

Waterfall Way works program 2012 update

Waterfall Way is an important route connecting the seaboard and Coffs Harbour district with the coastal hinterland of the Bellingen area, the tablelands of Dorrigo, Armidale and beyond.

On 1 November 2011 a new organisation called Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) was formed to replace the Roads and Traffic Authority and NSW Maritime. RMS will focus on service delivery, concentrating on delivering the key tasks of building and maintaining road infrastructure and the day-to-day compliance and safety for roads and waterways.

Pacific Highway to Bellingen

Pacific Highway to Connell's Creek

RMS is investigating upgrading the Waterfall Way between the Pacific Highway and Connells Creek. RMS has developed preliminary route options. The project aims to provide:

- A safe 80km/h standard, consistent travel speed and level of service along this length of the Waterfall Way with:
 - o 3.5m wide travel lanes.
 - o 2.0m wide shoulders.
- Improvements to the Short Cut Road intersection.
- Minimal impacts on the environment including avoiding the wetland at Cameron's Corner.
- Durable and smoother road pavement and improved surface conditions and flood immunity.

Feedback from previous community meetings and public displays was used by RMS to assist in developing these options.

We are now working towards finalising a preferred option, with individual meetings with property owners and more community involvement invited later this year.

Fernmount and Burdett Park improvements

The NSW Government is investing \$4 million to deliver safety and travel improvements along a 1.1 kilometre stretch through Fernmount.

The current road in Fernmount has deteriorated in recent years and the large pipes under the road at Burdett Park Creek are reaching the end of their service life and need to be replaced.

RMS consulted on plans to improve the Waterfall Way through Fernmount and build a bridge at Burdett Park Creek in 2011.

The broad issues raised by the community included noise impacts, improved intersection safety, impact on Burdett Park and how the natural environment will be protected.

The project would improve road smoothness through Fernmount village, reduce ongoing road and structural maintenance needs, reduce traffic noise and improve drainage at Burdett Park Creek.

RMS has developed a concept design for the proposed improvement work and is undertaking geotechnical investigation work.

The next step is to use the feedback from the community and road users to help prepare an environmental impact assessment to identify how RMS can minimise impacts during construction.

Construction is scheduled to start in April/May 2012, weather permitting.

Marx Hill upgrade

RMS has now completed the final bitumen seal on the Marx Hill project.

Bellingen to Dorrigo

Newell Falls slip repairs

Temporary repair works on two minor landslides near the Newell Falls was completed last year. Investigations are continuing to find a permanent solution to repair and improve drainage to reduce the risk of future slips.

RMS is also investigating a major slip that occurred behind Rotary Park rest area in 2011. We expect to temporarily close the rest area while work is carried out.

Sherrard Falls natural disaster slip

During the January-February 2012 natural disaster, a substantial slip occurred east of Sherrard Falls, covering the road with rock and soil. Council quickly removed the materials and reopened the road to one lane. We have inspected the site and will be arranging further investigations.

Rocky Creek reconstruction

Work will start in March 2012 to reconstruct a 1km section of Waterfall Way east of Dorrigo. Work will involve reconstructing the road from south of Rocky Creek Road to south of Dome Road, and is expected to be completed by June 2012, weather permitting.

To further improve road safety, we are planning to relocate the entrance to the local cemetery 150 metres north towards Dorrigo. This work would also include a new driveway to the cemetery.

RMS has discussed this proposal with council, Dorrigo cemetery board, garden club and local residents.

West of Dorrigo

Smiths Lane reconstruction

RMS recently reconstructed a 3km section of the Waterfall Way east of Smiths Lane, 2km west of Dorrigo. This work provides a new road surface featuring wider lanes and sealed shoulders.

Fernbrook Loop Road

RMS is investigating widening and realigning the curve, approximately 18km west of Dorrigo. Design and survey will be completed later this year.

Little Falls Creek

Work has re-started on a \$750,000 project to improve pavement and road width at Little Falls Creek, east of the intersection with the Grafton-Armidale Road. Work had commenced in 2011, however due to prolonged wet weather in the area, work was postponed and is now due to be completed this month, weather permitting.

Overtaking lane west of Ebor

RMS will be reconstructing the cutting near the Trout Hatchery later this year. The \$1.5M project will involve improving the drainage and road pavement to make it safer through this area.

For more information on specific projects

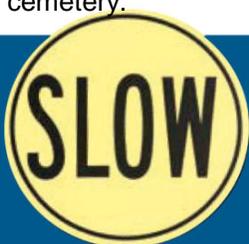
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Updates on the program of works are also available on the RMS's website.



SPEEDING KILLS ROADWORKERS TOO.

Slow down at worksites.