

Frequently Asked Questions

Pacific Highway upgrade, between Ourimbah Street and Parson Road, Lisarow

July 2016

The NSW Government allocated \$7 million in 2016/17 for the planning of this future upgrade.

Feedback on the proposed design is invited by 19 August 2016 and will be considered when finalising the design.

Why is the upgrade needed?

A future upgrade of the Pacific Highway, between Ourimbah Street and Parsons Road at Lisarow would have regional and local benefits, by supporting access to and from the Central Coast and the region.

The upgrade would address current congestion and future traffic growth, improving traffic flow and the efficiency of freight. It would also improve safety and reduce the risk of crashes, and improve access for pedestrians and cyclists.

The proposal is part of a broader strategy to upgrade the Pacific Highway on the Central Coast between Wyoming and the Pacific Motorway (M1). The upgrade is being delivered over four key stages:

- **Stage 1** – Upgrading the intersection of the Pacific Highway with Dog Trap Road, (completed July 2007).

- **Stage 2** – Widening the Pacific Highway between Glen Road and Burns Road at Ourimbah, (completed January 2010)

Stage 3 has been broken down into two stages to minimise community disruption:

- **Stage 3A** – Pacific Highway upgrade between Ourimbah Street, Lisarow to Glen Road, Ourimbah (construction started in January 2016)
- **Stage 3B** – Pacific Highway upgrade between Parsons Road to Ourimbah Street, Lisarow (this project)
- **Stage 4** – Pacific Highway upgrade between Narara Creek Road, Narara to Parsons Road, Lisarow (in development)

How many cars travel along the Pacific Highway at Lisarow each day?

The 1.6 kilometre section of the Pacific Highway between Parsons Road and Ourimbah Street at Lisarow is used by around 30,000 vehicles a day.

This includes commercial transport, servicing the Narara and Lisarow areas.

I own a business in Lisarow. How will this affect me?

Roads and Maritime would liaise with local business during the construction to make sure access for customers is maintained and any impact minimised.

When will upgrade work start?

The NSW Government has allocated \$7 million to continue planning for this upgrade.

The proposed design is part of the NSW Government's commitment to planning for future important road infrastructure.

Visit rms.nsw.gov.au/lisarow for the latest information.

Will the upgrade change the way I use the Pacific Highway and local roads at Lisarow?

The upgrade would improve travel times and safety, and reduce congestion along the Pacific Highway Lisarow.

Access to the Pacific Highway and side streets would be improved through the installation of traffic lights and dedicated turning lanes.

The new intersection at Railway Crescent will restrict right turns out of Dora Street. A right turn bay could not be provided safely along Dora Street due to land constraints at this location.

Access will be improved to Lisarow train station through the relocation of the access road to the north and dedicated turning bays provided on the Pacific Highway.

Will there be paths for pedestrian and cyclist?

Yes. The upgrade would improve pedestrian and cycle facilities along the Pacific Highway and connections would be provided to current paths.

Review of Environmental Factors

What is the purpose of the Review of Environmental Factors?

A Review of Environmental Factors is an environmental assessment carried out by Roads and Maritime Services. This assesses the potential environmental and social impacts of the proposed road upgrade. The Review of Environmental Factors also identifies measures to manage and mitigate these impacts.

Why is the Review of Environmental Factors being displayed for community comment for a second time?

The initial display of the draft Review of Environmental Factors found the proposal would likely have a significant impact on the threatened flora species *Melaleuca biconvexa* (Biconvex Paperbark).

This has required the development of a Species Impact Statement under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. The findings of the Species Impact Statement have updated the Review of Environmental Factors meaning it must be displayed again in conjunction with the Species Impact Statement.

What impacts will the proposal likely have on biodiversity?

A biodiversity assessment found the proposal would require the removal of exotic and native vegetation, including 3.1 hectares of Endangered Ecological Communities listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. These communities include Swamp Sclerophyll Forest (2.8 hectares) and Freshwater Wetlands (0.3 hectares).

The biodiversity assessment also found the proposal would likely have a significant impact on the threatened flora species *Melaleuca biconvexa*. It is estimated 2.6 hectares of the species would be removed or impacted by the proposal.

Further assessments found the proposal unlikely to have a significant impact on other Endangered Ecological Communities or threatened flora and fauna species.

Will the proposal have an impact on flooding?

Yes. It is expected the proposal would likely have a temporary impact on flooding during construction.

Measures would be put in place to relieve potential flooding impacts to existing developments. These are summarised in the Review of Environmental Factors at rms.nsw.gov.au/lisarow

Studies show there would be a minor impact to flooding after construction.

Will the proposal have an impact on heritage items?

