

# Gerringong to Bomaderry

Notes of workshop meetings held in May 2006



Workshop	Date / Venue / Location	Attendance (approx)
Berry	Wednesday, 3 May 2006 6pm to 8.30pm School of Arts Hall, Alexandra Street, Berry	160
Gerringong	Thursday, 4 May 2006 6pm to 8.30pm Gerringong Town Hall, Gerringong	120
Bomaderry	Tuesday, 9 May 2006 6pm to 8.30pm Bomaderry RSL, Bunberra Street, Bomaderry	70

<u>RTA Attendees</u>	
Jay Stricker	Regional Manager, Southern
Fiona Court	General Manager, Infrastructure Communications and Community Involvement
Graham Brisbane	Development Manager, Southern
Ron de Rooy	Senior Project Manager, Southern
Grant Sharkey	Business and Administration Officer
Ed Scully	Regional Communications Coordinator, Western and South West regions
Donna Binns	Regional Communications Support Officer, Southern
Angela Hazel	Regional Communications Officer, Southern
Grant Sharkey	Business and Administration Officer

## Purpose of the meeting

Inform the community of the process for examining options and then selecting a preferred route for the upgrade of the Princes Highway between Gerringong and Bomaderry. Seek input from the community on their preferred methods of community consultation and information during this process.

## Presentation focussed on:

- What has been done so far – the RTA provided background information on previous studies.
- The area in which a route is likely to be located – based on physical and economic issues.
- Current and future traffic flows on the highway.
- The potential benefits of an upgrade.
- The issue of the need for a second crossing of the Shoalhaven River.
- The study process to examine options and select a preferred option.
- Study inputs.
- Preliminary timetable for options comparison and selection of a preferred route.
- Possible community involvement techniques.

The following details the question and answer discussions held at each meeting. Please advise our project manager if your question(s) have not been identified below.

	Question	Answer	Workshop in which question was raised
1.	How much funding has been allocated for planning and construction of this project?	The current state government is committed to funding this study and the consultation process. Funding for the construction of the upgrade will be determined by government priorities at that time.	Berry Bomaderry
2.	Does the RTA have a figure for what an upgrade could cost?	It would not be appropriate to nominate a concept estimate for a preferred route before one is identified and all necessary investigations are concluded. Investigations would need to take into account all changes since the previous studies, for example the recent installation of the Eastern Gas Pipeline.  An indication of the cost of a highway upgrade can be taken from the approximate \$15 million per kilometre cost of upgrading the Pacific Highway. The length of the highway being considered for replacement here is 32 km. However these upgrades are similar but <b>not</b> identical in nature and costs will be affected by many factors unique to the area being considered and the road design.  The RTA will issue indicative costs when route options are displayed for comment.	Bomaderry
3.	When will the 2005 Quantm Study be released?	It is important to note the computer model called Quantm is a desktop tool to help identify feasible corridors.  Quantm considers all known constraints data that is put into the model including environmental, social, topographic and technical.  At this stage Quantm has only considered the topographic and limited information on technical and environmental data. The study has not considered all the social, environmental and engineering constraints to date.  Extensive field investigations are required to ensure accurate data is collected within the study area.  The Quantum program will be incorporated into the route options and preferred route selection study.	Berry
4.	Why does study end at the Shoalhaven?	The section of the Princes Highway from Gerringong to Bomaderry is an appropriate section to evaluate given the nature of the existing road and its constraints and the fact that it provides the missing link between the four lanes at Gerringong and Bomaderry.  The RTA will continue to work with Shoalhaven City Council in relation to the issue of crossing of the Shoalhaven River and other traffic issues in Nowra.	Berry

