

Community Update

November 2004



F3 to Raymond Terrace Upgrade Pacific Highway Upgrading Program

The NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has commenced investigations into a proposed upgrade of the Pacific Highway between the F3 and Raymond Terrace that would provide 12.2 kilometres of high standard dual carriageway. As part of the Pacific Highway Upgrading Program, this major project would provide the 'missing link' between the F3 and the dual carriageway Pacific Highway at Raymond Terrace - improving safety and relieving traffic congestion.

Background

In August 2004, the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) commissioned Maunsell Australia Pty Ltd to undertake planning for a major upgrade of the Pacific Highway between the F3 and the completed Raymond Terrace Bypass.

Planning for the upgrade will involve community consultation, a range of technical investigations and studies, and preparation for an environmental impact assessment. Community input and involvement will be sought throughout the planning stage to ensure the best overall outcome for both local and wider communities.

Planning for the F3 to Raymond Terrace Upgrade is funded by the NSW State Government, as part of the \$2.2 billion 10-year Pacific Highway Upgrading Program in New South Wales (comprising \$1.6 billion from the NSW State Government and \$600 million from the Federal Government).

Community information session

Members of the community are invited to attend a community information session at the Raymond Terrace High School Hall, Elkin Avenue, Heatherbrae, on 15 November 2004 commencing from 7pm.

At this session, the RTA project team will present an outline of the project planning and community consultation processes. The community will be encouraged to put forward any initial issues or suggestions about the proposed upgrade. Following the session, light refreshments will be available for those who are able to stay a little longer. Project

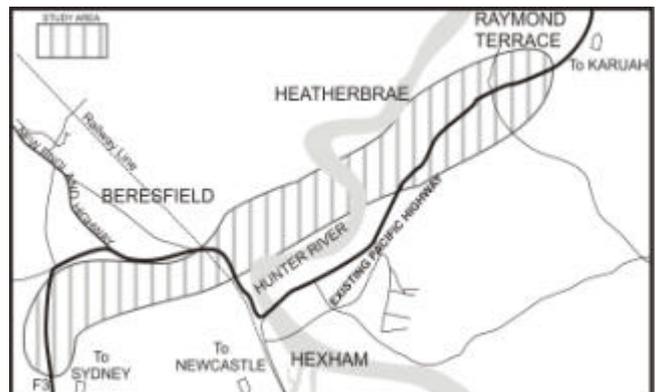
team members will be available to further discuss the proposal on an individual basis.

Community Liaison Group

The RTA is also seeking nominations for a project Community Liaison Group (CLG) that will provide a link between the community and the project team throughout the planning stage of the project. Representatives of local community or business groups and individual residents are encouraged to nominate. Information about the group and nomination forms are available from:

- Project Information Line on 1800 094 895 (toll free).
- Project website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au/pacific (click on F3 to Raymond Terrace).
- The community information session.

CLG nominations close on Friday 19 November 2004.



About the proposal

At this stage the study area is shown in the shaded area shown above. The extent of the study area will be refined as information on the nature of the environmental and engineering aspects are investigated. Generally, the upgrade would commence at the F3 south of John Renshaw Drive roundabout and connect to the completed Raymond Terrace Bypass.

The proposal would accommodate two lanes in each direction (with provision for future widening) and also investigate interchange, intersection and local road options to ensure the safety and amenity of highway and local road users, including pedestrians and cyclists.

Planning investigations underway

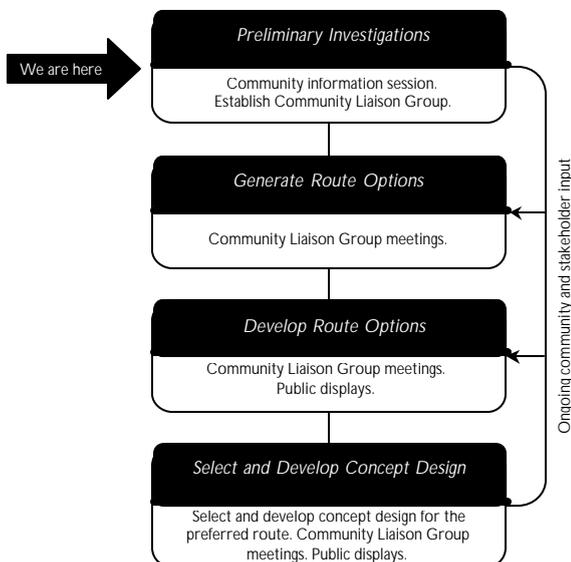
Maunsell and RTA representatives have already contacted some residents and will soon be contacting others regarding the start of initial investigations (such as environmental and survey) in their area. This work will assist the project team to understand the ground conditions on which the proposed upgrade would be built.

Field investigations for the upgrade will be required at different stages during the planning process. The RTA appreciates the cooperation of residents and businesses, and, wherever possible, will minimise disruptions to residents and road users.

For more information, please contact the Project Information Line on **1800 094 895**.

Involving the community

The RTA project team welcomes community input. The chart below shows the key stages for community input. Residents can also register to receive regular project updates by phoning the Project Information Line on **1800 094 895**.



Pacific Highway Upgrading Program

The \$2.2 billion 10-year Pacific Highway Upgrading Program is the single largest construction program in NSW for the last 40 years. Forty-two projects have been opened to traffic, and major construction projects including, Bundacree Creek to Possum Brush Upgrade, Coopernook Bypass and Taree to Coopernook Upgrade are underway. A further 20 projects are at various stages of planning and development including the Bulahdelah, Moorland to Herons Creek, Kempsey to Eungai and Macksville to Urunga upgrades.

The program has brought major improvements to safety, road conditions and travel times. From 1997 to 2002, travel times between Hexham and the Queensland border have been reduced by approximately one hour for passenger vehicles and just over an hour for heavy vehicles. Notorious accident spots have been removed with the completion of the Bulahdelah to Coolongolook Freeway, Yelgun to Chinderah Freeway, Taree Bypass, Raleigh Deviation and Ewingsdale Interchange.

As well as boosting tourism and transport efficiency, lives have been saved and serious injury accidents reduced by providing safer and more consistent overtaking opportunities.

For more information contact:

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Or go to the RTA website at:
www.rta.nsw.gov.au/pacific

Project Information Line
1800 094 895 (toll free)

