

Maitland Bay Drive and Picnic Parade intersection upgrade

Community Consultation Report

Roads and Maritime Services | July 2019

Executive summary

The Community Consultation Report provides a summary of the community consultation carried out by Roads and Maritime Services to seek feedback on a proposed design in November 2018 for the future intersection upgrade at Maitland Bay Drive and Picnic Parade, Ettalong.

The NSW Government is investing \$7 million to upgrade the Maitland Bay Drive and Picnic Parade intersection at Ettalong to improve safety for road users and access into Ettalong.

Key issues raised by the community include cost, improvements to other roads in the Peninsula outside the scope of the project and Roads and Maritime responsibilities, the design and why traffic lights weren't included.

Next steps

We will take the community and stakeholder preferences into account when finalising the environmental assessment and concept design, which are expected to be displayed for community feedback in late 2019.

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1. Introduction

This section of Maitland Bay Drive is used by around 19,000 motorists every day.

The intersection provides a key link between Ettalong, Woy Woy and the suburbs east of the Rip Bridge including Daleys Point and St Huberts Island.

The proposal involves installing a roundabout at the intersection to improve access into and out of Picnic Parade.

Feedback was sought from the community between 5 November and 30 November 2018 on the proposed design to upgrade the Maitland Bay Drive and Picnic Parade intersection at Ettalong.

A community update outlining the proposal was distributed to more than 2000 residents in the Ettalong Beach area.

A total of 42 responses were received.

1.1 Background

The NSW Government is investing \$7 million to upgrade the Maitland Bay Drive and Picnic Parade intersection at Ettalong to improve safety for road users and access into and out of Ettalong.

The proposal is investigating:

- Installing a raised concrete roundabout and raised concrete medians
- A new right and left turn from Maitland Bay Drive into the Kitchener Park car park, but left turn only out
- On road lanes for cyclists
- New shared pathway to connect to existing footpath on Picnic Parade
- New pedestrian refuge on Picnic Parade to improve pedestrian safety.

1.2 The proposal

Key benefits of the proposal include:

- Improving pedestrian safety with a new refuge built on Picnic Parade and connecting new shared pathways to existing pathways along Picnic Parade
- Improving cyclist safety with on-road lanes
- Creating jobs and other development opportunities for the local community
- Improving access into and out of Ettalong.



2. Consultation approach

2.1 Consultation objectives

Community feedback was sought on the proposed design in November 2018. The purpose of the community consultation was to:

- Inform community members and stakeholders about the proposed upgrade and design
- Seek comments, feedback, ideas and suggestions on the project from community members and stakeholders
- Continue to build a database and knowledge of community members and stakeholders for Roads and Maritime to engage with through the development and delivery of the intersection upgrade.

2.2 Values

The following values underpin our decisions and behaviours when working with customers, colleagues, stakeholders and partners:

Customer focus - we place the customer at the centre of everything we do

Collaboration - we value each other and create better outcomes by working together

Solutions - we deliver sustainable and innovative solutions to NSW's transport needs

Integrity - we take responsibility and communicate openly

Safety - we prioritise safety for our people and our customers.

2.3 Consultation method

A community update was distributed to more than 2000 residents in Ettalong Beach.

Community members were encouraged to provide feedback by mail, email or phone contact with the project team. Discussions also took place between the project manager, Central Coast Council, local emergency services and bus companies.

3. Consultation Summary

3.1 Overview

We received 42 submissions during the consultation between 5 November and 30 November 2018.

Key issues raised by the community during this stage of consultation included:

- Design
- Traffic management (access, congestion and safety)
- Consideration of traffic lights
- Cost
- The local road network.

We have responded directly to all written comments and have spoken to respondents who directly phoned the project team.

Feedback received will be considered to develop the concept design, which is expected to be displayed in late 2019.

We will contact any potentially impacted property owners to discuss individual circumstances.

Maitland Bay Drive and Picnic Parade intersection upgrade – Responses Summary

The following table outlines the issues raised in community submissions and the response from Roads and Maritime.

Issue	Sub issue	Issue raised	Roads and Maritime response
Design	Roundabout	<p>Comments on the proposed roundabout design include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will result in worse traffic build up • The roundabout will be over engineered with large expanses of concrete • Two lanes should be provided in each direction • Traffic will be slowed on Maitland Bay Drive • The roundabout will not solve safety issues 	<p>The concerns raised by the community are acknowledged. Feedback received through this consultation will be considered during development of the concept design which is expected to be finalised later this year.</p> <p>Traffic modelling of the displayed layout for the proposed intersection upgrade indicates it will continue to work for 20 years without reaching capacity.</p> <p>The single lane approach on Picnic Parade is suitable because the roundabout physically reduces approach speed on Maitland Bay Drive. This enables more frequent entry into the roundabout from Picnic Parade as smaller gaps can be accepted.</p>
	Traffic lights	<p>Some submissions said traffic lights would be a safer and more efficient solution to a roundabout and a cheaper method of controlling traffic.</p>	<p>Traffic lights were considered but not adopted for these reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They require a permanent commitment of maintenance and operation costs compared to a roundabout. • It would cause long queues and delays if the single lane approaches on Maitland Bay Drive remained. • The traffic lights would require significant length of double lane approaches on Maitland Bay Drive in both directions resulting in a higher road footprint than the roundabout option. • A roundabout option is considered more aligned as the combination of the slower approach speed and opportunity for urban landscaping are more likely to encourage turning into Picnic Parade from tourist traffic outside the peak travel times. • This will help economic development in the Ettalong CBD, which is one of the project objectives.