5.	Does RTA liaise with the Department of Planning and other agencies to look at future land use issues?	Yes. Liaising with relevant government departments is a normal and important part of the study process. Early liaison is essential to avoid lengthy studies/hold-ups later in the process.	Berry Bomaderry
6.	Will the RTA consider the location of the Eastern Gas pipeline?	Yes. The route of the pipeline will be included in future maps.	Berry Gerringong
7.	How wide will the proposed future highway be?	The road corridor would be of varying width. The road itself would be about 23m wide. Whilst it is recognised that there is a need to minimise the effect on the environment, corridors can be up to 100 metres or more wide where there is a need to accommodate soil or rock cuttings and/or embankments, drainage systems etc.	Berry
8.	What assurance do residents have that a Minister won't override a preferred route decision?	The RTA will conduct an objective study using both its own resources and consultants to identify the preferred route for the upgrade. Throughout the study the RTA will consult with the community so that its concerns and desires can be taken into account in the study process.  A Minister considering approval of a preferred route is obliged to consider all options and information supplied under the statutory process. The community can then be confident the Minister of the day is well informed to make a decision.  If the process has been transparent, and community issues have been addressed, the Minister should have clear criteria for signing off on the preferred route.	Berry
9.	Why can't the RTA just display options to speed up the process?  Why does this process take so long?	There are no options covering the full length of the study area, although some previous studies (as indicated in the presentation) have identified options over some parts of the study area.  It is important to understand all the relevant issues over the complete study area before settling on any part of the route. It is also important that a transparent and robust process is followed.  Agreed to assist understanding of the process the RTA would prepare more information on highway planning and the steps needed – and publish on the project website.	Berry
10.	What is the definition of a bypass?	A bypass is generally a road that separates local and through traffic in an urban area.	Berry
11.	Does the RTA realise every option has an effect on local real estate and there will now be uncertainty until detailed investigations are concluded?	The RTA understands that release of the study area is likely to create uncertainty in the real estate market. The RTA will conduct the study thoroughly and as quickly as possible to minimise the period of uncertainty.  The RTA's property acquisition procedure is outlined in an information sheet entitled "Property acquisition, Upgrading the Princes Highway" available on the	Bomaderry Berry

		<p>RTA's website on the following link:  <a href="http://whome.rta.nsw.gov.au/constructionmaintenance/downloads/southcoast/princeshwy_factsheets_dll.html">http://whome.rta.nsw.gov.au/constructionmaintenance/downloads/southcoast/princeshwy_factsheets_dll.html</a></p> <p>or by request from the project manager, Ron de Rooy, on 02 4221 2585.</p> <p>In summary, the earliest the RTA can acquire land for road purposes is once a preferred option has been selected but before the route has been approved. In this case there are special conditions, including demonstration of "hardship" by the owner in accordance with the criteria specified in the <i>Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991</i>.</p> <p>Under normal processes, the RTA can commence acquisition after the preferred route has been approved and funding is available to progress the project. Property valuation will be on the basis of the unaffected value of the property, i.e. had the highway not been planned in that location.</p>	
12.	Do people that front the Hwy (turning in and out of the Hwy) get considered? The RTA must take this into consideration along with other issues such as garbage collection.	During planning the RTA will look at all access for property owners, the local road network and service industries, and then in more detail in the design stage of the project. This will cover issues such as milk tanker access, garbage collection, the connections to Gerringong and Bomaderry, severed land and so on.	Bomaderry
13.	Why can't the RTA take vacant land and not houses?	The RTA will thoroughly investigate this issue as options are developed, and will seek to minimise impacts on the built environment. wherever possible.	Bomaderry
14.	Will the RTA buy part or all of the land of affected property holders?	Generally the RTA will only purchase the portion of land required for road purposes. However, where the viability of the property is potentially threatened or destroyed by the proposed acquisition, this will be taken into account to try to find the best solution for individual land owners as part of the acquisition process. The RTA operates under the <i>Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act.1991</i>	Bomaderry
15.	Are sacred sites going to be located early?	The RTA will work with the Department of Environment and Conservation and indigenous stakeholders to do this in a timely manner, working with our regional Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage Advisor, Agnes Donovan. The RTA will also deal with European heritage issues in a similar manner. Regular interdepartmental meetings will be used to alert other government agencies of areas under investigation and planning	Bomaderry

