

Berry bypass Community review group update

The fifth community review group discussion was held on 26 October 2011.

The group recapped the last meeting where it had at large advocated a focus to be on the current alignment with options along and in the vicinity of this alignment to be further developed. This involves continuing with two discussions:

- a focus on the Berry bridge, to improve its aesthetics and form, with the aim to keep it as low as possible and minimise the environmental and community impact.
- a focus on examining landscape ideas and designs for the changed space in the north Berry precinct.

These discussions need to take place and continue to feed back into the community review group. These discussions were endorsed at the meeting with agreement that an open and transparent process was vital with meeting statements after each meeting to be issued.

Berry bridge and north Berry interchange

The group discussed the work done since the last meeting on investigating ways to lower the bridge and reduce its visual impact and amenity.

Members of the group are working on design alternatives. This includes an idea to cut deeper into the ridge at the eastern end of the study area in order to lower the height of the bridge. This idea aims to address the high volume of surplus spoil in the original proposal with the RTA working on estimating costs to help with getting best value for money.

To help review group participants think about more ideas for the bridge design, several independent experts experienced in architecture, road and bridge design and construction, will work together over two one-day workshops. Facilitated by an independent engineering professional, the workshops and ideas raised will be written up in a report for publication in late November.

The community review group endorsed this approach as an important way to move forward and agreed the community review group members currently involved in these design discussions would operate as the group's representatives in this process.

North Berry precinct

A discussion took place on how to examine ways to reduce the impact of the highway alignment in the north Berry precinct. This can be done through a process of looking at the landscape and how to design this newly created space. This will include understanding what is known to date about the Berry bypass and what the community values about this area. Discussion will include design ideas for the streets, public spaces, recreation areas, landscape, fences, noise walls, paths, materials and views.

The group agreed it would be best to help the design process by starting with individual resident meetings along North Street and a small section of George Street, followed by a number of workshops with an independent facilitator, designers and landscape experts.

The group agreed both approaches needed to be open and transparent to be successful. The community review group will continue to meet regularly and receive progress updates and provide input.

Meeting notes and the presentations are on the community review group documents page on RTA website www.rta.nsw.gov.au/fbb

For more information:

Project information line (free call) 1800 506 976

foxgroundandberrybypass@rta.nsw.gov.au

www.rta.nsw.gov.au/fbb

Berry project office open 10am – 5pm each Friday, Broughton Court Shop

3/113 Queen Street Berry

Placed by the RTA on behalf of the community review group

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