



DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT

12th June 2007

DSS4	PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE PROGRAM – OXLEY HIGHWAY TO KEMPSEY
	FILE: 312 NJT {Folio No. *}

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the progress of the proposed Pacific Highway Upgrade from the Oxley Highway to Kempsey.

◆◆◆◆◆

DESCRIPTION:

A Planning Focus meeting was held on 30th May 2007 to discuss planning issues related to the proposed Pacific Highway Upgrade from the Oxley Highway to Kempsey. This meeting outlined the current progress of the project. Council was represented at the meeting by Acting Manager Engineering Strategy.

Considerable work has been carried out on the selection of a 150m wide preferred route. Within this route it is anticipated that a narrower final desired route will be selected.

It is anticipated that this section of the Pacific Highway will not proceed before the Kempsey Bypass section which is further advanced in planning and design. The project construction timing has not yet been established. The RTA is seeking to have all approvals in place so that when funding is made available they will be able to quickly proceed to construction. They are undertaking a similar planning process on all of the sections of the Pacific Highway not presently upgraded.

The RTA is presently submitting an application to the Department of Planning under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act to assess the impact of this major infrastructure project. The planning focus meeting, involving key stakeholders in the project, was held to assist in defining the scope of the Environment Assessment for the project.

The preliminary proposal is to duplicate the Pacific Highway by providing another carriageway nearly the entire length with a major access point to the highway being Kundabung Road. The important issue for Kempsey Shire will be access along the proposed upgrade. It is proposed to limit the number of direct access roads and property accesses. It is proposed to improve the intersection of Kundabung Road by providing a bridge over

the highway. Final details will need to be negotiated with residents and Council.

The new bridge presently being constructed by the RTA over Maria River will form part of the proposed upgrade which will join the existing dual carriageway on the southern approach to Kempsey.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Any environmental issues associated with the project will be addressed in the Environmental Assessment proposed to be undertaken.

- ***Social***

Any social implications will be addressed in the Environmental Assessment.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

Nil

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

.....
A P Vermeulen
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES