



Frequently Asked Questions

Display of concept design and Environmental Investigation Report

About the project

What is happening now?

Roads and Maritime Services is displaying the concept design and Environmental Investigation Report for the proposed upgrade of The Horsley Drive between the M7 Motorway and Cowpasture Road, Horsley Park.

We are inviting feedback from the community and stakeholders from 28 June 2017 until 4 August 2017.

Why is The Horsley Drive being upgraded and widened?

The NSW Government is planning a future upgrade of The Horsley Drive between the M7 Motorway and Cowpasture Road to help reduce traffic congestion and meet the future transport needs of the area.

The upgrade would provide improved access to the Smithfield/Wetherill Park industrial area, the Western Sydney Employment Area, the M7 Motorway and the Western Sydney Parklands. It would provide improved east-west connections for freight, road users, cyclists and pedestrians.

In 2015, Roads and Maritime carried out investigation work and technical studies along The Horsley Drive that identified:

- the single eastbound lane from the M7 Motorway to Ferrers Road causes traffic to queue
- the Horsley Drive is likely to require six lanes by 2036 to meet increasing traffic demands
- the Ferrers Road intersection, Cowpasture Road intersection (northern section), M7 Motorway interchange, Wallgrove Road intersection and Cowpasture Road roundabout need to be upgraded to improve traffic flows and help reduce congestion
- there is a poor crash history in the area
- better cyclist and pedestrian connectivity is needed
- road corridors west of Wallgrove Road and east of Cowpasture Road need to be reserved to allow for future road upgrade work, when required.

What are the key features of the proposal?

Roads and Maritime is planning to widen and upgrade 2.4 kilometres of The Horsley Drive between the M7 Motorway and Cowpasture Road to a four lane divided road with a wide median to allow for six lanes in the future. An extra eastbound lane would also be provided from west of Ferrers Road to Cowpasture Road.

Intersections would be upgraded at Ferrers Road, Cowpasture Road (northern section) and Wallgrove Road. The Cowpasture Road roundabout at The Horsley Drive would be upgraded to an intersection with traffic lights to improve traffic flow.

The Horsley Drive eastern approach at the M7 Motorway interchange would also be upgraded.

An off-road shared path would be provided for pedestrians and cyclists that connects to the existing M7 Motorway shared path and Western Sydney Parkland cycleway.

Two corridors of land would be reserved, one to the north of The Horsley Drive between Wallgrove Road and Wallworth Road, and one east of Cowpasture Road (northern section), to allow for future upgrade work.

Has the community been consulted on this project?

Roads and Maritime invited community feedback on the proposed preferred corridor for The Horsley Drive Upgrade in August and September 2015. After reviewing the submissions we have now developed the concept design and Environmental Investigations Report.

During the consultation period, Roads and Maritime received 34 submissions. Most of the submissions provided overall support for the proposal. There were a number of key issues raised by the respondents including:

- property access and impact
- shared or pedestrian paths and public transport
- design comments, priority and timing
- environment.

Roads and Maritime published a submissions report to respond to all submissions received. It is available on our website at <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/projects/sydney-west/the-horsley-drive-upgrade/the-horsley-drive-consultation-report-2016-07.pdf>

Some changes to the design were made as a result of the submissions received.

What is an Environmental Investigation Report?

An Environmental Investigation Report is a document prepared as part of the environmental assessment of this project. It is currently on display for community and stakeholder feedback. It provides an overview of the proposed upgrade of The Horsley Drive and information on design, environmental and heritage impact, community consultation requirements and the statutory planning framework. The report includes detailed studies and investigations carried out as part of the proposal.

What is the Western Sydney Employment Area (WSEA)?

The NSW Government established the Western Sydney Employment Area to provide 2,400 hectares of land to businesses in the region for industry and employment, including transport and logistics, warehousing and office space.

It is located immediately to the west of the M7 Motorway at The Horsley Drive. The Western Sydney Employment Area will give businesses access to roads and utility services and will be close to the Western Sydney Airport at Badgerys Creek. Since rezoning in 2009, it continues to develop with significant government investment.

The Western Sydney Employment Area will provide people living in western Sydney the chance to work locally so they can spend less time commuting and more time with their families.

For more information, visit the NSW Department of Planning and Environment website, www.planning.nsw.gov.au.

