

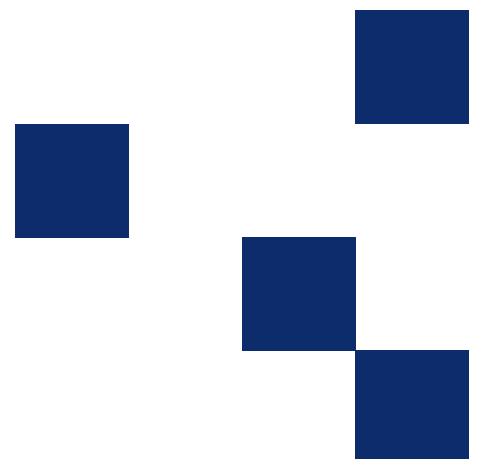


Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services

SEATS REPORT

RMS Southern

May 2015



1 Summary

Roads and Maritime Services are currently working on 20 projects. There are:

- 14 proposals in development, including two in conjunction with local councils
- 6 projects currently under construction

1.1 Proposals in development

- Berry to Bomaderry Upgrade
- Princes Highway Albion Park Rail Bypass
- Princes Highway Nowra Bridge
- Princes Highway Dignams Creek
- Wilton Junction
- M1 Princes Motorway Climbing Lanes
- M1 Princes Motorway Interchange at Mount Ousley
- Princes Highway Burrill Lake Bridge
- Princes Highway, Termeil Creek
- Ellerton Drive Extension, Queanbeyan (in conjunction with Queanbeyan City Council)
- Batemans Bay Link Road, Batemans Bay (in conjunction with Eurobodalla Shire Council)
- Kings Highway Nelligen Bridge
- Bemboka Bridge
- Bulli Pass

1.2 Projects under construction

- Gerringong Upgrade – Mount Pleasant to Toolijooa Road
- Foxground and Berry Bypass – to Toolijooa Road to Schofields Lane
- Kings Highway Road Safety Review
- Heavy Vehicle Rest Areas
- Dalgety Bridge
- Cooma Creek Bridge

1.3 Recently completed projects

- There were no projects completed since the last report was presented.

2 Proposals in Development

2.1 Berry to Bomaderry Upgrade

Following the display of the Review of Environmental Factors in late 2014, Roads and Maritime has undertaken amendments to the project design, and finalised the environmental approval and concept design for this 11.5 km proposed upgrade of the A1 Princes Highway.

Design for the proposed upgrade continues in 2015 with a contract for the detailed design awarded to Hyder in January 2015. Property acquisition is continuing. The NSW State Government allocated \$10 million for the project in the 2014/15 State Budget.

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/south-coast/berry-to-bomaderry/index.html>

2.2 Princes Highway Albion Park Rail Bypass

In the 2014/15 NSW State Budget, \$1 million has been committed for ongoing planning for the future upgrade of the Princes Highway between Yallah and Oak Flats. The NSW Government has committed \$550 million to complete the project, with construction planned to begin prior to March 2019.

A review of the corridor identified on local environment plans has been undertaken, and the suitability of the corridor was confirmed.

Roads and Maritime is continuing public consultation and discussion, particularly with Councils, and users of the Croom Regional Sporting Complex impacted by the planned future upgrade. Roads and Maritime have appointed a Hyder/Cardno Joint Venture for concept design and environmental assessment services. Roads and Maritime have recently invited community representatives to participate in a flood focus group.

Roads and Maritime lodged a State significant infrastructure application with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

The purpose of this application is for Roads and Maritime to advise the Department of Planning and Environment its intention to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

The lodgement of the State significant infrastructure application is in accordance with statutory planning processes.

The environmental impact statement continues to be compiled and is expected to be displayed in late 2015 for community comment.

