



# **Proposed intersection improvements on The Pacific Highway at Mona Vale Road/Ryde Road, Pymble**

## **Community Consultation Report**

May 2017

THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

## Executive summary

This report provides a summary of the community and stakeholder consultation carried out by Roads and Maritime Services on proposed intersection improvements at Pacific Highway and Mona Vale Road/Ryde Road, Pymble.

The NSW government is funding this project as part of its \$300 million Urban Roads Pinch Point Program which aims to reduce congestion and improve travel times on Sydney's busiest road corridors.

In October 2016, Roads and Maritime sought community feedback on the proposed intersection improvements. The proposal included:

- modifying the existing northbound centre concrete median to accommodate an additional 70 metre right turn lane from Pacific Highway onto Mona Vale Road
- providing a dedicated southbound left turn lane from Pacific Highway onto Mona Vale Road
- installing an additional short lane to provide triple right turn lane from Mona Vale Road onto Pacific Highway, while keeping the existing through lane onto Ryde Road
- adjusting footpaths and kerbs
- modifying the existing traffic islands on Pacific Highway near the intersection
- removing trees and shrubs to widen road
- asphaltting and line marking.

We distributed 500 letters to the local area and to stakeholders, inviting feedback on the proposal.

We received comments from eight people and one organisation. Two submissions were supportive, one was negative, and the remainder were neutral towards the proposal.

Matters raised included the addition of pedestrian crossings, road safety, tree trimming, cyclist access and suggested alternative intersection improvements to Pacific Highway and Mona Vale Road/Ryde Road.

Roads and Maritime thanks everyone who considered this proposal and provided feedback. We have considered the feedback and decided to proceed with the proposed intersection improvements at Pacific Highway and Mona Vale Road/Ryde Road, Pymble.

Following a review of all feedback, we have decided to proceed with the proposed intersection improvements at Pacific Highway and Mona Vale Road, Pymble. As a result of the comments received, and after further investigation, we will also add the following work to the proposal:

- installing traffic lights at the U-turn from Mona Vale Road westbound onto Mona Vale Road eastbound
- widening the footpath on the north-eastern side of the intersection to 2.5 metres, so that this short section of footpath could then be linked into any future upgrades to pedestrian and cycle facilities that the local Council may have.
- improving the safety of the existing zebra crossings on the north and south-eastern corners of the intersection by providing high-angle left turn lanes which require vehicles to approach the turn at a lower speed.
- reducing the number of trees that will be impacted by this proposal.

We have updated the project map to make the proposed changes to the intersection more clear.  
The updated project map can be found in Appendix B.

**Contents**

- Executive summary** ..... 3
- 1. Introduction..... 6
  - 1.1. Background ..... 6
  - 1.2. The proposal..... 6
- 2. Consultation approach ..... 8
  - 2.1. Consultation objectives ..... 8
  - 2.2. How consultation was done ..... 8
- 3. Feedback and Roads and Maritime’s responses ..... 9
  - 3.1. Overview ..... 9
  - 3.2 Feedback and Roads and Maritime’s responses ..... 9
  - 3.3 Feedback summary and Roads and Maritime’s responses.....10
- 4. Recommendations ..... 16
- 5. Next Steps ..... 16
- Appendix A – Have your say letter October 2016..... 17
- Appendix B – Updated project map..... 19

**Figures and tables**

- Table 1 – Feedback summary and Roads and Maritime’s responses ..... 7

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Background

The Pacific Highway is a three lane dual carriageway travelling north and south, which is separated by a concrete median. The intersection is grade separated, with Mona Vale Road passing under Pacific Highway. Mona Vale Road/ Ryde Road is a dual carriageway with two lanes traveling east and west via an underpass under Pacific Highway, with entry and exit ramps on both the east and west approaches to and from Pacific Highway.

Currently, there is a high volume of traffic passing through the intersection during AM and PM peak periods with limited right turning capacity from Pacific Highway to Mona Vale Road. The current proposal aims to improve intersection capacity by adding an additional right turn lane from Pacific Highway to Mona Vale Road eastbound, limiting the occurrence of northbound through traffic being blocked by motorists turning right.

## 1.2. The proposal

Roads and Maritime is proposing improvements to the intersection of Pacific Highway and Mona Vale Road/Ryde Road, to reduce congestion and improve safety for road users.

