

# Great Western Highway and Blacktown Road, Prospect

Intersection improvements

Community Consultation Report

Roads and Maritime Services | January 2018



## Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of Roads and Maritime Services consultation with the community and key stakeholders on proposed intersection improvements at Great Western Highway and Blacktown Road, Prospect.

The NSW Government is funding this proposal as part of its \$300 million Urban Roads Pinch Point Program, which aims to reduce traffic delays, manage congestion and improve travel times on Sydney's major roads.

Benefits of the proposal include:

- reduced queuing on Blacktown Road and the eastern approach on the Great Western Highway
- improved safety on Blacktown Road by providing a protected right turn
- eased traffic congestion through the intersection
- reducing the number of crashes.

Proposed intersection improvements include:

- converting the bus lanes to general traffic lanes on both Blacktown Road and Great Western Highway
- providing one dedicated right turn lane, one shared through and right turn lane, and creating a left turn slip lane on the Blacktown Road approach to Great Western Highway
- the right turn lanes from Blacktown Road will be protected right turns
- providing dual right turn lanes on Great Western Highway into Blacktown Road
- providing a dedicated left turn lane and a shared through and right lane on Clunies Ross Street
- relocation of the bus stops to ease congestion at the intersection
- adjustment to the pedestrian crossing on Blacktown Road
- adjustment to the traffic signal infrastructure and phasing.

Roads and Maritime distributed over 500 letters to the local community and key stakeholders, inviting feedback on the proposed improvements in October 2017.

Feedback was received from five community members, and one local council (six responses in total).

We have directly responded to all community members and stakeholders who provided feedback.

## Decision

After considering all responses, we have decided to proceed with the proposed intersection improvements at Great Western Highway and Blacktown Road, Prospect.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who reviewed the proposal and provided feedback. We will continue to keep the community and stakeholders informed as the project progresses.

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Background

The NSW Government is funding this proposal as part of its \$300 million Urban Roads Pinch Point Program, which aims to reduce traffic delays, manage congestion and improve travel times on Sydney's major roads.

As part of this program, the intersection of Great Western Highway and Blacktown Road has been identified by Roads and Maritime's Network Optimisation and Planning as a potential project for this initiative. Due to existing traffic conditions there is a high volume of traffic passing through the intersection, especially during morning and afternoon peak periods. At peak times, congestion at the intersection causes excessive queues and illegal road movements that increases safety concerns and the occurrence of crashes.

Benefits of the proposal include:

- reduced queuing on Blacktown Road and the eastern approach on the Great Western Highway
- improved safety on Blacktown Road by providing a protected right turn
- eased traffic congestion through the intersection by reducing the number of accidents.

