

I Introduction and background

I.1 The proposal

This report has been prepared to address submissions received in response to the public exhibition of the Victoria Road upgrade environmental assessment prepared by the Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW (RTA).

The RTA proposes to upgrade Victoria Road between Westbourne Street, Drummoyne and The Crescent, Rozelle, a distance of about 3.5 kilometres. The Victoria Road upgrade project (referred to hereafter as the project) would implement a tidal flow scheme through Drummoyne, construct an additional bridge over Iron Cove and reallocate road space in Rozelle.

The project would comprise three main groups of works:

- Roadworks in Drummoyne. This part of the project would involve providing the tidal flow scheme and citybound bus lane that would operate during both the AM and PM peak periods. Bus stop locations would also be rationalised.
- Bridge works at Iron Cove. This part of the project would involve building an additional bridge over Iron Cove for outbound traffic. The existing bridge would be dedicated for citybound traffic and would include a 24-hour bus lane. The new bridge would have three lanes (one of which would operate as an outbound AM peak bus lane) and a shared-use pedestrian and cyclist path.
- Roadworks in Rozelle. This part of the project would involve changing lane configurations, turning manoeuvres and median widths to allow the operation of a citybound bus lane during the AM peak period. Bus stop locations would also be rationalised.

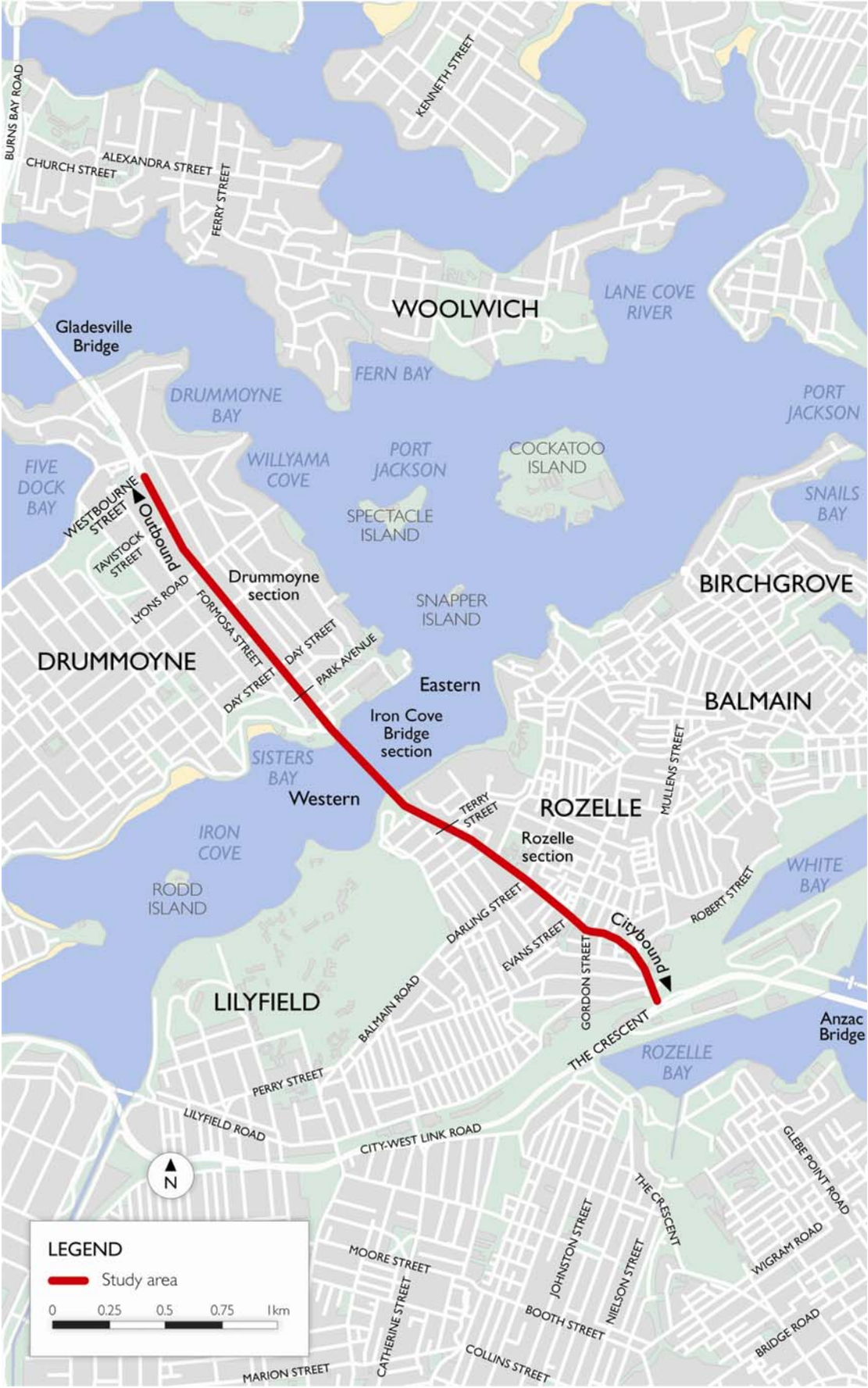
The project is located on Victoria Road between Westbourne Street, Drummoyne and The Crescent, Rozelle, as shown in Figure I-1. The roadworks proposed for Drummoyne and Rozelle would follow the existing alignment of Victoria Road. The new bridge would have a curved alignment and be situated to the west of Iron Cove Bridge.

