



Frequently Asked Questions

Exhibition of concept design and Environmental Impact Statement

About the project

What is happening now?

Roads and Maritime Services has developed a concept design and prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the upgrade of The Northern Road between Mersey Road, Bringelly and Glenmore Parkway, Glenmore Park. The EIS is on exhibition for public consultation until **Wednesday 2 August 2017**.

The EIS outlines the key features of The Northern Road Upgrade between Mersey Road, Bringelly and Glenmore Parkway, Glenmore Park and assesses its potential environmental and social impacts during construction and operation.

The upgrade of the Northern Road is jointly funded by the Australian and NSW governments and the EIS is assessed under both Commonwealth and NSW government legislation.

Why is The Northern Road being upgraded?

Roads and Maritime is planning to upgrade around 35 kilometres of The Northern Road between Narellan and Penrith to improve safety, increase road capacity and cater for expected future traffic growth. It is also expected to reduce congestion, provide more reliable travel times and allow for more public transport services in the future.

Currently The Northern Road is generally two and four lanes with sections of divided and undivided road. It forms the main road corridor connecting Penrith and Narellan with the M4 Motorway and development south of the M4. It will provide one of the main arterial transport corridors for the Western Sydney Airport at Badgerys Creek, the South West Priority Growth Area and the Western Sydney Priority Growth Area.

About a three kilometre section of The Northern Road south of Luddenham town centre is currently on land that is part of the Western Sydney Airport site. The existing section of road needs to be realigned around the Western Sydney Airport site to enable the construction and operation of the airport. Once completed, it will be part of the main road corridor connection between the Western Sydney Airport and cities and suburbs to the north and south.

When will this upgrade be built?

Construction of this proposed upgrade is subject to approval by the Australian Government Environment and Energy Minister and the NSW Planning Minister. If approval is granted, construction will be delivered in stages, with the Mersey Road to Eaton Road stage expected to start in 2018. It is expected that the Mersey Road to Eaton Road stage, around the Western Sydney Airport site, would be open in 2020.

How is Roads and Maritime going to manage so much construction in the area?

Roads and Maritime projects, including The Northern Road Upgrade are being delivered in stages and work will be coordinated to help minimise disruption to road users. We will make every effort to minimise inconvenience. Motorists and the community will be notified of changes to traffic conditions before work is carried out.

Design

What changes have been made since the preliminary design was displayed?

The concept design includes a number of changes to the preliminary road design. These include:

- moving the realigned The Northern Road slightly to the east to reduce property impact between the section just west of Dwyer Road and Vicar Park Lane
- adding new traffic lights and a u-turn bay at the southern entry to the Western Sydney Airport
- a new left in and left out turn from Eaton Road east to the realigned The Northern Road
- moving the access road linking the existing Elizabeth Drive and realigned Elizabeth Drive further to the east
- a new u-turn bay on the realigned Elizabeth Drive
- realigning the service road between the extended section of Littlefields Road and Gates Road
- making provision for an incident management facility on the south west corner of the intersection at the realigned The Northern Road and the realigned Elizabeth Drive
- confirming the location for the intersection of the proposed M12 Motorway and The Northern Road.

What provisions are there for cyclists and pedestrians?

The upgrade will include a shared off-road pedestrian and cyclist path with crossings at traffic lights, on the western side of The Northern Road and pedestrian paths on the eastern side of The Northern Road where required.

Property

Will there be any property acquisition and is my property affected?

As part of the proposed upgrade, Roads and Maritime would need to fully acquire a small number of properties and partially acquire a number of properties to allow for the road widening. Roads and Maritime has started, and will continue, discussions with all affected property owners.

What will be done to help businesses in the Luddenham town centre?

Access will be maintained to the Luddenham town centre via the existing The Northern Road, from the realigned The Northern Road, with upgraded intersections and signage.

The project will improve the amenity of the Luddenham town centre through the removal of heavy vehicles. There will be increased numbers of construction workers in the area who will be using local goods and services.

Roads and Maritime will work with Liverpool Council on planning for future opportunities for the Luddenham town centre.

Environment

What kinds of issues are identified in the Environmental Impact Statement?

The EIS describes the project and why it is needed, assesses the impact of the project and identifies measures that would be implemented to avoid and minimise those impacts. The EIS identifies issues and mitigation measures for flooding, traffic and transport, noise and vibration, biodiversity, socio-economic, urban design and visual impacts, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage, air quality and surface water.

