Executive summary

This report provides a summary of Roads and Maritime Services consultation with the community and key stakeholders on proposed intersection improvements at Georges River Road and Milton Street, Ashfield. The NSW Government is delivering this proposal as part of its $300 million Urban Roads Pinch Point Program, which aims to reduce traffic delays, manage congestion and improve travel times on Sydney’s major roads.

The proposal includes:

- Providing an additional dedicated right turn lane on Milton Street for motorists turning into Georges River Road
- Widening the eastern side of Milton Street to provide a dedicated through lane for southbound motorists on Milton Street
- Installing pedestrian crossing lights on the southern side of the intersection
- Re-aligning the south-west corner of the intersection from Milton Street to Georges River Road
- Restricting right turn movements into and out of Blackwood Avenue
- Removing 13 car spaces on Milton Street and seven car spaces on Georges River Road
- Re-aligning the shared footpath along the eastern side of Milton Street
- Re-locating the existing sandstone kerb to the new alignment on the eastern side of Milton Street
- Removing some mature trees on Milton Street to accommodate the widening
- Modifying the existing street lighting, utilities, line marking, traffic lights and sign posting to suit the new intersection design.

Roads and Maritime invited feedback on the proposal in September and October 2018. We received feedback from 14 people with three people in favour, four people against some aspects of the work and seven people did not state a preference. Key matters raised included:

- Restricting the right turn into and out of Blackwood Avenue
- Extending parking restrictions
- Environmental impacts because of the proposed work including noise and tree removal
- Safety for road users.

We thank everyone for considering the proposal and taking time to provide their feedback.

The decision

After considering all responses, along with the proposal’s aims and design requirements, we have decided to proceed with the proposal unchanged.
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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

The NSW Government is delivering the intersection improvements as part of its $300 million Urban Roads Pinch Point Program which aims to reduce traffic delays, manage congestion and improve travel times on Sydney’s major roads.

The intersection of Georges River Road and Milton Street, Ashfield was identified as having significant congestion issues, particularly during weekday peak periods. The aim of the proposal is to improve traffic flow through the intersection. This will decrease queuing and ease congestion by allowing more vehicles to travel through the intersection during each traffic light phase.

Installing pedestrian crossing lights on the south side of the intersection and restricting right turn movements from Milton Street into and out of Blackwood Avenue will help improve safety for motorists and pedestrians.

The proposed intersection improvements will:

- Reduce congestion and improve the reliability of travel time, particularly during peak periods
- Reduce queue lengths and traffic delays due to a better flow of traffic through the intersection
- Improve safety for pedestrians and road users
- Improve access and mobility for pedestrians.

1.2. The proposal

Roads and Maritime Services is proposing improvements at the intersection of Georges River Road and Milton Street, Ashfield.

The proposal includes:

- Providing an additional dedicated right turn lane on Milton Street for motorists turning into Georges River Road
- Widening the eastern side of Milton Street to provide a dedicated through lane for southbound motorists on Milton Street
- Installing pedestrian crossing lights on the southern side of the intersection
- Re-aligning the south-west corner of the intersection from Milton Street to Georges River Road
- Restricting right turn movements into and out of Blackwood Avenue
- Removing 13 car spaces on Milton Street and seven car spaces on Georges River Road
- Re-aligning the shared footpath along the eastern side of Milton Street
- Re-locating the existing sandstone kerb to the new alignment on the eastern side of Milton Street
- Removing some mature trees on Milton Street to accommodate the widening
- Modifying the existing street lighting, utilities, line marking, traffic lights and sign posting to suit the new intersection design.
Figure 1: Proposed intersection improvements at Georges River Road and Milton Street, Ashfield
2. Consultation approach

2.1. Consultation objectives

We consulted with the community and key stakeholders on the proposal to:

- Seek comment, feedback, ideas and suggestions for us to consider when making a decision
- Build a database of community members interested in the project who we will continue to engage with during the proposal's development and delivery.