Issue	Sub issue	Issue raised	Roads and Maritime response
Construction impact	Parking	Submission questions included enquiries on the future use/intentions of the Kitchener Park car park, stopping all use of the car park and providing parking at the end of Hood Street, via this carpark.	<p>The Kitchener Park car park access crossing is designed to relevant standards to enable safe entry and exit into and from the car park. There will be further refinements as the design progresses and these will be re-displayed to the community with the Review of Environmental Factors public display, where all comments will be taken into consideration.</p> <p>The concept phase will include consideration of access to the park from Hood Street instead of Maitland Bay Drive. This would require concurrence from Central Coast Council as managers of the local road network and the park.</p>
	Work hours	Resident would prefer construction work to be carried out at night.	Work hours will be determined but will be designed to have minimal impact on traffic and residents.
Costs	Project costs	Some submissions raised the point that, in their opinion, \$7 million was a lot to spend on a roundabout.	<p>The NSW Government has committed \$7 million to upgrade the intersection.</p> <p>The roundabout is intended to provide benefits including improved safety by reducing speed and providing pedestrian facilities and encouraging increased movement into Ettalong.</p>
Cyclist/ pedestrians	Cyclist safety	Issues were raised about cyclist safety at the intersection.	An on road cycleway exists on Maitland Bay Drive across the intersection. It is a design requirement of this project to maintain this facility if possible.
	Pedestrian safety	Submissions questioned pedestrian safety on nearby roads; traffic lights will allow a safer crossing and Picnic Parade needed a pedestrian crossing.	<p>Footpath, cycle facilities and car parking improvements on Picnic Parade are outside the scope of this project, as Picnic Parade is a local road managed by Central Coast Council.</p> <p>Some consideration may be given to minor improvements immediately next to the proposed works. Ongoing consultation with Central Coast Council will continue.</p>
Road safety	Picnic Parade	Questions asked whether traffic calming devices could be installed on Picnic Parade due a number of elderly residents and young families in the area.	<p>Proposals for safety improvements on Picnic Parade are outside the scope of the project and will be forwarded to Central Coast Council for consideration as the manager for local roads.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime's responsibility is to manage the Main Road network only. Suggestions for improvements elsewhere on the Main Road network have been forwarded to our Regional Planning section for consideration.</p>

Issue	Sub issue	Issue raised	Roads and Maritime response
Speed limit	Speeding vehicles	Questions were raised about whether a roundabout would resolve any issues associated with excessive speed, reducing the speed limit to 60 km/h on Maitland Bay Drive and traffic calming devices installed on Picnic Parade.	<p>Requests for a speed review on Maitland Bay Drive have been forwarded to Roads and Maritime's traffic and safety section for consideration.</p> <p>The roundabout will act as a traffic calming device as traffic will be required to reduce speed through the intersection.</p>
Road use	Heavy vehicle movements	Calls for a weight restriction limit on Picnic Parade, excluding buses due to houses shaking when trucks travel up and down the road.	<p>Maitland Bay Drive is classified as a Main Road and the proposed roundabout must be designed to enable heavy vehicle movement.</p> <p>Load limits for safety at Picnic Parade and other nearby local roads will be forwarded to Central Coast Council for consideration as manager of local roads.</p>
Traffic	Congestion	There were questions raised about the roundabout actually hindering the traffic flow, rather than improving it, particularly in peak times while several respondents said how bad the traffic was already during peak morning and afternoon times.	<p>Modelling of the displayed layout for the proposed intersection upgrade indicates it will continue to work for 20 years without reaching capacity. The existing layout would make Picnic Parade unusable within the next 15 years.</p> <p>The single approach on Picnic Parade is suitable because the roundabout physically reduces approach speed on Maitland Bay Drive. This enables more frequent entry into the roundabout from Picnic Parade.</p>

3.2 Recommendations

Key recommendations emerging from the consultation include:

- Continue consultation with community and stakeholders throughout the next planning stages of the Maitland Bay Drive and Picnic Parade intersection upgrade development
- Continue to provide more information about the design, impacted properties, delivery timeframes and consultation as it becomes available
- Coordinate consultation and planning with other developments proposed for the area.

3.3 Next steps

We thank everyone who took the time to review the project materials and provide feedback. We have considered all submissions, and the feedback and comments received will be considered to inform the next stages of the project.

Additional investigations and consultation will be carried out as the project progresses and we will continue to keep the community informed.

We expect to display the environmental assessment and concept design for community feedback in late 2019.



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