



## **COUNTRY WEST ROAD SERVICES**

### **The Newell Highway Bypass of Moree Town Centre**

**Alice St Roundabout to Northern limit of works**

MODIFICATION REQUEST

EXTENSION OF STANDARD WORKING HOURS

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# **1. Introduction**

## **1.1 Background**

In July 2004, following consideration of the *Proposed Newell Highway Bypass of the Moree Town Centre: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS, (2002))* the then NSW Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning granted approval under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment act 1979 (EP&A Act) for the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) to construct and operate the Moree town centre bypass. The Minister for Planning's Approval was modified pursuant to section 75W of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* dated 7 July 2010.

This modification request in relation to the extension of working hours applies to the Gwydir Highway Connection (GHC) component the approved project; that is along Alice Street from the Frome Street Roundabout to Morton Street. This section of the bypass is identified in Figure 1.

## **1.2 Proposed Change to working Hours**

The Conditions of Approval for the Moree Bypass project (CoA 27) nominates standard working hours of 7.00 am to 6.00 pm on weekdays (Monday to Friday) and 8.00 am to 1.00 pm on Saturdays.

The RTA formally requests a modification to the approved project under Section 75W of the EP&A Act to extend the standard working hours on Mondays to Fridays from 7.00 am to 8.00 pm; on Saturdays to 7.00 am to 4.00 pm; and on Sundays from 7.00 am to 4.00 pm.

The extended hours would be undertaken during the construction of the GHC component of the project only, this is expected to be 3 weeks duration in November 2010 (the period of the Alice Street road closure – see the construction traffic management sub plan).

**Moree town centre bypass** Proposed Gwydir Highway interim connection,  
October 2008



Figure 1 Moree Bypass alignments

### **1.3 Location and Scope of Works**

The extension of working hours would be used to undertake the works required to complete the GHC component of the Moree Bypass, specifically from the Frome Street Roundabout to Morton Street.

The additional time would allow the completion of the required GHC activities to meet the expectations of the Moree Plains Shire Council (MPSC) and the community and to minimise the impact of road closures and detours on local businesses and residents and Newell Highway through traffic (major north-south route for Melbourne-Brisbane heavy haulage).

The types of construction activities that may be undertaken within the extended hours include:

- Excavation
- Earthworks
- Pavement construction
- Level crossing construction
- Roundabout reconstruction

Activities not required to be completed using extended hours will be completed during standard hours eg installation of traffic lights and streetlights, construction of concrete medians, line-marking to minimise and potential noise outside of standard working hours.

## **2. Justification for the Proposed Change to Working Hours**

The Moree Bypass project team is seeking the modification to existing construction hours primarily to meet the MPSC's and the communities expectation that the works be completed as soon as possible to minimise the impact of road closures/detours and to "open" the Bypass to operation to remove Newell Highway truck movements from the main street of Moree during the busy commercial, and social period leading up to Christmas. The type of construction activities that may be undertaken during the extended hours includes excavation, earthworks and pavement construction. No blasting or pile driving would be undertaken during the extended hours. The potential construction noise impacts associated with the extension of working hours are discussed in the Section 4.2.

There are multiple benefits associated with the extension of working hours. The key benefits include:

- Improve public safety - extended working hours will allow for opening of the Moree Bypass prior to the peak holiday traffic period in December 2010
- Meet the community's expectations that the road closure required for the construction of this section of the bypass be as short as possible to minimise the impact on the community (including local businesses and residents).
- Meet the expectations of the Moree Plains Shire Council that the bypass be opened early December 2010 to remove the truck traffic from the main street to enable the community to use the main street during the Christmas festive and trading season.
- Minimal and manageable community impacts - the benefits of the additional work hours can be achieved with minimal impact on the amenity of residents (refer to Section 2.4 of this report).

These benefits are discussed further below.

