

Community Update

November 2004



Oxley Highway to Kempsey Upgrade Pacific Highway Upgrade Program

The NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has commenced investigations into a proposed upgrade of the Pacific Highway to a high standard dual carriageway between Oxley Highway at Port Macquarie and Kempsey. As part of the Pacific Highway Upgrade Program, this proposal will significantly improve safety and travelling conditions on this section of the highway.

Background

The NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has commissioned GHD Pty Ltd to undertake planning for a major upgrade of the Pacific Highway between Oxley Highway and Kempsey.

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 Oxley Highway to Kempsey Upgrade is funded by the NSW State Government as part of the \$2.2 billion 10-year Pacific Highway Upgrade 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 on Tuesday, 30 November 2004 at the Telegraph Point School of Arts, 7 Cooperabung Drive, Telegraph Point, starting at 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 and project

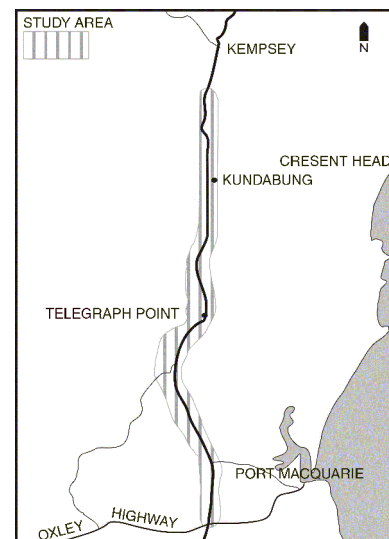
team members will be available to further discuss the proposal individually.

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 154 724 (toll free).
- Project website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au/pacific (click on Oxley Highway to Kempsey).
- The community information sessions.

CLG nominations close on Thursday 9 December 2004.



About the proposal

The study area will include the townships of Telegraph Point and Kundabung. The study area is shown on the map on the front page.

The study will include the development of feasible route options based on a range of engineering, environmental, social and economic factors.

Planning investigations underway

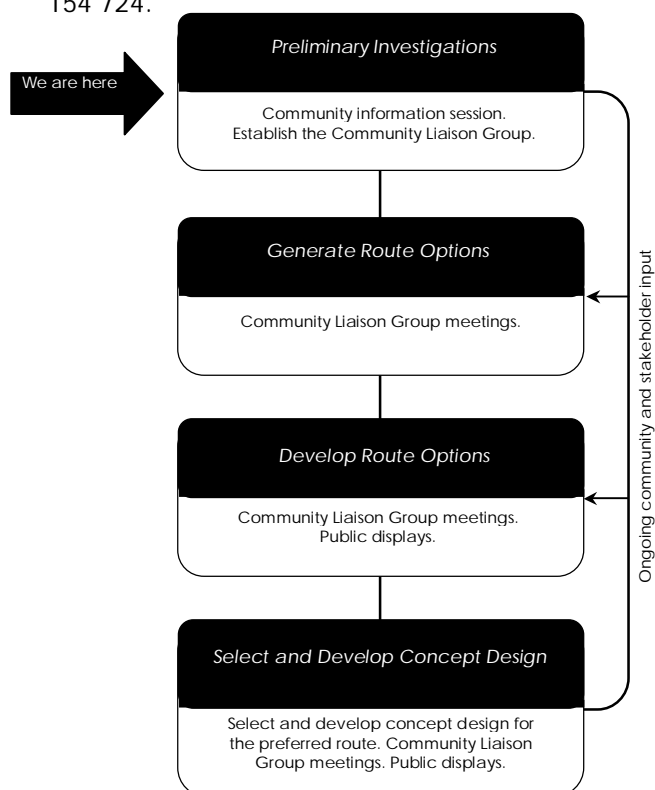
GHD has been engaged by the RTA to assist in the development and assessment of route options. GHD representatives will soon be contacting residents in the study area about the start of initial investigations, such as geotechnical surveys. This work will assist the project team to understand the area through 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 154 724.

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 154 724.



Pacific Highway Upgrade Program

The \$2.2 billion 10-year Pacific Highway Upgrade 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 through providing safer and more consistent overtaking opportunities.

For more information contact:

Community Liaison Manager

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Pacific Highway Upgrade Program

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Or go to the RTA website at:

www.rta.nsw.gov.au/pacific

Project Information Line

1800 154 724 (toll free)

