

Gerringong Upgrade

The NSW Government is upgrading the Princes Highway between Mount Pleasant and Toolijooa Road.

The RTA has reviewed whether access roads are needed in the design of the upgrade in response to some requests from the community and the NSW Government.

We believe the design of the upgrade can be improved. This document contains the review's conclusions and how the RTA will work with you to deliver a safer upgrade.

Summary of review conclusions

- New shared access roads will be constructed, subject to discussions with property owners, at the following locations:
 - Immediately south of the Mount Pleasant lookout.
 - Adjacent to Rose Valley Road.
 - South of Omega Lane.
 - Between Sims Road and Belinda Street (on a new alignment).
 - Adjacent to the pottery near Toolijooa Road.
- The review has resulted in five additional safety design principles being adopted for the detailed design process (see the page over for the full list).
- Wide road shoulders on the approaches to driveways have been confirmed as being necessary for the project.

Reviewing the upgraded highway design

The NSW Government and some community members requested the RTA review the current design and include more access roads to separate local and highway through traffic.

Delivering more access roads will further reduce the road safety risks of vehicles directly entering or leaving the highway along the route.

How the RTA reviewed the design

The RTA used specialists from the NSW Centre for Road Safety and senior road designers who have not been directly involved in the project.

The review included reading submissions from community groups such as PHASE, examining the

strategic planning for the upgrade and looking to improve the safety of the design in time and cost effective ways.

- The review recommended locations where:
 - Sight distance at direct property accesses could be improved.
 - Sight distance to stop your vehicle could be improved.
 - Consolidating individual driveways into shared access roads could improve road safety.

Other important review considerations

The community wants the RTA to 'get on' with delivering the upgrade. Once completed the improved highway is expected to provide for road transport needs for at least the next 20 years.

It is important the design addresses:

- Kiama Municipal Council's vision for future land development to be primarily on the eastern side of the highway. Future highway access needs to be encouraged to the safest points.
- How motorists will safely transition to and from the challenging conditions on the Kiama Bends.

Working with landowners to improve the design

We do not want to acquire any more property than necessary or to diminish the viability of landowners and local farmers.

The RTA will now contact relevant landowners and the PHASE community group to discuss the review and the opportunities to improve access in the design. Where possible, these access works will be delivered as part of the Gerringong upgrade.

All land acquisition activities were suspended during this review that was announced in August 2011. The RTA will now continue these discussions so that construction can occur in 2012.

Additional design principles adopted to improve the Gerringong upgrade

- The design will be consistent with a posted speed of 100 km/h.
- The design should consolidate and reduce the number of direct access points on the highway.
- The roadside should help the driver recover if they make a mistake and start to lose control of their vehicle.
- All access points (including private accesses and public roads) and the through carriageway alignment should provide a safe intersection sight distance for 100 km/h and 2.5 seconds reaction time.
- Access points should not be located on ramps, ramp merges, diverges, acceleration or deceleration lanes or tapers. However, where access points on ramps cannot be avoided, a road safety risk assessment must be undertaken and all identified safety issues satisfactorily dealt with. A strategy to ultimately remove any access off a ramp will be developed.

Existing safety design features of the upgraded highway

- A new carriageway with a median barrier generally following the existing highway alignment.
- A posted 100 km/h speed limit over most of the upgrade.
- A new grade separated interchange at Belinda Street with a service road connecting to Willowvale Road.
- A new grade separated interchange at Rose Valley Road and service road connecting to Fern Street.
- A third lane for slow vehicles from Rose Valley Road to Mount Pleasant.
- A new overbridge replacing the railway level crossing in Fern Street.

Funding to move into construction

The 2011-2012 NSW Budget allocated \$25 million to complete essential preconstruction activities (such as detailed design, utility relocations and property acquisition) and start major work on the Gerringong upgrade.

This funding is part of the NSW Government's commitment to deliver \$500 million in funding towards upgrading the Princes Highway within the first term of Government.

Assessing design and construct tenders

The RTA is currently assessing tenders to undertake the detailed design and construction of the upgrade. We expect to announce the successful tenderer before the end of this year.

Thank you for your ideas and opinions

A number of local residents have spent many hours researching and refining suggestions on this important planning issue for our community.

On behalf of the RTA, I would like to thank you all for your contributions to improving this project.

I also particularly thank landowners for your patience during the review.

Please feel free to contact the project team for more information concerning the review or visit the project website www.rta.nsw.gov.au/gu.

I look forward to the delivery of this important infrastructure upgrade for our region.

Yours faithfully

Brad Turner
RTA Regional Manager, Southern

For more information:

Email gerringongupgrade@rta.nsw.gov.au **web** www.rta.nsw.gov.au/gu **phone** 1800 506 976 (free call) project information line
Gerringong upgrade RTA, Level 4, 90 Crown Street, Wollongong NSW 2500
Berry project office (Broughton Court) shop 3/113 Queen Street, Berry (open Fridays 10am – 5pm)