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Andrew Beattie - Foxground & Berry Bypass

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Date: 12/1/2012 10:04 AM
Subject: Foxground & Berry Bypass

Comment on Victoria Street Design Options

I am in favour of the Option 3 proposal - Victoria Street remaining open for the following reasons:

*Option 1 which closes Victoria Street with southbound on-ramp from Queen Street provides the only means to travel south for townspeople. If there was an accident on the Kangaroo Valley interchange or the on-ramp which blocked access to the on-ramp, Victoria Street would be the only alternative to travel south other than travelling east to the sandtrack (Bolong Road) adding at least another 45 minutes to your journey.

*Too few townspeople want Victoria Street closed as opposed to the majority that want it to remain open. The argument for those wanting Victoria Street closed is safety for the children at Berry Public School. At a meeting I attended in June this year at the Berry Courthouse concerning the closure of Victoria Street a member of the School P & C stood up and announced that the P & C association did not endorse the closure. Earlier this year a petition with 200 signatures requested their desire to keep Victoria Street open.

*Closure of Victoria Street would necessitate traffic from The Grange retirement village, The Arbour Village which when completed will have 110 houses and the Bupa 120 Bed nursing home traffic to be redirected on George, Edward, Albany, Alexandra and Prince Albert streets, placing an unfair burden of extra traffic in these quiet residential areas.

*Option 1 has the least impact on Mark Radium Park, a well used travellers rest stop on the southern end of town, with Option 3 having the greatest impact losing some 26% of the park. However Ron de Roy from the RMS office in Berry has stated that it may be possible when the final plan is being done to move the Bypass slightly westward with less of an impact on the park. The park is rarely used by locals and Option 1 would make the park inaccessible to travellers.

* Shoalhaven City Council's Traffic Engineer supports Option 3 for Victoria Street and has prepared a report stating his reasons for endorsing it, and Council's concern for unacceptable traffic impacts on local roads with the closure of Victoria Street.

Further consideration must be given to the views of both the majority of residents of Berry and those of Shoalhaven City Council to make sure the best long term outcomes are achieved for the town.

David Keppie
The Arbour
Berry