



Pacific Highway upgrade, Lisarow

July 2016

The NSW Government has provided \$7 million in 2016/17 for the planning of the Pacific Highway upgrade, between Ourimbah Street and Parsons Road, Lisarow to improve traffic flow and safety.

This community update provides information about the Review of Environmental Factors, Species Impact Statement and updated road design.

The community are invited to comment on the Review of Environmental Factors and Species Impact Statement by **Friday 19 August 2016**.

Background

The Pacific Highway provides the main north-south link for road transport between Gosford and the M1 Pacific Motorway, and vital connections to business districts and residential suburbs within the Central Coast.

The 1.6 kilometre section of road between Parsons Road and Ourimbah Street is used by around 30,000 vehicles a day. During peak travel times motorists experience congestion and slow travel times. The planned upgrade would improve traffic flow and safety.

In 2015, Roads and Maritime Services displayed the concept design and draft Review of Environmental Factors for community comment.

The draft Review of Environmental Factors found the proposed road upgrade would have a significant impact on *Melaleuca Biconvexa*, a threatened flora species. As a result of this a Species Impact Statement has been prepared to thoroughly assess the potential impact and identify measures to avoid or minimise this impact.

The findings of the Species Impact Statement have been incorporated into the Review of Environmental Factors. The Review of Environmental Factors also includes minor changes to the concept design following consideration of comment received by the community in 2015.

Species Impact Statement findings and Review of Environmental Factors

Roads and Maritime has prepared a Review of Environmental Factors to assess the potential environmental and social impacts of the proposed road upgrade and identify measures to mitigate these impacts.

The draft Review of Environmental Factors identified the likely significant impact on the threatened flora species, *Melaleuca Biconvexa*. A Species Impact Statement has been developed to confirm and further understand the impact on this threatened species as required by the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

The Species Impact Statement confirmed there is likely to be an unavoidable and significant impact on about 2.6 hectares of *Melaleuca Biconvexa*, despite the mitigation measures that have been developed. The proposal is unlikely to have a significant impact on any other threatened species, once mitigation measures are implemented.

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.

You can view the updated Review of Environmental Factors, Species Impact Statement and proposed design at rms.nsw.gov.au/lisarow

The proposal

The proposal involves widening the Pacific Highway to provide two lanes in each direction between Ourimbah Street and Parsons Road.

Key features include:

- Two lanes in each direction on the Pacific Highway
- A new bridge over the rail line, replacing the existing narrow bridge near Railway Crescent
- New traffic lights at the Railway Crescent and Tuggerah Street (formerly Macdonalds Road) intersections with the Pacific Highway
- Upgrading the existing traffic lights at The Ridgeway
- Improving pedestrian and cycle paths along and across the highway
- Improving access to the parking area at Lisarow Railway Station.

Benefits

Key benefits include improved:

- Traffic flow and more consistent travel times on the Pacific Highway
- Access to connecting roads
- Safety for all road users
- Pedestrian and cycle network.



Melaleuca Biconvexa

Pacific Highway Upgrade, Lisarow

Key

- Pacific Highway upgrade area
- Shared pedestrian and cycle path
- New footpath
- Bus stop bays
- Raised median
- Retaining wall

Unchanged from February 2015 display

Modified since the previous display in February 2015

Design changes since the 2015 public display

Minor changes have been made to the road design since the 2015 public display. The changes considered community feedback and further investigations. These include:

- Lengthening the left turn bay from the Pacific Highway into Railway Crescent by 35 metres to minimise traffic queuing for through traffic
- Installing temporary and permanent water quality basins to manage water runoff from the Pacific Highway:
 - A temporary basin will be created to manage erosion and sediment during construction and will be located next to the Lisarow Station car park
 - A permanent basin will be located on the western side of the Pacific Highway to the south of Tuggerah Street.
- Installing a new retaining wall at the northern side of Dora Street to minimise the impact on Lisarow cemetery
- Extending the currently proposed retaining walls in various locations. Retaining walls are being extended to minimise the impact of the proposal on the surrounding environment
- Extending the shared pedestrian and cycle path along the eastern side of the Pacific Highway between The Ridgeway and MacDonalds Road, to provide better connection to Lisarow Public School.



Community involvement

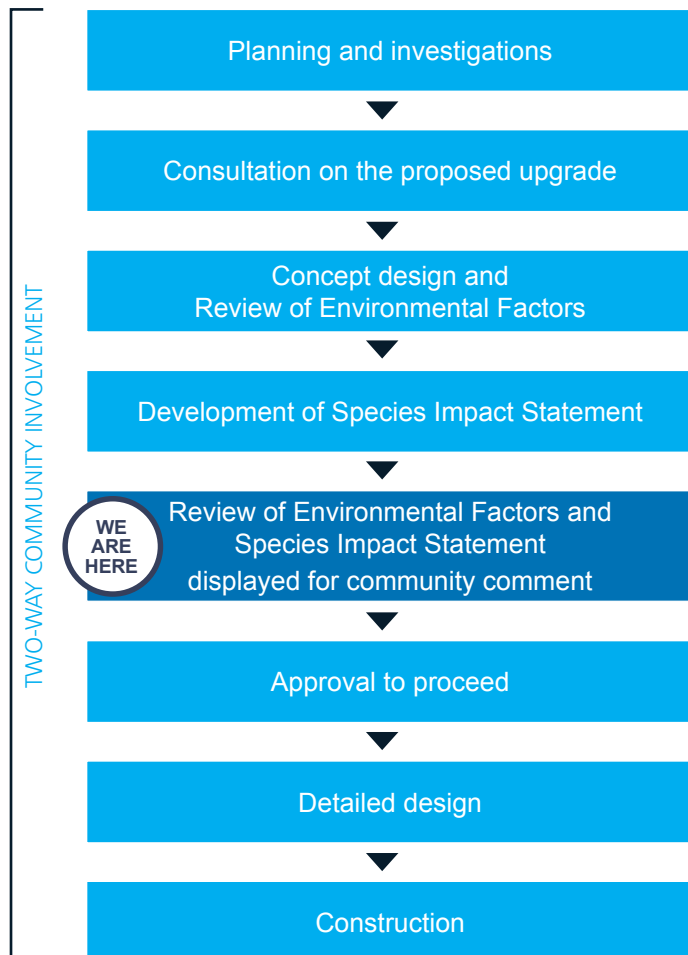
Roads and Maritime is committed to working with the community and stakeholders during the planning process to identify issues and minimise potential impact of the upgrade.

Roads and Maritime will consider comments when in finalising the design.

The community is invited to view the plans and find out more information at a staffed display on

Thursday 11 August between 4pm to 7pm at Lisarow Plaza outside Coles, on the corner of the Pacific Highway and Parsons Road, Lisarow.

Project development process



Your comments and more information

Phone: 02 4379 7020 (during business hours)

Email: central.coast.office@rms.nsw.gov.au

Web: rms.nsw.gov.au/lisarow

Mail: Daryl Fidge, Roads and Maritime Services
Locked Bag 2030, Newcastle NSW 2300



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What happens next?

The community are invited to comment on the Review of Environmental Factors and Species Impact Statement by **Friday 19 August 2016**.

After consideration of community comments, Roads and Maritime will work with the Office of Environment and Heritage to seek agreement on the Species Impact Statement. This will determine if the proposal should go ahead as proposed, or if changes are needed.

The community will be kept informed throughout this process.

Please send us your comments by Friday 19 August 2016.



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