Display of the Katoomba to Mount Victoria safety upgrade Review of Environmental Factors

February 2016

A Review of Environmental Factors has been prepared for a safety upgrade of the Great Western Highway between Katoomba and Mount Victoria. You are now invited to provide feedback on the safety upgrade design and proposed changes to the road network until Thursday 3 March.

Background
The Australian and NSW governments have provided $250 million to improve safety and road conditions along the Great Western Highway between Katoomba and Lithgow.

A number of projects are underway including an upgrade of the highway at Forty Bends and safety upgrades in the Hartley Valley and Mount Victoria village. The remaining funding will be used for the proposed safety upgrades between Katoomba and Mount Victoria.

We consulted with you about options for the road safety upgrade between Katoomba and Mount Victoria in 2014. We have now finalised the concept design and Review of Environmental Factors.

Current situation
An updated road design has been completed and we have prepared the environmental impact assessment for public comment.

Key features of the safety upgrade include:

- Painting a central median up to 1.2 metres wide where possible
- Installing two metre wide shoulders where possible
- Providing dedicated right turn and/or left turn lanes at a number of intersections
- Changing access to left in/left out only at some intersections
- Installing safety barriers near road side hazards
- Relocating some lane merges to safer locations
- Installing raised line marking in rural areas
- Improving pedestrian access and safety in some sections.

We have made some changes to the design following consultation with the community in 2014. These include:

- Upgrading the intersection of Nellies Glen Road by providing a safer left turn onto the highway
- Restricting right turns out of Prince George Street
- Providing left in/left out and right in/right out access, and a dedicated right turn lane, at the Gardiner Crescent intersection
- Left turn in only at the western end of Radiance Avenue (service road access).

The upgrade has been divided into five sections and will be delivered in order of priority. We have provided a map to help explain the proposed changes.
Summary of potential issues

The Review of Environmental Factors identifies areas of potential impact on the environment and how those impacts would be mitigated and managed to achieve a safer road. Some of the key environmental factors considered include:

- Some tree removal on the Great Western Highway in the following locations:
  - Bellevue Crescent intersection in Medlow Bath
  - Between Evans Lookout Road and Sutton Park, east of Blackheath
  - Between Hargraves and Abbott streets, in front of the St Mounts Hotel in Blackheath
  - Govetts Leap Road intersection in Blackheath
  - Radiance Avenue, west of Blackheath
- Eight on-street parking spaces would be removed from the westbound side of the highway in the Blackheath Village as part of the Govetts Leap Road intersection upgrade
- Relocation of the Medlow Bath bus stop 50 metres to the east. The bus stop mural would be retained as part of this relocation
- Construction impacts including noise, visual appearance, traffic access and parking
- Visual changes with wider sealed shoulders.

A tree management plan (Appendix J) has been developed and identifies specific details including the number of trees to be removed, and proposed tree planting and landscaping work to reduce the impact of tree loss.

Construction management plans would be implemented if the proposal was approved to minimise the potential impacts of noise, visual appearance, traffic access and parking.

Community consultation

The Review of Environmental Factors is available for review at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/western-nsw/katoomba-lithgow and at the following locations from 3 February until 3 March 2016:

- Blackheath Library, Great Western Highway
  Open Monday and Thursday, from 10am to 2pm
  Tuesday and Friday, from 1pm to 5pm
  Saturday, from 9am to 12pm
  (closed Wednesday and Sunday)
- Blue Mountains Council office
  2-6 Civic Place, Katoomba
  Open Monday to Friday, between 8.30am and 5pm.

Community information sessions

We would like to hear from you about the proposal and the Review of Environmental Factors. Please come along to one of the drop-in sessions at:

- Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre, on the corner of Gardiner Crescent and the Great Western Highway
  On Monday 15 February, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm and on Tuesday 16 February, from 1pm to 4pm.
What are the proposed upgrades?