## **2.1 Improve Public Safety**

There would be considerable benefits to the community (local residents, businesses, pedestrians and commuters) and other stakeholders (interstate haulage industry) from the early completion of the GHC / Moree bypass. Completion of the GHC during the 3 weeks proposed construction period in November 2010 will allow the Moree Bypass to be opened early December 2010 which will transfer the existing heavy vehicles traffic out of the Moree town centre and onto the bypass; it will also allow the peak holiday traffic (Victoria and Western NSW holiday makers) to travel on the upgraded bypass providing improved safety and conditions compared to the existing road through the town centre. This would significantly reduce traffic numbers through the main street of Moree providing improved conditions for local residents and commuters. Further this peak traffic time lies within storm season months, which further add safety risks due to deterioration of driving conditions.

Completion of the GHC would remove construction traffic from the local road network and also remove the need for traffic control operations further improving conditions and safety for local residence.

During the peak Christmas holiday period traffic volumes in the main street of Moree increase by up to 25%. There is also a considerable increase in pedestrian movements throughout the town centre during the festive season. Traffic flows and pedestrian safety will be dramatically improved within the town centre by the completion of GHC / opening of the Moree bypass.

Extending the working hours will allow the GHC construction to be completed in a shorter period.

## **2.2 Meet the communities expectations**

The community during consultation to review/update the CEMP and associated Sub plans (to include the works required for the GHC construction) insisted that the GHC construction be of a minimum duration to reduce the impacts/affects of road closures, detours and changed access conditions (for residents, businesses, customers and pedestrians). Consultation with the affected residents and businesses presented construction options for the GHC (including traffic arrangements and construction durations). The construction methodology (as detailed in the *Modification to the Approved Project Environmental Assessment*) was estimated to take 20 weeks; this option was unanimously rejected as taking too long and causing too much disruption and impact. Other options (change of pavement construction methodology from gravel construction to

Asphalt construction) that could take either 3 weeks or 5 weeks were presented. In 30 of 31 cases the affected residents/business preferred the shorter 3 week construction period and indicated that they would prefer that this period be further reduced if possible. The owner of the Moree Spa Motel did not reject the 3 week construction option (or a construction duration as short as possible) he does not support the proposed GHC re-alignment overall.

Some affected residents/businesses asked if night work could be conducted to shorten the construction period. The RTA did investigate this and decided that it would have an unacceptable impact and should be used to provide respite to the community and that it would not substantially shorten the construction period.

It was clearly evident that the expectation of the affected residents/businesses is for the GHC works to be completed in as short a construction period as possible. Extending the working hours will allow the GHC construction to be completed in the shorter period possible.

The CLG (representing the wider community) were also presented the same construction options (and timetables) and unanimously supported the position of the affected residents and businesses.

Section 2.3 of the ICNG identifies categories of work that might be undertaken outside the recommended standard hours. One such category is for “public infrastructure works that shorten the length of the project and are supported by the affected community”. This extended working hour’s proposal is public infrastructure works; will shorten the length of the project and is supported by the affected community.

## **2.3 Meet Moree Plains Shire Council's expectations**

A resolution was passed by the Moree Plains Shire Council (MPSC) that the GHC construction be constructed using a full closure of Alice Street to enable the completion of construction as quickly as possible. MPSC fully supports the use of extended working hours as proposed to minimise the construction period (see appendix C).

The council believes that the full closure and extended working hours provides the shortest construction duration and the earliest diversion of heavy vehicles from the main street of Moree presents the least overall impact and is the preferred outcome for the community.

## **2.4 Minimal and Manageable Community Impacts**

In proposing the extension of working hours, the RTA has carefully assessed the potential impacts on local residents and businesses. Affected residents and businesses along Alice, Gosport and Frome Street have been consulted to discuss the proposal to extend working hours. Overall, the general consensus was that the extension of hours is supported and that the sooner the works could be completed the better (refer Appendix B).