The objectives of the proposal include:

- reducing queuing and delays for motorists travelling northbound from Pacific Highway onto Mona Vale Road eastbound by providing dual right turn lanes
- reducing congestion by allowing motorists travelling northbound on Pacific Highway to move through the intersection more freely
- providing a dedicated left turn lane from Pacific Highway onto Mona Vale Road to prevent queued vehicles from blocking the through traffic lanes
- improving safety on Pacific Highway by reducing the occurrence of rear-end and lane change type crashes.

The original proposal included:

- modifying the existing northbound centre concrete median to provide dual right turn lanes from Pacific Highway northbound onto Mona Vale Road. This will provide an additional 70 metres for right turning traffic
- providing a dedicated 55 metre left turn lane from Pacific Highway southbound onto Mona Vale Road
- adding a short right lane to provide a dual right turn lane from Mona Vale Road northbound onto Pacific Highway, with a shared right turn and through lane westbound onto Ryde Road
- adjusting footpaths and kerbs and modifying the existing traffic islands on Pacific Highway near the intersection to improve traffic visibility and safety
- removing trees and shrubs to provide the southbound dedicated left turn lane
- asphaltting and line marking.

As a result of the comments received, and after further investigation, we have also added the following work to the proposal:

- installing traffic lights at the U-turn from Mona Vale Road westbound onto Mona Vale Road eastbound

- widening the footpath on the north-eastern side of the intersection to 2.5 metres, so that this short section of footpath could then be linked into any future upgrades to pedestrian and cycle facilities that the local Council may have
- improving the safety of the existing zebra crossings on the north and south-eastern corners of the intersection by providing high-angle left turn lanes which require vehicles to approach the turn at a lower speed.
- reducing the number of trees that will be impacted by this proposal.

## 2. Consultation approach

### 2.1. Consultation objectives

In October 2016, Roads and Maritime consulted with the community to:

- Seek comment, feedback, ideas, and suggestions for Roads and Maritime to consider when developing the proposal
- Build a database of interested and concerned community members with whom we could continue to engage during the development of the proposal.

### 2.2. How consultation was done

Consultation on the proposed intersection improvements was carried out in October 2016. Community members and stakeholders were encouraged to provide their feedback and make comments via email, mail or phone contact with the team.

The following table outlines the communication tools used to inform the community about the proposal:

**Table 1 – How consultation was done**

<b>Have Your Say letter – October 2016 (Appendix A)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delivered to 500 local residents and businesses in the Pymble area (Appendix B)</li><li>• Direct emails and letters to emergency services, schools, hospitals and community groups and relevant stakeholders in the local area.</li><li>• Direct emails to Ku-Ring-Gai Council and local MPs.</li></ul>
<b>Website</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Details of the proposal were provided on the Roads and Maritime Services website.</li></ul>



## **3. Consultation summary**

### **3.1. Overview**

Roads and Maritime received comments from eight people and one organisation. Two submissions were supportive, one was negative, and the remainder were neutral towards the proposal.

Matters raised included the addition of pedestrian crossings, road safety, tree trimming, cyclist access and suggested alternative intersection improvements to Pacific Highway and Mona Vale Road/Ryde Road.

### **3.2 Feedback and Roads and Maritime's responses**

Roads and Maritime have provided responses to all feedback received on this proposal. The responses were provided directly to the people who commented as well as being detailed in this report, which will be made available to the public through our website [www.rms.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au)

All comments have been considered to help Roads and Maritime make decisions on this proposal.

Matters raised during consultation that are not within our area of responsibility have been forwarded to the relevant party.