2.2. How consultation was done

Consultation on the proposed intersection improvements was carried out from 12 September to 9 October 2018. Community members and stakeholders were encouraged to provide their feedback and make comments to the project team via email, mail or phone.

The following table outlines the communication tools used to inform the community about the proposal:

Table 1: How Consultation was done

| Have Your Say community update – September 2018 (Appendix A) | • Distributed to more than 1200 local residents, businesses and key stakeholders in the Croydon Park area (Appendix B).  
• Direct emails and letters sent to businesses, utilities, emergency services, schools, hospitals, community groups and relevant stakeholders in the local area.  
• Direct email to Burwood Council. |
| Website | • Details of the proposal uploaded on the Roads and Maritime website (Appendix C). |
| Social Media | • Details of the proposal posted on the Roads and Maritime Facebook page (Appendix D). |
| Direct consultation | • Door knock of directly impacted residents and businesses on Tuesday 21 August 2018. |
3. Consultation summary

3.1. Overview

We received feedback from 14 people with three people in favour, four people against some aspects of the work and seven people did not state a preference. Key matters raised included:

- Restricting the right turn into and out of Blackwood Avenue
- Extending parking restrictions
- Environmental impacts because of the proposed work including noise and tree removal
- Safety for road users.

We thank everyone for considering the proposal and taking time to provide their feedback.

3.2. Feedback and Roads and Maritime’s responses

Roads and Maritime has provided responses to all feedback received on the proposal in this report, which is available to the public.

All comments were considered to help Roads and Maritime make decisions on this proposal.
Table 2: Feedback summary and Roads and Maritime's responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Key Matters Raised</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Restricting the right turn into and out of Blackwood Avenue | Concern about increased travel time as a result of right turn restriction into and out of Blackwood Avenue | Roads and Maritime is proposing to restrict the right turn into and out of Blackwood Avenue to improve safety for all road users. In the past five years there were 22 reported crashes at the intersection and the surrounding streets including two crashes resulting in serious injuries. Of the reported crashes more than 32 per cent occurred at the intersection of Milton Street and Blackwood Avenue.  
Our proposed improvements mean motorists turning right into and out of Blackwood Avenue would have to cross three lanes of traffic, because of this and the crash history at the intersection we are proposing to restrict the right turn into and out of Blackwood Avenue.  
Motorists wanting to enter Blackwood Avenue should turn right into Arthur Street, left into Hampden Street, left into Norton Street, right onto Milton Street and then make a left turn onto Blackwood Avenue. This will add no more than six minutes travel time in peak hours for road users.  
Motorists wanting to turn right out of Blackwood Avenue onto Milton Street should turn left onto Milton Street and continue southbound to perform a U-turn at the roundabout of Milton Street and Trevenar Street. This will add no more than six minutes travel time in peak hours for road users.  
We acknowledge the proposal may cause inconvenience for some local residents. However the project overall provides significant benefits, including increased safety which will be experienced by the motorists using the intersection on a daily basis. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern with extended parking restrictions</th>
<th>How many parking spaces are being removed on the southern side of Georges River Road?</th>
<th>Roads and Maritime has carried out parking studies to investigate alternative parking for impacted residents and businesses. The studies assessed current usage and duration of parking along Georges River Road and Milton Street and available parking in nearby side streets. Our parking studies indicate there is sufficient capacity on local side streets to accommodate vehicles affected by the proposed parking restrictions. We will continue to work with Inner West Council to minimise parking impacts on local residents and businesses.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The parking restrictions proposed on the southern side of Georges River Road will create further issues for residents who live on Watson Avenue</td>
<td>Duplicating the right turn on Milton Street means we need to extend parking restrictions on the southern side of Georges River Road. Without removing parking, it is possible road users turning right from Milton Street into Georges River Road would have to stop suddenly because of parked cars. This would increase the risk of rear end and side swipe crashes. The proposed parking restrictions will also help to alleviate congestion and improve traffic flow particularly during peak periods. By increasing the parking restrictions on southern side of Georges River Road we will help keep vehicles moving on this corridor.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The parking restrictions proposed on Georges River Road and Milton Street will create issues for local businesses.</td>
<td>We acknowledge there may be impacts to street parking on Watson Avenue because of the proposed improvements and apologise for any inconvenience caused to residents.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concern about environmental impacts because of the proposed work</td>
<td>Concern about noise impacts for residents on Blackwood Avenue as a result of the upgraded right turn bay on Milton Street</td>
<td>The Environmental Impact Assessment considers potential noise impact to residents. We define noise as 'unwanted sound'. Noise is perceived differently from one person to the next and is measured on a scale of units called decibels. We assess noise by averaging the quietest and loudest (actual or predicted) measurements while also considering how the human ear perceives it. As part of our investigation work noise logging was carried out between Tuesday 30 January and Monday 12 February 2018. These investigations found on average noise ranged from 63 to 67 decibels which is slightly less noisy than a vacuum cleaner (70 decibels). Noise calculations based on the proposed improvements indicate an increase of about 0.4 decibels for the nearest residents.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Concern about removal of established trees in the area

