

# To the householder



Transport  
Roads & Maritime  
Services

AUGUST 2012

Dear resident

## Foxground and Berry bypass, Princes Highway upgrade

The Minister for Roads and Ports announced on 25 June 2012 that the northern route for a Berry bypass as part of the proposed Princes Highway upgrade would proceed to environmental assessment. Work on the details of the northern route had continued at the same time as the southern option review was underway. This included 12 community workshops held specifically to discuss the design of the bypass to the north of Berry.

### Proposed Victoria Street closure

One of the important topics at the workshops was Victoria Street and the future use of Mark Radium Park. Victoria Street currently connects to the Princes Highway at the southern edge of Berry. Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) has been carrying out investigations, analysis and community discussions on the design for Victoria Street since 2008.

Three options were considered at Victoria Street:

- Maintaining two-way travel adjacent to the highway between Queen and Victoria streets, with a southbound on-ramp south of Victoria Street.
- Providing one-way travel between Queen and Victoria streets, with a southbound on-ramp south of Victoria Street.
- Closing Victoria Street (by creating a cul-de-sac), with a southbound on-ramp from Queen Street providing access to the new bypass.

17 selection criteria were used to assess the options based on the project objectives and the design requirements of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. RMS acknowledges community opinion is divided on this issue but the nature of environmental assessments require that a preferred option is recommended.

### How the proposed Victoria Street closure was selected

At the Kangaroo Valley Road interchange and Victoria Street precinct workshops held over the past six months, the following issues were raised:

- Community concerns regarding the closure of Victoria Street and the potential impact on the community and traffic management in this area.
- Benefits of closing Victoria Street. Most notably improving road safety for the school age children and senior citizens in this area by significantly reducing traffic. Preserving the future use of Mark Radium Park.
- Importance of the chosen option meeting the requirements of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure in order to progress the project.
- Progressing the concept design and environmental assessment to fulfil the commitment of allocated funds for the Foxground and Berry bypass.



RMS project achievements. Have a look.

[www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/resources/documents/reports/achievements\\_display\\_book.pdf](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/resources/documents/reports/achievements_display_book.pdf)

# Foxground and Berry bypass – Princes Highway upgrade

These workshop discussions formed the basis of the 17 selection criteria used to assess the three designs:

- Improve road safety.
- Improve efficiency of the Princes Highway between Toolijooa Road and Schofields Lane.
- Support regional and local economic development.
- Provide value for money.
- Enhance potential beneficial environmental effects and manage potential adverse environmental impacts.
- Optimise the benefits and minimise adverse impacts on the local social environment.
- Manage the upgrading of the route in accordance with ecologically sustainable development principles.
- Strategic justification.
- Project justification.
- Traffic and transport
- Impact on flora and fauna.
- Surface and groundwater.
- Landscape and visual amenity.
- Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal heritage.
- Land use/property.
- Social/economic implications.
- Noise and vibration impact.

RMS considers closing Victoria Street would best meet the project objectives after this option ranked marginally highest out of the three options when assessed against the 17 selection criteria. Closing Victoria Street will be included as the preferred option in the environmental assessment documents to be sent to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

The benefits of the proposed closure are that it would:

- Have the lowest development footprint.
- Impact least on Mark Radium Park (including the duck pond).
- Provide the greatest improvement in pedestrian access.

## What's next?

RMS has advised the working group that additional investigations into options for Victoria Street would delay the environmental assessment. RMS will propose the closure option in the environmental assessment, but will also include the analysis of the three options so the community and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure will have all available information.

RMS intends to submit the environmental assessment to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure by September 2012 and it is scheduled to be displayed later this year for community comment.

During the environmental assessment display period, RMS will encourage the community to provide feedback through the formal Department of Planning and Infrastructure submissions process. We will keep you informed as to how to do this and when the display period starts.

RMS will ensure the project boundaries would allow for any of the three options to be built.

If you require further information on the project please call the project information line on 1800 506 976 (free call), visit us any Friday at the project shopfront in Berry or visit [www.rms.nsw.gov.au/fbb](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/fbb).

Yours faithfully



Brad Turner

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