

Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade

Design refinements

Community consultation summary

Roads and Maritime Services | July 2019



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Proposal

Roads and Maritime Services, Pacific Complete and our contractor partners are working together to deliver the Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade.

Roads and Maritime invited community feedback in August 2016 on proposed refinements to the concept design for the Woolgoolga to Ballina upgrade. Each of the proposed design refinements may have different benefits or reasons for inclusion due to various factors, including:

- pedestrian/cyclist access
- flooding
- road access
- environment
- design improvement/change.

The proposed design refinements included are outlined in a map in the August 2016 community update (Appendix A).

This summary outlines the consultation carried out by Roads and Maritime to seek community feedback on the proposed refinements to the concept design.

Consultation

Community feedback was invited between 1 August and 29 August 2016 on the proposed design refinements.

During the consultation period, feedback was also sought on the proposed urban design and landscaping for the Woolgoolga to Ballina upgrade between Glenugie and Ballina (excluding the new bridges over the Clarence and Richmond rivers).

Roads and Maritime invited feedback by:

- distributing a community update to more than 20,000 residents
- sending more than 500 letters to stakeholders with property within 750 meters of the upgrade
- staffed displays at 11 locations
- displaying information at 27 locations
- updating the project website to with the draft urban design and landscape plans, community update as well as an online survey and collaborative mapping tool to capture feedback
- emailing and sending SMS messages to more than 1000 stakeholders registered in the project database
- advertising in four local newspapers.

Feedback was received from four people in response to the proposed design refinements, raising six individual comments about four different topics.

