

28 MAY 2012

Overview of the Southern Bypass Route Report and Decision Process

Foxground and Berry bypass review

Over the past five months a Technical Investigation Group has been undertaking a costing review to test the feasibility of a southern Berry bypass against the northern option presented to the community in December last year. This report has now been completed and submitted to the Independent Review team for their consideration.

Technical Investigation Group report

The Technical Investigation Group (TIG) is made up of Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) personnel and external industry experts. The TIG has drawn on the knowledge of a core team of 12 experts and professionals with many years of construction industry experience. In addition, the TIG used the technical resources of several organisations and contractors to conduct field investigations and computer modelling to develop and understand the issues presented by each route.

The *Route Feasibility Comparative Cost Estimate Report* details findings from technical investigations carried out between February and June 2012 by the TIG. The TIG's report will be delivered to RMS' Director of Infrastructure Development Division.

Independent Reviewer Report

The independent review team is led by senior construction managers. It is backed up by external experts in water engineering and a separate division of RMS specialising in cost estimating.

As observers and challengers of the TIG's assessment process, the independent review team will also produce a report describing its review of the TIG's work and how it ensured the process was thorough and impartial. This report will be delivered to RMS' General Manager Project Development.

The Minister's Decision

The Minister for Roads and Ports will be briefed by the RMS' Chief Executive who will make a recommendation about the way forward to the NSW Government.

Following a decision by the Minister for Roads and Ports, the *Route Feasibility Comparative Cost Estimate Report*, along with the independent review team's due diligence report, will be published on the project website.

How we got here

Project milestones include:

- early 2006 - development of route options for the Gerringong to Bomaderry Princes Highway upgrade begins.
- 2009 - a preferred Foxground and Berry bypass route, including a northern bypass of Berry, is finalised.
- December 2011 – a revised preferred northern alignment is announced as a result of extended community consultation.
- February 2012 - Minister for Roads and Ports requests RMS conduct a detailed cost evaluation of a southern Berry bypass route following a submission by a community member in December 2011.

Roads and Maritime Services



RMS project achievements. Have a look.

www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/resources/documents/reports/achievements_display_book.pdf

The southern route community submission in 2011 outlined projected cost savings and several qualitative benefits to Berry including keeping the bypass away from dividing the older and newer development areas.

The *Route Feasibility Comparative Cost Estimate Report* compares two estimates of the whole Foxground and Berry bypass project cost including:

- the cost impact of the preferred northern bypass alignment; and
- the cost impact of the suggested southern route.

Before the southern route investigation, the Foxground and Berry bypass project with a bypass to the north of Berry had been developed to a concept design. The report describes the development of the design for the southern route to establish a “base case” from which technical criteria could be investigated. Most of the Technical Investigation Group’s work has been in this area.

Subsequent design revisions from the TIG and community ideas identified during the investigation process were included where feasible. In other cases, provisional items were created to allow investigation and costing within the time available.

Comparison based on same route length

The suggested southern route ends approximately at Croziers Road extending the overall length of the Foxground and Berry bypass project by approximately 1.2 kilometres. For the purposes of the investigation only, the end point of the preferred northern alignment design has been extended to the same end point near Croziers Road.

Details of the report

The *Route Feasibility Comparative Cost Estimate Report* is designed to inform the community, RMS and the NSW Government of the cost feasibility of a southern bypass route. If a decision is made by the Minister to proceed

further, community consultation will continue through the formal environmental assessment planning process where all qualitative issues will be considered.

The report details:

- The results of technical investigations with respect to flooding and geotechnical information. This data assisted the construction experts on how best to overcome the issues presented in constructing each route.
- Potential methods to construct bridge and earth structures; sourcing and movement of large volumes of rock and earth; associated temporary works; and activity schedules calculated to minimise construction durations. These results are critical to producing the best cost estimates for each route.
- Cost estimates prefaced by descriptions of the methodology used to produce them. Explanations of risk contingency allowances are given along with how they have been applied to the base case design, adjustment sums and provisional sums.

Issues raised by the community during the review process have been considered by the Technical Investigation Group and published in the Issues, Actions and Outcomes Register. This document, along with Independent Reviewer and TIG meeting notes, are on the project website.

RMS will continue to hold community information sessions and open the Berry project office (for extended hours) to provide more detail on the decision and to work with the community on the next phase of the project.

For further enquiries: Foxground and Berry bypass project team

Visit the project office on Fridays between 10am – 5pm (Broughton Court) shop 3/113 Queen Street, Berry, PO Box Q410 QVB Post office, Sydney NSW 2000

www.rms.nsw.gov.au/fbb | T 1800 506 976 (free call) | E foxgroundandberrybypass@rms.nsw.gov.au
