

# Blackwall Road and Memorial Avenue intersection upgrade

Community Consultation Report

Transport for NSW | September 2020



# Executive summary

The Community Consultation Report provides a summary of the community consultation carried out by Transport for NSW to seek feedback on a proposed design in February 2020 for the future intersection upgrades at Blackwall Road and Memorial Avenue, Woy Woy and Blackwall.

Blackwall Road and Memorial Avenue at Woy Woy and Blackwall is used by around 18,000 motorists every day.

The NSW Government is investing \$19 million to upgrade the Blackwall and McMasters Road intersection, the intersections at Blackwall Road, Allfield and Farnell Roads and the intersection at Memorial Avenue, Barrenjoey Road and Maitland Bay Drive. A raised pedestrian crossing has also been proposed on Blackwall Road just south of the Victoria Road roundabout.

A total of 30 responses were received.

Key themes raised by the community include:

- Design elements relating to the traffic lights at Blackwall Road, Allfield Road and Farnell Road and resulting changes to the local roads and access onto Blackwall Road
- Improvements to other roads within the Peninsula being outside the scope of the project and Transport responsibilities
- Provision of traffic lights at Blackwall Road and McMasters Road.

The submissions received identified support for the intersection upgrade at Memorial Avenue, Barrenjoey Road and Maitland Bay Drive and the raised pedestrian crossing proposed on Blackwall Road just south of Victoria Road roundabout.

## Next steps

We will consider community and stakeholder feedback when finalising the environmental assessment and concept design, which are expected to be displayed for community feedback in 2021.

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# 1. Introduction

Blackwall Road and Memorial Avenue at Woy Woy and Blackwall is used by around 18,000 motorists every day.

This section of the road network provides a key link between Woy Woy, Blackwall, Ettalong Beach, Umina Beach and the suburbs east of The Rip Bridge.

The proposal involves intersection upgrades at:

- Blackwall and McMasters Road,
- Blackwall Road and Allfield Road combined with Blackwall Road and Farnell Road
- Memorial Avenue, Barrenjoey Road and Maitland Bay Drive.
- A raised pedestrian crossing has also been proposed on Blackwall Road just south of the Victoria Road roundabout.

Feedback was sought from the community between 10 February and 6 March 2020 on the proposed design to upgrade the intersections.

A community update outlining the proposal was distributed to more than 4200 residents on the Woy Woy Peninsula.

A total of 30 responses were received.

## 1.1 Background

The NSW Government is investing \$19 million to upgrade the Blackwall Road and Memorial Avenue intersection upgrades to improve travel time reliability and safety for all road users on the Woy Woy Peninsula by upgrading key intersections.

The proposal is investigating:

- Improving consistent travel time and reducing congestion along Blackwall Road and Memorial Avenue
- Improving motorists' safety
- Providing safer pedestrian and cyclist facilities near the intersections, helping to encourage active transport
- Supporting economic growth and productivity by providing road capacity for existing and projected traffic volumes.

## 1.2 The proposal

Key benefits of the proposal include:

### 1. Blackwall, Allfield and Farnell Roads

- New traffic lights at Farnell Road coordinated with the Allfield Road lights
- No access out of Allfield Road (east) onto Blackwall Road to improve traffic efficiency and safety

- Kerb and gutter along Farnell Road
- New pathway along Farnell Road
- New left turn bay Blackwall Road to Allfield Road

