

The Northern Road upgrade – Adams Road and The Northern Road intersection - change in design

Consultation report

Roads and Maritime Services | December 2018

Executive summary

The proposal

The Australian and NSW governments have given planning approval to upgrade The Northern Road between Mersey Road and Glenmore Parkway. The upgrade of The Northern Road is part of the \$3.6 billion Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan to improve safety, increase road capacity and reduce travel times and congestion in the future.

Roads and Maritime Services (Roads and Maritime) has further refined the design for the approved upgrade. Roads and Maritime are now proposing to replace the bridge at the Adams Road/The Northern Road intersection with traffic lights.

Key features of the proposal include:

- A full four-way interchange at the location with bus lanes on The Northern Road
- Pedestrian and cyclist crossing facilities
- Ability to turn left into and out of Adams Road, both eastbound and westbound.

Consultation about the design changes

Roads and Maritime prepared an options report for the design change and consulted about the changes with stakeholders and the local community. The Options Report has been available on the Roads and Maritime website from Monday 27 August 2018.

A community update was distributed to 400 residents and businesses in and around Adams Road/The Northern Road, Luddenham and advertisements were placed in Liverpool and Penrith newspapers in the week of 31 August 2018, inviting members of the community to a 'pop-up' display at Luddenham on 3 September 2018.

Roads and Maritime invited the public to provide feedback on the design change. Roads and Maritime also held meetings with stakeholders, residents and businesses directly affected by the proposal in August and September 2018.

Summary of main issues

The consultation resulted in written feedback from 10 community members, one community association and two stakeholders. Feedback was also received from six directly impacted landowners. The feedback was a result of consultation which included eight meetings, 152 emails and phone calls, one community update, advertisements in local papers and one community pop-up session. A number of comments received supported the design change, some comments opposed the change and some feedback identified the following issues:

- Increased traffic on Adams Road
- Extra travel time on The Northern Road and Adams Road
- Concern about the condition of Adams Road and its maintenance
- Increased movement of heavy vehicles on Adams Road
- Noise and air pollution from start/stop at the intersection
- Change in access to Adams Road and The Northern Road from private properties as a result of the height change of Adams Road and construction of an intersection
- The weighting and conclusions in the Options Report.

Western Sydney Airport (WSACo) supported the proposal and requested ongoing consultation. Liverpool City Council supported the proposal subject to some concessions. Penrith City Council, local emergency services and utilities did not comment on the proposal.

The main issues raised in feedback to the design change are summarised under the following headings:

- Need and justification for the change
- Options report
- Traffic and congestion
- Noise and vibration
- Air quality
- Adams Road
- Impact on businesses
- Other.

Changes to the proposal

Following the display (Community consultation) of the proposal, one small change was made towards making the intersection more efficient – instead of a combined straight and right turning lane, an additional dedicated right turning bay from Adams Road into The Northern Road was added, on both sides of the intersection.

Next Steps

A Modification Report will be lodged with the Department of Planning and Environment, with approval sought for the modification.

The project would be built by an external contractor who will be selected through a competitive tendering process and assessed by a panel. Construction should start in mid-2019 and be completed by late 2021. The community will be informed of the project start date by advertisements placed in the local media, by newsletters distributed in the areas surrounding the project, updates to the website www.rms.nsw.gov.au/thenorthernroad and through a media statement that will be offered to local newspapers for publication.

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1. Consultation activities

Roads and Maritime prepared an Options Report for the replacement of the twin bridges, evaluating three options for the replacement of the bridge with traffic lights. A preferred option was selected which assumed some conclusions on behalf of community reaction to the options.

The conclusions were tested and generally reaffirmed when consultation about the preferred option was conducted between 27 August 2018 and 28 September 2018.

During this time, Roads and Maritime invited the public to provide feedback on the proposal. The preferred option was publicly displayed on the Roads and Maritime website. The display of the preferred option was advertised in the local newspapers. Roads and Maritime also held stakeholder meetings with residents and businesses directly affected by the proposal.

In addition to the public display, there were several activities carried out during the consultation period to give the community a chance to learn more about the project, meet the project team and 'have their say' (refer to Table 1.1).

