

5 Community consultation

5.1 Consultation objectives

The objectives of community consultation are to enable proactive community engagement, manage expectations through clear and responsive communications, ensure accurate documentation of feedback and capture and resolve issues where practicable.

A Community Involvement Plan (CIP) has been developed to ensure proactive community engagement to aid in the achievement of these objectives. The CIP will build on and utilise prior knowledge of the area and community concerns identified in Stage 1 of the corridor investigations, and ensure alignment with the principles and practices of the project and RMS's community relations policies and procedures.

In order to achieve these objectives, the CIP and subsequent program of activities are targeted to community relations and issues identified by the project team, stakeholders and government agencies. This will be achieved by focussing on both advance notification and targeted consultation with potentially impacted communities and stakeholders within and close to the project area and on a broader level by undertaking engagement with stakeholder groups and the wider community as required.

5.2 Consultation activities to date

During July 2012 a community update was issued by RMS identifying the Australian Government's allocation of \$2 million to investigate short term (Stage 1) and long term (Stage 2) traffic congestion mitigation measures for Richmond Bridge and its approaches between East Market Street, Richmond and Grose Vale Road, North Richmond.

This announcement also referred to the Stage 1 report titled Richmond Bridge and Approaches Congestion Study- Stage 1 Summary Report. The community was provided with the opportunity to comment on the contents of the report and also raise ideas for long term congestion mitigation proposals as part of the Stage 2 development. The closing date for providing comments to RMS was 31 July 2012.

On 24 July 2012 a community workshop was held for the Stage 1 proposals with input also being collected for the Stage 2 proposals. Consultation for the Stage 2 proposals is planned for September / October 2012.

5.3 Summary of issues raised during initial consultation

On 24 July 2012 a community workshop was held for the Stage 1 proposals. At this workshop the community was also asked to consider issues they feel are important for the longer term management of the corridor (Stage 2).

These issues were collated at the meeting and were then assessed by the project team for consideration as part of the overall development of options for the long term (Stage 2) options.

5.4 Key community issues

The issues raised by the community at the 24 July 2012 workshop fall into the following broad categories:

- Traffic management and access arrangements at intersections along the corridor.
- Town bypasses and alternate river crossings.
- Alternate traffic arrangements and routes.
- Public transport improvements (locally and more broadly).
- Land use and development (locally and more broadly).

These comments have been summarised in a *community issues report* which is available on the RMS website at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadsprojects.

5.5 Ways the community can comment on the options

The community will be invited to comment on the Stage 2 options being developed during September / October 2012.

Comments will be collated during this period and provided to the project team for consideration as part of the development of the options and importantly as part of the process to determine a preferred option.

5.6 Future consultation

At the workshop held on 24 July 2012 to discuss possible short term improvement works, the community was also asked about the issues that need to be addressed in the long term as part of the Stage 2 study. There will also be opportunities across September / October 2012 where the community can review the proposals for Stage 2 and provide comment which will be considered as part of the option development process. Figure 20 outlines the study process.

This next step focuses on the long-term options centred on the existing bridge and road corridor between Richmond and North Richmond. RMS is seeking feedback on four specific long-term options, in order to reserve a road corridor to accommodate future improvements between Richmond and North Richmond.

Community members have suggested completely bypassing Richmond, North Richmond and Windsor or a combination of all three. However, these suggestions are outside the scope of current investigations. Bypass options can be considered as part of overall transport planning for the north-west regions of Sydney.



Figure 20 Study process