

Frequently Asked Questions

Lawrence Hargrave Drive closure, Stanwell Park

What were the results of the consultation period?

Roads and Maritime has considered the feedback provided during the initial consultation and will not proceed with the original proposal.

The key issues raised by the community included:

- extended travel time
- timing of the works during summer - in peak tourism period
- the effect on traffic on local businesses
- requests to keep one lane open during this work.

While the timing of this work is yet to be confirmed, we have determined that this major slope repair project will not start prior to May 2020.

We have developed alternative options to carry out this work based on the feedback received.

For community members who would like to read a more detailed report on the submissions received please visit our project website at rms.work/lhd-closure.

What are the new options based on community feedback?

Based on community feedback, we have developed alternative options to carry out this essential slope repair work. The community is encouraged to review the options and select their preferred option.

The four new options are:

- Option A – Two stages of four-week road closures during the winter months
- Option B – One eight-week road closure during winter months
- Option C – 16-day full road closure (during winter school holidays), plus six to eight months of full road closures on weekdays from 9am-3pm; and only one lane open to traffic (under alternating traffic flow) at all other times until work complete
- Option D - 16-day road closure (during winter school holidays), plus four to six months of full road closures on weekdays from 9am to 3pm; full road closures from Sunday to Thursday at night from 8pm to 4am; and only one lane open to traffic (under alternating traffic flow) at all other times until work complete.

How can I have my say on this project?

We are now asking the community to complete a survey to identify their preferred option to carry out the work. We will review the feedback provided during the second stage of consultation which will inform the final option selected to carry out the work.

The community can also provide additional feedback about these options and we will consider this feedback as we continue planning this work.

Once we have reviewed survey results and feedback, we will update the community about the outcomes and work details. We expect to update the community in early 2020.

What are the advantages and disadvantage of the options?

Road and Maritime has worked with contractors to develop these options based on community feedback.

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Option A: Two stages of four-week road closures (during winter months)	<p>Most noisy activities will be completed during daylight hours or where possible completed before 11pm</p> <p>More efficient and safer way to carry out this work</p> <p>Dates for road closures and reopening the road are confirmed</p>	<p>Longer closure</p> <p>Extended travel time and impacts on daily activities of motorists, businesses and community.</p> <p>Reduced traffic/ passing trade potentially impacting businesses.</p>
Option B: One eight-week road closure (during winter months)	<p>Same advantages as above</p> <p>Potentially less impact to businesses</p> <p>Less confusing for motorists and tourists than two closures</p>	<p>Same disadvantages as Option A.</p>
<p>Option C:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16-day full road closure (during winter school holidays) <p>Plus six to eight months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> full road closures on weekdays from 9am to 3pm; only one lane open to traffic (under alternating traffic flow) at all other times until work complete 	<p>Minimises impact on neighbouring residents as there is less night work</p> <p>Minimises impacts on travel for daily activities (school, work, sport, health appointments)</p>	<p>Potential for further deterioration of slopes along the road during this time</p> <p>Potentially higher impacts on businesses –deliveries, passing trade from tourists and regular commuters</p> <p>Extended period of work – six to eight months due to time lost setting up and packing down each shift</p> <p>Risk that road cannot be reopened at the end of every day if work not complete/ road able to be reopened to traffic</p> <p>Confusing for motorists, tourists and community members</p> <p>Traffic delays – lengthy queues and delays during single lane traffic arrangements</p>
<p>Option D:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16-day full road closure (during winter school holidays) <p>Plus four to six months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> full road closures on weekdays from 9am to 3pm; full road closures from Sunday to Thursday at night from 8pm to 4am; only one lane open to traffic (under alternating traffic flow) at all other times until work complete 	<p>Same advantages option C</p> <p>Work can be completed faster than option C.</p> <p>Allows most motorists to carry out their daily activities with minimal detours</p>	<p>Same disadvantages as Option C</p> <p>Will cause most disruption on neighbouring residents with noisy night work.</p>

*Map showing the one lane alternating traffic arrangements included in Option C and D available on our project webpage.