Extending the working hours would

- effectively reduce the timeframe that local residents would be exposed to construction activities thus reducing the potential for disruption or disturbance to local residents; and
- effectively reduce the timeframe that local businesses have changed access conditions to their businesses for their customers thus reducing the potential impact of their business operations; and
- effectively reduce the timeframe that the community (local traffic and pedestrians) would be exposed to road closures and detours thus reducing the disruption to “regular” travel routes and potential for traffic incidents and congestion, and
- effectively reduce the timeframe that local businesses have altered access/parking for their customer; and
- not impact on businesses operating hours as most businesses close before 6pm; and
- no impact on businesses operating hours as most close during the weekend (the works make the most of a period that businesses are not operating instead of conducting construction during their normal business operating hours); and
- be during daylight savings; and
- not affect the Moree Markets which are held in Jellicoe Park once per month and twice in December (the December markets will be unaffected if the works progress as planned); and
- not impact on schools or churches.

## **3. Consultation**

### **3.1 Community Consultation**

Moree Bypass Officers engaged and consulted residents along the GHC route regarding the extension of working hours. Table 3-2 and figure 3-3 of the Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NVMP) were utilised to determine the sensitive receivers to be consulted. A copy of the community consultation records are presented in Appendix A.

The aim of this consultation was to determine how residents felt about the strategy of the road closures required and the possibility of extending construction working hours. The residents were asked to identify any concerns they may have in relation to the potential extension of hours. All residents/businesses were effectively engaged and consulted.

Thirty of the Thirty-one residents/businesses support the proposed extension to working hours. One business did not object to the working hour's proposal per-se; he would not sign the record as he did not approve of the GHC outright, refer Appendix B community support.

### **3.2 Stakeholder Consultation**

The Department of Environment Climate Change and Water (DECCW) has been consulted in regards the proposed extension of working hours. DECCW doesn't object to the extended working hours given the short duration of works and as long as the affected community continues to support the extended hours based on actual noise impacts. DECCW requires appropriate management of the noise levels using all practical and feasible noise mitigation methods as outlined in the ICNG.

The RTA will consult with the affected community and conduct environmental noise monitoring during extended working hours (during the GHC works) to confirm that support for extended hours is maintained. If feedback from the affected community considers that the noise impacts are greater than expected, the RTA will reconsider / reassess the working hours and as a minimum will implement respite periods for the community. Appropriate management of the noise levels using all practical and feasible noise mitigation methods as outlined in the ICNG and the noise and vibration sub plan will be undertaken.

## **4. Environmental Management**

### **4.1 Environmental Management Framework**

All construction activities conducted during the extended hours would be undertaken in accordance with Moree Bypass projects existing environmental management system including the approved Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and associated sub plans including:

- Construction Traffic Management Sub Plan
- Flora and Fauna Management Sub Plan
- Construction Noise and Vibration Management Sub Plan
- Soil and Water Management Sub Plan
- Heritage Management Sub Plan
- Construction Air Quality Sub Plan
- Hazards and Risk Management Sub Plan
- Waste Management and Reuse Sub Plan
- Spoil and Fill Management Sub Plan

The Moree Bypass' Environment team ensures strict environmental compliance in accordance with these procedures and plans through inductions, 'toolbox talks', environmental training and performing rigorous onsite environmental audits and conducting daily inspections. The Projects Project Manager, Project Delivery Manager, Engineers and Foreman are all responsible for the daily construction and maintenance of environmental controls.

The extended hours of work is not expected to increase any environmental risks and is considered to be indifferent to other permitted work periods. To date, the approved CEMP, sub plans, environmental procedures and management tools have been successfully implemented and are expected to continue to effectively manage potential environmental issues. The main potential environmental impact associated with the extension of construction hours is noise, which is discussed in Section 4.2.

The appointed EMR for the project would continue to be consulted regarding any potential impacts from construction, including the extended hours.

## **4.2 Noise Management**

### **4.2.1 Previous Extended hours approvals**

The Moree Bypass project has had extended working hours applications previously approved. Approved extended hours works have been conducted on 24 separate occasions. On all occasions the conditions and measures required under the approval were implemented and effective. There were no complaints or issues of any nature raised as a result of the extended working hours conducted on the project.