## 2. Blackwall Road and McMasters Road

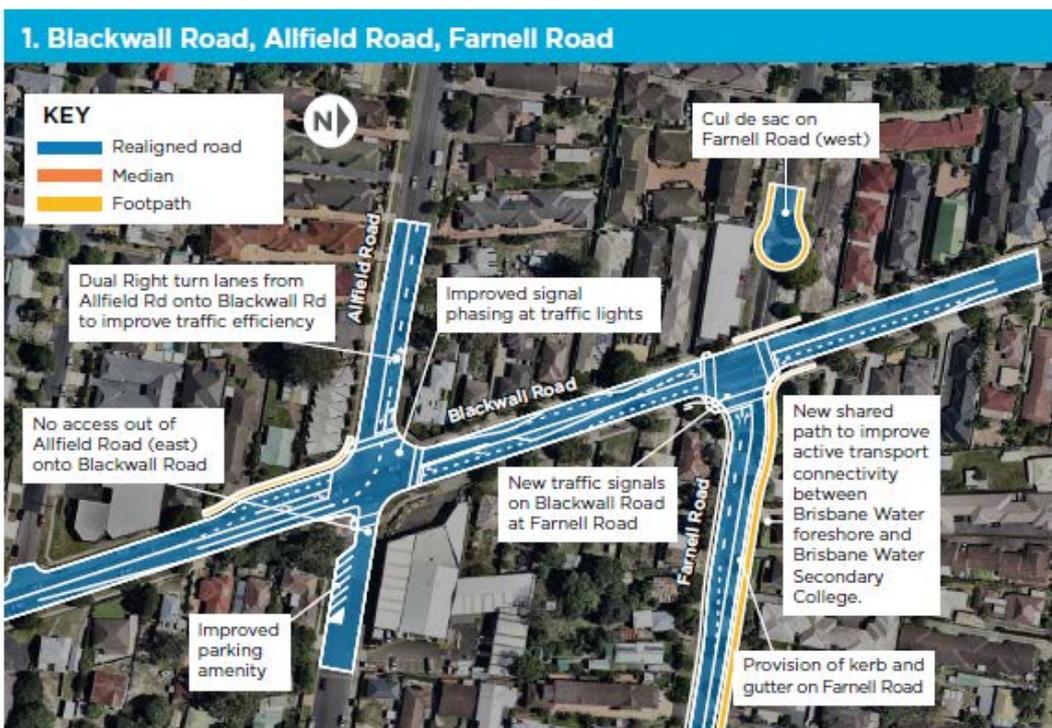
- Dedicated right turn lane from Blackwall Road onto McMasters Road
- Removal of right turn from McMasters Road onto Blackwall Road
- New mid-block pedestrian activated traffic lights on Blackwall Road, south of the intersection

## 3. Blackwall Road near Victoria Road

- Raised pedestrian crossing

## 4. Maitland Bay Drive and Memorial Avenue intersection

- Provide dual right turn lanes from Maitland Bay Drive onto Memorial Avenue to improve traffic efficiency and flow and to ease congestion
- Provide two lanes northbound from Barrenjoey Road
- Separate Left and right turn lanes out of Gallipoli Avenue to reduce congestion.



## 2. Blackwall Road/McMasters Road



## 3. Blackwall Road near Victoria Road Pedestrian Crossing



## 4. Memorial Avenue, Maitland Bay Drive and Barrenjoey Road Intersection



## 2. Consultation approach

### 2.1 Consultation objectives

Community feedback was sought on the proposed design between February and March 2020. The purpose of the community consultation was to:

- Inform community members and stakeholders about the proposed upgrade and design
- Seek comments, feedback, ideas and suggestions on the project from community members and stakeholders
- Continue to build a database and knowledge of community members and stakeholders for Transport for NSW to engage with through the development and delivery of the intersection upgrade.

### 2.2 Values

The following values underpin our decisions and behaviours when working with customers, colleagues, stakeholders and partners:

**Customer focus** - we place the customer at the centre of everything we do

**Collaboration** - we value each other and create better outcomes by working together

**Solutions** - we deliver sustainable and innovative solutions to NSW's transport needs

**Integrity** - we take responsibility and communicate openly

**Safety** - we prioritise safety for our people and our customers.

### 2.3 Consultation method

A community update was distributed to more than 4200 residents on the Woy Woy Peninsula.

A Facebook post advertising the display was live for a week from 28 February.

Community members were encouraged to provide feedback by mail, email or phone contact with the project team. Discussions also took place between the project manager, Central Coast Council and bus companies.

## 3. Consultation Summary

### 3.1 Overview

We received 30 submissions during the consultation between 10 February and 6 March 2020.

Key issues raised by the community during this stage of consultation included:

- Design at the Blackwall Road, Allfield Road, Farnell Road
- Traffic management (access, congestion and safety)
- Consideration of traffic lights at Blackwall Road, McMasters Road
- The local road network.

We have spoken to respondents who directly phoned the project team.

Feedback received will be considered to develop the concept design, which is expected to be displayed in 2021.

We will contact any potentially impacted property owners to discuss individual circumstances.

## Blackwall Road and Memorial Avenue intersection upgrades – Responses Summary

The following table outlines the issues raised in community submissions and the response from Transport.

Issue	Sub issue	Issue raised	Transport response
<b>Design</b>	Traffic lights at Allfield and Farnell Roads	Comments on the proposed design include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why traffic lights at Farnell Road</li> <li>• Two sets of traffic lights will impact on traffic flow</li> <li>• Why change the traffic lights at Allfield Road</li> </ul>	<p>Significant traffic delays and queues have been identified at the Blackwall Road and Allfield Road intersection in peak times.</p> <p>The proposal involves removing westbound traffic on Allfield Road (east) and reducing the traffic light phasing at this intersection. By doing this, we are able to improve efficiency for traffic travelling along Blackwall Road and Allfield Road (west). The signalised left and right turn facility removed from the Allfield Road intersection will be replaced by a new one at Farnell Road to allow a safe right and left turn onto Blackwall Road from Farnell Road (east).</p> <p>Both sets of traffic lights will be coordinated to minimise the chance of being stopped at both the Blackwall Road approaches. Network traffic modelling has identified considerable traffic flow improvements in peak times compared to the existing arrangements.</p>

