

Department of Planning and Infrastructure - **Submission on the Berry Bypass**

As a resident of George St, Berry with a young child I absolutely oppose the closure of Victoria St and support the implementation of Option 3 for the following reasons:

- People in Berry who live south of Victoria St use that street as a legitimate route to travel to and from Nowra. We see no reason why we should be forced down to only one exit south on Queen St. I thought one of the RMS goals was to remove unnecessary traffic from Queen St.
- If Victoria St is closed, everyone who lives down the bottom end of that street will have to come up and then drive down George St. Council believes there could be 1500 vehicles a day coming from and going to that area. Unless they are only going somewhere in Berry, they will all go past the houses in George St. RMS is r to avoid negative impacts of the Bypass on the town.
- RMS argued that closing the street will preserve more of Mark Radium Park. I am told they based this on incorrect figures. I am appalled that the RMS spread misinformation, upset the community and still has not widely admitted their error. In addition, if the two-way street of Option 3 was built to local standards in keeping with the rest of the Berry streetscape, it would take the last amount of land from Mark Radium Park.
- RMS knows that Mark Radium Park is not used by the locals. It is an important rest stop for highway travellers as well as an entry to the tourist attractions and shops of Berry. Taking away two-way access from Queen St will take away this function.
- The RMS belief that young families will use it as a local park is misguided. I will not be walking down a long hill with a stroller so that my toddler can play next to both a high speed ramp and a four lane highway. I meet up with my friends in parks near the CBD for a coffee and chat while the children play. There are very few young families in that “senior” area of town with its two over 55s villages and a nursing home.
- As a health professional I have concern about restricting quick access to and exit from the town for emergency vehicles to one roundabout. Every minute counts.
- Berry is an historic town. It is a popular tourist destination. The charm of its heritage street grid is one of the attractions for “tree changers”. RMS should respect this and not introduce changes that unnecessarily impact on amenity.
- The southbound on ramp should be moved out of town. This will take away its noise from the town and with no ramp across Victoria St, there is no justification for its closure. People agree that there is a problem of vehicles speeding down this lower end of Victoria St. This can be addressed through Council with measures in place long before the bypass is built. Why should the safety of the north-south streets be greatly impacted if closure is seen as the only solution.

Everyone can win with Option 3. Traffic on Victoria St will be almost halved with access from the highway removed, traffic on the smaller streets will not be unnaturally increased and travellers will still use the park. The proposed bypass already divides the town, North St will be severed. It is important that movement along the second of our remaining two east–west streets not also be severed.

I believe that RMS can no longer support their selection of Option 1 as their preferred Option. It must be abandoned with Option 3 taking its place.

Karen Redlich
38 George St, Berry