Roads and Maritime will provide offset planting for trees affected by the proposed improvement work. We will work with Inner West Council to develop a landscaping plan to match the existing vegetation present onsite. The landscaping plan will include a mix of saplings, shrubs and ground cover species.

Roads and Maritime has optimised the proposed improvement work to minimise the construction footprint and tree removal requirements. We will continue to investigate methods to reduce the impact to trees during the detailed design and pre-construction stage.

Comments about traffic impacts as a result of adding a signalised pedestrian crossing

Adding a pedestrian crossing will have negative impacts on traffic flow

Roads and Maritime is improving the intersection for all road users, including pedestrians. Modelling was carried out to determine impacts on the intersection and having red and green pedestrian crossing lights do not significantly impact the intersection’s performance. To make sure the intersection flows smoothly, the new red and green pedestrian crossing lights will run at the same time as the right turn from Milton Street into Georges River Road and the left from Georges River Road into Milton Street.

The proposed work will make this intersection less safe for all road users

The proposed work will have negative impacts on safety for both pedestrians and motorists

Improving safety for all road users is an important aim of all Roads and Maritime projects. The proposed work improves safety by:

- Restricting the right turn into and out of Blackwood Avenue where more than a third all reported crashes in the area have happened in the past five years

- Improving traffic light phasing so road users will only be able to turn right from Milton Street into Georges River Road with a green arrow. The new traffic light timings will mean that this right turning traffic will no longer have to compete with northbound through traffic and crashes because of human error in judging appropriate gaps in traffic will be less likely

- Adding new red and green pedestrian crossing lights on the southern side of the intersection

- Improving road drainage to help reduce risk of aquaplaning.

Roads and Maritime will continue to consider safety in the development of the proposed improvements to make sure our projects are safe for all road users.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments and suggestions for other improvements to be considered at the intersection</th>
<th>Please upgrade the left turn lane into Georges River Road travelling northbound along Milton Street</th>
<th>A variety of options were considered as part of the design of this project including upgrading the left turn lane into Georges River Road travelling northbound along Milton Street. This option was ruled out because it had limited benefits and significant local impacts including property acquisition and reduced access for traffic coming from Milton Street turning into Watson Avenue.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Please add do not queue line markings in front of Blackwood Avenue | Roads and Maritime is proposing to restrict the right turn into and out of Blackwood Avenue to improve safety for all road users. In the past five years there were 22 reported crashes at the intersection and the surrounding streets including two crashes resulting in serious injuries. Of the reported crashes more than 32 per cent occurred at the intersection of Milton Street and Blackwood Avenue.  

Our proposed improvements mean motorists turning right into and out of Blackwood Avenue would have to cross three lanes of traffic, because of this and the crash history at the intersection we need to restrict the right turn into and out of Blackwood Avenue.  