Are there going to be information sessions?

Drop-in sessions will be held at the CWA Hall - 15 The Drive, Stanwell Park, so the community can speak to the project team and find out more about the work and the options.

The sessions will be held:

- Tuesday 26 November from 11am to 2pm
- Monday 9 December from 5pm to 8pm

When will the method of work be confirmed?

The details to carry out the work will be confirmed in early 2020.

Once we have determined the preferred option, we will develop plans to mitigate impacts on the community and key stakeholders.

Why are we doing this work?

Lawrence Hargrave Drive crosses the Illawarra Escarpment and slope movement can frequently occur, resulting in cracking in the road surface and shoulders

We have conducted in-depth geotechnical investigations and have identified a number of places between Otford Road and Chellow Dene Avenue where we need to carry out work to stabilise the slope and reduce the risk of land slips. This work is essential to keep the road safe and open to traffic in the long term.

What work will be carried out?

We will be installing mesh and soil nails (steel bars up to 13 metres long) on slopes for about one kilometre along the road to reinforce and strengthen the ground, as well as constructing a concrete retaining wall.

During the work we will also be repairing the road surface, replacing guardrails and improving drainage to assist with groundwater run-off.

Why is it necessary to close the road during the work?

Closing the road is essential to ensure the safety of all road users and workers.

The road at this location is narrow and work involves using large machinery and drilling equipment which doesn't leave enough room for vehicles, pedestrians or cyclists to pass safely.

During some stages of work part of the downhill lane will be excavated and there will be reduced support for the uphill lane. This will require a complete closure of the road until slope repairs are completed at that location.

Why can't we complete the work with one lane open at all times?

Due to the limited road width available, the steepness of the hill, and size of the machinery required to do the work, it would not be possible to allow traffic past the work site, while still providing a safe work site.

Why can't we open the road to two lanes when workers are not on site?

To allow the work to be done, the guardrail will need to be removed. In addition the outer edge of the road is likely to be damaged during the work and as a result the downhill lane will not be safe for motorists to use until work stages are completed.

Equipment will also be moved to one lane with the other lane open to traffic under an alternating traffic flow arrangement.

What will be the impact of the detour?

Detours will be in place via Bulli Pass and the M1 Princes Motorway.

Motorists should plan their journey and allow up to 40 minutes extra travel time.

Portable electronic messaging boards will display information to motorists about the closure including dates and detour routes.

Heavy vehicles over 19 metres or 42.5 tonnes should use the M1 as normal.

What plans have been prepared for the detour routes?

Detailed plans for traffic and emergency management of the detour routes will be further developed as we continue plans for this work.

These plans will help to ensure that road safety and journey times on the detour routes are prioritised during the closure period.

We will work with our heavy vehicle enforcement teams and NSW Police to implement regular safety-related activities on the M1.

What happens if there is an emergency in the area – will responders have access?

We have held discussions with all emergency services and will continue to work closely with these and other stakeholders to deliver effective incident management plans.

Who has been involved as part of the process?

We are speaking with local residents and businesses, Wollongong City Council, Destination Wollongong, NSW emergency services, Sydney Trains, freight industry and schools about this closure.

We will consider their feedback in our planning.

How can I find further information about this project?

Visit our website for more information about the project and how to have your say: rms.work/lhd-closure.

What arrangements will be made for cyclists?

No traffic, including cyclists, will be able to access the area during work hours. Cyclists can use the Princes Highway via Bulli Pass, or use train services between Stanwell Park, Otford and Helensburgh.

Can pedestrians access the area?

There is no pedestrian access on this section of Lawrence Hargrave Drive at any time.

Can additional train and/or bus services be provided?

We will continue talks with Sydney Trains in the lead-up to this work to determine if this is feasible.

What will you do to reduce the noise impact of this work?

There will be noise during construction, however to reduce the impact on residents, noisier work such as excavation, drilling and tree removal will be completed before 11pm where possible.

We will turn machinery off when not in use.

We will work closely with residents who may be most impacted by noise and will discuss appropriate mitigation measures if required.