	<p>Local traffic on Farnell Road and Terry Avenue</p>	<p>Comments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in local traffic on Farnell Road (East) including buses and trucks.</li> <li>• Farnell Road (east) should be made into a cul de sac.</li> <li>• Concerns about 'rat runs' along Terry Avenue from motorists avoiding queuing of left turn from Blackwall Road into Allfield Road.</li> <li>• Consider limiting turning movements at Farnell banning the right turn from Blackwall into Farnell. Right turn accommodated at Allfield.</li> </ul>	<p>Significant improvements on Farnell Road, east of Blackwall Road, are proposed to address the small increase in traffic that is expected on that road.</p> <p>'Rat runs' avoiding the intersection are a road-user response to the current performance of the existing Allfield Road intersection. These are expected to reduce as a result of the intersection improvement.</p> <p>As the design and planning progresses we will investigate restricting the northbound right turn from Blackwall Road into Farnell Road to limit eastbound traffic on Farnell Road.</p>
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Issue	Sub issue	Issue raised	Transport response
	Allfield Road (East)	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objection to no access provided out of Allfield Road east onto Blackwall Road.</li> <li>• New bus infrastructure required as Allfield Road is a bus route</li> <li>• Provision of garbage collection service at Allfield Road (east) and Farnell Road (west).</li> </ul>	<p>We are proposing to modify traffic light phasing at the Allfield Road intersection, so we can allocate priority to motorists along Blackwall Road, benefitting the highest percentage of motorists using this main road. The new traffic lights at Farnell Road (east) will enable access onto Blackwall Road for vehicles currently using Allfield Road (east) to make this movement.</p> <p>The strategic design included consultation with Busways about bus provisions. This will continue as the design and planning process further progresses with commuter provisions a key consideration.</p> <p>Access for service vehicles will be maintained for all parts of Allfield Road and Farnell Road.</p>
	Allfield Road (West) - Dual right lanes form	<p>Comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not sure how this will work as traffic will come back into one lane in Blackwall Road within 50 metres of turning right.</li> </ul>	<p>We expect a high percentage of motorists to turn right to use the inside lane, which does not require merging. Traffic studies show around one third of motorists are either going straight ahead or turning left onto Blackwall Road.</p> <p>The traffic modelling carried out with the initial designs (which takes into consideration merged lane lengths) indicates the upgrades at the intersection will result in better efficiency, particularly for motorists turning right onto Blackwall Road from Allfield Road (west).</p>
	Farnell Road (West)	<p>Comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will force residents of Farnell Road (west) to drive into Edward Street opposite main entrance to Brisbane Water Secondary College. Concerns for safety of students and staff due to increased traffic.</li> </ul>	<p>Residents of Farnell Road (west) will be required to access the wider road network via Edward Street as part of this proposal. Traffic counts along Blackwall Road at the Farnell Road intersection showed a very minimal increase in the volume of traffic in peak times.</p> <p>The traffic study identified peak periods in the afternoon between 4.15pm and 5.15pm, which are after school hours, while the morning peak was between 8.45am to 9.45am when school has started for the day.</p> <p>Our proposal has been designed to improve safety for active transport users on Farnell Road (west), with a lower volume of traffic due to the proposal of a cul-de-sac.</p>