Unfortunately Roads and Maritime cannot install KEEP CLEAR markings on the southbound lanes of Milton Street at Blackwood Avenue as these markings can’t be provided to assist traffic turning left from a side street or car park. 'KEEP CLEAR' markings are regulatory and thus a left turning vehicle would be committing an offence if they joined the queue by entering the keep clear area. | |
| RMS should convert the intersection from traffic lights to a roundabout | It would not be appropriate to replace the traffic lights at this intersection with a roundabout for a number of reasons, including:  

- The high volume of traffic at this intersection would make it unsafe to convert the traffic lights to a roundabout. Roundabouts are uncontrolled and increase the likelihood of human error crashes as they rely on the ability of motorists to judge appropriate gaps in traffic  
- Significant property acquisition would be needed to install a roundabout large enough for heavy vehicles like trucks and busses to have enough turning space  
- Pedestrians would find it difficult to find a safe gap to cross the road. |
| Extend the existing clearway running southbound on Milton street to convert the far left lane into a shared through and right turn lane | During the design phase of the project Roads and Maritime conducted a range of studies including a traffic analysis. This study showed 883 vehicles make the right from Milton Street into Georges River Road and 377 continue straight along Milton Street in the PM peak. The existing turning bay is unable to meet the traffic demand causing traffic to queue through to nearby intersections. Given the high volume of turning and through traffic, extending the existing clearway running southbound on Milton Street and converting the far left lane into a shared through and right turn lane would not address the problem of traffic build up at the intersection. By providing two dedicated right turn lanes from Milton Street onto Georges River Road we will help alleviate congestion and improve traffic flow particularly during peak periods. |
| A speed camera should be added to this intersection to stop drivers speeding through the intersection late at night | The purpose of this consultation was to seek feedback on the proposed intersection improvements. Reviewing the placement of safety cameras at the intersection is not part of the proposal and considered out of scope for this project. You can nominate a location for installation of a safety camera, with this link: http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/nominate-speed-camera-location |
| Comment noting that the right turn from Georges River Road into Milton Street is the 'real' issue at the intersection | During the design phase of the project Roads and Maritime conducted a range of studies including a traffic analysis. This study showed 883 vehicles make the right from Milton Street into Georges River Road in the PM peak compared to the 229 making the right turn from Georges River Road into Milton Street. |
| Out of scope | The Frederick Street traffic lights need to be fixed as they cause bottlenecks in the area. | The purpose of this consultation was to seek feedback on the proposed intersection improvements at Georges River Road and Milton Street. Traffic issues at Frederick Street and Canterbury Road are not part of the proposal and are considered out of scope for this project. However, we have passed on your comments to our Network Sydney team for consideration. The proposed improvements are designed to achieve the most suitable level of intersection performance based scenarios like predicted future development and growth. We also closely monitor the wider road network and are currently working to improve traffic flow along the Georges River Road corridor. An example of a relevant nearby 'pinch point' project on the corridor is our work at the intersection of Portland Street and Lees Avenue, Croydon Park. This project will improve traffic flow through the intersection by providing a dedicated right, left and through lane for road users travelling northbound on Lees Avenue. |
| When the work is complete will traffic start banking up along Canterbury Road in Croydon Park? | Traffic will be pushed down towards Croydon Park |
4. Decision and next steps

Roads and Maritime would like to thank everyone who took the time to consider our proposal and provide feedback.

After considering all responses, along with the proposal’s aims and design requirements, we have decided to proceed with the proposal unchanged.

We will continue to keep the community and stakeholders informed of the project’s progress.
Intersection improvements at Milton Street, Ashfield

Have your say

Roads and Maritime Services | September 2018

The NSW Government is funding the proposed improvements as part of its program to reduce congestion and improve travel times on Sydney’s busiest road corridors.

Roads and Maritime Services is seeking feedback until 9 October 2018 on proposed intersection improvements at Georges River Road and Milton Street, Ashfield.

