

To the **householder**



MARCH 2009

**Re: Gerringong to Bomaderry
Princes Highway upgrade
Project Update**

Dear resident,

The RTA is continuing to plan a program of work for upgrading the Princes Highway between Gerringong and Bomaderry.

In 2008 the opportunity to participate in the consultation process was embraced by community members, organisations, government agencies and other stakeholders. The project benefited by robust attendance at the community information sessions; thousands of visits to the Berry project office and receipt of more than 1,900 submissions during the display of the route and access options.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your involvement to date and keep you informed about the way forward. We greatly appreciate the time and effort so many community members have dedicated to providing us with their views and feedback.

As a result, considerable progress was made in 2008, with a preferred option for the highway upgrade identified, except for four kilometres over Toolijooa Ridge. Access options for the towns of Gerringong and Berry were also displayed for public comment and evaluated through a value management process. The Access Value Management Workshop Report has been published and is available to view on the project website - www.rta.nsw.gov.au/gerringongtobomaderry

In 2009, we will continue active consultation with the community and other stakeholders as our planning progresses through the following stages:

- **Finalising the preferred option:**

Announcements regarding the preferred option over Toolijooa Ridge (the Pink or the Green route) and the preferred access arrangements for Gerringong and Berry are due by mid 2009. While the preferred option is being finalised, environmental assessment and construction staging is also being further investigated.

To date, geotechnical investigations and flora and fauna surveys have been carried out around the Toolijooa Ridge to assist with the decision making. Before a determination can be made on whether the Pink or Green option will form part of the preferred option, further consideration also needs to be given to a range of factors including the need for a

third (climbing) lane in each direction over the ridge, the preservation of a fauna corridor, the preservation of Aboriginal and European cultural heritage and visual amenity.

The outcomes of the access value management workshop will also be considered before the announcement on the preferred access options for Gerringong and Berry.

- **Concept Design:**

A concept design based on the preliminary design is being further developed in 2009. This will involve the refinement, in stages, of engineering plans for upgrading the highway in preparation for environmental assessment and community display and comment.

- **Environmental Assessment:**

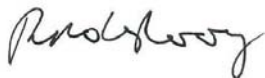
The environmental assessment will evaluate the environmental impact of the proposed highway upgrade and the necessary mitigation measures. It will address the social, economic and environmental impacts identified in the study so far, as well key issues identified by the NSW Department of Planning and other agencies.

There will be further opportunities for consultation throughout the planning process and regular community updates will continue to be provided.

Information on the current status of the project can be found on the project website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au/gerringongtobomaderry.

Thank you again for your involvement in the project to date and we look forward to working with you and all the stakeholders in this project this year.

Yours faithfully,



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For more information

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