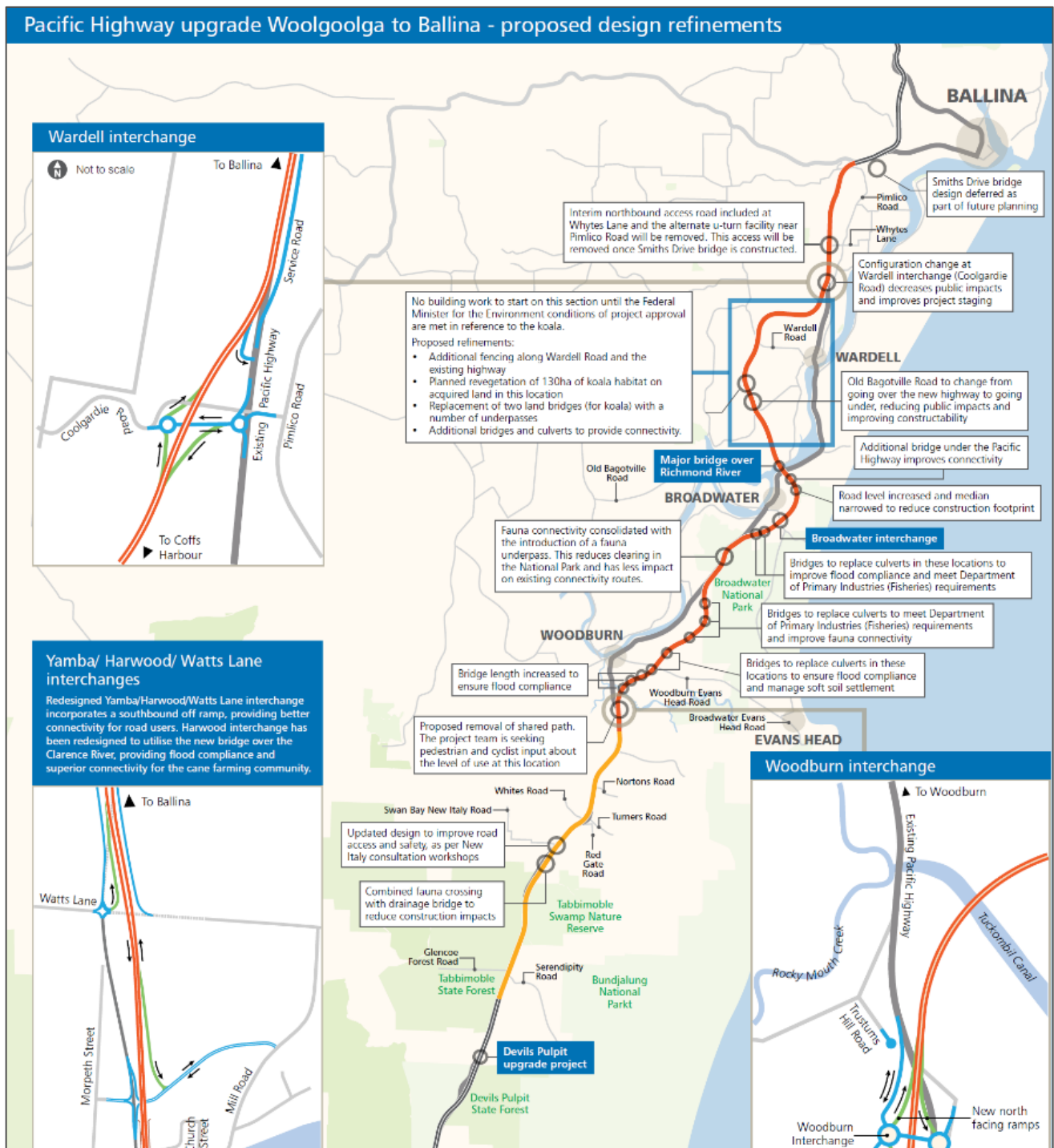
Feedback and responses

Matter raised	Roads and Maritime's response
Pedestrian and cyclist connectivity	
Objection to removal of pedestrian path on the McIntyres Lane overpass.	Roads and Maritime decided to proceed with the proposed removal of the dedicated footpath on the McIntyres Lane overpass bridge. A shoulder is provided to help facilitate access for pedestrians and cyclists across the bridge. This will not change how pedestrians and cyclists currently use McIntyres Lane as there are no dedicated paths on approach to the bridge.
Objection to removal of a shared path along Woodburn-Evans Head Road.	The design for the Woodburn-Evans Head Road bridge over the new highway includes a three metre shared path on the southern side of the bridge.
Intersection functionality	
Request to retain a northbound exit at Whytes Lane as a permanent feature.	The design for the new highway does not include a northbound exit at Whytes Lane. Motorists travelling north would need to exit at the Coolgardie Road interchange to access Whytes Lane via Pimlico Road.
Drainage	
Request for more information about drainage infrastructure proposed near Woodburn-Evans Head Road.	Permanent water quality basins have been proposed next to the road carriageway to treat runoff from the new highway before it flows into the natural ground below. Detailed information about drainage and flood management for the upgrade is available in the Hydrological Mitigation Report Devils Pulpit to Ballina (April 2017) in the project documents library at pacifichighway.nsw.gov.au .
Outside scope of design refinements consultation	
Will longer heavy vehicles be able to use the new highway?	The existing Pacific Highway between Woolgoolga and Ballina is approved for oversize and over mass vehicles, subject to load limits, and will continue to be a major transport route when the upgrade is complete. The upgrade will bypass a number of Higher Mass Limit (HML) deficient bridges on the existing highway.
Will merging lanes be long enough for traffic to enter the highway safely?	Merging lanes on the new highway, including on and off-ramps at interchanges, are designed according to the posted speed limit to ensure that adequate distances are provided for traffic to merge safely.