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/illawarra/albion-park-rail-bypass/index.html>

2.3 Princes Highway Nowra Bridge

Following public consultation in late 2014, the NSW Minister for Roads and Freight endorsed an option to replace the existing southbound crossing of the Shoalhaven River immediately to the west of the existing concrete bridge. Planning is now underway for a new bridge that will improve conditions on the Princes Highway, including intersection improvements near the bridge.

Prior to the recent Federal election, Ms Ann Sudmalis MP, Member for Gilmore, pledged \$10M to the planning of a new crossing of the Shoalhaven. In the 2014/15 NSW State Budget, \$2M has been committed to the project.

In December 2014 Roads and Maritime completed community consultation requesting feedback to help determine the long term future of the old Nowra Bridge. The project team is currently collating all the ideas and feedback. A consultation report will be available mid-2015.

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/south-coast/nowra-bridges-shoalhaven-river/index.html>

2.4 Princes Highway Dignams Creek

In September 2014 Roads and Maritime awarded the contract for the detailed design of the project to GHD Pty Ltd. The 2014/15 State Budget allocated \$1.8 million to the project.

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/south-coast/dignams-creek/index.html>

2.5 Wilton Junction

Roads and Maritime is continuing to work in conjunction with TfNSW and with the developers of Wilton Junction in regard to traffic modelling and infrastructure requirements. At the Wilton Junction interchange RMS is planning to install traffic signals to improve safety, with development underway and construction planned for commencement in the 2015/16 financial year.

2.6 M1 Princes Motorway Climbing Lanes

Roads and Maritime is planning to upgrade the M1 Princes Motorway, by adding climbing lanes at four uphill locations between Picton Road and Bulli Tops. The proposal will provide four new climbing lanes, two in each direction, at some areas with steep grades between Picton Road and Bulli Pass.

Roads and Maritime is continuing to refine the concept design for the project. SMEC Australia has been awarded a contract for the preparation of environmental studies. The Australian Government and the NSW Government have confirmed a joint funding arrangement as part of the Infrastructure Investment Program (previously the Nation Building 2 program). Construction work has been finalised on the northbound acceleration lane from the Picton Road intersection which was open to traffic on 17 September 2014.

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/illawarra/mount-ousley-road/slow-vehicle-climbing-lanes/index.html>

2.7 M1 Princes Motorway interchange at Mount Ousley

Roads and Maritime has started planning for an interchange on the M1, at the base of Mount Ousley. The project would replace the existing intersection of the M1 and Mount Ousley Road as well as look at opportunities for a third southbound lane. The NSW Government has allocated \$500,000 in the 2014/15 budget to begin this planning work.

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/illawarra/mount-ousley-road/m1-interchange/index.html>

2.8 Princes Highway Burrill Lake Bridge

Roads and Maritime has developed and displayed a preferred option for the future Burrill Lake crossing on the A1 Princes Highway at Burrill Lake. The NSW Government has allocated money for the construction of the bridge. Major construction is currently planned to begin in early 2016. Preliminary works such as building removal, amenities relocation and installation, investigative works and utilities activities have begun on site.

The concept design has been developed following a range of technical, economic and social investigations and community considerations.. A contract for the detailed design was awarded to SMEC Australia Pty Ltd in October 2014.

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/south-coast/burrill-lake-crossing/index.html>

2.9 Princes Highway, Termeil Creek

Following project planning approval in late 2012 and the finalisation of pre-construction activities, Roads and Maritime has awarded a tender for the construction of the Termeil Creek bridge project. Construction has begun and is planned to take about 18 months to complete. The NSW government has allocated \$21 million to construct the highway upgrade.

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/south-coast/termeil-creek/index.html>

2.10 Ellerton Drive Extension, Queanbeyan

The NSW Government and Australian Government recently announced joint funding of \$50 million for the planning and construction of the Ellerton Drive Extension in Queanbeyan. The works are part of Queanbeyan City Council's program to provide for future traffic in the city and to provide an alternative route around the CBD. The route would provide flood free access in the event of a 1:100 flood. Roads and Maritime will be providing development and governance oversight to the project. The review of environmental factors for the project was displayed for 60 days in December, January and February and further community consultation has been undertaken. Queanbeyan Council is due to consider the Determination of the project in the near future.

