

To the householder



Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services

DECEMBER 2011

Dear resident/business operator

Waterfall Way – Pacific Highway to Connells Creek

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.

RMS is investigating ways to improve the 3km of Waterfall Way from the Pacific Highway to Connells Creek, including avoiding Cameron's Corner. The project looks at improving the road alignment, pavement condition and flood immunity while minimising impacts. This letter is to keep you informed of the projects progress.

RMS recognises this as an important project that must be carefully planned and assessed to ensure all issues raised by the community are considered. The project needs to meet safety guidelines as well as community expectations.

On 11 October 2011 a technical options assessment workshop looked at the three options, which included a do nothing option. This workshop consisted of technical personnel with expertise in civil engineering, environmental management, property acquisitions, communications and road design. No decision has been made on a preferred option.

The workshop used a range of criteria in relation to the three options. Issues raised by the community during the public exhibition period (6 May – 4 June 2011) assisted in forming the criteria used in the assessment of the proposed options. Criteria utilised in the Workshop included:

- Road safety –pedestrians, motorists, cyclists speed limit and sight distance.
- Environment – heritage, water quality, flora, fauna, Raleigh dam, Camerons Corner and flooding.
- Technical elements – drainage, pavement design, road geometry, constructability, traffic management.
- Social / community – property acquisition, access, visual amenity, noise.
- Cost / value – design, construction and maintenance.

The results indicate that Option B performed marginally better than Option A against the set criteria. The results also indicate that the highest scoring option was a mixture of both A and B options. This mixture comprised of Option B East, Option A Centre and Option B West.

The results are based on opinions of technical personnel and were derived on a consensus basis. These results do not determine a preferred option but will be used to help assist in deciding the most appropriate option having regard to community input.

Roads and Maritime Services

Tell us what you think. We have a new website www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects. We hope this site makes it easier to find the project information you need. We are interested in your feedback. Email us at Project_Customer_Services@rta.nsw.gov.au

To the householder



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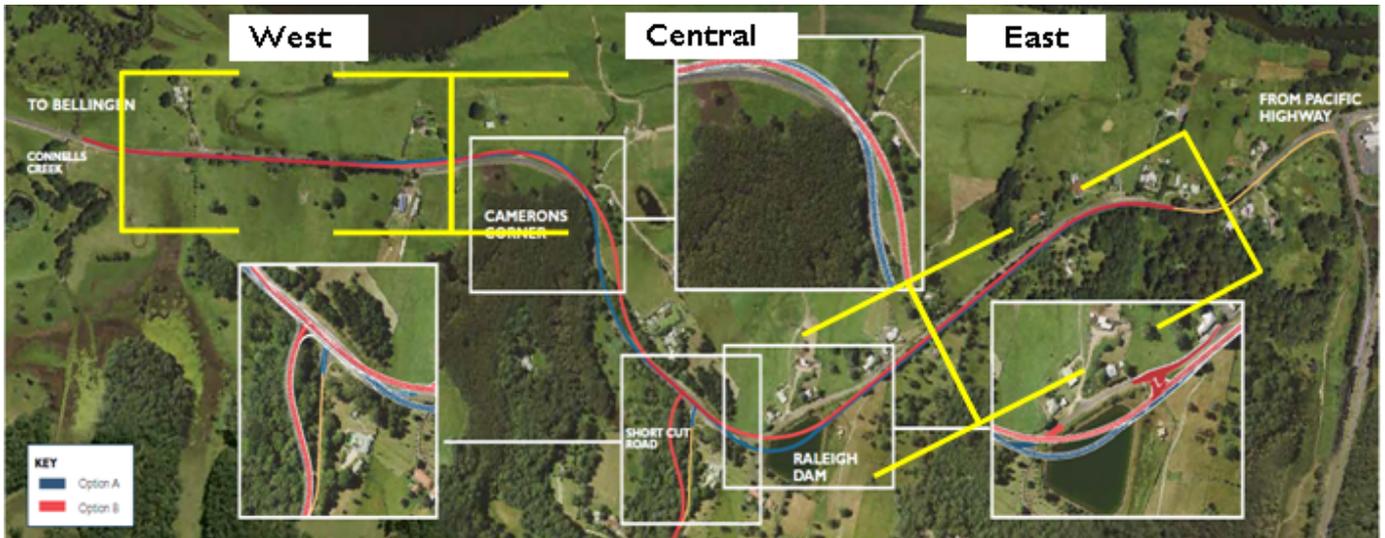


Figure 1 Waterfall Way – Pacific Highway to Connells Creek divided into three sections for assessment

Early next year the project team will arrange to meet with Bellingen Shire Council, property owners and stakeholders to discuss individual impacts. An options assessment report will be prepared and put on display for comment prior to the announcement of a preferred route later in the year. The community will continue to be involved in this project.

For further information, please contact the RTA's project manager, Mr Geof Berry on 6640 1300. Email to graffton_regional_office@rms.nsw.gov.au; or post to PO Box 576, Grafton NSW 2460. Further information can also be viewed at www.rms.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

David Bell
Regional Manager, Northern

Roads and Maritime Services

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