

5. Conclusion

5.1 Highway access strategy

The access strategy for the Oxley Highway to Kempsey upgrade project as detailed in Section 4 of this report is summarised below.

Oxley Highway to Cooperabung Close

Following the consultation and technical assessments conducted to date it is recommended that the highway be upgraded to the motorway standard for this section in the first instance. The preferred route alignment provided an opportunity to develop an access strategy that provides for motorway standard at project opening from Oxley Highway to Cooperabung Close. Significant access and service road features for this upgrade would be comprised of the following:

- ▶ A grade separated access at Sancrox Road/Fernbank Creek Road employing an overbridge located approximately 600 m south of Sancrox Road with service road connections to Sancrox Road on the west and Fernbank Creek Road on the east.
- ▶ Left in / left out only and a closed median will be maintained at Sancrox Road and Fernbank Creek Road intersection providing access to/from the highway.
- ▶ Construction of a new service road from Fernbank Creek Road to Fernbank Creek on the eastern side of the highway.
- ▶ Use of the existing highway as service road from Fernbank Creek to Haydons Wharf Road.
- ▶ Cooperabung Drive will be used as a service road between the Haydons Wharf Road grade separated access and Cooperabung Close (approximate chainage 21000). Wyndell Close will be extended to the Haydons Wharf Road grade separated access to provide the connection between Cooperabung Drive and the highway.
- ▶ Construction of a new service road linking Blackmans Point Road to Bill Hill Road on the eastern side of the highway.
- ▶ A grade separated access located approximately 500 m south of Blackmans Point Road with service road connections to Blackmans Point Road on the east, Wharf Road on the west and the highway in the north and south direction.
- ▶ A grade separated access at Haydons Wharf Road comprising of only north facing ramps. Highway access to and from Telegraph Point from the south will be either via the grade separated access point at Blackmans Point Road or via a left in only at-grade intersection at Cooperabung Drive located approximately 2 km north of Haydons Wharf Road.

Cooperabung Close to Kempsey

Following the consultation and technical assessments conducted to date it is recommended that the highway be upgraded to the arterial standard for this section in the first instance. Significant access and service road features for this upgrade would be comprised of the following:

- ▶ For Yarrabee Road provide a grade separated access by using an underbridge with service road connections to Yarrabee Road on the east and the highway in the north and south direction.

- ▶ A grade separated access at Kundabung Road employing an overbridge with service road connections to Kundabung Road on the east, Smiths Creek Road on the west and the highway in the north and south direction.
- ▶ Left in access only at Upper Smiths Creek Road with no left out access proposed. Travel to the north via service road connection to Rodeo Drive.
- ▶ Construction of a new access road to facilitate access for the nine residential properties located on the eastern side of the highway between approximate chainage 31000 to 32850, with access to the highway via left in (Ch 32800), right in (Ch 32500), left out (Ch 31000) and U-turn to the north (Ch 26400).

5.2 Supporting justification for strategy

These recommendations are consistent with the following:

- ▶ Recommendations from the access strategy workshop held on 11 September 2006.
- ▶ Port Macquarie - Hastings Council resolution on 27 November 2006.
- ▶ Community feedback.
- ▶ Preliminary traffic assessment.
- ▶ Staging opportunities.
- ▶ Value for money considerations.

5.3 Safety benefits

The highway access strategy also provides net safety benefits for motorists by:

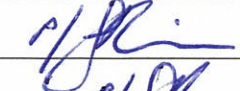


- ▶ Separating local and through traffic where possible. This separation has been provided for travel between Port Macquarie and Telegraph Point.
- ▶ Access to the upgraded highway from Port Macquarie would be via grade separated access points.
- ▶ Grade separation of cross highway movements at Sancrox Road, Haydons Wharf Road, Yarabee Road and Kundabung Road.
- ▶ Higher safety benefit upon project opening with motorway standard upgrade from Oxley Highway to Cooperabung Close.
- ▶ Substantial rationalisation of at-grade intersections and accesses from Cooperabung Close to Stumpy Creek in the arterial style upgrade.

5.4 Next steps


Following approval by the RTA of the recommended highway access strategy the project team will:

- ▶ Formally notify Port Macquarie – Hastings Council, and other key project stakeholders of the RTA's adopted highway access strategy.
- ▶ Progress concept design activities for the proposed access points and service roads.
- ▶ Continue dialogue with project stakeholders on the location of grade separated access points and service roads for the Oxley Highway to Kempsey project.

Document Review

Position	Name	Signature	Date
Author	<i>T Bacic</i>		09/10/07
Technical Review	<i>M Shrimpton</i>		09/10/07
Project Manager	<i>Peter Steele</i>		09/10/07

Document Approval

Position	Name	Signature	Date
GHD Project Director	<i>Geoff Wickens</i>		09/10/07

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Distributed To

Name	Date	Location
Stephen Williamson	09/10/07	21 Prince St GRAFTON NSW 2460

GHD Pty Ltd ABN 39 008 488 373

352 King St Newcastle NSW 2300

PO Box 5403 Hunter Region Mail Centre NSW 2310

T: (02) 4979 9999 F: (02) 4979 9988 E: ntlmail@ghd.com.au