## 1.2. The proposal

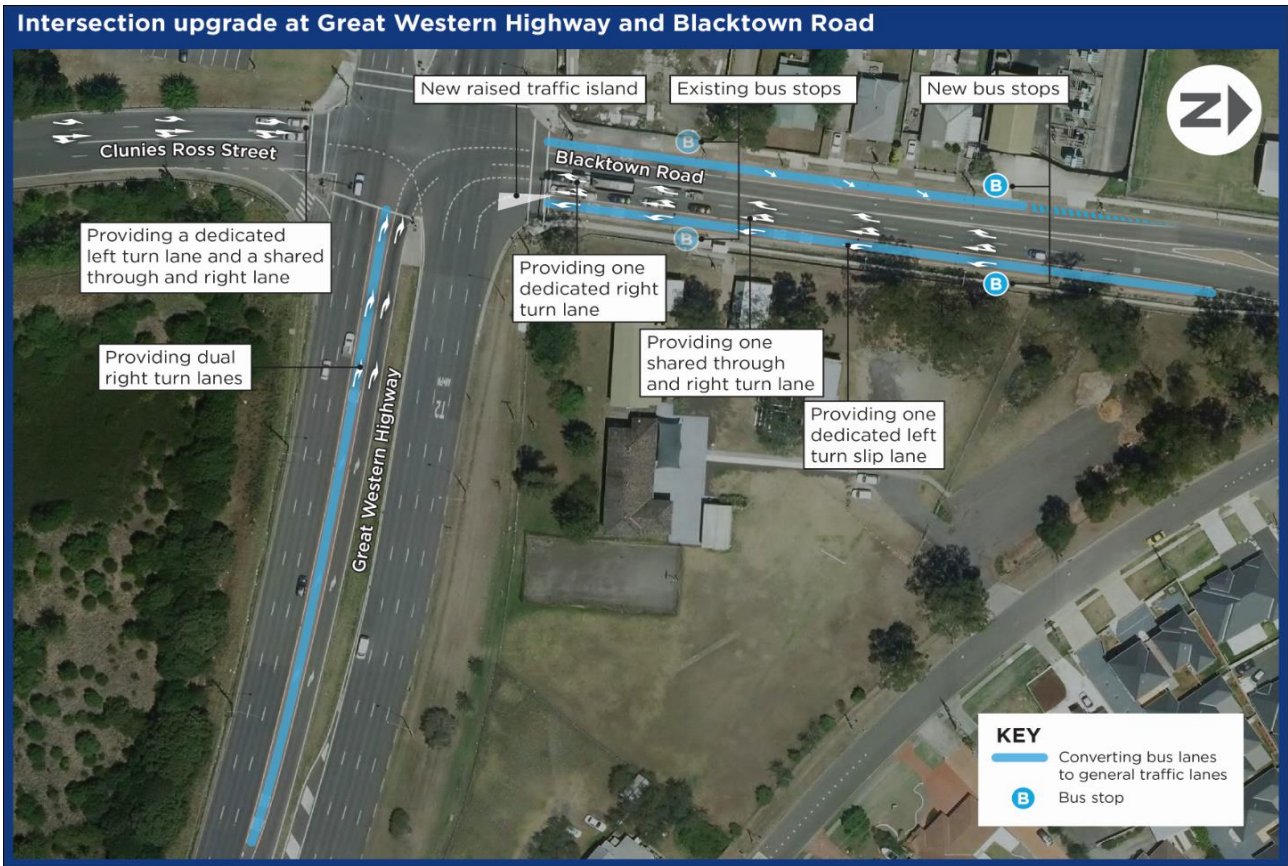
Roads and Maritime Services proposes to improve the efficiency of the intersection and motorist safety at Great Western Highway and Blacktown Road, Prospect by reducing the congestion and traffic queues at the intersection.

Key benefits of the proposal include:

- converting the bus lanes to general traffic lanes on both Blacktown Road and Great Western Highway
- providing one dedicated right turn lane, one shared through and right turn lane, and creating a left turn slip lane on Blacktown Road approach to Great Western Highway
- the right turn lanes from Blacktown Road will be protected right turns
- providing dual right turn lanes on Great Western Highway into Blacktown Road
- providing a dedicated left turn lane and a shared through and right lane on Clunies Ross Street
- relocation of the bus stops to ease congestion at the intersection
- adjustment to the pedestrian crossing on Blacktown Road
- adjustment to the traffic signal infrastructure and phasing.

We have included a map (refer to Figure 1) to explain the proposal.

Figure 1: Proposed intersection improvements at Great Western Highway and Blacktown Road, Prospect



## 2. Consultation approach

### 2.1. Consultation objectives

Roads and Maritime consulted with the community and key stakeholders on the proposal to:

- seek comment, feedback, ideas and suggestions for us to consider when making a decision
- build a database of interested and concerned community members we can continue to engage during the proposal's development and delivery.

### 2.2. How consultation was done

Community feedback on the proposal was sought in October 2017. Community members and stakeholders were encouraged to provide their feedback and make comments via email, mail or phone contact with the project team. We contacted people using a number of tools.

The following table outlines the communication tools used to inform the community about the proposal:

**Table 1: Communication tools**

<p><b>Community Letter 'Have Your Say' community update – October 2017</b> (refer Appendix A)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Distributed to over 500 local residents, businesses and key stakeholders in the Blacktown area  (refer to Appendix B for distribution area)</li><li>• Direct emails and letters sent to businesses, utilities, emergency services, schools, hospitals, community groups and relevant stakeholders in the local area</li><li>• Direct email to Blacktown City Council.</li></ul>
<p><b>Website</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Details of the proposal uploaded on the Roads and Maritime website: <a href="http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-west/great-western-highway-blacktown-road/index.html">http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-west/great-western-highway-blacktown-road/index.html</a>.</li></ul>

## 3. Consultation summary

### 3.1. Overview

Roads and Maritime received five responses from community members, and one response from local council (six responses in total). A summary of the responses received is provided in Table 2.

### 3.2. Feedback summary and Roads and Maritime response

Roads and Maritime has provided responses to all feedback received on this proposal, as detailed in Table 2 of this report. The responses have been provided directly to the person who commented, as well as in this report, which will be made available to the public through our website [www.rms.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au).

