

Regional Manager's weekly update

I noted last week that the Route Feasibility Comparative Cost Estimate Report (the Technical Investigation Group's analysis) for the southern route option has now been completed and submitted to the Independent Review team for their consideration. The Independent Review (IR) team has now finished its analysis. The IR team have been undertaking their review via both an iterative process, working with the Technical Investigation Group (TIG) throughout the investigations, as well as a separate analysis of the TIGs final report.

The IR team are providing their report to RMS's General Manager Project Development and then to the RMS Chief Executive who will forward the reports and a recommendation to the Minister for Roads and Ports.

As many of you probably know, the Technical Investigation Group and the Independent Reviewer made considerable efforts to fully investigate all submissions for the Berry bypass southern route option cost review. Prior to the publication of the reports, you can see the results of their investigations in the Issues, Actions and Outcomes Register on this website.

Most of you should have received a letter from me over the past few days explaining what information the report will contain. We have included a copy in this week's update in case you missed it. We have also published a fact sheet on the website that accompanies this letter.

The Issues, Actions and Outcomes Register has been closed out, this is available for your review online. To help the community better understand some technical responses in the Register, next week we will also be publishing an abbreviated, plain English version.

I am mindful that there have been many community meetings over the past five months. We have tried to ensure that all the details of this work is recorded and available to the community. For example, a detailed overview of the working group discussions about the northern alignment issues, the actions taken and outcomes of these have been published through this month's Berry Town Crier. In addition, we have included a fact sheet on design development and the costing process to help people understand what was involved in the bypass review.

As I discussed last week, I have received some requests to see the report before the Minister's decision is announced. Our commitment remains to publish the report and discuss its findings in an open and transparent manner with you as soon as a decision has been made. We are planning a Q & A session and will be opening the Berry project office for extended hours so you can come and discuss the report if you wish.

On a further note, whichever route is chosen, it will go through an environmental assessment process under the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure. There will be opportunity for further community comment and consideration in this process.

I want to thank the local community for their contribution to the Berry bypass route review. I know I speak for all the southern region project team when thanking you and saying we look forward to your continued involvement in the Berry Bypass project.

Brad Turner

RMS Southern Region Regional Manager

5 June 2012