A large number of vehicles currently use the intersection, resulting in congestion during the AM and PM peak periods.

The aim of the proposal is to decrease queuing and ease congestion by providing an additional dedicated turning lane.

Installing a pedestrian crossing on the south side of the intersection and restricting right turn movements from Milton Street into and out of nearby Blackwood Avenue will help improve safety for motorists and pedestrians.
The proposed work includes:

- providing an additional dedicated right turn lane on Milton Street for motorists turning into Georges River Road
- widening the eastern side of Milton Street to provide a dedicated through lane for southbound motorists on Milton Street
- installing a pedestrian crossing on the southern side of the intersection
- re-aligning the south-west corner of the intersection from Milton Street to Georges River Road
- restricting right turn movements into and out of Blackwood Avenue
- extending existing parking restrictions to 13 car spaces on Milton Street and seven spaces on Georges River Road
- re-aligning the shared footpath along the eastern side of Milton Street
- re-locating the existing sandstone kerb to the new alignment on the eastern side of Milton Street
- removal of some mature trees on Milton Street to accommodate the widening
- modifying the existing street lighting, utilities, line marking, traffic lights and sign posting to suit the new intersection design.

Benefits include:

- travel time savings for motorists using the intersection, particularly during peak periods
- reduced queue lengths and traffic delays due to a better flow of traffic through the intersection
- improved road safety for all road users
- improved access and mobility for pedestrians.
Proposed Intersection upgrade
Georges River Road and Milton Street, Ashfield

- Widening the eastern side of Milton Street for a dedicated through lane for south bound motorists
- Restricting right turn movements into and out of Blackwood Avenue
- Providing an additional dedicated right turn lane on Milton Street for motorists turning onto Georges River Road
- Installing a pedestrian crossing on the southern side of the intersection

**KEY**
- Road widening
- Extending parking restrictions

Better and more reliable trips for people, business and freight
Improving safety
Improving traffic flow
Easing congestion

Have your say: intersection improvements at Georges River Road and Milton Street, Ashfield
What is a ‘pinch point’?

A pinch point is a traffic congestion point, either at an intersection or on a short length of road, where a traffic bottleneck exists. They cause traffic build-up and travel delays at these spots and on the wider road network.

Next steps

We will consider all feedback received before deciding whether to proceed with the proposal.

A consultation report will be prepared summarising the feedback received. This report will be made available on our website.

We will keep you updated as the proposal progresses.

For more information about this proposal please visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au/pinchpoints or contact the Pinch Point project team on 1800 572 004.

Have your say

We invite your feedback on the proposal by Tuesday 9 October. You can provide your comments by:

1800 572 004

pinpoint@rms.nsw.gov.au

rms.nsw.gov.au/pinchpoints

Pinch Points Program project team
Roads and Maritime Services
PO Box 973
Parramatta NSW 2124

Translating and Interpreting Service

If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to telephone Roads and Maritime Services on 1800 572 004.

Arabic

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مترجم للعربية، يرجى الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة (TIS National) على الرقم 131 450، وطلب أن يتم الاتصال بالخدمات المرورية والبحريّة (Roads and Maritime Services) على الرقم 1800 572 004.

Cantonese

如你需要口译員，請撥電 131 450 聯絡翻譯及口譯服務（TIS National）要求他們聯繫 1800 572 004 聯絡道路及海事服務。

Mandarin

如果您需要口译，請撥電 131 450 聯繫翻譯及口譯服務（TIS National），要求他們聯繫 1800 572 004 聯繫道路及海事服務。

Greek

Αν χρειάζεστε διερμηνεία, παρακαλούμε να τηλεφωνήσετε στην Υπηρεσία Μετάφρασης και Διερμηνείας (Ελληνική Υπηρεσία ΤΙΣ) στο 131 450 και ζητήσετε να τηλεφωνήσει οι υπηρεσίες Οδογραφίας και Μεταφορών (Roads and Maritime Services) στο 1800 572 004.