### 3.3 Feedback summary and Roads and Maritime's responses

**Table 1 – Feedback summary and Roads and Maritime's responses**

Category	Matters raised	Roads and Maritime's response
<b>Support for proposal</b>  2 comments	Supportive of the proposed additional right turn lane.	Thank you for your comments on our proposal, we acknowledge your support.
	Extra storage will be good as there is lots of traffic.	The proposed improvements to the intersection aim to reduce congestion along the connecting roads and increase safety. By installing additional turning lanes, more traffic would be able to move through the intersection, making it quicker as there would be less queuing and delays.
<b>Proposal</b>  1 comment	What does your traffic modelling show? Will the proposed changes improve the intersection?	<p>Currently, motorists queue from the Mona Vale Road off-ramp (westbound) to Highlands Avenue in the AM and PM peak period. The traffic modelling undertaken by Roads and Maritime shows that an additional right turn lane would reduce congestion and minimise delays for motorists travelling northbound from Mona Vale Road onto Pacific Highway.</p> <p>Motorists also experience heavy queuing and delays on Pacific Highway northbound) in the PM peak period, as a result of the current right turn lane reaching its capacity and queuing into the through lanes. The traffic modelling shows that the proposal to duplicate the right turn lane from Pacific Highway onto Mona Vale Road would reduce congestion and queuing, and reduce delays for motorists travelling northbound on Pacific Highway.</p> <p>The traffic modelling also indicates that by providing the left turn slip lane, vehicles turning left from Pacific Highway onto Mona Vale Road would experience reduced delays in the AM and PM peak periods.</p>
	As traffic banks back from Pacific Highway on the westbound ramp from Mona Vale Road, drivers travelling left into Pacific Highway use Carlotta Avenue, and sometimes Highlands Avenue, as rat runs to avoid this congestion.	This proposal would allow more motorists to travel through the intersection and reduce the amount on congestion on the off ramp from Mona Vale Road.

Category	Matters raised	Roads and Maritime's response
<b>Speeding</b>  1 comments	The dedicated slip lane will encourage cars to speed and potentially endanger pedestrians crossing at the intersection.	Safety for pedestrians is a high priority and we will perform a safety audit on this proposal, which will consider pedestrian safety.  Over a five year period from 2011 to 2015, there have been zero reported crashes involving pedestrians at this intersection.
<b>Safety</b>  2 comments	The lack of traffic visibility for motorists making a U-turn from Mona Vale Road westbound onto Mona Vale Road eastbound poses a safety issue.	Thank you for raising this safety concern. After investigating this issue, Roads and Maritime have decided to include the provision of traffic lights at the U-turn from Mona Vale Road westbound onto Mona Vale Road eastbound.
	There is insufficient visibility of pedestrians in the current intersection.	Safety for pedestrians is a high priority and we will perform a safety audit on this proposal, which will consider pedestrian safety.  Over a five year period from 2011 to 2015, there have been zero reported crashes involving pedestrians at this intersection.
<b>Tree Trimming</b>  2 comments	The pedestrian crossing near the 3M building is being hidden by the plants in the 3M site.	There will be trimming of tree branches along the footpath to ensure the safe clearance and line of sight for motorists and pedestrians is maintained.
	There is minor concrete work, some painting and tree trimming required on the Ryde Road side of the intersection.	Roads and Maritime will further investigate the maintenance work required on Ryde Road, including tree trimming.
<b>Congestion in side streets</b>  2 comments	Consideration should also be given to the afternoon traffic flow from the Bridge, West and Suakin Streets precinct.	Roads and Maritime has committed to review and investigate the congestion issues on the Ryde Road side of Pacific Highway. This work will progress separately to this proposal.
	Bridge Street is heavily congested because cars cannot turn right onto Pacific Highway.	

Category	Matters raised	Roads and Maritime's response
<p><b>Pedestrian Access</b></p> <p>5 comments</p>	<p>There is a need to provide pedestrian crossing facilities across at least one of the two Pacific Highway approaches to the intersection.</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion.</p> <p>A pedestrian crossing across Pacific Highway is not currently within the scope of this project. The introduction of a pedestrian crossing at this intersection would result in more congestion for all road users and would cause significant delays at this intersection.</p> <p>We will forward on your comments for further consideration as part of a separate investigation.</p>
	<p>Pedestrian lights should be placed on the Gordon side of the intersection and operate at the same time as the northbound traffic turns right from Mona Vale Road onto Pacific Highway which will not delay traffic.</p>	
	<p>Move the pedestrian crossing or raise the location of the crossing on the railway line side so pedestrians can be seen over the plants.</p> <p>Pedestrian crossings on the slip lanes at the intersection are out view for approaching vehicles and need to be made visible.</p>	<p>Modifying the existing traffic islands and changing the angles of the left slip lanes, is expected to increase visibility and improve safety for both pedestrians and road users at the intersection.</p> <p>Further, there will be trimming of tree branches along the footpath to ensure the safe clearance and line of sight for motorists and pedestrians is maintained.</p>
	<p>Signalise the left turn slip lane from Pacific Highway (southbound) into Mona Vale Road (eastbound) due to poor visibility. This would benefit pedestrian safety also.</p>	<p>Safety for pedestrians is a high priority and we will perform a safety audit on this proposal, which will consider pedestrian safety.</p> <p>Modifying the existing traffic islands, and changing the angles of the left slip lanes, is expected to increase visibility and improve safety for both pedestrians and road users at the intersection.</p>
<p><b>Cyclist Access</b></p> <p>3 comments</p>	<p>No adequate cycling facilities around Pacific Highway/Ryde Road/Mona Vale Road interchange and no safe nearby alternatives.</p>	<p>Cyclists are permitted to ride on the road under the Australian Road Rules. They must obey the road rules and may not ride more than two abreast in a traffic lane.</p>