	McMasters Road	<p>Comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please keep right hand turn from McMasters Road onto Blackwall Road as it would cause chaos closing this off and disrupt a bus route. Traffic lights better option.</li> <li>• Mid-block pedestrian activated lights should be moved to corner of Blackwall and McMasters Roads near the bus stop.</li> </ul>	<p>Traffic lights at the McMasters Road intersection were investigated as part of the strategic design process. They were found to require significant road widening, full property acquisitions and environmental impact to reap traffic efficiency benefits without further delaying traffic.</p> <p>According to existing traffic counts, this turning restriction would only impact a relatively low proportion of traffic during peak times. There are a number of alternate locations to turn right onto Blackwall Road (southbound).</p> <p>The exact location of the pedestrian activated lights is subject to further refinement as the project design and planning progresses. Design and safety standards are of paramount concern including connectivity to adjacent bus stops and the existing shared path in Blackwall Road and along the foreshore.</p>
	Memorial/Maitland Bay	<p>Comment:</p> <p>Existing pedestrian refuge in Barrenjoey is single lane. Proposal involves crossing two lanes. Assess safety for pedestrians, particularly elderly community members.</p>	<p>Further investigations aimed at improving pedestrian safety at pedestrian crossings will be take place in in the next phase of design and planning.</p>
<b>Environment</b>	Noise	<p>Comments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extra traffic on Farnell Road will create more noise</li> <li>• Noise and traffic pollution from vehicles</li> </ul>	<p>Operational noise impact and possible treatments will be investigated and addressed in the environmental assessment which is the next planning phase for the project.</p>
	Drainage	<p>Comments include:</p>	<p>The next phase of the design will examine drainage provisions in Farnell Road to ensure the existing impact is not increased with the implementation</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water problems from rain if pathway and road at Farnell Road isn't taken right to the reserve. Drains already overflowing on Burge Road after heavy rain.</li> </ul>	of the proposed upgrade.
	Loss of trees	<p>Comments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns about loss of trees along Blackwall Road.</li> </ul>	<p>A very small number of trees would need to be removed along Blackwall Road as part of this proposal. These are likely to be in the area just south of the Allfield Road intersection on the western side where there is widening for the proposed northbound left turn bay into Allfield Road.</p> <p>Some trimming of trees along Blackwall Road may be required to ensure sight distances are maintained to the new traffic signals.</p> <p>The next phase of the design will include landscape plans that will identify new planting to offset the loss of any trees that need to be removed.</p>
<b>Active Transport</b>	Pedestrian and cycle facilities	<p>Comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gaps where pathways and cycleways start and end. Unclear about how aspects of upgrade will improve this.</li> <li>Signalised pedestrian crossing located east to west on Blackwall Road across the southern end of intersection at Allfield/Farnell Road.</li> <li>Signalised crossing south to north across Allfield Road</li> <li>Signalised pedestrian intersection from Farnell Road across North of intersection for shared active pedestrian activity and connectivity between the foreshore and College.</li> <li>No dedicated provisions for cyclists at Memorial/Maitland Bay.</li> </ul>	<p>The existing off road shared path along the western side of Memorial Avenue and Blackwall Road south of McMasters Road will be maintained as part of the proposal.</p> <p>Along Blackwall Road to the north of McMasters Road, the strategy for active transport, particularly cycling is based around encouraging cyclists away from this corridor to use the more preferable and safer foreshore cycleway to the east and/or parts of the local road network to the west with far lower traffic volumes. This would be achieved by providing transverse connectivity at Farnell Road and at McMasters Road. Crossings at traffic signals will include bike lanterns where they are connecting a shared path.</p> <p>The active transport crossings at the traffic lights have provided for the transverse crossings as described above whilst also considering the impact on the traffic flow efficiency. The next design and planning phase will further detail the active transport crossings and connectivity to existing and proposed paths in the adjoining local roads.</p>

<b>Business impact</b>	Loss of businesses/trade	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns about changes near Home and Timber and Hardware store and plans to stop vehicles turning onto Blackwall Road from Allfield Road. Majority of customers exit premises using existing lights. Customers now forced to drive around the block including delivery trucks.</li> <li>Angled parking on wrong side of the road and at a cost to parallel parking.</li> </ul>	<p>The inbound movements to the Home Timber and Hardware store are not impacted by the proposed designs. The outbound movements that use the existing Allfield Road (east) leg of the traffic lights will require a small detour to Farnell Road.</p> <p>Further design and planning stages will include refinements to the Allfield Road (east) layout to minimise impact on Home Timber and Hardware customers and suppliers in consultation with the business. This may include reverting to parallel street parking and possibly a directional guide sign showing the route to access Blackwall Road and Allfield Road (west) on the outbound movement.</p>
	Parking	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parking area on McMasters Road east (near foreshore) should be designated two hour parking.</li> </ul>	<p>The comments relating to time restricted parking at McMasters Road (east) will be forwarded onto Central Coast Council for their consideration as it relates to a local road issue.</p>
<b>Local Roads</b>	Improvements to local network	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When will Woy Woy Road be upgraded?</li> <li>What is happening with the Rawson Road railway crossing gates/upgrade?</li> </ul>	<p>This is outside the scope of the project and Transport for NSW's area of responsibility. These comments will be forwarded on to Central Coast Council to consider as the relevant authority.</p>



## 3.2 Recommendations

Key recommendations emerging from the consultation include:

- Refinements to the designs in the concept design phase as outlined in Transport's responses in this consultation report
- Continue consultation with community and stakeholders throughout the next planning stages of the Blackwall Road and Memorial Avenue intersection upgrades
- Continue to provide more information about the design, impacted properties, delivery timeframes and consultation as it becomes available
- Coordinate consultation and planning with other developments proposed for the area.

## 3.3 Next steps

We thank everyone who took the time to review the project materials and provide feedback. We have considered all submissions, and the feedback and comments received will be considered to inform the next stages of the project.

Additional investigations and consultation will be carried out as the project progresses and we will continue to keep the community informed.

We expect to display the environmental assessment and concept design for community feedback in 2021.



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