All comments have been considered to help Roads and Maritime make decisions on this proposal.



**Table 2: Feedback summary and Roads and Maritime's responses**

Category	Matters raised	Roads and Maritime response
<p><b>Support for the proposal</b></p>	<p>I totally agree with the proposed changes as this would alleviate most of the traffic congestion in this area at peak times.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed intersection improvements on Great Western Highway and Blacktown Road, Prospect.</p>
	<p>The proposed works have safety and traffic benefits and are supported. Blacktown City Council has no objection to the proposed works.</p>	<p>The community consultation report will be made available on our website following the close of consultation. In the meantime, if you have any further questions on the proposals, please don't hesitate to contact us at <a href="mailto:pinchpoints@rms.nsw.gov.au">pinchpoints@rms.nsw.gov.au</a>.</p>
<p><b>Safety</b></p>	<p>I am for these proposed changes. May I also suggest, however that a main point of congestion is to do with visibility when turning right from Blacktown Road into the Great Western Highway.</p> <p>I turn out of there in peak-hour, and given the slope and angles of viewing in a regular sedan, it is not always clear if the oncoming traffic is going to turn, or continue straight. I've seen the aftermath of many accidents from people turning right thinking it was clear, but were clipped by oncoming cars hidden behind turning cars. This leads to people waiting to turn, and sometimes being overly cautious due to the poor visibility, sometimes meaning only a few cars get through the lights to turn right each cycle.</p> <p>I would propose a dedicated right turn arrow would help with this.</p> <p>Looking forward to hearing more about the improvements, and hopefully see them carried out!</p>	<p>The proposal aims to improve safety for motorists turning right from Blacktown Road onto Great Western Highway by providing one dedicated right turn lane and one shared through and right turn lane.</p> <p>The right turn lanes from Blacktown Road will be protected right turns (green arrow).</p>
	<p>Consideration of a give way sign, as during peak hour traffic it is very difficult to cross over the lane to turn right from Fox Hills Crescent, Prospect. One day there might be an accident</p>	<p>The purpose of this consultation was to seek feedback on the proposed intersection improvements at Great Western Highway and Blacktown Road, Prospect. Fox</p>

**Table 2: Feedback summary and Roads and Maritime's responses**

Category	Matters raised	Roads and Maritime response
	crossing over.	<p>Hill Crescent was not investigated as part of this proposal and is considered out of scope for this project.</p> <p>In this case, the provision of a give way sign is a matter for consideration by Blacktown City Council. Blacktown City Council can be contacted via telephone: 02 9839 6000, email: <a href="mailto:council@blacktown.nsw.gov.au">council@blacktown.nsw.gov.au</a> or by visiting them at 62 Flushcombe Road, Blacktown, Monday to Friday from 8.00 am to 5.30 pm.</p>
<b>Out of scope</b>	<p>In regards to your proposal, there used to be a runoff from Fox Hills Crescent (right near the Fox Hills Golf Club) straight onto Great Western Highway heading towards Parramatta, this situation worked wonderful. In other words if you were driving along Blacktown Road towards Great Western Highway instead of turning left onto the GW Highway you would turn left into Fox Hills Crescent and this would give you access to the Highway without having to wait at the traffic lights, it just makes sense to perhaps consider this proposal once again.</p> <p>We would also like to inform you about another proposed development that is being considered as well at 420 Blacktown Road, Prospect, being a proposed development application for a Prayer Hall. This proposed development sits adjacent to the roundabout just down from the Blacktown Rd/Great Western Highway intersection, at the roundabout where Metella Roads leads from.</p> <p>Whilst we would be happy about the intersection improvements and we hope they are fulfilled this will cause severe impact on a proposed building proposal at 420 Blacktown Road, which has been under review with Blacktown Council for months now. The local residents do not want this other development to take place as it will cause havoc with the current traffic flow.</p>	<p>The purpose of this consultation was to seek feedback on the proposed intersection improvements at Great Western Highway and Blacktown Road, Prospect. Fox Hill Crescent was not investigated as part of this proposal and considered out of scope for this project.</p> <p>Thank you for advising us of the development proposal at 420 Blacktown Road, Prospect. We will keep the community updated on the progress of this proposal.</p> <p>The proposed improvements will improve the efficiency of the intersection at Great Western Highway and Blacktown Road which should reduce congestion on local roads. We will advise the community again when works begin and changes to traffic conditions whilst works are in progress.</p>