16.	Why does the RTA want to change the road?	The future upgrade is needed to improve the safety, alignment, efficiency and capacity of this route.	Bomaderry
17.	Is the RTA going to follow public opinion or do what they want to do?	The RTA will work with the community to ensure that its concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered and are directly reflected in the alternatives developed. The RTA will provide feedback on how public input affected the decision.	Bomaderry
18.	Will school speed zones remain next to an upgraded highway?	Highway school zones will remain if necessary and appropriate according to safety guidelines, however none are anticipated along an upgraded alignment.	Bomaderry
19.	Will Councils be involved in the study ?	Yes. Both councils have been briefed on the status of the study.	Bomaderry
20.	Is this meeting a PR job?	No. This forum is part of a process to engage the community at the earliest possible opportunity and to build confidence within the community that the RTA is following a balanced, rigorous and transparent process in determining options and selecting a preferred route. The workshops and displays give residents the opportunity to contribute on how they want to give and receive information during the project and to advise the RTA what is important to them in regard to the highway upgrade.	Bomaderry
21.	Why is the sandtrack not being included in the investigations?	There are significant technical issues associated with a "sandtrack" option for a highway upgrade.  The study area noted in the March community update is one in which we are most likely to find a highway route, given traffic requirements, community issues and physical constraints.  Agreed that following this discussion the RTA will detail the merits and disbenefits of the Sandtrack area in its next newsletter.	Berry
22.	How does the community get involved through this process?	Firstly, by advising the RTA how you would like to be involved in the study process outlined in the workshops and the March 2006 community update.  Secondly, by participating in the community events arising from workshops held during the course of the study. The RTA will provide feedback in those form(s) preferred by the community. A community update will provide information on the workshops and displays.  A website for this project: is at:  <a href="http://whome.rta.nsw.gov.au/constructionmaintenance/majorconstructionprojectsregional/southcoast/princeshwy/index.html">http://whome.rta.nsw.gov.au/constructionmaintenance/majorconstructionprojectsregional/southcoast/princeshwy/index.html</a>  Councils will continue to be consulted as the study progresses. Other government departments will be consulted through focus group meetings.	Gerringong

23.	Will you take into consideration truck movements from Main Road (MR92)?	Predicted traffic volumes for Main Road 92, including truck traffic, will be taken into consideration when planning the highway upgrade.	Bomaderry Berry Gerringong
24.	Is it possible to get a crossing of the Shoalhaven River included in this study?	A crossing of the Shoalhaven River is considered to be a separate planning issue and outside the terms of this study.	Gerringong
25.	What happens when all the traffic hits Nowra?	Shoalhaven Council and the RTA are examining the requirements for crossing of the Shoalhaven River and other issues in Nowra. We need to resolve all issues, but a delay in one shouldn't hinder the other.	Gerringong
26.	Are all possible Shoalhaven crossings compatible with a link at Cambewarra Road?	The southern end of the highway upgrade from Gerringong to Bomaderry will link in with any future crossing of the Shoalhaven.	Bomaderry
27.	Why study the area and talk about an upgrade if construction funds have not yet been promised?	This process will provide some future certainty for the community, local planning, Council and the State Government. The RTA cannot proceed to future upgrade if a preferred route has not been thoroughly investigated and approved.	Gerringong
28.	Is this the first time this type of consultation process has been used by the RTA?	Yes. This is the first time the RTA has involved the community this early in the process to identify important local issues.	Gerringong
29.	Who will be responsible for road maintenance when the upgrades are complete?	Once the project is delivered, the RTA's asset section will retain responsibility for maintenance.	Gerringong
30.	How much funding has been promised by the Federal government for the upgrade?	The current investigations are fully funded by the NSW Government. No commitments have been received from the Federal Government for investigations or construction.	Gerringong
31.	What is happening with existing highway black spots?	Black spots are currently being upgraded under the State Government's \$30 million Princes Highway road safety strategy.	Gerringong
32.	What is the role of the RTA? Why use consultants to conduct the investigation?	The RTA's role is to manage the planning and delivery of projects. The consultants will have specialist skills and be engaged to perform detailed investigations to assist the planning process. RTA officers will use their experience and expertise to review data and manage consultants.	Bomaderry
33.	What is happening at the Omega Crossing (north end)?	The study starts at the Mount Pleasant Lookout as there are already four lanes along the "Kiama Bends" section of the highway. – The aim of this study is to continue with four lanes to the Cambewarra Rd roundabout at Bomaderry. The options for the Omega level crossing will be considered as a part of the overall study.	Bomaderry

34.	Will trucking companies be involved in the planning process?	Yes. Transport and business stakeholders will be involved in the process.	Bomaderry
35.	Will the RTA consider drainage and the shape of the bends on the future highway?	Yes. The upgrade will be designed to current highway standards.	Bomaderry
36.	Will the size of large trucks using Port Kembla be considered? Is there a preference for Macquarie Pass?	The RTA has been asked by the Government to consider all the issues on this route. As a Highway the final route selected will be expected to cater for 26m B-doubles. Macquarie Pass in its present form is not approved for use by these vehicles.	Bomaderry
37.	I know where the road will go as I have seen an old map with the proposed route, it is at Council.	Can you provide this map to Ron de Rooy? There is a map at Council with a map of a proposed Berry Bypass on North Street, it was in the LEP. We will look at this map during the process (See item 5 below)	Bomaderry

Listed below are the RTA commitments made at the workshops held in Berry, Gerringong and Bomaderry. A status on actions required from these commitments has been provided.

