

Monday, 19 July 2010

Moree bypass changes approved

The NSW Government has approved a modification to the Newell Highway Moree town centre bypass road project, which will allow traffic to begin using part of the bypass and remove nearly 4,000 vehicles a day from the Moree CBD.

The modification, proposed by the RTA, will be an interim measure while remediation takes place on an area of land required for the southern section of the approved bypass route which travels parallel to Gosport Street.

The modification will allow traffic to travel along the existing Newell Highway on the southern entry to Moree, then turn right onto the Gwydir Highway (Alice Street), before turning left into the newly-constructed northern section of the bypass.

Department of Planning Major Project Assessments Executive Director Chris Wilson said this outcome would allow the newly-constructed northern section of the bypass to be used and get highway traffic out of the Moree CBD.

“The Department is supportive of the original bypass route but recognises unforeseen remediation issues have slowed the delivery of the southern section of the bypass,” Mr Wilson said.

“As a result, this modification is necessary to get highway traffic out of the Moree CBD and make use of the northern section of the bypass.”

The modification will involve:

- Work to the roundabout at the corner of the Newell and Gwydir Highways;
- The provision of pedestrian refuges along Alice Street;
- A road surface upgrade on Alice Street; and
- Changes to the traffic lights at the corner of the Gwydir Highway and the new northern section of the bypass.

Mr Wilson said, as part of the modification approval, the Department wanted to ensure the community was regularly informed about progress on remediation activities and is therefore requiring the RTA to provide six-monthly updates.

The modification was exhibited between 14 October 2009 and 16 November 2009.

The Department will be monitoring the alternative arrangements closely, to ensure compliance with relevant standards covering amenity issues, including noise and local traffic impacts.

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