Community members and stakeholders were asked to provide feedback via email, mail and phone directly to the project team. The community could contact Roads and Maritime and leave comments by:

Email thenorthernroad@rms.nsw.gov.au

Phone 1800 703 457

Mail The Northern Road upgrade – Adams Road intersection
PO Box 973
Parramatta CBD NSW 2124

Table 1.1: Consultation activities during the public display period

Tool / Activity	Reach	Details
Community update (Appendix A)	400	A community update was produced including the reason for the change, questions and answers about the change and how to provide feedback. The community updates were letterbox dropped to about 400 properties. The community update was also made available on the Roads and Maritime website.
Meetings with directly impacted property owners	6	Meetings were held with six directly impacted property owners in the immediate vicinity of the proposal prior to the formal consultation period. The purpose was to notify and discuss with owners and stakeholders any potential impacts to their property and to encourage their feedback. Designs of the traffic signals were given to the property owners as well as details around levels, acquisition, access and impacts.
Meetings with stakeholders	2	Meetings were held with Liverpool City Council and Western Sydney Airport (WSACo)
Media release	As per circulation numbers	A media release was issued by Roads and Maritime on 27 August 2018. It was titled ' <i>Have a say on design change for The Northern Road upgrade at Luddenham</i> ' and encouraged local community members and stakeholders to engage in the consultation.
Newspaper advertisement	As per circulation	Newspaper advertisements appeared in the Liverpool Champion, Liverpool Leader, Penrith Press and Penrith Weekender in the week commencing 27 August to raise

	numbers	awareness of the consultation.
Email notifications	152	Roads and Maritime emailed 152 stakeholders (community members and groups) and other government stakeholders on 28 August 2018 to announce the change in design and raise awareness of the consultation.
Webpage		The project webpage was updated on Monday 27 August 2018 with project information including the community update newsletter, Options Report and information on how to submit feedback.
Pop up session	58 attendees	A pop-up session was held on Thursday 3 September 2018, between 3pm and 7pm at the Luddenham IGA, The Northern Road. The preferred design was displayed and attendees could ask the project team questions about the proposal and the project itself.

1.3 Purpose of the report

This consultation report relates to the “*Change in design for Adams Road/The Northern Road, Luddenham*”.

The design was placed on public display and comments relating to the design were received by Roads and Maritime. This report summarises the issues raised and provides responses to each issue (refer to Section 2).

2 Response to issues

Roads and Maritime received 19 comments on the proposal. 18 comments were received by the due date of 28 September 2018. One comment was received after the closing date, however all comments have been considered. Table 2.1 lists the issues and responses.

2.1 Overview of issues raised

The display of the design and the supporting consultation generated 19 comments, of which:

- One comment was from Liverpool City Council
- One comment was from a business, WSACo
- Six comments were from local landowners who are directly impacted by the design change
- One comment was from a community organisation, Luddenham Progress Association
- Ten comments were from the general community.

Local landowners, Liverpool City Council and WSACo supported the design change. Comments from members of the community and the Progress Association generally were not supportive of the change.

Each comment was examined individually to understand the issues being raised. The issues raised in each comment have been extracted and collated, and corresponding responses have been provided. Where similar issues have been raised in different comments, only one response has been provided. The issues raised and responses form the basis of this Chapter.

Table 2.1: Summary of the main issues by respondent group

Respondent group	Main comments or issues
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Landowners in the area supported the change• Community members did not want the design to change from a bridge• One community member voiced a preference for the other options (not a full interchange)• The main concerns of the community related to increase in traffic, noise, vibration and decrease in air quality on or near Adams Road• There was concern about the state of Adams Road and its ability to handle more traffic• Community members acknowledged the improvements to pedestrian and cyclist safety
Community association	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Luddenham Progress Association did not support the change and voiced their preference for a bridge
Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council supported the change with some concerns about maintenance, private property access, height of batters and stormwater drainage
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only one business responded, was supportive of the proposal and did not raise any major concerns

