

Improvements to the Newell Highway at Grong Grong

Some answers to frequently asked community questions are provided below.

Why don't the proposed accesses into town have slip lanes?

The accesses have been designed as standard T-intersections with protected turning lanes to ensure the safety of motorists.

During consultation with the community in October, Roads and Maritime Services received strong feedback to change the design to slip lanes. This was considered easier access into Grong Grong and more appealing for northbound and southbound traffic.

Roads and Maritime will review the current design to see if adding the slip lanes could be a safe intersection arrangement.

Has the high volume of trucks during harvest season been considered?

During this year's harvest season Roads and Maritime will talk to truck drivers and the grain silo operator at Grong Grong to get a better understanding of how heavy vehicles move between the Newell Highway and Canola Way.

The lack of acceleration lanes for trucks at the proposed accesses with the Newell Highway was a concern raised during community consultation. The need for acceleration lanes will be considered during detailed design of the project.

How will I get to Angle Road from the highway?

If the central access is built, motorists would have direct access to Angle Road with a T-intersection. If the north and west accesses are built, motorists would be able to get to Angle Road using the north access.

Roads and Maritime wants to avoid another T-intersection close to the north access, as this could cause confusion and safety problems.

There was a strong preference from the community for the north and west accesses.

Why are we doing this project instead of other projects on the Newell Highway?

One of the objectives of this project is to improve freight efficiency by enabling the operation of High Productivity Vehicles. These vehicles are longer trucks carrying heavier loads and will help the industry reduce the cost of transporting goods.

This project, and some other minor works along the Newell Highway, would allow these trucks to travel between the Victorian border and West Wyalong.

The project would also improve road safety, reduce travel times, provide consistent travel

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speeds and reduce traffic noise through Grong Grong.

What is Roads and Maritime doing to help businesses in Grong Grong?

Roads and Maritime will continue to talk with businesses during the design process about ways to minimise impacts from this project.

Town improvements, such as signage about the businesses and facilities in town, will be planned.

What can be done in Grong Grong to attract motorists?

An urban design contractor is providing suggestions for town improvements which may include ideas like tree planting, landscaping, signage, heritage walks and camping facilities.

There may also be other local projects the community want to consider as town improvements to attract motorists into Grong Grong.

Roads and Maritime would like the community to make decisions about town improvements and will be talking further with the community and Narrandera Shire Council about this.

What type of signage can be used to attract motorists in to Grong Grong?

A signage plan that repeats messages to encourage motorists to Stop, Revive, Survive is currently being prepared. It will include the facilities available in Grong Grong and the distance to the exit.

Proposals for town improvements will also include ideas for signage to welcome motorists to Grong Grong and advise what facilities are available and interesting things to see and do.

How will Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage be managed during the project?

An environmental impact assessment called a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) is currently being drafted. The REF will identify and

assess the potential social, economic and environmental impacts of the project.

Roads and Maritime has a comprehensive process for assessing Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage to protect any artefacts or places of significance found.

The REF will explain what safeguards would be put in place and how impacts would be minimised.

How is Roads and Maritime going to continue to communicate with us?

The project team is committed to involving the community and will provide regular updates and opportunities to provide feedback.

Feedback from the consultation in October suggested that people wanted to receive information in the mail, through their local progress association and wanted to come to information sessions and presentations. Roads and Maritime will ensure information is continued to be provided in these ways.

What is happening now and what happens next?

The REF is expected to be publicly displayed in early 2015 after the Christmas and New Year holiday period. There will be a feedback period for the community to make comments.

Information from the community survey is being reviewed and will form part of the urban design strategy. This strategy will be included in the REF.

Roads and Maritime is reviewing the road design after feedback from the community, with the final design expected to be available in early to mid 2015.

Detailed design and land acquisition will progress throughout 2015 with construction expected to start in late 2015.

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