

M1 Pacific Motorway upgrade between the Kariong and Somersby interchanges

Roads and Maritime Services is planning an upgrade of the M1 Pacific Motorway between the Kariong and Somersby interchanges to improve traffic flow and safety.

The proposed upgrade involves widening the motorway to provide three lanes in each direction and upgrading three of the four ramps at the Kariong interchange.

Stakeholders and the community are invited to comment on the proposal by **27 June 2014**. Roads and Maritime will consider this feedback in carrying out the concept design and environmental impact assessment.

Background

The M1 Pacific Motorway is a critical link in the National Land Transport Network and is part of the Sydney to Brisbane corridor, which is one of the busiest transport corridors in Australia.

The eight kilometre section of the M1 between the Kariong and Somersby interchanges is currently two lanes in each direction. It is used by through traffic, including long-range freight, as well as traffic accessing the Central Coast.

The proposed upgrade would cater for the expected increase in traffic forecast as a result of predicted growth in the Central Coast, Hunter Region and North Coast along with greater freight demand.

Roads and Maritime is also planning an upgrade of the M1 Pacific Motorway between the Tuggerah and Doyalson interchanges, and at the northern end of the motorway at the Weakleys Drive and John Renshaw Drive intersection. Further details about these projects are available at rms.nsw.gov.au.



The proposal

The proposed upgrade includes:

- Widening an eight kilometre section of the motorway between the Kariong and Somersby interchanges to provide three lanes in each direction.

The widening excludes a 1.5 kilometre section of motorway on the southbound carriageway between the Kariong interchange southbound exit and entry ramps. Providing three lanes at this section would require substantial widening of the motorway, which would have a major impact on the surrounding environment and construction costs. The traffic modelling and predicted traffic counts for this section of motorway show that the existing two lane arrangement meets capacity requirements now and into the future.

- Repairing sections of the motorway to provide a smoother surface for motorists
- Improving road drainage and surface for greater wet weather safety
- Installing safety barriers as required along the motorway.

The proposal also includes upgrading three of the four ramps at the Kariong interchange to increase capacity and safety for merging traffic, including:

- Extending the southbound entry ramp lanes (to Sydney)
- Extending the northbound exit ramp lanes (to Gosford)
- Extending the northbound entry ramp (to Newcastle) and upgrading the northbound entry ramp intersection with Wisemans Ferry Road.

Benefits of the proposal

Key benefits of the proposal include:

- Increased traffic capacity along the motorway
- More reliable travel times now and into the future
- A smoother road surface for motorists
- Improved traffic capacity and safety for motorists using the Kariong interchange ramps
- Reduced maintenance costs in the future.

Key impacts

The proposed upgrade would involve a range of construction activities that would be disruptive for motorists, nearby residents and a range of stakeholders. Roads and Maritime will work with stakeholders during the planning process to understand and consider any issues of concern.

The proposed upgrade would involve widening the motorway into the median to provide the additional lane in each direction, which would help minimise impact on the surrounding environment.

Construction impacts may include:

- Changes to the travel lane arrangements but two lanes in each direction would be maintained during peak periods. Lane closures outside peak travel periods may cause delays and disruptions to traffic flow
- Reduced speed limits through the work zone may also cause delays and disruptions to traffic flow
- Night work would be required at times and may cause noise and lighting impacts for nearby residents.

Involving the community and stakeholders

Roads and Maritime will work with the community and stakeholders during the planning process to identify issues and minimise potential impacts of the proposed upgrade and construction activities.

Stakeholders and the community are invited to comment on the proposal by **27 June 2014**.

Roads and Maritime will consider the feedback received for future planning including development of the concept design and environmental impact assessment.

Next steps

Upcoming planning activities include:

- Community and stakeholder discussions
- Consultation with nearby residents and businesses
- Environmental impact assessment

The timing of construction has not yet been confirmed.

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Project development process



Please send us your feedback by:

Phoning: Theodoros Stephanou,
Project Development Manager on
(02) 4379 7015
(during business hours)

Emailing: Central.Coast.Office@rms.nsw.gov.au

Writing to: Theodoros Stephanou,
Project Manager
RMS Central Coast office
PO Box 766
Woy Woy NSW 2256

Community information session

Stakeholders and the community are invited to attend an information session on **19 June** between 4pm and 7pm at:

The Hill Youth Centre
98 Mitchell Drive
Kariong NSW 2250

Comments on the proposal are invited by **27 June 2014**.

Information is also available on the website at rms.nsw.gov.au



Roads and Maritime Services

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