Category	Matters raised	Roads and Maritime's response
	<p>As part of the Ku-ring-gai Bicycle Plan it is recommended a 2.5 metre shared user path be incorporated into the project on the eastern side of Pacific Highway extending either side of the intersection. This would allow cyclists and pedestrians to be safely accommodated through the interchange without conflicting with vehicular traffic.</p>	<p>The current proposal will impact the footpath on the north eastern side of the intersection, where the footpath is currently one metre wide. We are proposing to widen this to a 2.5 metre footpath for 50 metres.</p> <p>This short section of footpath could then be linked into any future upgrades to pedestrian and cycle facilities that the local Council may have. The rest of the footpath will remain unchanged by this proposal.</p>
	<p>It is requested that cycling facilities be prioritised, as it would be virtually impossible to provide any cycling facilities if the proposed road changes are implemented alone.</p>	
<p><b>Other congestion</b></p> <p>6 comments</p>	<p>Traffic backs up for those turning right onto Pacific Highway from Ryde Road.</p>	<p>The current proposal does not include any changes to the eastbound approach to Pacific Highway from Ryde Road.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime will consider your comments when further investigating options to reduce congestion at this intersection, as part of a separate investigation.</p>
	<p>Motorists travelling southbound on Pacific Highway turning right into Ryde Road and motorists travelling eastbound on Ryde Road turning left into Pacific Highway are experiencing long queues because the through traffic is being blocked by the turning traffic.</p>	
	<p>There are long queues for motorists travelling from Ryde Road through to Mona Vale Road and onto Pacific Highway.</p>	

Category	Matters raised	Roads and Maritime's response
	<p>The Pacific Highway needs to be widened to three lanes going as far as the Newcastle Freeway.</p>	<p>The aim of this proposal is to reduce congestion at the intersection of Pacific Highway, Mona Vale Road/Ryde Road.</p> <p>Widening Pacific Highway from Pymble to the Newcastle is considered to be outside of the scope of this proposal.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime will consider your comments when further investigating options to reduce congestion along Pacific Highway corridor.</p>
	<p>Traffic turning left from West Street onto Ryde Road eastbound, dangerously cross two lanes of traffic.</p> <p>The main problem is the West Street and Ryde Road intersection.</p>	<p>The aim of this proposal is to reduce congestion at the intersection of Pacific Highway, Mona Vale Road/Ryde Road.</p> <p>The current operation of the intersection of West Street and Ryde Road is considered to be outside of the scope of this proposal.</p>
<p><b>Traffic signals</b></p> <p>6 comments</p>	<p>A traffic signal should replace the current stop sign for motorists making a U-turns from Mona Vale Road west into Mona Vale Road east.</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion. After investigating this issue, Roads and Maritime have decided to include the provision of traffic lights at the U-turn from Mona Vale Road westbound onto Mona Vale Road eastbound.</p>
	<p>Install right hand turn signals at the intersection of Bridge Street and Pacific Highway for afternoon peak to ease congestion and reduce the number of accidents.</p>	<p>The aim of this proposal is to reduce congestion at the intersection of Pacific Highway, Mona Vale Road/Ryde Road.</p> <p>This request is outside of the scope of the current proposal.</p>
	<p>There is not enough green time from Mona Vale Road to Pacific Highway.</p> <p>The phasing of the lights only allows one B-double truck turning northbound onto Pacific Highway through on the green light.</p>	<p>The traffic lights on Pacific Highway are linked to Sydney Coordinated Adaptive Traffic System (SCATS). SCATS is a traffic management system that synchronises nearby traffic signals to optimise traffic flow across the road network.</p> <p>A review of the traffic light phasing will be carried out as part of these intersection improvements.</p>