The same management team responsible for the implementation and management of the previous extended working hours will be responsible for the GHC works.

### **4.2.2 Noise Related Complaints to Date**

Since November 2007, there have been a total of four noise complaints received on the Moree Bypass project. Details of the complaints are as follows:

- One complaint for working after 6pm (to 7pm) – protection of works
- Location of “reduce noise/air brake” sign – sign was moved
- Noise generated by existing level crossing – resolved when new crossing constructed
- Early start (6am) – nearby business initially not advised of approved extended hours

Each of these issues were addressed and resolved to the satisfaction of the each complainant.

### **4.2.3 Noise Impact Assessment**

There are a number of potential noise generating activities associated with the construction of the Moree Bypass Project. These include:

- Excavation

- Piling
- Spoil loading and unloading
- Vehicle arrival and departure (including loading/unloading of large plant and equipment
- Earthworks and Pavement construction
- Removal and re-instatement of road pavement
- Concrete paving and cutting and asphalt paving
- Traffic diversions

The activity with the greatest potential to generate noise is piling at the bridge site. This construction activity will not be undertaken during the proposed extended hours.

A noise impact assessment covering the Moree Bypass route, including the GHC section, is included in Section 3 of the NVMP. The potential noise impacts associated with work undertaken during the extended hours would be similar to those identified in the impact assessments with the exception that certain noise generating activities, such as piling would not be undertaken. The noise levels identified in the impact assessment are considered to be representative of the work proposed during the extended hour's period.

The predicted noise levels at sensitive receivers were calculated without taking into account mitigation measures. It is noted that predicted noise levels for the GHC constructions zone are just below the highly noise affected criteria of 75dBA. This is due to the multiple noise generating effects occurring at the same time (construction and traffic). With the full closure of Alice Street for the construction works the traffic component of the noise will be eliminated and it is expected that the actual noise levels experienced by affected residents and businesses will be less than that predicted. With the exclusion of the traffic and the noisiest construction activities during the extended hours, it is anticipated that there would be minimal impact on local residents as a result of the extended hours. This is further reinforced by the low number of noise complaints received for the project to date, and also by the supportive responses provided by residents when consulting with them regarding the proposed extended operating hours.

#### **4.2.4 Construction Noise Management Measures**

Control measures outlined in Section 4.2 of the NVMP would continue to be implemented for the proposed extended working hours including the construction noise monitoring identified in Section 5 of the NVMP. The RTA will monitor and record the receipt of complaints daily, and respond in accordance with the Complaints Handling Procedure and Section 12 of the CEMP. If there is a substantial increase in the number of valid complaints in relation to the extend working hours that cannot be satisfactorily resolved then the RTA will revert back to the original standard working hours outlined in the MCoA for the works along the GHC. Both DECCW and the EMR will be immediately advised of the receipt of any complaints particularly in relation to works being undertaken in the proposed extended hours.

Complaint records will be regularly reported to the Department of Planning via the EMR.

## **5. Conclusion**

The positive responses provided during the consultation process combined with the general lack of complaints received in relation to construction activities to date indicates that there is community support for the extended working hours.

Extension to the standard working hours will allow the Moree Bypass project to be completed sooner resulting in improved public safety outcomes, meet the expectations of the community and the MPSC whilst posing minimal impacts on local residents.

Implementation of the management measures as identified above and in the NVMP will ensure community issues are handled both sensitively and effectively providing workable solutions for the residents, businesses, council, commuters, pedestrians and the Moree Bypass project.

