

6 Consultation

This chapter describes the objectives and extent of the consultation undertaken for the project. Consultation for the project commenced with the official announcement in April 2009. Consultation has included meetings with key stakeholder, landowners and special interest groups. Consultation will continue during the display of this environmental assessment.

Director-General's requirements	Where addressed
The EA must reflect an appropriate and justified level of consultation with relevant stakeholders during the preparation of the EA, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC)• The Department of Water and Energy (DWE)• The Department of Primary Industries (DPI)• Clarence Valley Council.• Relevant public stakeholders, including special interest groups and affected landowners.	Section 6.2, Section 6.5, Section 6.6 and Section 6.7
The EA must outline the consultation process, document all community consultation undertaken to date and identify the issues raised (including where these have been addressed in the EA).	Section 6.1, Section 6.3 and Section 6.4

6.1 Report on the consultation process

Community involvement is a key element for project planning and delivery. It enables local knowledge to feed into the identification of constraints and potential opportunities and facilitates development of a project that better integrates into the local setting, while achieving local and regional benefits.

The consultation process for the Wells Crossing to Iluka Road Pacific Highway upgrade and the Glenugie upgrade has been developed and implemented in accordance with the NSW Department of Planning's *Guidelines for Major Project Community Consultation* (DoP 2007). A community and stakeholder involvement plan (CSIP) was developed for the Wells Crossing to Iluka Road upgrade. The CSIP identified all stakeholders for the project and provided a range of opportunities for these stakeholders to express their views.

The CSIP was developed based on the principles of transparency, inclusiveness and responsiveness. These principles were maintained during the various stages of the development of the Wells Crossing to Iluka Road upgrade and will continue to shape consultation during subsequent stages of project planning and delivery.

A consultation plan for the project has been prepared as an addendum to the Wells Crossing to Iluka Road CSIP. The purpose of this plan is to support the environmental assessment for the project and build on the consultation undertaken since 2004 for the wider Wells Crossing to Iluka Road upgrade.

This chapter provides a report on the consultation process in accordance with the abovementioned guidelines. **Table 6-1** demonstrates how these reporting requirements have been met.

■ **Table 6-1 Report on the consultation process**

Reporting requirement	Where addressed
Summary of findings	6.3
Consultation objectives	6.2
When was the consultation undertaken	6.3.2, 6.5
Number and type of stakeholders involved	6.3.2, 6.3.3, 6.5
Engagement techniques	6.3.2, 6.5
Assessment of how well the objectives were met	6.3
Issues raised by stakeholders	6.4, 6.6
How issues are addressed in the EA	6.6
Where the project has been altered as a result of feedback received	6.4

6.2 Consultation objectives

The objectives for the Glenugie upgrade consultation plan investigations phase are to:

- Identify the community and stakeholders affected by the Glenugie upgrade.
- Clearly outline the purpose and process of the environmental assessment investigations.
- Publicise the project contact details to encourage stakeholders to have a say about the project.
- Capture and record issues raised during consultation.
- Provide any feedback from the stakeholders to the specialist investigations, as appropriate.

The objectives for the Glenugie consultation plan environmental assessment display phase are to:

- Engage the wider community's attention and interest in the project.
- Raise awareness of the environmental assessment exhibition, community events and displays.
- Advise where and how people can provide a submission on the environmental assessment.

Following the environmental assessment, stakeholders will be advised about whether or not the project is approved. Should the project proceed, there would also be further consultation during detailed design and construction.

6.3 Consultation process and activities to date

Community consultation for the Wells Crossing to Iluka Road upgrade has changed in focus and method throughout its different stages. The consultation process has evolved along with the development of the project from a series of route options, to a preferred option, and then to refinement of the concept design. The opportunity for two-way information flow between stakeholders and the project team has been ongoing throughout this process.

The findings of the consultation process to date indicate no major objections to the Glenugie upgrade and general support for the project location.

6.3.1 Identification of stakeholders

Table 6-2 provides an outline of the stakeholders consulted during the development of the Wells Crossing to Iluka Road upgrade.

■ **Table 6-2 Stakeholders consulted for the Wells Crossing to Iluka Road upgrade**

Stakeholder group	Specific stakeholders
State Government agencies	Department of Planning Department of Water and Energy (DWE) (Former Department of Natural Resources) Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW Maritime Department of Primary Industries (NSW Fisheries, Forests NSW, Agriculture, Minerals) Department of Planning, Heritage Branch Department of Lands (Coffs Harbour) State Emergency Services
Local government	Clarence Valley Council
Local community	Residents, property owners, local businesses
Special interest groups	Grafton Ngerrie Local Aboriginal Land Council Yaegl Local Aboriginal Land Council Yaegl Native Title Group Yarrowarra Aboriginal Corporation (including Garby Elders) Burraway Wajad Traditional Owners Group Birrigan Gargle Local Aboriginal Land Council Ulugundahi Elders NRMA NSW Cane Growers Association NSW Sugar Milling Cooperative Clarence Environment Centre Clarence Valley Conservation Coalition WIRES Clarence Valley North Coast Environment Council Inc Clarence Landcare Grafton City Chamber of Commerce

Stakeholder group	Specific stakeholders
Community liaison groups (CLG) and focus groups	Aboriginal focus group Business focus group Hydrology focus group Ecology focus group Maclean community liaison group Grafton community liaison group Tucabia community liaison group Combined community liaison group

6.3.2 Key consultation activities

Extensive community consultation has been undertaken since the start of project planning in 2004. **Table 6-3** details consultation undertaken during development and selection of the preferred route. **Table 6-4** provides details of consultation undertaken during development of the concept design. Section 6.3.3 provides details of consultation with Aboriginal communities and Section 6.5 provides details of recent consultation during preparation of the environmental assessment.