There would be small permanent changes to Lisarow cemetery, which is a locally listed heritage item. The impact includes the relocation of the cemetery gates on the highway, removal of vegetation and reducing the distance between the graves and the travel lanes on the Pacific Highway.

Measures would be put in place during construction to minimise the risk of impact.

Will there be an impact to the community and motorists during construction?

We expect there would be temporary disruptions to traffic flow and delays during construction.

Property access may be temporarily affected. We will discuss this with property owners before work starts.

Some work will be noisy and we are planning a range of mitigation measures for these activities. One of these measures is construction staging.

Construction is expected to be implemented in four stages to minimise impacts to traffic, businesses and residents.

The majority of construction would be carried out during normal construction hours (Monday to Friday between 7am and 6pm and on Saturdays between 8am and 1pm). However, to ensure the safety of our workers and to limit the impact on traffic flow, some work would be required outside of normal construction hours.

We will notify the community before the start of any out of hours or night work.

Will there be traffic noise impacts once the upgrade is complete?

Noise modelling has indicated that a small number of residences may be impacted by traffic noise once the upgrade work is complete.

Roads and Maritime will consult directly with affected property owners during the next stage of planning. Operational noise mitigation measures will be examined to minimise traffic noise impact on affected residents.

Species Impact Statement

What is the purpose of the Species Impact Statement?

A Species Impact Statement has been developed to thoroughly investigate the impacts the proposal would have on the threatened flora species *Melaleuca biconvexa* and Endangered Ecological Communities (Swamp Sclerophyll Forest and Freshwater Wetlands).

Mitigation measures and safeguards have been developed as part of the Species Impact Statement to minimise impacts to threatened species.

Details of the mitigation measures can be found in the Review of Environmental Factors and Species Impact Statement. You can view the updated Review of Environmental Factors and Species Impact Statement at rms.nsw.gov.au/lisarow

What are the Species Impact Statement findings?

Despite mitigation measures, the Species Impact Statement has confirmed there is likely to be an unavoidable and significant impact on about 2.6 hectares of *Melaleuca Biconvexa*.

The proposal is unlikely to have a significant impact on any other threatened species, once mitigation measures are implemented.

To compensate for the impact the proposed road upgrade would have on threatened species,

Roads and Maritime would purchase biodiversity offsets.

What are biodiversity offsets?

Roads and Maritime would obtain biodiversity offsets to compensate for the impact on threatened species as a result of this proposal.

To offset the removal of some vegetation clearing required, 'Biodiversity offsets' are proposed which could include measures like protection and conservation of an area of land with similar conservation value.

A Biodiversity Offset Strategy has been developed in consultation with NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, to confirm the availability of suitable offsets and to outline the steps Roads and Maritime will take to implement.

What happens next?

Will you listen to community feedback?

Yes. Comments and feedback from the community will be considered when finalising the design.

A response to any issues raised by the public during the display of this Review of Environmental Factors and Species Impact Statement will be provided in a Submissions Report.

The Submissions Report will be publicly available on the Roads and Maritime website at rms.nsw.gov.au/lisarow

What are the next steps?

Once community feedback is considered, Roads and Maritime will determine if the proposal should proceed, or whether changes to the proposal are needed. The community will be kept informed about this Roads and Maritime determination.

If the proposal is determined as feasible, agreement of the Species Impact Statement and its mitigation measures is needed from the Office of Environment and Heritage for the project to happen.

Final design is now underway and if the proposal is approved, we would call tenders for construction of the project at an appropriate time once funding permits following completion of the design and

completion of the purchase of all necessary property.

How can I find out more information and have my say?

The community is invited to view the plans and find out more at a staffed drop in community information session at **Lisarow Plaza outside Coles**, located on the corner of the Pacific Highway and Parsons Road at Lisarow at:

- **Thursday 11 August: 4pm to 7pm**

The plans are available for viewing at:

- **Gosford Service Centre:** 131-135 Henry Parry Drive, Gosford, Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5:30pm and Saturday 8:30am to 12pm.
- **Tuggerah Service Centre:** Tuggerah Super Centre, 2 Bryant Drive, Tuggerah, Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5:30pm and Saturday 8:30am to 12pm.

You can visit rms.nsw.gov.au/lisarow

How can I provide feedback?

You can contact us and provide feedback, by:

Phoning: (02) 4379 7020 in business hours

Emailing:

central.coast.Office@rms.nsw.gov.au

Online: rms.nsw.gov.au/lisarow

Writing: Daryl Fidge

Roads and Maritime Services

Central Coast Office

Locked Bag 2030

Newcastle NSW 2300

Please send us your feedback by **Friday 19 August 2016**.