M1 Pacific Motorway
Extension to Raymond Terrace

Have your say – Revised concept design

October 2015

The NSW Government is providing $3 million in 2015-16 to continue planning for a future extension of the M1 Pacific Motorway to the Pacific Highway at Raymond Terrace. A revised concept design has been developed, which includes major improvements for connectivity to the surrounding road network and minimises environmental impacts. Feedback is being invited on the proposal by 6 November 2015 and will be considered in completing the concept design and carrying out the environmental assessment.

Background

The M1 Pacific Motorway and Pacific Highway are critical links in the National Land Transport Network and among the busiest transport corridors in Australia.

Planning for the M1 Pacific Motorway extension to the Pacific Highway at Raymond Terrace began in 2004 and has involved an extensive community consultation program to identify a preferred route and develop a concept design.

A design was displayed for community comment in 2008 with feedback considered to develop a refined design which was announced in 2010. The route was reserved in the Newcastle and Port Stephens Local Environmental Plans.

Roads and Maritime has since reviewed and improved the 2010 design to ensure the extension provides the best outcome for road users, the environment and the community.

This project update includes information on the revised proposal including changes made since the 2010 design.

The NSW Government has committed $200 million under Rebuilding NSW to get the project ready for construction.

The timing of construction is not confirmed and is dependent on planning approval, future traffic needs and funding availability.
The proposal
The proposed upgrade includes:

- 15 kilometres of dual carriageway motorway with two lanes in each direction, bypassing Hexham and Heatherbrae
- Interchanges at Black Hill, Tarro, Tomago Road and north of Heatherbrae
- A 2.6 kilometre bridge over Woodlands Close, the Main Northern Railway, New England Highway and Hunter River
- Minimum flood immunity along the new roadway between Black Hill and Tomago for a one in 100 year flood event
- Minimum flood immunity along the new roadway between Tomago and Raymond Terrace for a one in 20 year flood event.

Benefits
Key benefits of the proposal include:

- Improved connection between the M1 Pacific Motorway and the Pacific Highway
- Improved traffic flow for motorists and freight for more reliable travel times
- Improved accessibility to the surrounding road network
- Improved safety for all road users.

Changes since the 2010 design
Since the 2010 design was completed, Roads and Maritime has gained considerable knowledge and experience in building large bridge structures across floodplains through projects such as the Pacific Highway bypass of Kempsey.

This knowledge and experience has been used to review the design for the M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace.

As a result, there have been several changes made to the design at the southern end of the alignment between Black Hill and Tomago to improve connectivity to the surrounding road network and minimise or avoid environmental impacts.

The changes include:

- Moving the road alignment further to the north of the 2010 design and including a bridge structure across the Hunter River floodplain. This would minimise and avoid environmental impacts to protected wetlands next to the Hunter River and the floodplain.
- Changes to the Black Hill interchange and providing a new interchange at Tarro to improve traffic flow and connectivity between the M1 Pacific Motorway, New England Highway and John Renshaw Drive.
- Changes to the Tomago Road interchange design to improve accessibility to and from Tomago Road, which includes a new link road behind Tomago industrial area connecting to Old Punt Road and Tomago Road.
Environmental assessment
An environmental assessment has started to determine the potential environmental and social impacts of the proposal and to identify management and mitigation measures.

The investigations will consider:
- Biodiversity and environmentally sensitive areas
- Hydrology and flooding
- Property impacts including acquisition and changes to land use
- Aboriginal and European heritage
- Traffic impacts
- Operational and construction noise
- Socio economic impacts.
M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace

New England Highway and Tarro interchange

2.6 kilometre bridge across floodplain and Hunter River

Alignment moved further north to avoid environmentally sensitive areas and improve connectivity to New England Highway, John Renshaw Drive and Tomago Road.

See inset on reverse side.

Key

New motorway and upgraded road
2010 alignment
Existing roads
New motorway entry/exit lanes
Main North rail line
Bridge
Environmentally sensitive area
Traffic direction

See inset for full interchange map.
Involving the community

Roads and Maritime is working with the community and stakeholders during the planning process to understand issues and minimise potential impacts.

Feedback received will be considered to finalise the concept design and prepare the Environmental Impact Statement, which is expected to be displayed for community and stakeholder feedback in early 2017.

More information will be provided to the community and stakeholders as the project progresses.

What happens next?

Upcoming planning activities include:

- Community and stakeholder discussions
- Finalise the concept design
- Prepare the Environmental Impact Statement for display in early 2017.

The timing of construction is not confirmed and is dependent on planning approval, future traffic needs and funding availability.

Project development process

2004 – 2007 Initial planning and investigations

2008 Community consultation on the proposed upgrade

2010 Announcement of concept design

Community consultation on the revised concept design

Early 2017 Display Environmental Impact Statement

Approval to proceed*

Detailed design*

Construction*

*Timing subject to planning approval and funding

Have your say

Feedback on the revised concept design is invited by 6 November 2015.

Please send your feedback by:

Phoning: 1800 094 895 (during business hours)

Emailing: M1RT@jacobs.com

Writing to: M1 to Raymond Terrace Project Manager

Roads and Maritime Services

Locked Bag 2030

Newcastle

NSW 2300

Visit a display

Stakeholders and the community are invited to view the plans and attend a community information session to meet the project team and find out more about the project:

MarketPlace Shopping Centre, Raymond Terrace

William Street, Raymond Terrace

Thursday 15 October 2015

3pm to 7pm

Stockland Shopping Centre, Green Hills

Molly Morgan Drive, Green Hills

Saturday 17 October 2015

10am to 2pm

Further information

More information including frequently asked questions and detailed information on technical and environmental investigations are available to view at rms.nsw.gov.au/m1rt.

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