2.11 Batemans Bay Link Road, Batemans Bay

The NSW Government has announced \$10 million funding for the Batemans Bay Link Road to relieve congestion in the Batemans Bay CBD, especially during peak holiday periods. Roads and Maritime will continue to work with Eurobodalla Council to provide a safe and efficient junction at the Batemans Bay Link Road and the Princes Highway intersection and progress this work.

2.12 Kings Highway Nelligen Bridge

Roads and Maritime is investigating options for the future of Nelligen Bridge over the Clyde River at Nelligen, following a 2011 review which identified deterioration of the reinforced concrete piles under the bridge during routine inspections. Structural engineers have assessed the strength of the bridge and found it is still able to safely carry normal highway loads. The bridge will require significant future maintenance.

Roads and Maritime is currently undertaking a cost benefit analysis of the major rehabilitation and new bridge options for the crossing of the Clyde River at Nelligen. The outcome of this analysis will assist Roads and Maritime to decide the best way forward. To assist in this process a value management workshop was held in April 2015, which included community representatives. The outcomes of the workshop will be available shortly.

To assist in this decision, a number of investigations, including a preliminary environmental investigation (PEI), have been carried out. The PEI has been made available for public viewing and is available at the project website. The PEI assesses the planning and environmental constraints including, biodiversity, visual impact, noise and vibration, heritage, and land use for a range of 'repair or replace options'.

Underwater bridge inspections were performed in late 2013. Roads and Maritime expects to have the information needed to make a decision on preferred options for the bridge in mid 2015.

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/south-coast/kings-highway/nelligen-bridge/index.html>

2.13 Bulli Pass

Roads and Maritime is investigating the potential of an improved escarpment crossing by way of upgrading Bulli Pass as a possible efficient and safe alternative route to Mount Ousley Road. The NSW Government is funding planning investigations. There is no current funding or timeframe for construction of the upgrade and investigations are continuing.

3 Projects under Construction

3.1 Bemboka Bridge

Roads and Maritime is planning to widen the bridge over the Bemboka River on the Snowy Mountains Highway at Moran's crossing, approximately eight kilometres south-west of Bemboka. The works will enable safe continued use of the bridge by Higher Mass Limit (HML) vehicles and will include work on the approaches. A REF has been finalised and is available on the project website. Roads and Maritime has begun initial preparation work at the site, which is expected to be complete in October 2014. Major constructions expected to follow these activities and to be complete in mid-2016.

Funding for this project is part of the NSW Governments Bridges for the Bush program. The initiative is a commitment from NSW Government to improve road freight productivity by replacing or upgrading bridges over the next five years at 17 key locations in rural and regional NSW. The NSW Government has allocated \$50 million to the Bridges for the Bush program in the 2014/15 Budget, including \$5 million for the Bemboka Bridge project.

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/south-coast/bemboka-bridge-upgrade/index.html>

3.2 Gerringong Upgrade – Mount Pleasant to Toolijooa Road

The upgrade of the Princes Highway between Mount Pleasant and Toolijooa Road, funded by the NSW Government, continues to progress well. The \$329 million upgrade is for the 7.5km upgrade of highway to include two new interchanges, at Gerringong and Gerroa.

A major traffic switch was undertaken with highway traffic now travelling predominately on the future northbound carriageway. Twelve bridges on the northbound carriageway are complete and the new rail overbridge will be completed in early 2015. Construction is past the half way point with completion expected in mid-2015, weather permitting. The 2014/15 State Budget allocated \$76.5 million to the project.