**SECTION A**
- Installing two metre wide sealed road shoulders.
- Removing a bus stop and installing a pedestrian refuge island.
- Widening the road shoulder to 1.2 metres wide at the eastern end.
- Installing two metre wide sealed road shoulders where possible.
- Installing a central median up to 1.2 metres wide.
- Installing painted edge line to improve visibility of traffic lanes and install pedestrian refuge islands.
- Installing pipes at the open drainage channel next to the sealed road.
- Improving access at the United Petrol station.
- Making pedestrian refuge islands safer locations.
- Relocating a rail station further east.
- Providing a safer footpath on the northern side of the road.
- Installing two metre wide sealed road shoulders where possible.
- Installing a central median up to 1.2 metres wide.
- Installing painted edge line to improve visibility of traffic lanes and install pedestrian refuge islands.
- Installing pipes at the open drainage channel next to the sealed road.
- Improving access at the United Petrol station.
- Making pedestrian refuge islands safer locations.
- Relocating a rail station further east.

**SECTION B**
- Relocating an overtaking lane merge to safer locations.
- Installing two metre wide sealed road shoulders where possible.
- Installing a central median up to 1.2 metres wide.
- Installing painted edge line to improve visibility of traffic lanes and install pedestrian refuge islands.
- Installing pipes at the open drainage channel next to the sealed road.
- Improving access at the United Petrol station.
- Making pedestrian refuge islands safer locations.
- Relocating a rail station further east.

**SECTION C**
- Installing a central median up to 1.2 metres wide.
- Installing painted edge line to improve visibility of traffic lanes and install pedestrian refuge islands.
- Installing pipes at the open drainage channel next to the sealed road.
- Improving access at the United Petrol station.
- Making pedestrian refuge islands safer locations.
- Relocating a rail station further east.

**SECTION D**
- Improving access at Abbott Street and Prince George Street (access via Abbott Street).
- Installing two metre wide sealed road shoulders where possible.
- Installing a central median up to 1.2 metres wide.
- Installing painted edge line to improve visibility of traffic lanes and install pedestrian refuge islands.
- Installing pipes at the open drainage channel next to the sealed road.
- Improving access at the United Petrol station.
- Making pedestrian refuge islands safer locations.
- Relocating a rail station further east.

**SECTION E**
- Installing two metre wide sealed road shoulders.
- Painting a central median up to 1.2 metres wide.
- Installing painted road markings on the shoulder area before extending painted road markings line marking at Mt Boyce Heavy Vehicle Screening Station.
- Extending painted road markings entry/exit/entry and improved lane running.
- Installing two metre wide sealed road shoulders.
- Installing a central median up to 1.2 metres wide.
- Installing painted edge line to improve visibility of traffic lanes and install pedestrian refuge islands.
- Installing pipes at the open drainage channel next to the sealed road.
- Improving access at the United Petrol station.
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**LEGEND**
- **Black** - Widened sealed road shoulders
- **Blue** - South directions
- **Green** - Wide painted central median
- **Orange** - Road realignment
- **Yellow** - Intersection improvement
- **Red** - Relocation of lane merge
- **White** - Installation of pipes instead of open drainage
- **Blue lines** - Bus stop and pedestrian refuge relocation

You can see further details and a copy of the REF at the following locations (Blue Mountains City Council and Blackheath Library).

Please provide Roads and Maritime your feedback.

Fold and tape so the reply paid form is facing out.

**Questions?**
Contact the team directly on 1800 035 733 (toll free) or email K2L@rms.nsw.gov.au

Mail to: K2L, Great Western Highway upgrade, PO Box 1406, Lane Cove, NSW, 1595

**Feedback form**

Thank you for contributing your comments. You may wish to provide your contact details below, however, this information is not a requirement to provide feedback.

Name:  
Address:  
Suburb:  
Postcode:  
State:  
Phone number:  
Email address:  

**Privacy**

Your answers and comments are subject to the Information Privacy Principles Act 2003 (PPIP Act) which requires that we comply with the Information Privacy Principles and act in accordance with the Act.

Any information we receive is considered for the purpose of assisting in the assessment of this proposal. The information received, including names and addresses of respondents, may be published in subsequent documents unless a clear indication is given in the corresponding that it is not to be published.

Information you provide may be used for the purposes for which the information was collected. It may also be used for the purposes of evaluating the performance of the project. All information in correspondence is collected for the sole purpose of assisting in the assessment of this proposal.

**Basic Information**

You can see further details and a copy of the REF at the following locations (Blue Mountains City Council and Blackheath Library).

Please provide Roads and Maritime your feedback.

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