**Table 2: Feedback summary and Roads and Maritime's responses**

Category	Matters raised	Roads and Maritime response
	<p>This intersection connects the Girraween Creek cycleway and Pemulwuy/Wetherill Park. Please take this opportunity to install either an off-road shared path, on-road separated bike lanes or on-road non-separated bike lanes, so that drivers of vehicles are more aware of cyclists travelling north or south. As I assume there is no budget, then at least paint bicycle symbols on the non-turning lanes.</p>	<p>Roads and Maritime Services recognises the strategic importance of this intersection as it relates to future cycleway provisions along the Great Western Highway, Clunies Ross St and Toongabbie Road and extending to Prospect Highway and Greystanes Road.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime, however, does not install bicycle pavement markings in isolation. They are provided in conjunction with the delineation associated with a complete cycling solution.</p> <p>Roads and Maritime has no current plans to develop these strategic cycleways. The provision of on road cycleways on Blacktown Rd and Clunies Ross St is a matter for consideration by Blacktown City Council. They can be contacted via telephone: 02 9839 6000, email: council@blacktown.nsw.gov.au or by visiting them at 62 Flushcombe Road, Blacktown, Monday to Friday from 8.00 am to 5.30 pm.</p>
	<p>On Fox Hills Crescent turning right There is a land on the corner we have people parking the cars on council property? How about you put a fence up and plant up with some trees to courage wildlife and to beautify Blacktown's appearance.</p> <p>It would also be nice to see a sign saying Welcome to Blacktown.</p>	<p>Please contact Blacktown City Council for their consideration of your suggestions. Blacktown City Council can be contacted via telephone: 02 9839 6000, email: council@blacktown.nsw.gov.au or by visiting them at 62 Flushcombe Road, Blacktown, Monday to Friday from 8.00 am to 5.30 pm.</p>
	<p>At certain times of the week we have a number of cars parking on Fox Hills Crescent, Prospect. Need a 'No parking during school time' sign, between 8am and 4pm.</p>	<p>The purpose of this consultation was to seek feedback on the proposed intersection improvements at Great Western Highway and Blacktown Road, Prospect. Fox Hill Crescent was not investigated as part of this proposal and considered out of scope for this project.</p> <p>Your road safety concerns have been referred to our Network and Safety department for their consideration.</p>

## 4. Decision

We thank everyone who provided comments and the community and stakeholders for considering the proposal.

After reviewing the feedback, we have decided to proceed with the proposal unchanged.

## 5. Next steps

Roads and Maritime will finalise the detailed design and environmental assessment for the project.

We will continue to keep the community informed as the project progresses.

## 6. Appendices

### 6.1 Appendix A – ‘Have your Say’ letter October 2017



October 2017

#### **Have Your Say – Proposed intersection improvements at Great Western Highway and Blacktown Road, Prospect**

**The NSW Government is funding this proposal as part of its \$300 million Urban Roads Pinch Point Program, which aims to reduce traffic delays, manage congestion and improve travel times on Sydney’s major roads.**

Roads and Maritime Services is seeking feedback by **Friday 20 October 2017** on a proposal to make improvements at the intersection of Great Western Highway and Blacktown Road, Prospect.

The proposed improvements include:

- converting the bus lanes to general traffic lanes on both Blacktown Road and Great Western Highway
- providing one dedicated right turn lane, one shared through and right turn lane and creating a left turn slip lane on Blacktown Road approach to Great Western Highway
- the right turn lanes from Blacktown Road will be protected right turns
- providing dual right turn lanes on Great Western Highway into Blacktown Road
- providing a dedicated left turn lane and a shared through and right lane on Clunies Ross Street
- relocation of the bus stops to ease congestion at the intersection
- adjustment to the pedestrian crossing on Blacktown Road
- adjustment to the traffic signal infrastructure and phasing.

We have included a map to show the location of the work.

#### **Key benefits**

The proposal will:

- reduce queuing on Blacktown Road and the eastern approach on the Great Western Highway
- improve safety on Blacktown Road by providing a protected right turn
- ease traffic congestion through the intersection by reducing the number of accidents.

#### **Have your say**

Roads and Maritime welcomes your comments on the proposed improvements by **Friday 20 October**. You can provide your comments by:

Calling our Project Manager, Martin Gormley, on 02 8849 2432 during business hours

Emailing [pinchpoints@rms.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pinchpoints@rms.nsw.gov.au)

Writing to Pinch Points Program Project Team, Roads and Maritime, PO Box 973, Parramatta, NSW, 2124.

