

Hello Julian,

Hope this email finds you well.

I am following up from our meeting last month and the commitments you made in your email of November 12. The Moruya Bypass Action Group welcome the undertakings you set out in your email but have yet to see any action from Transport for NSW.

Could you please provide an update on the following undertakings:

1. We welcome the plan to engage more fully with the community of Moruya but have yet to see any evidence of this. When will this occur and what form will it take? We also welcome the opportunity to work with you to represent the community's views. We will continue to work with the community, local business and the One Hospital group to ensure that the entire community is aware of the preferred bypass route and its implications for the town, its people and the environment. We now have over 800 signatures on our petition and the support of many businesses in Moruya.
2. When will the community consultation report be released and how will it inform the selection process for the bypass route? If the community consultation process is genuine, it will be used to determine the final route.
3. We have seen very little in the local media or on the Transport for NSW website to update the community on progress with the bypass. What are your plans in relation to a communications strategy to ensure that the community is kept informed and when will this be scheduled?
4. The community welcomes the opportunity to see a more detailed comparison of the options evaluated in the Strategic Options Report but this needs to be provided in a timely manner. When will the technical information be released and what form will it take?
5. What additional information will you release to allow a better comparison of the bypass options and when will this occur? Information on flooding and bushfire risk are of particular interest to the community but further information on the environmental, social and cultural impacts of each option will assist the community to understand the basis for the selection of a final bypass route.
6. It is very clear that the Orange route has the greatest environmental impact. The only way to reduce this impact is to move the route away from critically endangered vegetation communities and minimise the distance it travels across the floodplain. Offsets are of little relevance in the context of a community that lost

80% of its forests in the Black Summer bushfires. This requires further consideration of lower impact routes such as Option E in the Strategic Options Report.

Your email does not acknowledge community concerns about the impacts of the preferred Orange route on local business, property owners and primary producers, as well as direct access to the new Level 4 hospital which is a key issue for towns and villages to the north of Moruya.

We are aware that other communities on the south coast are also dissatisfied with Transport for NSW's consultation and route selection processes for their Princes Highway upgrade projects and will collaborate with them to ensure our voices are heard at both the state and federal levels.

Kind regards,

Julie Morgan
Obo Moruya Bypass Action Group

On Fri, 12 Nov 2021 at 16:40, Julian Watson
<Julian.Watson@transport.nsw.gov.au> wrote:

Julie,

Many thanks for your time to arrange and attend the recent meeting between the Moruya Bypass Action group and Transport for NSW. I hope it was beneficial from the Action Group's perspective to restart face-to-face discussions, as Covid restrictions begin to ease. It was certainly a valuable exercise for Dan, Chris and I, and we appreciate the opportunity to be able to discuss issues relating to the bypass and corridor selection process with the Action Group. I feel these discussions are a great way to discuss a wide range of issues that affect community, residents, landowners and stakeholders on important decisions.

What we heard:

- Transport's timing of initial consultation, given the Black Summer fires, flood and then Covid, has meant that engagement with the Moruya community was less successful than it could have been
- The lack of follow-up consultation and engagement with the Moruya community has left many feeling ignored or under-informed

- Concern that the wider community believes the corridor presented by The Beagle in 2019 was a Transport preferred corridor
- The Action Group would like the release of more detailed material that can assist in understanding the technical basis for Transport's decisions
- There is concern about the level of environmental impacts from Transport's preferred option

What Transport will do in response to what we have heard:

- We will develop and implement a plan to engage more deeply and fully with the Moruya community and its varied stakeholders
- We will seek to expedite our release of the community consultation report following guidance from Government – noting that some of the commitments arising from our meeting may mean it needs some amendment
- We will continue to work with local media, including The Beagle Weekly, to ensure updates on the project are disseminated accurately to the wider community
- We will work to release a wider suite of technical information to the community
- We will ensure additional information is available to allow comparison of options considered by Transport for the Moruya bypass
- We will continue to better understand our potential environmental impacts, and seek to reduce those impacts

Should you have any queries, please contact me or the project team on:

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Dan McClure and Chris Donnelly can be contacted through:

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Regards,

Julian

Julian Watson,

Director Princes Highway Program
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