Response given to the Newcastle Herald re Warkworth and Wallaby Scrub Road

Response given to the Newcastle Herald on 16 September 2011 in response to questions about Singleton Council’s approval role for Wallaby Scrub Rd and the Department’s involvement in discussions on the issue with Council:

Wallaby Scrub Road

Should the Warkworth Extension Project be approved, the proponent would require a separate approval under the Roads Act to close Wallaby Scrub Road.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure does not administer the Roads Act, so you may want to speak to Council or the RTA on this.

Department’s involvement

The Department is currently undertaking an independent, merit-based assessment of the Warkworth Extension Project. In fulfilling this statutory function, on 31 August Departmental officers attended two meetings with Singleton Council staff to discuss Council’s objection to the project and attempt to address Council’s concerns.

During the assessment process, Departmental officers have also spent a whole day consulting with the local Progress Association to ensure the Association had an opportunity to outline its objections in detail.

Once the Department’s assessment is complete, it will be made publicly available and referred to the independent Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) which is the final decision-making authority for this project.