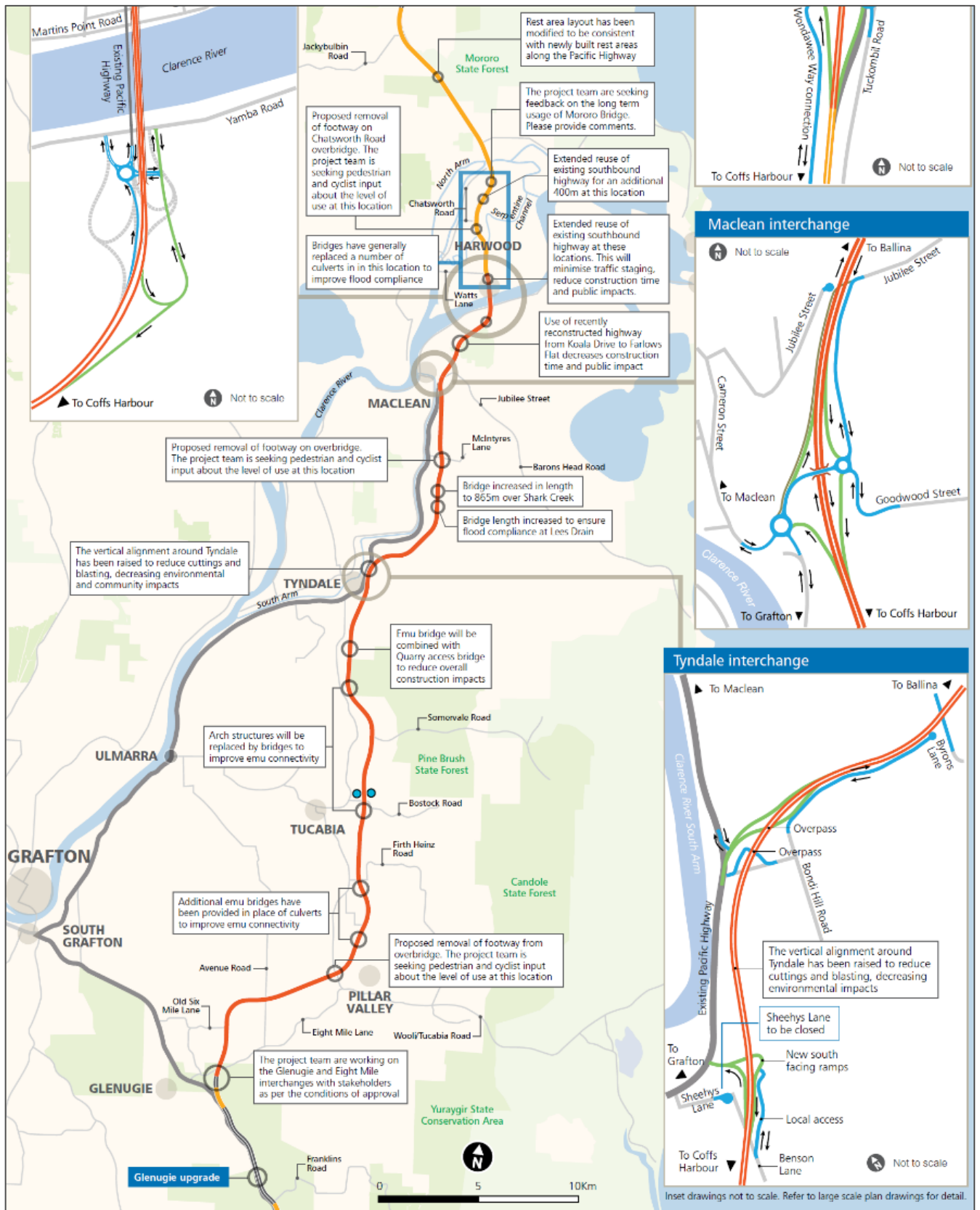
Outcomes and next steps

Following consideration of community feedback, Roads and Maritime decided to proceed with the proposed refinements to the concept design for the Woolgoolga to Ballina upgrade. The refinements have been incorporated into the detailed design for the upgrade.

Appendix A – Proposed design refinements



Lower portion of map continued overleaf





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Woolgoolga to Ballina upgrade
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