Category	Matters raised	Roads and Maritime's response
<p><b>Traffic movements</b></p> <p>4 comments</p>	<p>Adding the third right turn and through lane from Mona Vale Road onto Pacific Highway will actually decrease the capacity of the left turning slip lane.</p>	<p>The project is designed to increase the number of vehicles that can pass through the intersection, reducing queuing and delays.</p> <p>The traffic modelling that was undertaken to inform this proposal does not indicate that there will be any negative impacts to the left turn lane as a result of this proposal. The modelling also found that the proposed intersection improvements will not significantly alter the length of, or the access to the left turn slip lane, when compared to the existing conditions.</p>
	<p>Motorists travelling from Mona Vale Road turning right onto Pacific Highway northbound queue across the intersection blocking the eastbound traffic turning both north and southbound onto Pacific Highway.</p> <p>Currently, cars block and queue through the intersection and adding an additional right turn lane from Mona Vale Road onto Pacific Highway northbound will block turning movements from Ryde Road onto Pacific Highway.</p>	<p>The project is designed to increase the number of vehicles that can pass through the intersection, reducing queuing and delays. It is hoped that motorists will reduce this illegal and potentially risky behaviour.</p> <p>It is illegal for vehicles to queue through intersections.</p>

## 4. Recommendations

Roads and Maritime would like to thank everyone who took the time to consider our proposal and provide feedback.

Following a review of all feedback, we have decided to proceed with the proposed intersection improvements at Pacific Highway and Mona Vale Road, Pymble. As a result of the comments received, and after further investigation, we will also add the following work to the proposal:

- Installing traffic lights at the U-turn from Mona Vale Road westbound onto Mona Vale Road eastbound
- widening the footpath on the north-eastern side of the intersection to 2.5 metres, so that this short section of footpath could then be linked into any future upgrades to pedestrian and cycle facilities that the local Council may have
- improving the safety of the existing zebra crossings on the north and south-eastern corners of the intersection by providing high-angle left turn lanes which require vehicles to approach the turn at a lower speed.
- reducing the number of trees that will be impacted by this proposal.

## 5. Next Steps

Roads and Maritime have decided to proceed with the proposed intersection improvements at Pacific Highway and Mona Vale Road/Ryde Road.

We will notify the community on a proposed night work construction schedule, and update the community prior to starting works.

We will continue to keep the community informed as this project progresses.



## Appendix A – Have your say letter October 2016

October 2016

### Have your say - Proposed intersection improvements on the Pacific Highway, Pymble

The NSW Government is considering a proposal to upgrade the intersection of Mona Vale Road/ Ryde Road as part of its \$300 million Urban Roads Pinch Point Program, which aims to reduce congestion and improve travel times on Sydney's busiest corridors.

Roads and Maritime Services is seeking community feedback by **Friday 4 November** on a proposal to upgrade the intersection. Benefits include:

- Reducing congestion by allowing motorists travelling northbound on the Pacific Highway to move through the intersection more freely
- Improving traffic flow for motorists travelling eastbound from Pacific Highway onto Mona Vale Road
- Helping to prevent queueing southbound on Pacific Highway at the left turn onto Mona Vale Road
- Improving safety on Pacific Highway for both north and southbound motorists turning east onto Mona Vale Road.

#### The proposal includes:

- Modifying the existing northbound centre concrete median to accommodate an additional 70 metre right turn lane from the Pacific Highway onto Mona Vale Road
- Providing a dedicated southbound left turn lane from the Pacific Highway onto the Mona Vale Road
- Installing an additional short lane to provide triple right turn lane from Mona Vale Road onto the Pacific Highway, while keeping the existing through lane onto Ryde Road
- Adjusting footpaths and kerbs
- Modifying the existing traffic islands on the Pacific Highway near the intersection
- Removing trees and shrubs to widen road
- Asphaltting and line marking.