3 Responses to issues raised

3.1 Responses to issues

Issue	Response
Need and justification for the change	
Earlier consultation identified a bridge and this was accepted and there is no reason to change this	<p>Roads and Maritime continually seeks to improve the design of proposed upgrades to provide better connections and value for money.</p> <p>A bridge would have restricted movements and access for users of Adams Road. An intersection with traffic signals provides greater connectivity into and out of Luddenham town centre and the Luddenham shops.</p> <p>While there may be some impact from this change, overall when considering all the benefits from the changed design, the new intersection will better cater for the future.</p>
Options Report	
The Options Report is flawed and assumes community support for the change and is a waste of money	<p>The Options Analysis is a requirement of the NSW development approval process before undertaking formal environmental assessment and detailed design of a preferred design.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to provide a comparative transparent analysis of the options in order to identify the suitability of the preferred option.</p>
A number of issues raised about the Options Report and assumptions	<p>The issues considered and score weightings adopted by the Adams Road intersection Options Analysis were the same approach taken for the wider project Options Assessment, which was undertaken as part of the EIS, including the Elizabeth Drive intersection options assessment.</p> <p>The consistent weightings are derived to achieve best overall outcomes considering a wide range of factors including local and regional community.</p>
Traffic and congestion	
The introduction of an additional intersection will slow traffic and increase travel times	<p>An assessment of potential impacts resulting from the proposed design changes at the Adams Road intersection has been completed, including professional traffic modelling based on existing and forecast traffic data.</p> <p>The assessment found that vehicles travelling eastbound along Adams Road would typically experience a 55 second delay due to the introduction of the intersection. Vehicles travelling westbound along Adams Road would typically experience an 86 second delay. Transport modelling results indicate that the proposed new intersection of The Northern Road and Adams Road would meet the performance target of <i>Level of Service D</i>. Proposed bay lengths are sufficient to contain maximum queue lengths under 2031 traffic demands.</p> <p>An additional design change is the introduction of a dedicated turning bay from Adams Road to The Northern Road, replacing a lane which combined right turning and through traffic on Adams Road.</p> <p>This information is included in the Modification Report provided to the Department of Planning and Environment.</p>
Entry to/from the village will	Traffic lights will preference the flow of traffic on The Northern Road.

impact north-south traffic flows	Adams Road has relatively low existing and forecast traffic numbers, so traffic will be free-flowing most of the time north and southbound along The Northern Road.
Noise and vibration	
Noise and vibration in the area will increase from trucks braking at the intersection	Traffic lights will preference the flow of traffic on The Northern Road. Adams Road has relatively low existing and forecast traffic numbers, so traffic will be free-flowing most of the time north and southbound along The Northern Road. Additional traffic noise from operation of the intersection is not expected to have a significant impact given the predominant noise source is traffic flowing along The Northern Road.
Noise increase for residents on Adams Road	A quantitative assessment of potential operational noise impact resulting from the proposed design changes (including the Adams Road intersection) has taken place. The assessment includes professional acoustic modelling based on forecast traffic data, topography and distance to receivers. The assessment has identified additional properties that are adversely affected and require noise mitigation measures and these properties will be offered treatment within six months from the start of construction.
Air quality	
Increased braking, especially from trucks will result in poor air quality around the intersection	<p>Traffic lights will preference The Northern Road traffic flow and Adams Road has relatively low existing and forecast traffic numbers. Therefore, traffic will be free-flowing most of the time north and southbound along The Northern Road.</p> <p>A qualitative assessment of air quality impacts resulting from the proposed design changes (at the Adams Road intersection) is included in Table 5-1 of the Modification Report. It shows that there are no additional receivers affected over NSW Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) criteria thresholds, based on a review of motor vehicle emission factors for traffic conditions of the signalised intersection and distance to nearest receivers.</p>
Adams Road - its use, condition, safety and classification	
Adams Road is a local road and its use should not change	Adams Road is currently a local road primarily providing access to properties along Adams Road, while also providing access to Luddenham town centre. With the realignment and upgrade of The Northern Road, the intended access to Luddenham town centre will be via Elizabeth Drive and The Northern Road. While the function of Adams Road may change as a result of changes to connectivity at The Northern Road, it will still primarily function as a local road. Some traffic calming measures on Adams Road are proposed for implementation when mitigation is required.
Trucks will be tempted to use Adams Road	Adams Road is a load limited road and trucks above 3 tonnes cannot use it. There is no proposal to change this as a part of The Northern Road upgrade.
Dispute traffic projections on Adams Road	<p>The forecast increased traffic numbers along Adams Road primarily relates to a redirection of traffic from The Northern Road to Adams Road as it provides a link to Elizabeth Drive. The forecast increased traffic numbers are not a result of growth.</p> <p>The Adams Road connection will allow increased use of Adams Road to access Luddenham.</p>

