

Andrew Beattie - RMS Options for Victoria Street, BERRY BYPASS.

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Date: 12/12/2012 2:38 PM
Subject: RMS Options for Victoria Street, BERRY BYPASS.
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A submission re the three options concerning Victoria Street, Berry in conjunction with the Berry bypass.

I am completely opposed to the closure of Victoria Street as proposed in RMS Option 1.

A modified Option 3 is my preferred option for the following reasons:

1. Victoria Street is an important arterial road which provides a second exit after Queen Street. If Queen St is the only exit from the township of Berry it is going to carry congested traffic at peak times and in the event of an accident on Queen St or at the Kangaroo Valley interchange the inability of traffic to exit Victoria St creates a dangerous situation. The closure of Victoria St simply doesn't make sense. The direct access to the Highway via Victoria St, rather than having to take the longer route via George/Queen/Kangaroo Valley interchange, has significant implications for the residents of The Arbour, The Grange and BUPA, where in the event of an accident or emergency the best possible and speediest access for emergency vehicles including ambulances is essential.
2. Traffic flow will be enhanced with an **open** Victoria St allowing a freer flow of town traffic to the Princes Highway on the southern exit.
3. If Victoria St is closed residents west of George St will be forced to travel east on Victoria St using George or Edward Sts to connect with Queen St and then to the Kangaroo Valley interchange. This traffic diversion doesn't seem very logical. It increases the traffic flow unnecessarily through quiet, local streets and possibly increases the flow of traffic past the Primary School. The area west of George St is going to become one of the most densely populated sectors in Berry - 48 houses, 60 in The Grange, 113 houses in The Arbour, 120 bed nursing home (increasing to 142 beds) at BUPA and with the addition of traffic for staff, visitors and service providers this means all this traffic will be forced east up Victoria on to George or other north/south streets connecting to Queen St. Why? What are the perceived advantages or benefits? If RMS modified their plan to have a 2 way access road on the western side of Mark Radium Park and from a roundabout at the western end of Victoria St then continue a 2 way exit road past the Vannini property and BUPA to a single one way exit ramp further south, many problems would be solved. The advantages of modifying Option 3 are considerable. The proposed underpass to allow the Vannini residents to exit to Huntingdale Estate and on to the Kangaroo Valley interchange would be eliminated with considerable cost savings. A 2 way road from Victoria St to the Vannini property and BUPA to lead to a single merging lane and off ramp further south would be both more cost efficient and practical. This should take the noise of the merging ramp further south and improve the amenity of the residents at The Arbour and BUPA. The volume and flow of traffic exiting Victoria Street would be much the same as it is now.
4. Option 3 and Mark Radium Park: under the revised figures there is now little difference between the 3 options with regard to the impact and loss of park area. Re-calculated assessments on the loss of park area are: Option1 is now 25% - previously 13%, Option 2 is now 25% -

previously 17%, Option 3 is now 29% - previously 26%. I have no doubt that many residents were influenced by these earlier figures to the detriment of Option 3. Mark Radium Park is an important visitor/tourist amenity. Shoalhaven Council has recently expended significant amounts of money upgrading the parking and general facilities. It is a well used rest and safety stopover for travellers. It is not used as a local park. It is not used by residents of The Arbour or BUPA - contrary to the RMS Meeting Notes of 23rd May that states "Mark Radium" is used by local residents of The Arbour and BUPA". A Landcare group from The Arbour volunteers as a community service to maintain the park but it is not otherwise used by locals. The RMS intention to make it a local park with the provision of playground equipment is a waste of time and destined to fail. Appropriately positioned signage on the bypass showing the Kangaroo Valley interchange park exit should ensure it remains an important safety amenity for tourists and visitors. A 2 way road of local dimensions on the western side of the park will allow good connectivity and smooth traffic flow in and out of the park. Logically, a roundabout, also built to local road standards at the base of the park and a 2 way road extending past BUPA to a southern ramp to the Highway would complete connectivity.

5. If the RMS reconsiders a modified Option 3 it can bring a significant benefit to residents /staff /visitors of The Arbour and BUPA. If the savings to RMS from a no private access road under the highway through Huntingdale Estate were re-directed to a two way southern road which could service both BUPA and the Vannini residents this provides a solution to a current problem facing traffic going to The Arbour and BUPA. Entry to both places is by a shared, common driveway, Pepper Farm Drive. If the RMS was prepared to see the road past Mark Radium on to a Victoria Street roundabout and a 2 way road extending south to BUPA to the Highway as an **integrated, connected system** this would provide a separate vehicular entry and exit for both parties. There is growing concern about safety issues relating to the traffic on Pepper Farm Drive and while this is not a matter for the RMS at this time, if the RMS looks at the bigger picture and sees the obvious links and benefits for an open Victoria St and modified southern option we have a win- win situation for all concerned.

In summary, there is an opportunity for RMS to review and improve the current plan to reflect a widely held view that Victoria St should remain open. Certainly, as a resident of The Arbour, closure of Victoria St is in my view a retrograde step with many negative consequences. Arbour residents have not campaigned for closure of Victoria St as has been rumoured in the community. Individual residents of The Arbour may hold differing views and will respond accordingly.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my opinion

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