

Roads and Maritime Services' vision is to be the leader in the management and delivery of safe, efficient and high quality services and infrastructure to the community and businesses of NSW. This community update provides an update on the current activities being carried out along Waterfall Way.

Safety review update

Roads and Maritime Services are continuing to implement the recommendations made from the 2014 road safety review.

The safety review investigated the 40 kilometre section of Waterfall Way between the Pacific Highway and Dorrigo. It focused on improving road safety, community feedback, traffic volumes, crash statistics, heavy vehicles and road conditions.

Of the thirty-two recommendations made in the report, sixteen have been completed and another six recommendations are on track for completion in the near future. The remaining ten recommendations are currently being investigated.

The main activities currently underway on Waterfall Way are summarised in this community update.

Improvements to Waterfall Way

Bellingen – High pedestrian activity area

Bellingen Shire Council has been seeking community ideas and suggestions to improve pedestrian safety on Waterfall Way through the Bellingen central business district.

Council has engaged a consultant, John Mongard Landscape Architects, who will work with the community, Council and Roads and Maritime to develop an Urban Concept plan.

The plan will aim to improve safety in the urban landscape of the Bellingen town centre along the Waterfall Way.

Changes to Give-Way signage

Some members of the community have expressed safety concerns for the changes to give way signage on Waterfall Way that were installed late last year.

Prior to making the changes, on-site inspections were held at each of the three sites by Roads and Maritime and Bellingen Shire Council staff.

A number of factors were considered when reviewing the give-way sections, including safe stopping distances and consistency of right of way direction.

All sites meet safety requirements including safe stopping sight distance (SSD). Where SSD can be met the preferred option is for the uphill approach to have right of way, especially for heavy vehicles under load, having to stop/start on uphill grades.

However, the community may be assured that we will continue to monitor safety on the mountain and make changes as necessary.

For more information contact: Coordination Manager, Sonia George

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For information on scheduled road work, visit www.livetraffic.com or outside business hours call the Transport Management

Centre on 132 701

Speed zone reviews

Roads and Maritime is currently reviewing the speed zones along Waterfall Way, particularly on the mountain between Dorrigo and Bellingen.

It is expected that the review will be completed and recommendations implemented by mid-2015.

In the meantime, Roads and Maritime has arranged for Council to implement a temporary 60km/hr speed limit for the three giveway sections on the Dorrigo Mountain.

Heavy vehicles

Inspectors continue to monitor Waterfall Way as part of the Action Plan which was developed to proactively manage project truck movements on Waterfall Way, including behaviour of drivers.

Gordonville Cutting and Myers Bluff

Work at Myers Bluff and Gordonville Cutting are underway and are due to finish in April 2015, weather permitting. This work includes the repair of the damaged road shoulders.

Landslip at Weeping Jenny

Work to repair a landslip east of Dorrigo, at Weeping Jenny site was completed in November 2014.

Landslip at Newell Falls

Work to repair a recent landslip at Newell Falls is progressing well. The cleanup was completed on 28 February 2015.

Fernmount signage

Roads and Maritime have completed installing new road signs at Fernmount. The work included additional speed limit repeater signs, intersection and warning signs.

Improved line-marking at Thora

Additional line marking work has been completed adjacent to the Thora Store to improve road safety.

Sweedmans Lane improvements

Roads and Maritime is finalising plans to improve road safety and the road condition east of Fernmount. Work will improve the surface, provide sealed shoulders and upgrade the intersection at Sweedmans Lane. This work is due to commence mid April 2015, weather permitting.

Little North Arm Road

Work to improve the condition of a 300 metre section of road, 16 kilometres west of Bellingen, is due to start in March 2015. This work should be completed by mid-May 2015, weather permitting.

Newell Falls Rotary Park rest area

The proposed work at Newell Fall this year will involve fixing the slope opposite Newell Falls which will include new kerb and gutter at the rest area to improve drainage.

The rotary park rest shelter currently remains closed due to the ground conditions. The site is being assessed and discussions are being held with Council to determine the most appropriate solution.

Road resurfacing and heavy patching

Roads and Maritime completed in February 2015 heavy patching, road resurfacing and line-marking at five locations between the Pacific Highway and Dorrigo.

Drainage on Dorrigo Mountain

Work to upgrade drainage along Waterfall Way is continuing on the Dorrigo Mountain.

This work has been progressing each year in order to improve stormwater drainage management on the Dorrigo Mountain.