I.2 Statutory context

The Minister for Planning declared by Order published in the *NSW Government Gazette* (No. 185 at p10002, Friday 21 December 2007), that the Victoria Road upgrade is a project to which Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) applies.

An environmental assessment was subsequently prepared in accordance with Part 3A of the EP&A Act to assess the potential impacts of the project.

Figure I-1 **Location of the project**



1.3 Exhibition of the environmental assessment

The environmental assessment was placed on formal public exhibition for 35 days from 22 October 2008 to 25 November 2008. The RTA advertised the dates and venues of the public display in the local and metropolitan press including:

- The Sydney Morning Herald.
- The Daily Telegraph.
- Inner Western Courier.
- Inner-West Weekly.
- The Weekly Times.

The environmental assessment was made available on the RTA website (for reading and downloading). Hardcopies or electronic (disk) versions of the environmental assessment were made available to people on request.

The environmental assessment was exhibited at the display locations shown in Table I-1. During the exhibition period, the public was able to review the environmental assessment, obtain information from display materials, and send submissions to the Department of Planning for consideration in its assessment of the project. During this time, the RTA provided opportunities for the community to discuss the environmental assessment with key members of the project team and to provide comments.

Table I-1 **Environmental assessment display locations**

Location	Address
Department of Planning Information Centre	Ground floor, Lands Building 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney
RTA head office	Centennial Plaza, Sydney 260 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills
City of Sydney Council	One Stop Shop Level 2, 456 Kent Street, Sydney
Nature Conservation Council of NSW	Level 2, 301 Kent Street, Sydney
Canada Bay Civic Centre	1a Marlborough Street, Drummoyne
Hunter's Hill Council	22 Alexandra Street, Hunter's Hill
Italian Forum Library	Shop 42 on the Piazza 23 Norton Street, Leichhardt
Balmain Library (temporary)	Next to Balmain Town Hall Darling Street, Balmain
Gladesville Library	6 Pittwater Road, Gladesville
Five Dock Library	4-12 Garfield Street, Five Dock
Leichhardt Citizen Service Centre	7-15 Wetherill Street, Leichhardt

A number of community information sessions were conducted during the exhibition period to provide an opportunity for the public to talk directly to members of the project team (see Table 1–2).

Table 1-2 **Community information sessions**

Location	Date
Rozelle markets	1 November 2008
	15 November 2008
Birkenhead Point Shopping Centre	8 November 2008
Gladesville Shopping Village	15 November 2008

In addition to the above community information sessions a number of resident, stakeholder, and special interest group briefings were held to provide information to these groups. Some groups offered the opportunity for a briefing declined the offer.

Written submissions received during the environmental assessment exhibition period were provided to the RTA by the Department of Planning for its consideration. The comments and the RTA response will be considered by the Department of Planning in its assessment report to the Minister for Planning.

1.4 Purpose of the document

The Director-General of Planning provided copies of submissions received during and after the exhibition period of the environmental assessment to the RTA. In accordance with Section 75H(6) of the EP&A Act, the Director-General required the RTA to provide a response to the issues raised in submissions.

This report includes the RTA's responses to issues raised in submissions (Chapter 2), a preferred project report and a description of minor changes to the project (Chapter 3), and a revised statement of commitments (Chapter 4).