

Waterfall Way community update



Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services

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Work underway along Waterfall Way

The NSW Government is committed to delivering safe, efficient and high quality services and infrastructure to the communities along Waterfall Way. This community update provides you with information on the road safety review, current activities occurring along Waterfall Way and contact information.

Safety review update

In March 2014 Roads and Maritime Services, in conjunction with NSW Centre for Road Safety, announced a road safety review along Waterfall Way in response to community concern about the increase of truck movements from local quarries.

The review focuses on the 40-kilometre section of Waterfall Way that stretches from the Pacific Highway to Dorrigo. The review is investigating areas of concern and identifying potential short, medium and long-term improvements or actions that could be progressed should funding become available.

The community along Waterfall Way was invited to contribute to the review through workshops and written submissions.

The review is focusing on improving road safety, with investigations considering community feedback, traffic volumes, crash statistics, heavy vehicles and road conditions.

Roads and Maritime is prioritising finalising the road safety review and will make it available once complete.

Interim safety improvements

While the road safety review is being finalised, Roads and Maritime is carrying out immediate improvements to address community concerns.

We recognise the importance of progressing opportunities that will deliver immediate benefits to the community. This includes:

- Starting work to improve the road and repair the landslips at Myers Bluff and Gordonville Cutting
- During March-June 2014 an enforcement program targeted the Waterfall Way with additional police patrolling the road, targeting key road safety priorities in the area including speeding and drink driving
- Heavy Vehicle Inspectors are monitoring vehicles on Waterfall Way. Initial inspections identified several small cattle trucks that were cautioned for minor issues such as effluent spilling onto the road. No vehicles were detected with diesel leaks. Heavy Vehicle Inspectors continue to monitor the road and will install temporary detectors to provide additional information
- A night audit is being carried out to look at reflectivity of signs and identify if maintenance or replacement is required.
- A speed zone review was completed from Bellingen to Thora following concerns raised and requests for lower speed limits by the community. The review was carried out in consultation with Bellingen Shire Council. As a result of the review the following changes were made in July 2014:
 - A new permanent 80km/h speed limit has been installed 3.6 kilometres west of Horseshoe Road to 200 metres west of Darkwood Road
 - East of Thora, the 60km/h speed limit has been re-signposted as a temporary

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roadwork speed limit and the length reduced to 200 metres either side of the work site.

- During May and June 2014 temporary Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) were installed either side of Bellingen in the 50km/h speed zone areas, in advance of the 40km/h limit. Data was collected at both locations and showed a 2km/h reduction in average speeds in these areas while the VAS was in place
- Upgrading drainage along Waterfall Way is continuing on the Dorrigo Mountain.

Improving Waterfall Way

Pacific Highway to Connells Creek

During the past few years Roads and Maritime has been investigating options to upgrade Waterfall Way from the Pacific Highway to Connells Creek.

This project has a strong focus on community consultation during which the main issues raised related to traffic safety, the need for the project, road standards, property impacts, flora and fauna, amenity, Raleigh dam and economic needs of the area.

While funding was available for planning, no funding was allocated to build the project. In light of this and on-going community concerns about other priorities on Waterfall Way, a decision has been made to not progress any further with this project.

This section of Waterfall Way will be considered as part of the road safety review currently underway. Should priorities be identified for this section, it is expected the planning work already completed, along with community feedback, will provide valuable input into any future road projects in this area.

Sweedmans Lane project

Roads and Maritime is developing plans to improve the road safety and road condition east of Fernmount. Stage one will involve work to improve the surface, provide sealed shoulders and upgrade the intersection at Sweedmans Lane. It is expected that the first stage of these improvements will start early 2015.

Nut farm landslip repair and realignment

Two road embankments have been repaired 9.2 kilometres west of Bellingen. A retaining wall has been built and work to reinforce the river bank with large rock is complete.

The completed work will help reduce flood impact from the Bellingen River causing further damage to the road and ensure the safety of road users.

Little North Arm Road

This project, located 16 kilometres west of Bellingen involved rebuilding a 300 metre section of road. It is expected this work will commence in the next two months.

Gordonville Cutting and Myers Bluff

Work on these two projects is underway and expected to be complete by the end of November 2014, weather permitting.

Work involves drainage improvements under the embankment at Myers Bluff and repairs to three land slips to strengthen the road shoulder and enable safety barriers to be restored.

During this time traffic, has been reduced to single lane with possible short delays.

Newell Falls Rotary Park rest area

Work to repair damage caused by a slip that occurred behind the Rotary Park rest area in 2011 is expected to start this year.

Designs for the work have been finalised, which will include stormwater drainage improvements, repair of the damaged rest area railings and revegetation of the landslip area.

We expect to temporarily close the rest area while work is carried out, and will provide further advice about this in advance of the work.

We will be working with Bellingen Shire Council and Rotary to consider ways to restore the existing rest area shelter as part of this project.

Slope repair above Sherrard Falls

This project, about 2.3 kilometres east of Newell Falls, involves building a mass block and rock fill retaining wall and repairing the damaged embankment on the Dorrigo Mountain.

Minor adjustments will be made to the two culverts in the area, with the work expected to be complete later this year.

Keeping you involved

Two information workshops have been organised to discuss the interim safety works, initial findings and status of the safety review:

Dorrigo: 17 September 2014, 6pm-8:30pm
Hickory House, 50 Hickory Street

Bellingen: 18 September 2014, 6pm- 8:30pm
Uniting Church Worship Centre, Hyde Street.