

NOVEMBER 2013

Dear resident

Re: The Nowra Bridge project

Roads and Maritime Services has started investigations to improve conditions on the Princes Highway over the Shoalhaven River in Nowra. The NSW Government allocated \$2 million in 2013-14 to plan for a potential new river crossing.



Aerial view of Nowra Bridges

The investigations will also look at how to maintain the existing southbound iron truss bridge, and whether the bridge can remain in use.

The project provides an opportunity to improve traffic conditions and manage traffic congestion around the bridges. Roads and Maritime has not decided if the southbound bridge will be replaced or kept, and community input will be an important part of this consideration.

The Nowra Bridge project will also consider opportunities to look at both a future bypass of Nowra and a future railway corridor across the Shoalhaven River.

A series of 'drop in' sessions are planned for November and December so the local community can find out more about the investigations and talk to the project team.

Existing bridges

The Princes Highway crosses the Shoalhaven River at Nowra on two independent bridge structures that are next to each other. The southbound iron truss bridge was constructed in 1881 and has historical and community value. The northbound concrete bridge was constructed in 1981.

The southbound bridge has two traffic lanes that can experience heavy congestion. The bridge structure restricts the movement of oversize and heavy freight vehicles and is at risk of damage from heavy vehicles that may collide with the structure when using the bridge. Additionally, maintenance of the southbound bridge is becoming increasingly difficult due to the large volume of traffic crossing the Shoalhaven River.

Planning is needed now to make sure that the road network can cope with the increasing traffic volumes needing to cross the Shoalhaven River.

Purpose of the project

The project must ensure that the maintenance needs of the existing southbound bridge can be met under existing and forecast traffic volumes. The project also provides an opportunity to improve southbound access for freight vehicles, and to improve general travel conditions and manage traffic congestion around the bridges.

Options being identified will attempt to improve accessibility, safety and efficiency for all road users and will minimise impacts on the physical and social environment. In considering options, Roads and Maritime will work closely with the community and strive to provide value for money.

Community involvement

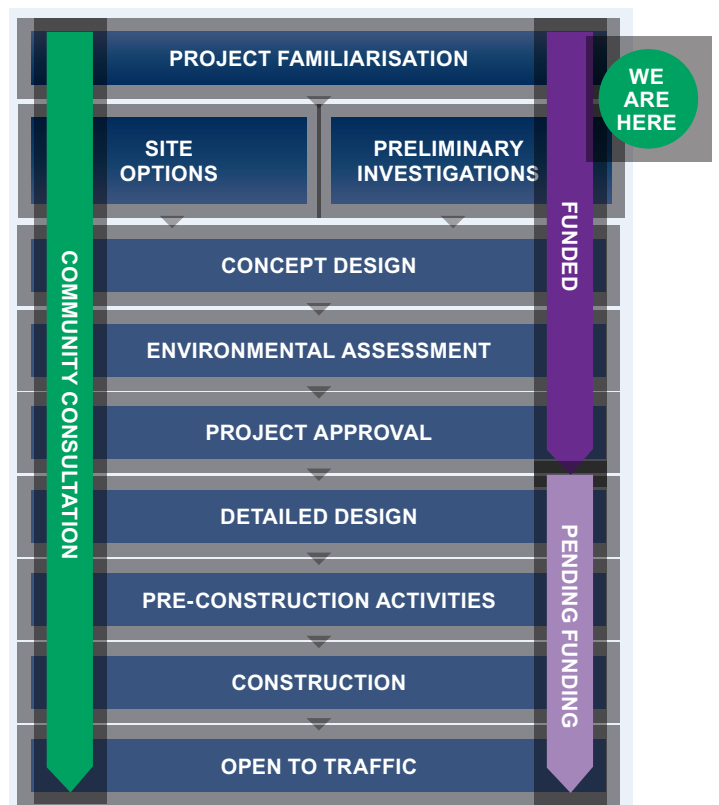
Roads and Maritime consider the community an essential part of the Nowra Bridge project. The project team are committed to involving the community throughout the life of the project and will provide regular updates and opportunities for the community to provide feedback.

During November and December 2013, Roads and Maritime is holding a series of community 'drop-in' sessions to introduce the Nowra Bridge project to the community:

- **Nowra School of Arts**
12 Berry Street, Nowra,
 - Saturday 30 November 2013, 10.30am to 1.30pm.
 - Thursday 5 December 2013, 5pm to 8pm.
 - Thursday 12 December 2013, 5pm to 8pm.
- **Nowra Showground Pavilion**
West Street, Nowra,
 - Saturday 7 December 2013, 10.30am to 1.30pm.

Project staff will be available at these sessions to answer questions and to provide further project information.

If you are unable to attend the 'drop-in' sessions, Roads and Maritime would still like to hear from you. Information on the Nowra Bridge project can be found on the Roads and Maritime Services website. You can leave your thoughts and feedback on the project via our project information line, by email or by post. Please see our details at the bottom of this letter.



Next steps

The information gathered from the community during late 2013 will be used early in the new year to help decide the best location for any new crossing.

Roads and Maritime will continue to seek your input at all stages of this important project and look forward to seeing you at one of the community 'drop in' sessions.

Yours faithfully,

Nick Boyd
Project Development Manager

For more information:

Post: Nowra Bridge project, AECOM, PO Box Q410, QVB Post Office, Sydney NSW 2000

Project information line: 1800 331 713 (free call) **Email:** NowraBridgeProject@rms.nsw.gov.au

Web www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/projects/princes_hway/nowra_bridge/index.html