.
	Will TfNSW install shared use paths in the area?	The installation of shared paths is outside the scope of this project. We will pass this suggestion on to the local Council for their consideration and note it for future transport planning.
	Install a zebra (pedestrian) crossing on Reserve Street.	As Reserve Street is a local road, the installation of a pedestrian crossing is for the local Council to consider – we will pass this suggestion on to them.
	The Reserve Street turn is not dangerous as it is just after the lights at Epsom Road which requires motorists to slow down.	Although vehicles may have slowed down at the lights, when they queue to turn right traffic flow can be reduced and the risk of incidents, including rear-end crashes and side-swiping, is increased as vehicles weave in and out of the traffic lanes.

Category	Feedback summary	Transport for NSW response
	Install speed cameras on Botany Road between Green Square and Beaconsfield Street.	We will pass this suggestion on to the Centre for Road safety team. We encourage community members to share their speed camera location suggestions via our Safer Roads NSW website: https://www.saferoadsnsw.com.au/haveyoursayspeedcameras.aspx
	Install more pedestrian crossings on Botany Road, Collins Street and at intersections.	We have noted the suggestions for pedestrian crossings on Botany Road and at the Collins Street intersection for future planning consideration. Regarding the suggestions for local roads, we will pass these on to Council to consider.
	Install speed restricting infrastructure on local roads.	The Council manages local roads so we will pass on this suggestion for their consideration.
	Allow a right turn into Bourke Road on Gardeners Road (so traffic can flow into Campbell Road).	This is outside the scope of this project but we have noted it for future planning.
	Direct access to the northern portions of O'Riordan Street is difficult when coming from Southern Cross Drive.	This is outside the scope of this project but we have noted it for future planning.
	Consider installing an intersection that filters traffic between Botany Road, Bourke Street, O'Riordan Street, Huntley Street and Gardeners Road past Collins Street. Redevelop a circuit through Ralph Street, Shirley Street, Doody Street, down Gillespie Avenue to O'Riordan Street which can then filter traffic off to Gardeners Road, Bourke Road and Huntley Street.	This is outside the scope of this project but we have noted it for future planning.
	Concerns motorists are being prioritised over residents.	We carefully considered all feedback when coming to a decision on the proposal. Botany Road is a key traffic movement corridor so it's important that we support road safety and efficient traffic movement which benefits both road users and pedestrians. Residents can access local roads by turning at the Collins Street intersection, or by taking O'Riordan Street.

Category	Feedback summary	Transport for NSW response
	Concerns that the decision has been made and TfNSW will not take on feedback.	<p>We carefully considered all feedback when coming to a decision on the proposal and have outlined our responses in this table.</p> <p>Respondents were divided on the change to Reserve Street, however we received feedback that road users are concerned with traffic congestion in the area, progressing with the proposal will improve safety and traffic flow for all road users.</p>
	Provide updates on the developments in green square.	The local Council is leading the urban renewal of Green Square, please contact them for more information.
	Install lights on the Kingsway and Kiora Road Miranda.	This is outside the project area or scope. We have passed this suggestion on to the TfNSW team responsible for this area for their future planning consideration.
	Council have not listened to feedback on Reserve Street road works.	We encourage you to share this feedback with your local Council.

4 Consultation outcome

TfNSW has listened to the community and stakeholders about their safety concerns regarding traffic turning right from Botany Road into Johnston Street and into Reserve Street and proposed that these right turns be removed.

Through our consultation we found that the majority of respondents supported the removal of the right turn into Johnson Street, and respondents were almost equally divided on their support for the removal of the right turn into Reserve Street. After carefully considering the feedback provided, we will progress with the proposal.

Road and pedestrian safety is our priority and although respondents were split on the Reserve Street change, the benefits to both road users and pedestrians support the right hand turn removal. Distracted by heavy volumes of traffic, driver consideration for pedestrians is reduced and on occasion, care is not taken to see if there are people crossing when turning.

Many respondents suggested additional right turn removals should be considered. These suggestions were mainly related to right turns from local roads which are managed by the City of Sydney Council. We will ensure this feedback is passed on to Council for consideration. Suggestions made about NSW Government managed roads have been noted for consideration in future planning.

Several respondents asked that the right turns be implemented during peak hours only. Full-time right turn restrictions are a safer option to regulate and modify both road user and pedestrian behaviour. Part-time restrictions generally have lower compliance and greater inconsistency which can become a safety risk.

There was concern expressed from respondents that these changes would cause congestion and negatively impact local access to residences and businesses. TfNSW will continue to monitor congestion on Botany Road and at the Collins Street intersection and if warranted we may implement changes to light sequencing. Drivers accessing local roads may experience a slight increase in travel time due to the changes however they will also experience improved traffic flow on Botany Road. Residents will be able to access local roads by turning right at the Collins Street intersection or by taking O'Riordan Street. Congestion and access issues on local roads is monitored by the City of Sydney Council and so we will pass on these comments.

It is expected that the right turn restrictions will come into effect by the end of October 2020. We will notify the community and stakeholders in advance of this change being implemented via a letterbox drop, email, social media post and roadside electronic signage (or VMS).