## **Appendix A Community Consultation**

| Location | Property Name                                      | Date     | Comments                                                          | Outcome                                                                                                                                                                | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          | MPSC                                               | 03.08.10 | Discussed options/issues for traffic.                             | Developed Traffic arrangement options suitable to council, supported OOH proposal                                                                                      | Agreed Traffic arrangements                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|          | CLG                                                | 03.08.10 | Presented traffic arrangement options and proposed working hours. | CLG unanimously supported whichever option is acceptable to the businesses and residents                                                                               | Discuss proposals with residents and businesses                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 3        | Freedom Service Station                            | 09.08.10 | Presented traffic arrangement options and proposed working hours. | Supports traffic management proposal – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition                                                                                    | RTA to implement signs to identify how to get to business and provide flyers that the business can issue to customers to inform them how to get to the business during road closures                                                                        |
| 4        | Prelect (42 Alice St)                              | 12.08.10 | Presented traffic arrangement options and proposed working hours. | Supports traffic management proposal – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition                                                                                    | RTA to implement signs to identify how to get to business during road closures                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 5, 6 & 7 | No.34 Alice St<br>No.36 Alice St<br>No.38 Alice St | 12.08.10 | Presented traffic arrangement options and proposed working hours. | Supports traffic management proposal – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition                                                                                    | nil                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 12 & 13  | Spa Village Travel Inn                             | 09.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours.     | Supports traffic management proposal – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition<br>Agreed to let RTA use vacant block to establish additional parking during works | RTA to implement signs to identify how to get to business and provide flyers that the business can issue to customers to inform them how to get to the business during road closures<br>Agreement to enter land established to use and restore vacant block |
| 11       | Annies Bakery                                      | 13.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours.     | Supports traffic management proposal – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition                                                                                    | RTA to implement signs to identify how to get to business and provide flyers that the business can issue to customers to inform them how to get to the business during road closures                                                                        |
| 14       | Small equipment repair shop                        | 12.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours.     | Supports traffic management proposal – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition<br>Quicker the better                                                              | Nil                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

|    |                      |          |                                                               |                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                             |
|----|----------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8  | No. 32 Alice St      | 13.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours. | Supports traffic management proposal – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition<br>Noise from road and dust from stopping trucks     | Noise reduced by AC option proposed<br>Discuss dust issue from trucks with council                                                                          |
| 10 | No. 28 Alice St      |          | No one home                                                   | Seasonal resident no vehicle                                                                                                             | Try to discuss issues when in town                                                                                                                          |
| 9  | No. 30 Alice St      |          | No one home                                                   | -                                                                                                                                        | Try to discuss issues when in town                                                                                                                          |
| 18 | Laundromat           | 12.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours. | Supports traffic management proposal – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition<br>Access and assistance                             | RTA to provide assistance (deliveries) during road closure                                                                                                  |
| 18 | Post Office          | 12.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours. | Supports traffic management proposal – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition<br>Armourguard access                                | RTA to work with business to facilitate armour guard security visits                                                                                        |
| 18 | TV repair shop       | 12.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours. | Supports traffic management proposal – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition<br>Quicke the batter                                 | Nil                                                                                                                                                         |
|    | Jukes                | 12.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours. | Supports traffic management proposal – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition<br>Harvest season – access for trucks<br>Advertising | RTA to look at access options with business – perhaps temporary removal of section of existing traffic island in Dover st<br>RTA to look at using radio ads |
|    | Day care<br>Gosport  |          | Closed down                                                   | -                                                                                                                                        | Nil                                                                                                                                                         |
|    | Coffee cart          | 20.08.10 | Unavailable                                                   | -                                                                                                                                        | Keep trying to see owner                                                                                                                                    |
|    | Moree Lodge<br>Motel |          | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours. | Supports traffic management proposal – complete asap<br>Need to increase hours to minimise impact to my business                         | Submit working hours proposal                                                                                                                               |

