



TO: Minister for Roads and Ports
FROM: Chief Executive
TITLE: Community concern about proposed Campbelltown Road upgrade

PURPOSE OF THIS BRIEF:

To update the Minister on community concern about the Campbelltown Road upgrade that has led to local media and council interest.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION / RISK FACTORS:

The Review of Environmental Factors for the Campbelltown Road upgrade is on display until 31 May 2013. In the early stages of planning, there were some issues with distribution of information to community members. See Attachment A for a consultation chronology.

There are members of the local community who are now being publicly critical of the scope of the project, its likely impacts and the consultation process.

- On 20 May 2013, the Scenic Hills Association and the Denham Court Association hosted a community meeting about the project. The meeting attracted between 60 and 100 attendees including three Roads and Maritime Services representatives. The Association encouraged residents to attend the Campbelltown City Council meeting on Tuesday 21 May and the Liverpool City Council meeting on Thursday 23 May 2013. The Association has indicated its intent to refer its concerns about the project to the Ombudsman.
- On 14 and 22 May 2013, Campbelltown Macarthur Advertiser ran negative stories about the project (see Attachment B).
- On 21 May, Campbelltown City Council resolved to seek an urgent meeting between the Minister and the Mayor and the General Manager. In addition, Council resolved to write to local MPs to request them to make a formal submission to Roads and Maritime Services. Not only does Council object to aspects of the project, but it wants the current process abandoned and for Roads and Maritime Services to undertake a new Review of Environmental Factors study seeking a wider public input into the process (refer Attachment C).

Some members of the community are seeking an additional three months' extension to the Review of Environmental Factors submissions period. A longer submissions process for this project may impact the delivery of the first stage of the upgrade, which is needed to improve access for the South West Rail Link Edmondson Park Station.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS / OPTIONS FOR RESOLUTION:

Roads and Maritime Services does not plan to abandon the current Review of Environmental Factors process: significantly change the scope of the project; host any additional community information sessions or further extend the exhibition and comment period.

In response to community concerns, Roads and Maritime Services:

- Has extended the consultation and submissions period for the REF to 31 May 2013, resulting in a total display period of seven weeks.

- Has encouraged community members and groups to raise their issues in submissions. It will address these concerns in a formal submissions report, which will be prepared after 31 May 2013 and published on the project website.
- Has met with the Member for Campbelltown, who raised no major concerns about the project.
- Has written to all residents addressing the issues raised so far by the community and apologising for distribution errors that resulted in a poor start to communication (see Attachment D).
- Will update the project website:
 - With an acknowledgement that the early consultation was not robust.
 - With an outline of the steps taken to address the poor start to the consultation.
 - To thank the community for their ongoing interest in the project, and for including Roads and Maritime Services in the community meeting.
 - With links to the Edmondson Park Masterplan, Growth Centres Commission Edmondson Park approvals and the South West Growth Centre Structure Plan.
 - With a letter to residents addressing their concerns (see Attachment D).
- Will distribute a media release to draw attention to the website updates and encourage more feedback prior to the closing of the submissions period on 31 May.

COSTS INVOLVED:

\$1 million was allocated for planning the Campbelltown Road upgrade in the 2012-13 NSW Budget. The cost estimate for delivery of the project has not yet been refined and construction funding has not been secured.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION:

The consultation history on this project is provided in Attachment A. See above for next steps.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TIMEFRAME:

Roads and Maritime Services expects the Review of Environmental Factors to be determined by the end of July 2013, following which, it intends to publish the submissions report in August.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minister notes this information.

CONTACT NAME AND NUMBER:

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Peter Duncan
Chief Executive

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MINISTER'S COMMENTS:

NOTED