An update on a number of commitments will be provided in the next community update.

	RTA Commitment	Status / comment June 2006	Workshop in which issue was raised
1.	Make the project PowerPoint presentation and contact details available on <a href="http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au">www.rta.nsw.gov.au</a>	Completed	Berry
2.	Present the Shoalhaven study to Shoalhaven City Council.	Completed	Bomaderry Berry
3.	Negotiate with councils to attach study information (March community update) to s149 certificates issued by council (for property enquiries).	Completed	Gerringong Berry
4.	Put more detailed information concerning the planning process on the project website.  Put meeting notes on the RTA website.	This information will be detailed in the next community update and on the website.  The meeting notes will be uploaded onto the website: <a href="http://whome.rta.nsw.gov.au/constructionmaintenance/majorconstructionprojectsregional/southcoast/princeshwy/index.html">http://whome.rta.nsw.gov.au/constructionmaintenance/majorconstructionprojectsregional/southcoast/princeshwy/index.html</a>  or following the links from the RTA home page.	Bomaderry Gerringong Berry



15.	Examine MR92 in terms of traffic.	Traffic analysis will be undertaken as part of the consultant's works.	Bomaderry Gerringong
16.	Employ issues mapping to assist individuals understand the range of issues raised during community consultation works.	This tool will be considered as part of the community involvement plan.	Gerringong
17.	Consider the preferences for community involvement and use these techniques to engage local groups and address wider issues throughout the process.	The preferences identified in the May community workshops to be addressed in the community involvement plan. More information to be released shortly.	Bomaderry Gerringong
18.	Ensure maps are absolutely correct.	Completed. The base plan has been revised, is on the website, and will be available in the next newsletter.	Bomaderry Gerringong
19.	Continue to be transparent throughout the study.	This will be done where individual privacy and "commercial in confidence" issues are not involved.	Gerringong
20.	Release information on accidents and fatalities on the Sandtrack	The following information is currently available to the public:  During the five year period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2005 there were <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 fatal crashes that resulted in 9 fatalities and</li> <li>• 69 injury crashes that resulted in 94 people being injured.</li> </ul> These figures do not include tow-away crashes without injury and exclude the Princes Highway intersection crashes.	Bomaderry
21.	Provide a toll free 1800 telephone number for information on the project.	Completed.  1800 633 332 is the community contact number.  All contact details will be provided in next newsletter and on the website.	Bomaderry
22.	Provide indicative costs when route options are displayed.	Yes, indicative costs can be provided with options.	Bomaderry
23.	Liaise with other government agencies.	Yes. A range of government agencies are brought together with a focus group meeting at the beginning of a project. Liaison continues as required.	Bomaderry Gerringong
24.	Clearly document the reasons for each decision.	The route selection study report and environmental assessment documentation will provide substantial information on which decisions are based.	Bomaderry
25.	Consider property access to the highway during design.	Yes, access is considered generally in the concept design and more thoroughly in the detailed design.	Bomaderry

26.	Consider garbage collection capacity in future highway design.	Yes, access for large vehicles is considered generally in the concept design and more thoroughly in the detailed design.	Bomaderry
27.	Consider potential future development in the area.	Councils will be consulted about potential future development and the impact of this on the Princes Highway upgrade and vice versa.	Bomaderry Berry Gerringong
28.	Consider flooding and drainage	Flood studies are one of the studies that will be used to help identify the preferred option.	Bomaderry Berry Gerringong
29.	Consider impact on properties	The impact on individual properties and communities as a whole will be considered for each route option.	Bomaderry Berry Gerringong

The RTA would like to take this opportunity to thank all participants who took part in these workshops. Your time and input into this process is valued and we look forward to meeting with you again soon.

If you require further information please phone our community contact line on 1800 633 332 or forward an email to [Gerringong\\_to\\_Bomaderry@rta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Gerringong_to_Bomaderry@rta.nsw.gov.au)

Ron de Rooy  
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