5 Appendix A: Community information sheet and distribution area

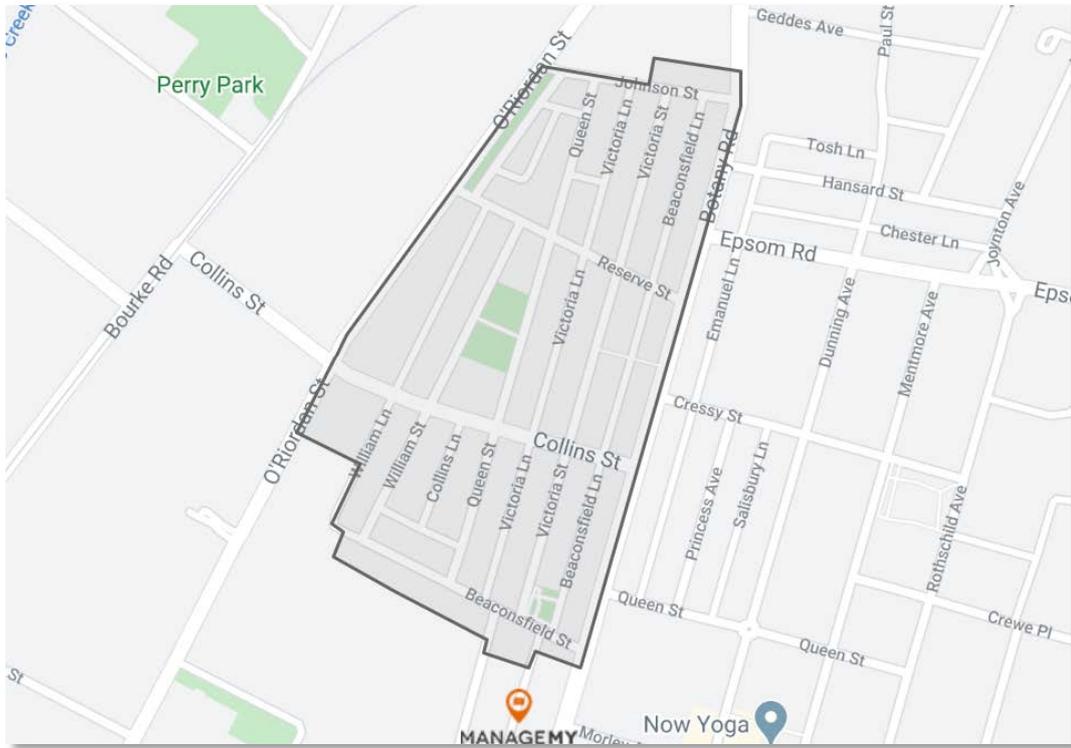
Front of information sheet:

The front of the information sheet features the NSW Government logo at the top left. The main heading reads "Have your say Proposed right turn changes on Botany Road, Beaconsfield" with the date "July 2020". A paragraph states: "Transport for NSW has listened to the community's safety concerns and is proposing to remove two right turns from Botany Road, Beaconsfield, to relieve traffic congestion and improve safety." A map on the right shows Botany Road with a green arrow indicating a "Next available right turn" at Collins St and two red 'no right turn' signs indicating "Proposed right turn removal" at Reserve St and Johnson St. A URL "roads-maritime.transport.nsw.gov.au" is at the bottom.

Back of information sheet:

The back of the information sheet contains text explaining the proposal: "We are proposing to install full-time 'No Right Turn' restrictions from Botany Road into Johnson Street and from Botany Road into Reserve Road, which would reduce vehicles queuing improving traffic flow and safety." It includes sections for "How to access local roads" (via traffic lights at Collins Street) and "More information" (visit nswroads.work/botanyrd or call 0408 064 433). A dark blue box on the right titled "Have your say" lists ways to provide feedback: online questionnaire, emailing Benjamin.borger@transport.nsw.gov.au, phoning 0408 064 433, and posting written comments to Transport for NSW, B. Borger – Network and Safety Services, PO Box 973, Parramatta, NSW, 2124. It notes "Consultation closes midnight Sunday 26 July 2020." At the bottom, a white box with an icon of three people states: "This document contains important information about public transport projects in your area. If you require the services of an interpreter, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 0408 064 433. The interpreter will then assist you with translation." A URL "roads-maritime.transport.nsw.gov.au" is at the bottom.

The information sheet was distributed by letterbox drop to residents and businesses in the following area:



6 Appendix B: Website sample

Proposed right turn changes on Botany Road, Beaconsfield

Transport for NSW is proposing to install full-time 'No Right Turn' restrictions from Botany Road into Johnson Street and from Botany Road into Reserve Road, to relieve traffic congestion and improve safety.

Project information

Background

We have listened to the local community and NSW Police who have raised concerns about the risks associated with southbound traffic turning from Botany Road into Johnson Street, Reserve Road, Beaconsfield.

Vehicles queuing to turn right reduces traffic flow with incidents including rear-end and side-swiping reported as vehicles weave in and out of the traffic lanes.

We are proposing to install full-time 'No Right Turn' restrictions at these roads to improve traffic flow and safety.

Vehicles that normally turn right at these roads will be able to access local roads by turning at the traffic lights at Collins Street.

Community involvement

nswroads.work/botanyrd

7 Appendix C: Facebook posts

Image of 13 July 2020 post (you can also view the post on [Facebook](#)):



Image of 22 July 2020 post (you can also view the post on [Facebook](#)):