#### Have your say

We encourage you to send us your comments on our proposal by **Friday 4 November** to:

**Email:** [pinchpoint@rms.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pinchpoint@rms.nsw.gov.au)

**Mail:** Pinch Points Program project team,  
PO Box 973  
Parramatta NSW 2124

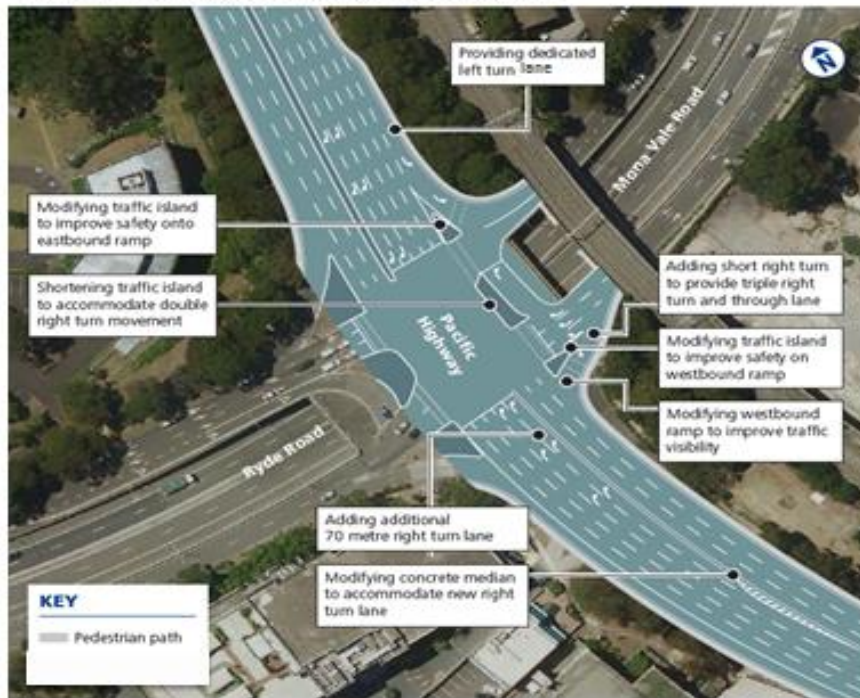
We will carefully consider your feedback and continue to keep you updated as the proposal progresses.

---

## Contact

If you have any questions, please call the project manager Maziar Neyakivi on 0407 451 100 (during business hours) or email [pinchpoint@ms.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pinchpoint@ms.nsw.gov.au). For more information on our projects, visit [rms.nsw.gov.au](http://rms.nsw.gov.au).

### Pacific Highway and Mona Vale Road, Pymble



#### Translating and Interpreting Service

If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on **131 450** and ask them to telephone Roads and Maritime Services on 0407 451 100

**Arabic**  
إذا كنتم بحاجة إلى مترجم، الرجاء الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الخطية والشفهية (TIS National) على الرقم **131 450** والطلب منهم الاتصال بوكالتكم Roads and Maritime Services على الرقم 0407 451 100

**Cantonese**  
百仙需要口譯員，請致電 **131 450** 聯絡翻譯和口譯服務 (TIS National) 尋求他們致電 0407 451 100 聯絡 Roads and Maritime Services

**Mandarin**  
如果您需要口譯員，請致電 **131 450** 尋求翻譯和口譯服務 (TIS National) 尋求他們致電 0407 451 100 聯絡 Roads and Maritime Services

#### Greek

Αν χρειάζεστε μεταφραστή, παρακαλούμε να τηλεφωνήσετε στον Υπουργείο Μεταφορών και Δημόσιας (Εθνική) Υπουργία ΤΠΣ στο **131 450** και ζητήστε να τηλεφωνήσουν Roads and Maritime Services στο 0407 451 100

#### Italian

Se desiderate l'assistenza di un interprete, prego telefonare al Servizio Interpreti e Traduttori (TIS National) al **131 450** chiedendo di contattare Roads and Maritime Services al 0407 451 100