Italian

Se desiderate l'assistenza di un interprete, chiedete al Servizio traduttori e Traduttori (TIS National) al 131 450 e contattare le servizi stradali e marittimi (Roads and Maritime Services) al 1800 572 004.

Korean

통역 사무소에 연락하려면 전화번호 131 450를 이용해 1800 572 004로 연락해 주시기 바랍니다. (TIS National)에 연락해 주시기 바랍니다. (Roads and Maritime Services)로 연락해 주시기 바랍니다.

Vietnamese

Nếu cần thông tin dịch, xin quý vị gọi cho Dịch Vụ Thông Tin (TIS Quốc Gia) qua số 131 450 và nhở họ gọi cho Đại Dịch (Roads and Maritime Services) qua số 1800 572 004.
6.2. Appendix B – Distribution map

![Distribution map of Georges River Road and Milton Street, Ashfield Intersection Improvements]
6.3. Appendix C – RMS Website

**Intersection improvements on Georges River Road and Milton Street, Ashfield**

The NSW Government is funding this proposal as part of its $300 million Urban Roads Pinch Point Program, which aims to reduce congestion and improve travel times on Sydney’s busiest corridors.

On this page

- Project background
- Project benefits
- Community engagement

**Updates and announcements**

Roads and Maritime Services is seeking feedback until Tuesday 9 October 2018 on proposed intersection improvements at Georges River Road and Milton Street, Ashfield.

The aim of the proposal is to improve traffic flow through the intersection. This will decrease queuing and ease congestion by allowing more vehicles to travel through the intersection during each traffic light phase.

View or download the September [project update](#) or more information.

**Project background**

The Georges River Road and Punchbowl Road corridor forms part of the NSW Government’s $300 million Pinch Point Program, which aims to reduce delays, manage congestion and maintain travel times on Sydney’s main roads particularly during weekday peak periods.

The intersection of Georges River Road and Milton Street, Ashfield was identified as having significant congestion issues, particularly during weekday peak periods.

The aim of the proposal is to improve traffic flow through the intersection. This will decrease queuing and ease congestion by allowing more vehicles to travel through the intersection during each traffic light phase.

Installing a pedestrian crossing on the south side of the intersection and restricting right turn movements from Milton Street into and out of nearby Blackwood Avenue will help improve safety for motorists and pedestrians.

**Project benefits**

- travel time savings for motorists using the intersection, particularly during peak periods
- reduced queue lengths and traffic delays due to a better flow of traffic through the intersection
- improved road safety for all road users
- improved access and mobility for pedestrians.

**Project features**

- providing an additional dedicated right turn lane on Milton Street for motorists turning into Georges River Road
- widening the eastern side of Milton Street to provide a dedicated through lane for southbound motorists on Milton Street
- installing a pedestrian crossing on the southern side of the intersection.
- re-aligning the south-west corner of the intersection from Milton Street to Georges River Road to provide safer access for service vehicles
- restricting right turn movements into and out of Blackwood Avenue
- extending existing parking restrictions to 13 car spaces on Milton Street and seven spaces on Georges River Road
- re-aligning the shared footpath along the eastern side of Milton Street
- re-locating the existing sandstone kerb to the new alignment on the eastern side of Milton Street
- removal of some mature trees on Milton Street to accommodate the widening
- modifying the existing street lighting, utilities, line marking, traffic lights and sign posting to suit the new intersection design.

Community engagement

To provide your feedback, contact the Roads and Maritime Pinch Points Program project team on 1800 572 004, or email us at pinchpoint@rms.nsw.gov.au before 9 October, 2018. All comments received will be considered in our decision making process.
Sick of sitting in traffic at Ashfield, waiting to turn right from Milton Street into Georges River Road? 🚗

Have your say about our proposed changes to this congested intersection, as we work to reduce delays and manage travel times along this corridor.

Find out more on our website: https://rms.social/MiltonStreetPPP