When will the upgrade be built?

The timing of construction is subject to project approval and funding and has not yet been confirmed.

When would the road be upgraded to six lanes?

Traffic studies have recommended upgrading The Horsley Drive to a four lane road with an extra eastbound lane from west of Ferrers Road to Cowpasture Road. The extra eastbound lane will cater for heavy vehicle traffic flow. The upgrade would meet future traffic demands up to 2031. We are reserving the road corridor width capacity for six lanes, to be adapted when required in the future.

Why is land being reserved for future upgrade work?

Two corridors of land are being reserved, one to the north of The Horsley Drive between Wallgrove Road and Wallworth Road, and one east of Cowpasture Road (northern section), to allow for future upgrade work. This is being reserved now, so that intersections could be upgraded in the future to increase capacity.

Design

What changes have been made since the preferred corridor was displayed?

Following stakeholder and community feedback, the road design has been refined with the following changes:

- relocation of the shared pedestrian and cycle path to the southern side of The Horsley Drive to reduce property impacts
- a turning bay about 100 metres east of Eastern Creek to allow westbound cars to make a U-turn.

For more information about the design refinements, please refer to the Environmental Investigation Report, section 2.5.

What are the benefits of the upgrade?

The benefits of the proposed upgrade are:

- increased road capacity
- an improved east-west connection between the Western Sydney Employment Area, the M7 Motorway and the Wetherill Park/Smithfield industrial area
- safer conditions for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians
- improved access to the Western Sydney Parklands
- improved freight access and efficiency
- more reliable travel times
- improved landscaping
- reservation of road space for future widening if growth requires it.

What are the benefits of the upgrade for cyclists and pedestrians?

New facilities for pedestrians and cyclists would include:

- an off-road shared path for cyclists and pedestrians on the southern side of the road corridor and connection to the M7 Motorway shared path and the Western Sydney Parklands cycleway
- a footpath on the northern side of the road corridor
- traffic light crossings for pedestrians and cyclists at intersections
- provision of a new access road / shared path between the proposed turning bay opposite Ferrers Road intersection to access WaterNSW land and meet the existing Western Sydney Parkland cycleway parallel to the Upper Canal.

For more information about pedestrian and cyclist access, please refer to the Environmental Investigation Report, section 2.2.9.

Property

Will there be any property acquisition and is my property affected?

As part of the proposed upgrade, Roads and Maritime would need to acquire a small number of properties to allow for the road widening. Affected businesses and property owners are being contacted by the Roads and Maritime project team.

For more information about proposed property acquisitions, please refer to the Environmental Investigation Report, section 3.6.

For more information about the NSW Government land acquisition process, visit the new dedicated land acquisition website – www.landacquisition.nsw.gov.au.

Access

Will access to properties and businesses in the area change?

For safety and for provision of future lanes, the proposed upgrade includes a central median along The Horsley Drive that would change the access arrangements for some homes and businesses.

To enable safe access to homes and businesses, the proposal features a turning bay at the Ferrers Road intersection for cars travelling from the west (M7 Motorway).

It also features a new turning bay on the northern side of The Horsley Drive about 100 metres east of Eastern Creek with a short slowing down lane in the westbound direction (towards M7 Motorway) to enable vehicles travelling westbound to make a U-turn.

For more information about proposed access arrangements, refer to the Environmental Investigation Report, section 5.1.

How will people access the Smithfield/Wetherill Park industrial area, east of Cowpasture Road, when travelling from the east?

The roundabout at The Horsley Drive and Cowpasture Road would be upgraded to a traffic light intersection, to cater for increased traffic volumes.

To access the Smithfield/Wetherill Park industrial area when travelling from the east, road users would use other routes on the existing road network. See the access maps at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/thehorsleydrive

How can cyclists and pedestrians access the new shared path?

The new path would be accessed at the eastern end from the existing cycleway in the Western Sydney Parklands, and at the western end from the existing cycleway at the M7 Motorway. The path would enable cyclists and pedestrians to access the Western Sydney Parklands from the M7 Motorway cycleway.

See the pedestrian and cycle map at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/thehorsleydrive

Environment

Have any threatened species been found in the project area?

