

10 July 2012

REGIONAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

I would like to start this week's update with a quote from the South Coast Register editorial of 27 June, which I feel captures much of the community sentiment we have heard since the announcement:

"While the exercise raised anxiety and cost a significant amount of money, at least the homework has been done and some certainty established... This is good news not just for Berry but for the entire Shoalhaven because it means planning can now go to the next stage, which is a complex environmental assessment... there is forward momentum. The decision to go north means the dream of a vastly improved highway is heading closer towards becoming a reality."

The bypass review process has been one of RMS's most collaborative and engaged projects. [Read more >>](#)

Included in this week's web update:

- [Community questions](#) and answers following the Minister's route decision announcement on 25 June 2012, including those from the community meeting on 3 July 2012;
- An updated [meeting register](#);
- [An issues analysis table](#) of remaining concerns as expressed by some members of the community, including actions identified to close these; and
- [Additional responses](#) made to these members of the community.

Since December 2011, RMS has had almost 50 meetings with the community. These included five community question and answer sessions, thirteen progress and coordination meetings of the technical information group, thirteen working group meetings, twenty meetings with stakeholders, residents, the Berry Alliance, and the Berry Public School. A register of these meetings is available [here](#).

RMS has also incorporated community suggestions into the design it is taking forward through the environmental assessment process.

Following the Minister's announcement two weeks ago, our project office in Berry has had more than 200 community members stop by and we have had over 2000 hits on the project website.

RMS held a community question and answer session on Tuesday 3 July 2012 at the Berry School of Arts. The bypass review report findings were explained and subject matter experts, the independent reviewer and the project team answered questions from the community. About 200 community members attended.

Roads & Maritime Services

Moving forward, community engagement will be through the environmental assessment process, under the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. Read more...

Environmental Assessment Process

Currently RMS is finalising the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. This process is being led by Julian Watson, the RMS Southern Region Project Development Officer. Julian is an experienced environmental planner with a strong background in major infrastructure projects.

In late 2012, the EA will be placed on public display, and formal submissions will be invited. Any submissions received will be referred to RMS and design revisions will be made if relevant and required. Finally, the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure will decide whether to approve the project. To see a more detailed explanation of this process, [click here](#).

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that we will be changing our web updates from weekly to monthly. This will begin after Tuesday, 17 July. We acknowledge there is an ongoing need for engagement and transparency and so we will continue our practice of publishing community enquiries and information on the website for all to see. After next Tuesday's update, all web updates will occur on the third Tuesday of every month. The project office will remain open every Friday between 10am – 5pm.

Community involvement of residents and stakeholders in the Berry and Foxground areas will continue to be integral to the project's success.

Brad Turner

Regional Manager RMS Southern Region