	<p>The forecast traffic data accounts for the airport and other future developments.</p> <p>The draft Modification Assessment report includes an evaluation of traffic volume increases along Adams Road (see Section 5.2.3).</p>
Condition of Adams Road and its maintenance	Adams Road is a local road and maintained by Council. Roads and Maritime is working closely with Council as a part of this project and has consulted Council about this modification. Consultation will be ongoing to ensure the condition of Adams Road is appropriate to its proposed use.
Safety of residents leaving their properties on Adams Road especially properties with steep driveways as a result of change in level of Adams Road and construction of an intersection	<p>The proposed new Adams Road intersection has been designed to relevant safety standards and includes signalised pedestrian crossings at all sides of intersection. The proposed upgrade provides a new shared path for pedestrians and cyclists on the western side of The Northern Road.</p> <p>Redesign of some driveways which connect to Adams Road has been done in consultation with impacted property owners to ensure safe access.</p>
Impact on businesses	
The changed design will give motorists an option to shortcut and not pass all the existing businesses along The Northern Road and this could affect business numbers	<p>The traffic numbers passing the Luddenham village businesses to go to Adams Road under a bridge arrangement were forecast to be very low – in the order of 10 vehicles per day. These movements would only be made by vehicles accessing Adams Road between The Northern Road and Elizabeth Drive, where there are a few houses and a couple of businesses. In this scenario, any particular vehicle would only incidentally bypass the northern or southern set of Luddenham shops on their way to Adams Road, not pass all of the existing shops.</p> <p>The current intersection design forecasts an increased number of vehicles accessing the village (Adams Road west of the proposed The Northern Road).</p>
Consultation	
Ongoing consultation required about Adams Road	Roads and Maritime will continue to consult about the design change and the construction progress

4 Next Steps

Roads and Maritime will lodge a request to modify the current approved design to the Department of Planning and Environment. Once the modification approval has been lodged with the Department of Planning and Environment, the Department will make a decision on whether further consultation is required or to approve the modification.

Roads and Maritime will progress with the implementation and construction of the Northern Road upgrade with this changed design. The project would be constructed by an external contractor who has been selected through a competitive tendering process and assessed by a panel.

It is planned to start construction in mid-2019 and be completed by late 2021. The community will be informed of the exact date of the project's start by advertisements placed in the local press, by newsletter distribution in the areas surrounding the project, by updates to the website www.rms.nsw.gov.au/thenorthernroad and by a media statement that will be offered to local newspapers for publication.

Public display notices – Community update



The Northern Road upgrade – Mersey Road to Glenmore Parkway

Proposal to install traffic signals at Adams Road/The Northern Road

Roads and Maritime Services | August 2018

The Australian and NSW governments have given planning approval to upgrade The Northern Road between Mersey Road and Glenmore Parkway as part of the \$3.6 billion Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan to improve safety, increase road capacity and reduce travel times and congestion in the future.

Roads and Maritime Services has further refined the design for the approved upgrade, including the bridge over Adams Road, Luddenham and are now proposing to replace the bridge with traffic signals.

What are the changes from what was displayed during the EIS?

The design displayed during the exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) from June – August 2017 was for twin bridges over Adams Road. Following refinement of the design, it is now proposed to replace these bridges with a set of traffic signals with all movements at that location.

Why is the design being changed?

With a bridge, access to the upgraded The Northern Road was not directly available from Adams Road.

The bridge would have impacted a number of properties on Adams Road during construction and operation of The Northern Road at that location. Increased noise, vibration and the importation of a large amount of fill material with resultant dust during construction were identified as potentially impacting nearby residents. The bridge structure was likely to have a negative visual impact on the surrounding community.

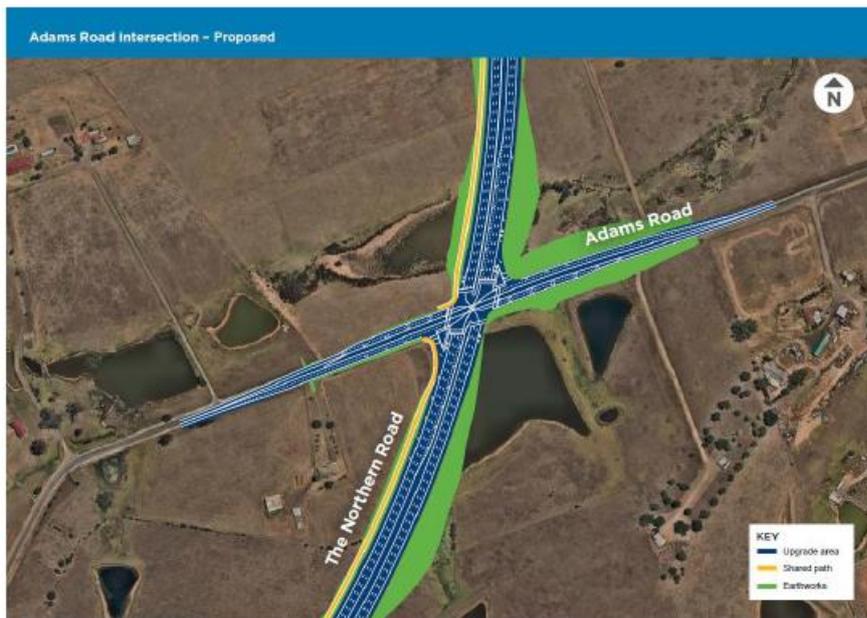
Additionally, refinement of the design identified that a set of traffic lights with all movements at that location provided greater overall benefits to residents and businesses in the area and was more economically viable.