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/south-coast/gerringong-upgrade/index.html>

3.3 Foxground & Berry Bypass – Toolijooa Road to Schofields Lane

The Foxground and Berry bypass is the second stage in the Gerringong to Bomaderry series of projects. The project is fully funded by NSW State Government. The project will bypass the Foxground bends and the township of Berry, improving road safety and travel times for motorists and reducing traffic congestion within Berry.

Fulton Hogan was awarded the contract to undertake the work in June 2014. Property acquisition, utilities and environmental monitoring tasks are currently underway. Fulton Hogan has installed their site management offices in preparation for the start of construction expected early 2015. The 2014/15 State Budget has allocated \$80 million to the project.

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/south-coast/foxground-berry-bypass/index.html>

3.4 Kings Highway Road Safety Review

The NSW Centre for Road Safety and Roads and Maritime have undertaken a road safety review of the Kings Highway between the Princes Highway roundabout at Batemans Bay and the easternmost part of the ACT border just south of Bungendore. The review was finalised and released in May 2013. The report has been released and can be found on the following link;

http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/downloads/kings_hwy_safety_review.pdf

The NSW Government has allocated \$16 million over the next two years as part of a three year road safety improvement program with a total allocation of \$20 million. Works near Larbert Road and Doughboy have recently been completed. Construction of an eastbound overtaking lane is currently underway east of the Shoalhaven River. Construction of several road safety treatments is proposed to start during 2014/15 financial year.

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/south-coast/kings-highway/index.html>

3.5 Dalgety Bridge

Roads and Maritime is undertaking a major rehabilitation of the Dalgety Bridge. Rehabilitation is required to minimise future maintenance costs and prolong the life of the Dalgety Bridge which crosses the Snowy River on the Jindabyne - Dalgety Road. The NSW Government has allocated \$4.5 million for this essential work.

Work on the rehabilitation started in January 2014 and is expected to continue until mid -2015. There are currently no road closures in place and Roads and Maritime will keep the public advised of any construction impacts. Roads and Maritime Services will continue to update the community about this project as it progresses.

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/south-coast/dalgety-bridge/index.html>

3.6 Cooma Creek Bridge

Roads and Maritime have begun strengthening of Cooma Creek Bridge on Sharp Street, Cooma. The strengthening work consists of building additional supports beneath the bridge to improve the lifespan of the bridge. The existing bridge is able to carry current traffic loads but work is needed so the bridge can meet future traffic demands.

Roads and Maritime is planning to undertake the majority of the strengthening work during the summer months to minimise the impact on the community and winter tourist industry, with works on site expected to be finalised by June 30, weather permitting. The majority of works are underneath the bridge; however some footpath closures and traffic control is required. The bridge will be open to traffic during busy traffic periods.

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/south-coast/cooma-creek-bridge/index.html>

4 Corridor Strategy Development

Transport for NSW and the Roads and Maritime Services are progressively preparing corridor strategies for every State road in NSW to create consistency in how the State Road network is managed and planned. Corridor Strategies include priorities for future road maintenance, operation, safety and traffic and are developed to align with the new approach to integrated transport planning.

Corridor Strategies set a 20 year vision for the road corridor and will be reviewed every five years or as required. RMS Southern Region is planning to complete 5-7 corridor strategies in the 15-16 financial year with the list of chosen corridors being finalised by the end of June.

Corridor strategies will be delivered by a multi-disciplinary team comprised of members from TfNSW and RMS and will include input and feedback from our customers, the community and various external stakeholders (council, road user groups etc.)

5 Miscellaneous Actions

5.1 Mt Ousley maintenance process

Roads and Maritime has initiated a coordinated maintenance program for works on the M1/Mount Ousley/Picton Road portion of the network. The programme provides for full night-time closures of parts of the network to allow for a range of coordinated maintenance activities to be undertaken in a safe and efficient manner. Closures are advertised widely to all road users including freight stakeholders, and have proven successful to date.

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/illawarra/mount-ousley-road/index.html>