#### Korean

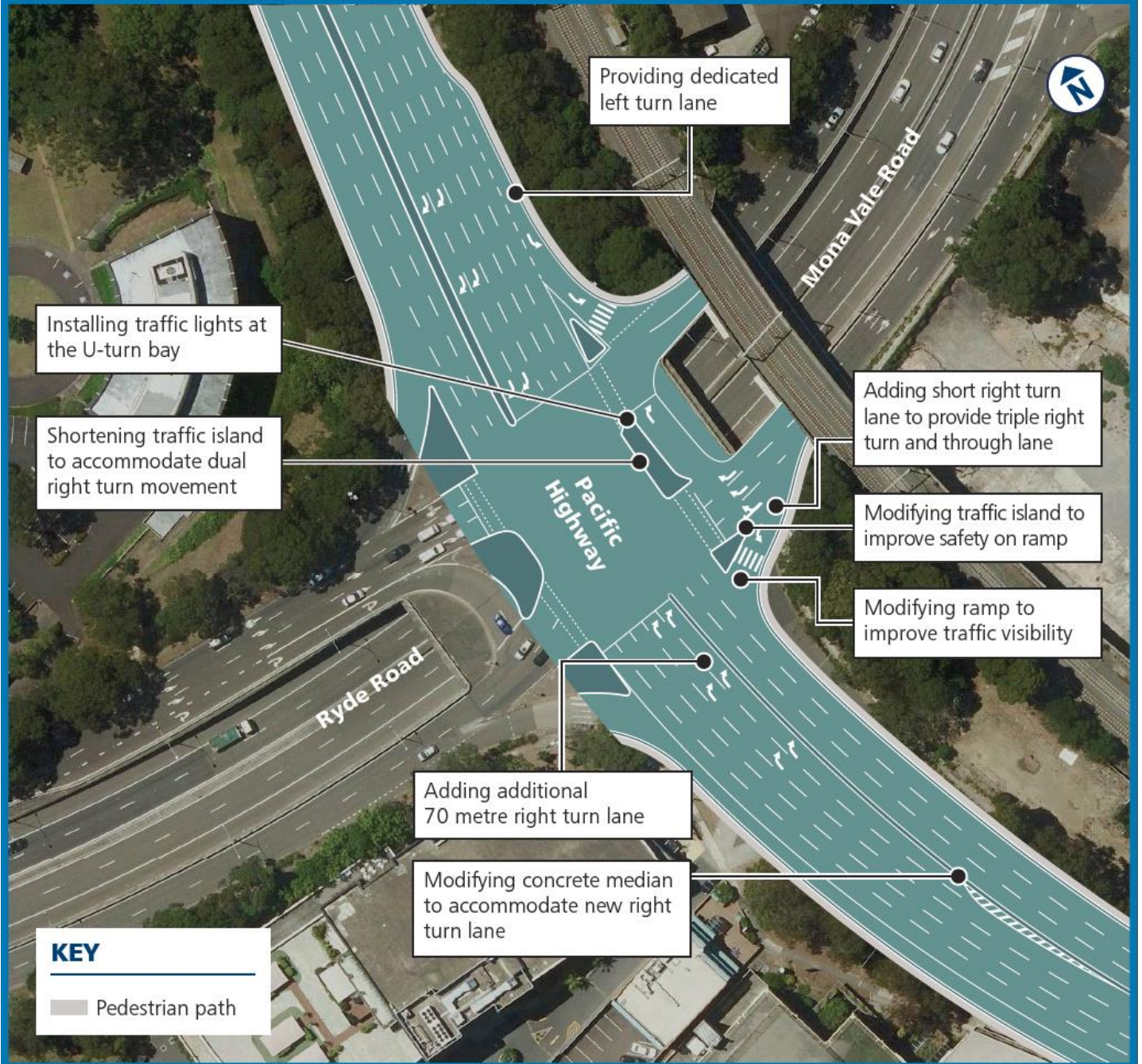
통역사가 필요하시면 번역통역서비스 (TIS National) 에 **131 450** 으로 연락하여 다음에게 번으로 0407 451 100 Roads and Maritime Services 에 전화주세요.

#### Vietnamese

Nếu cần thông ngôn viên, xin gọi về gọi cho Dịch Vụ Thông Phiên Dịch (TIS Toàn Quốc) qua số **131 450** và nhờ họ gọi cho Roads and Maritime Services qua số 0407 451 100

## Appendix B – Updated project map

### Pacific Highway and Mona Vale Road / Ryde Road, Pymble





[rms.nsw.gov.au](http://rms.nsw.gov.au)



13 22 13



Customer feedback  
Roads and Maritime  
Locked Bag 928,  
North Sydney NSW 2059

May 2017  
RMS 17.259  
ISBN: 978-1-925659-14-6