What were the options considered

Three options were considered for the change in design. The options and their benefits have been assessed in an Options Report which can be viewed on our website at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/thenorthernroad.

What is the proposed new design?

The preferred design is a set of traffic signals with all movements to/from The Northern Road and Adams Road.



This provides the following benefits:

- greatest level of connectivity for Adams Road and Luddenham town centre
- a full four-way interchange at the location with bus lanes on The Northern Road
- pedestrian and cyclist crossing facilities
- ability to turn left into Adams Road, both eastbound and westbound
- reduced construction timing and an overall reduction in earthworks reduced visual impacts
- environmental benefits during construction and operation

What is the impact on properties and access?

- There will be some additional property acquisition required and these property owners have been consulted by Roads and Maritime.
- ▲ All existing access arrangements for properties on Adams Road will be maintained with some minor changes which will take place in consultation with property owners.

What is the impact on traffic using The Northern Road

Vehicles using The Northern Road in the future will be required to travel through an additional set of traffic lights at Adams Road. Due to the relatively low volume of vehicles using Adams Road, the forecast for additional delays for traffic travelling north or south on The Northern Road is minimal.

Have your say

Roads and Maritime has prepared an Options Report identifying the features and a comparison of all the options. This is available to view on the website www.rms.nsw.gov.au/thenorthernroad.

This document identifies the impacts of the change, including noise, visual amenity, traffic, access and safety.

If you would like to comment on this proposal, please do so by **Friday 28 September 2018** by contacting us as per the adjacent details.

The project team will be available in the Luddenham IGA on **Thursday 6 September 2018** from **3 pm to 7pm** to explain the options and answer any questions you may have.

What happens next?

Roads and Maritime will consider all feedback received and after making any changes required, submit an application to the Department of Planning and Environment to modify the project.

Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information on The Northern Road upgrade please contact our project team:



1800 703 457



thenorthernroad@rms.nsw.gov.au



www.rms.nsw.gov.au/thenorthernroad



The Northern Road upgrade
PO Box 973 Parramatta NSW 2124



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1800 703 457.

Public display material – Advertisement



Roads and Maritime Services

Proposed change in design – The Northern Road upgrade at The Northern Road and Adams Road, Luddenham

The Northern Road upgrade between Mersey Road, Bringelly and Glenmore Parkway, Glenmore Park is funded by the Australian and NSW governments. This 16 kilometre upgrade will improve road capacity, assist with access to and the building of Western Sydney Airport, and improve access to the planned M12 Motorway, the South West Growth Area and the Western Sydney Airport Growth Area.

What is the change?

As a part of design refinement for the project, it is proposed to replace the twin bridges over Adams Road at Luddenham with a set of traffic signals.

Roads and Maritime Services has evaluated a number of options for this intersection and identified a preferred option which we are seeking community feedback on.

Have your say

You can have a look at the new design and have your say in the following ways:

- view the design and meet our team at:
 - IGA Luddenham, The Northern Road between **3pm and 7pm on Thursday 6 September 2018**
- visit our website and view the design and provide us your feedback by email
- call us and provide your feedback.

We would appreciate receiving your feedback by **Friday, 28 September 2018**.

What happens next?

Roads and Maritime will consider all feedback received and after making any changes required, submit an application to the Department of Planning and Environment to modify the project.

If you would like to receive information from us on a regular basis, please contact us to register your email address.

For more information please contact the project team on 1800 703 457, email thenorthernroad@rms.nsw.gov.au or visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au/thenorthernroad

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<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/northernroad>



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