|    |                                |          |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----|--------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18 | North West camping and Caravan | 12.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours. | Supports option in TM sub plan – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition<br>Quicker the better<br>Rent loss                                  | Use block for parking of vehicles during road closure and pay rent to use of block                                                                                                   |
|    | Caltex                         | 20.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours. | Unable to comment formally – owners out of town                                                                                                   | Follow up with owners upon return – September                                                                                                                                        |
|    | Alexander                      | 20.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours. | Supports option in TM sub plan – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition                                                                     | RTA to implement signs to identify how to get to business during road closures<br>Minimise time to minimise impact on my business                                                    |
|    | Victoria Hotel                 | 20.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours. | Supports option in TM sub plan – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition                                                                     | nil                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|    | Newsagents                     | 13.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours. | Supports traffic management proposal – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition                                                               | RTA to implement signs to identify how to get to business during road closures                                                                                                       |
|    | Plumbing shop Gosport Street   | 20.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours. | Supports traffic management proposal – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition<br>Suggested lane behind shops made 2 way and graded up       | Review changes to lane                                                                                                                                                               |
|    | 306 Gosport St                 | 13.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours. | Supports traffic management proposal – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition                                                               | Nil                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|    | Tourist information Centre     | 13.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours. | Supports traffic management proposal – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition<br>Get in and get out<br>Signs<br>Use of maps and newsletters | RTA to implement signs to identify how to get to business and provide flyers that the business can issue to customers to inform them how to get to the business during road closures |

|    |                                              |          |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                            |
|----|----------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 19 | More Spa Motel                               | 19.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours. | Would not support any work that had the potential to impact his business – wanted stage 2 of the bypass to be constructed<br>Wanted formal notification of GHC approval<br>Wanted noise treatment works to be done | Continue to discuss issues |
|    | Second hand shop – Gosport Street            | 20.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours. | Supports traffic management proposal – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition                                                                                                                                | Nil                        |
|    | Lowrey Small motors – Gosport Street         | 20.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours. | Supports traffic management proposal – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition                                                                                                                                | Nil                        |
|    | O'Neills Mechanical repairs – Gosport Street | 20.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours. | Supports traffic management proposal – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition                                                                                                                                | Nil                        |
|    | Steve Marshall (Barber – Gosport Street)     | 20.08.10 | Discussed TMP options and proposed variance to working hours. | Supports traffic management proposal – complete asap<br>Signed working hrs petition                                                                                                                                | Nil                        |

## **Appendix B Support for OOH Proposal**

## **Appendix C Moree Plains Shire Council resolution**



Moree Plains

Murray Erbs

(02) 5757 3265

ME:CK

95-0169 C.U.T10/1A6E1989

22 September 2010

Mr David Benger MP  
NSW Minister for Roads  
Governor Macquarie Tower  
Level 37, 1 Farrer Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir

**INTERIM GWYDIR HIGHWAY CONNECTION - MOREE BYPASS**

I wish to advise at an ordinary meeting of Moree Plains Shire Council on 18 September 2010 Council considered the proposed timing for the closure of Alice Street to allow reconstruction work to be undertaken for the interim Gwydir Highway Connection of the Moree Bypass and resolved the following:

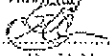
**18/09/2010 RESOLVED: (Strong/Braced)**

1. That Council supports the complete closure of Alice Street for reconstruction for the interim bypass.
2. That Council accept the November date for the reconstruction of the rail crossing.
3. That Council insists on appropriate signage for access to those business houses affected.
4. That Council support the extended work times.
5. That Council encourages residents of Alice Street who are affected by this closure to contact the RTA to obtain all information that they require.

In summary Council supports the three (3) week plan for complete closure of Alice Street in November 2010 and supports the RTA's proposal to work extended hours to increase the probability of the North Bypass being opened and significant volumes of heavy vehicles being diverted from the main street of Moree prior to Christmas.

The Council believes that this proposal by providing the shortest construction duration and the earliest diversion of heavy vehicles from the main street of Moree presents the least overall impact and the preferred outcome for the community. The Council also wishes to advise that it considers that the Gwydir Highway Connection is an interim arrangement only and that it looks forward to funding being available within the near future to continue construction of the planned South Bypass.

Yours faithfully

  
David Aber  
GENERAL MANAGER

cc: Kevin Humphries  
Mark Coulton  
RTA Western Region Manager - Peter Dearden  
NSW Department of Planning - Mark Turner Environmental Planning Officer. Information Officer

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