How does the environmental planning approval process work?

To meet the requirements of both the Federal and State planning approval processes for the proposed upgrade, Roads and Maritime has prepared a single document that satisfies both the NSW EIS and the Commonwealth Draft EIS requirements (please note the EIS process undertaken for The Northern Road Upgrade is separate to the Western Sydney Airport EIS). The document describes the project, the potential impact and how this impact will be managed. The exhibition of the NSW EIS/Draft Commonwealth EIS is an opportunity for the community and stakeholders to review the materials and provide feedback on the proposed upgrade.

What is being done about existing flooding issues along parts of the corridor?

A flooding impact assessment has been carried out as part of the concept design and EIS. The proposed upgrade has been designed to address existing flooding issues. The project has been designed for the road to be above one in 100 year flood levels.

What is Roads and Maritime doing to protect threatened species and vegetation communities that may be found along the route?

As part of the EIS, Roads and Maritime has undertaken a biodiversity assessment and has identified impacts on some threatened species and vegetation communities. Roads and Maritime will purchase biodiversity offset credits that will provide for the management and conservation of threatened vegetation communities and alternate habitats for threatened species in the future.

Have your say

How do I make a comment on the proposed project?

As part of the environmental assessment process, you are encouraged to make a formal submission to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).

Submissions must be in writing and can be lodged through the DPE website or mailed by **Wednesday 2 August 2017**.

Online: www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/page/on-exhibition

Mail: Attention: Director Transport Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
Application number SSI 15_7127
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

To make an online submission, go to the DPE website at www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/page/on-exhibition. Select the search result for The Northern Road Upgrade – Glenmore Park to Bringelly (SSI 15_7127) and follow the instructions on how to lodge your feedback online.

What happens next?

At the completion of the EIS public exhibition period, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment and Australian Department of the Environment and Energy will provide Roads and Maritime with a copy of submissions or summary of issues raised.

For the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Roads and Maritime will prepare a submissions report to respond to the issues raised and this will be published and made available to the public. Roads and Maritime may also prepare a Preferred Infrastructure Report to respond to any project changes following the exhibition, if necessary.

For the Australian Department of the Environment and Energy, Roads and Maritime will prepare a Final EIS to respond to the issues raised. If Roads and Maritime prepare a Preferred Infrastructure Report (discussed above), the Final EIS will be in accordance with this document.

An assessment report will be prepared by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment and a recommendation report will be prepared by the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy. Once these reports are finalised, the Australian Government Environment and Energy Minister and the NSW Planning Minister will decide whether or not to approve the project, any modifications that must be made, and the conditions to be attached to any approval.

How will my feedback be used?

The submissions process plays a vital role in the project's development and provides an opportunity for you to have your say. At the close of the exhibition period, a submissions report will be prepared to document all issues raised during the formal submissions process and responses.

If you make a submission on the EIS, it will be made to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment and the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy who will review your submission as part of their environmental assessment of the project.

Where can I find out more information?

The full EIS can be viewed at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/thenorthernroad and www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/page/on-exhibition. It is available to view in hard copy at:

Penrith City Library

601 High Street, Penrith
Monday to Friday 9am to 8pm
Saturday 9am to 5pm
Sunday 10am to 5pm

Liverpool Library

170 George Street, Liverpool
Monday to Friday 9.30am to 8pm
Saturday 9.30am to 4pm
Sunday 12pm to 4pm

Camden Council

70 Central Avenue, Oran Park
Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm

Narellan Library

Corner Queen and Elyard Street, Narellan
Monday, Wednesday 9.30am to 8pm
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30am to 5pm
Saturday 9am to 3pm

Community information sessions

We will hold three community information sessions where the project team will be available to answer questions about the EIS. A formal presentation will not be given, so please feel free to drop in at any time during the following sessions:

Saturday 1 July 10am – 1pm	Wednesday 19 July 3pm – 7pm	Saturday 22 July 10am – 1pm
Holy Family Primary School Willowdene Avenue, Luddenham	Holy Family Primary School Willowdene Avenue, Luddenham	Orchard Hills Masonic Centre 290 Homestead Road, Orchard Hills



www.rms.nsw.gov.au/thenorthernroad



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