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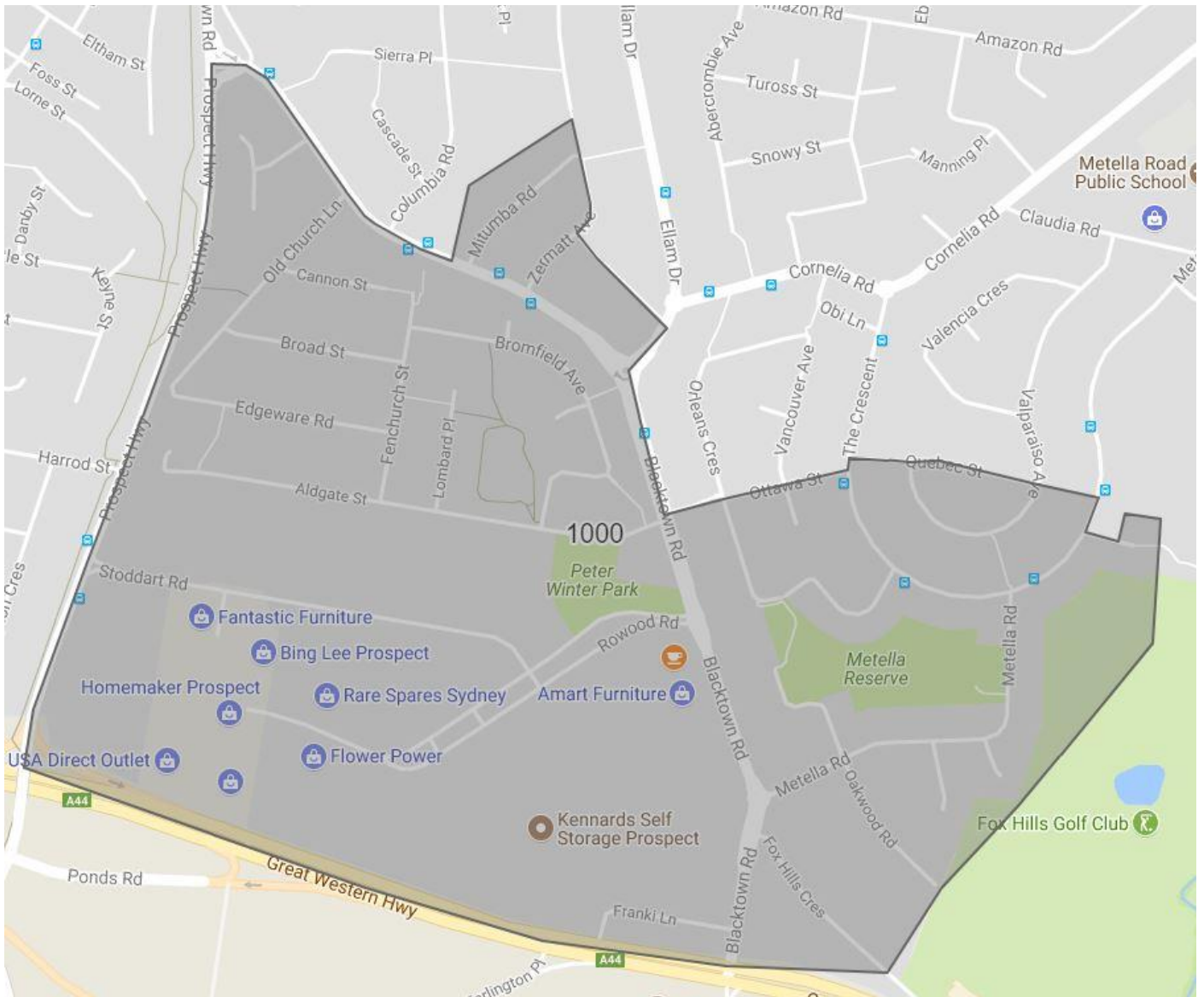
## Next Steps

We will carefully consider all feedback received before deciding to proceed with this proposal. A community consultation report will be prepared, summarising the matters raised and our responses. This will be made available on our website. We will keep you updated as the proposal progresses.



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 02 8849 2411.

## 6.2 Appendix B – Distribution map



*Note – darker shaded area illustrates distribution area*



[rms.nsw.gov.au/pinchpoints](https://rms.nsw.gov.au/pinchpoints)



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