As part of the Environmental Investigation Report, a flora and fauna assessment was conducted by qualified ecologists to assess the potential biodiversity impact of the proposal. A Little Eagle (*Hieraaetus morphnoides*) was observed airborne during a fauna and flora survey carried out in February 2016. It was determined that this is a wide ranging species that is likely to forage regularly over open fields and woodland patches in the study area. No large nests were observed and was determined it is unlikely to breed in the study area. For more information about the ecological assessment and appropriate site specific safeguards, please refer to the Environmental Investigation Report, section 5.9.2.

What will the impact be for local residents and businesses during construction?

Expected impact during construction would include:

- Noise and vibration during construction activities including some out of hours work
- Temporary access disruptions for residential and commercial properties directly fronting The Horsley Drive and Cowpasture Road
- Temporary changes to access for cyclists and pedestrians
- Various traffic management activities including temporary speed limit restrictions, lane and road closures, temporary lights and stop-go operations
- Short-term dust generation as a result of ground disturbance, clearing, excavation and earthmoving activities
- Reduced amenity due to day-to-day construction activities and routine movement of equipment.

We would work closely with affected residents and businesses to reduce construction impacts and ensure they are notified in advance of the work being carried out. Construction activities would be guided by a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to ensure work is carried out to Roads and Maritime specifications within the specified work area. A construction traffic management plan would also be developed to mitigate impact during construction. Detailed work methods would be determined during detailed design and construction planning.

Please refer to the Environmental Investigations Report, section 3.3 and section 5.

How will noise be managed during construction?

Standard construction hours would be between 7am and 6pm Monday to Fridays and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays. Some night work would be required for certain construction activities to mitigate traffic disruptions and for safety.

Roads and Maritime would require construction contractors to use noise management measures as set out in the Roads and Maritime Environment Noise management standards and guidelines.

All work outside of standard construction hours would be carried out in accordance with the relevant approvals and residents and businesses would be notified in advance of any night work.

Will I get noise walls and/or noise treatments?

If the proposed upgrade receives project approval and funding Roads and Maritime would investigate appropriate mitigation measures to be implemented during the detailed design of the project.

Have your say

How do I provide feedback on the concept design and Environmental Investigations Report?

Roads and Maritime welcomes your feedback until **4 August 2017**. Feedback can be provided by email, letter or attendance at a community information session.

For more information about the proposed upgrade, or to provide feedback, please contact the project team:

Email: horsleydriveupgrade@rms.nsw.gov.au

Mail: The Horsley Drive Upgrade
Roads and Maritime Services
PO Box 973 Parramatta NSW 2124

Phone: 1800 685 212 (toll free) during business hours.

Website: www.rms.nsw.gov.au/thehorsleydrive

Email subscriber list: If you would like to receive up to date information on The Horsley Drive Upgrade, please send an email to horsleydriveupgrade@rms.nsw.gov.au

Community information sessions

We will host two community information sessions with information on the concept design and the Environmental Investigations Report for The Horsley Drive Upgrade.

The project team will be available to answer questions and receive feedback on the proposal from the community.

A formal presentation will not be given, so please feel free to drop in any time during these information sessions.

Wednesday, 19 July 2017, 4pm to 7pm
Horsley Park Hall - Arundel Road, Horsley Park
Saturday, 22 July 2017, 10am to 1pm
Abbotsbury Community Centre
64 Stockdale Crescent, Abbotsbury

How will my feedback be used?

Roads and Maritime will review all community feedback on the concept design and Environmental Investigation Report and this feedback will be considered in future decision making.

What happens next?

Roads and Maritime will consider all feedback received during the display of the Environmental Investigation Report and will respond in a submissions report.

The proposed upgrade requires some land within the Western Sydney Parklands (identified as a regional park under the NPW Act) to be acquired by Roads and Maritime. In order for this land to be acquired, it would first need to be removed from the gazetted regional park area. Discussions regarding this process are currently under way.

After considering community feedback, and if approval is obtained to acquire the land within the regional park area, Roads and Maritime will determine if the proposal should proceed or if any changes are required.

Subject to project approval and funding being allocated, Roads and Maritime would then proceed to final design and issue tenders for construction.

The community will be kept informed throughout this process.



www.rms.nsw.gov.au/thehorsleydrive



1800 685 212



The Horsley Drive Upgrade
Roads and Maritime Services
PO Box 973
Parramatta NSW 2124

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