

To the householder



Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services

MAY 2012

Dear resident

Foxground and Berry bypass, Princes Highway upgrade Southern Berry bypass review update and next steps

As you may be aware, five months ago a Technical Investigation Group was formed to undertake a costing review to test the feasibility of a southern Berry bypass against the northern option presented to the community in December last year. The Technical Investigation Group is made up of Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) personnel and external industry experts.

These investigations have included a lot of community dialogue – over 15 community meetings in the past five months, and a rigorous technical analysis. **This process is now coming to a conclusion.**

How has the review been documented?

A *Route Feasibility Comparative Cost Estimate Report* details the findings of the Technical Investigation Group. The report compares costs of the preferred northern alignment with the suggested southern route for the whole Foxground and Berry bypass project.

The *Route Feasibility Comparative Cost Estimate Report* has been prepared and submitted to an independent review team who are scrutinising it to ensure the investigation process has been thorough and impartial. Upon receiving advice from the independent review, RMS' Chief Executive 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.

We have also been working to resolve northern route issues. At all times the investigation has sought to make a like for like comparison for the review. For example, 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.

The *Route Feasibility Comparative Cost Estimate Report* contains:

- The results of technical investigations into flooding and geotechnical impacts.
- Construction methodologies for:
 - Bridge and earth structures.
 - Sourcing and transportation of fill material.
 - Associated temporary works.
 - Construction activity schedules to minimise construction impacts.



RMS project achievements. Have a look.

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

- Cost estimates for the preferred northern alignment and the suggested southern route, with a description of methods used to calculate costs and risk contingencies.
- The process used to establish a 'base case' for each route.
- Subsequent design revisions to the initial base case during the investigation process.
- Provisional items developed during the review period through community consultation.

RMS has followed this review process to achieve the best outcome for Berry and surrounding communities by providing a balanced and robust report to Government.

Community suggestions raised during the review process have been considered by the Technical Investigation Group. Many suggestions have been incorporated into the *Route Feasibility Comparative Cost Estimate Report*. The issues and the outcomes relating to community suggestions have been described in the Issues, Actions and Outcomes register which is published on the project website.

What will happen after a decision is made on the costing review?

- RMS will hold a community information session to present the findings of both the southern Berry bypass review and the independent review.
- The Berry project office will open for extended hours so that you can meet with members of the project staff and the independent review team.

RMS will inform the community on the timing and location of these discussions on the project website, in the project office window, on roadside electronic messaging signs and in local media advertisements.

If you require further information on the project please call the project information line on 1800 506 976 (free call) or visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au/fbb.

Yours faithfully



Brad Turner
RMS Southern Regional Manager