■ **Table 6-3 Consultation during selection of the preferred route**

Consultation activities	Details
Media releases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 October 2005 - Local community invited to comment on route options • 9 November 2005 - Closing date for submissions extended to 2 December 2005 • September 2006 – Preferred route selection
Community updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community update - Introduction to the project - November 2004 • Community update - Route options - October 2005 • Community update - Value management workshop outcomes - May 2006 • Community update - Preferred route - September 2006
Flyers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flyer - Route options display - October 2005 • Flyer - Preferred route display - September 2006 • Roads and Traffic Authority land acquisitions policy statement • Flyer - Progress update May 2007
Community information displays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route options display from 21 October 2005 to 2 December 2005 • Preferred route display from 27 September 2006 to 3 November 2006

Consultation activities	Details
Project reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route options development report • Route options submissions report • Preferred route report • Value management workshop report • Preferred route submissions report
Community liaison groups (CLG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grafton community liaison group • Tucabia community liaison group • Combined community liaison group
Aboriginal focus group meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 May 2005 • 7 November 2005 • 6 February 2006 • 24 February 2006 • 23 October 2006 • 16 July 2007 • 6 September 2007 • 17 September 2008
Business focus group meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 November 2005 • 19 October 2006
Ecology focus group meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 November 2005 • 4 February 2006 • 23 October 2006
Hydrology focus group meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 June 2005 • 8 November 2005 • 24 October 2006

Copies of community updates and notes from community liaison groups and focus group meetings are available on the RTA website www.rta.nsw.gov.au/pacific (click on Wells Crossing to Iluka Road).

Following selection of the preferred route, consultation for the development of the concept design started. During this phase over 450 stakeholders were notified by mail about the display of the concept design report and were sent a copy of the community update. These stakeholders included:

- Directly affected property owners.
- All community liaison/focus group members.
- All stakeholders who had previously made submissions.

Table 6-4 provides details of consultation undertaken during the development of the concept design.

■ **Table 6-4 Consultation during the development of the concept design**

Consultation activities	Details
Community updates	Community update – concept design – January 2009
Phone follow-up	Over 100 landowners notified of the display by phone
Community information displays	<p>Concept design display from 14 January 2009 to 6 March 2009 at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTA Pacific Highway Office. • Clarence Valley Council, Maclean office. • Coldstream Gallery, Ulmarra. • Tucabia Village Store, Tucabia. • Wooli post office. • Yamba Chamber of Commerce notice board, Yamba. • Brooms Head Post Office, Brooms Head. • Plantation Motel, Tyndale.
Community information sessions	<p>Community information sessions were conducted at the following locations during February 2009:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harwood Community Hall. • Maclean Civic Hall. • Plantation Motel. • Grafton Community Centre.
Project reports	<p>The following reports of relevance to the project are available on the RTA website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept design report. • Terrestrial ecology working paper. • Aquatic ecology working paper. • Cultural heritage working paper. • Hydrology and hydraulics working paper. • Water quality working paper.

6.3.3 Aboriginal community consultation

Aboriginal community consultation for the project started in 2004. Aboriginal stakeholder identification and ongoing consultation was in accordance with the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) *Interim Community Consultation Guidelines for Applicants* (DECC 2004) and RTA procedures (RTA 2004; RTA 2008).

Consultation included advertisements in local print media for stakeholder registration. Ongoing consultation with identified stakeholders involved written correspondence, phone calls and Aboriginal focus group (AFG) meetings. There were nine AFG meetings, which gave registered stakeholders the opportunity to review and comment on survey methodologies and draft assessment reports. The AFG meetings also allowed for identification of appropriate cultural knowledge holders.

Further information on Aboriginal heritage is provided in Chapter 7.5. The

Aboriginal stakeholders for the project include:

- Grafton-Ngerrie Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC).
- Yaegl LALC.
- Yaegl Native Title Group.
- Yarrawarra Aboriginal Corporation (including the Garby Elders).
- Burraway Wajad Traditional Owners.

6.4 Issues raised on preferred route selection and concept design

Throughout the development of the project, a range of issues have been put forward by the community, government agencies and councils. The project team has responded by investigating the issues and, where appropriate and possible, by implementing the idea/ option. The key issues relate to:

- The benefit of locating the Glenugie interchange close to Grafton.
- Potential severance and amenity impacts on land owners near Franklins Road.
- Potential impacts on areas of sensitivity for the Aboriginal community associated with route options to the east of the preferred route.
- Constraining environmental impacts to the existing road reserve.

These issues are discussed in Chapter 3.

6.5 Consultation during preparation of this environmental assessment

Table 6-5 provides details of consultation undertaken during preparation of this environmental assessment.

■ Table 6-5 Consultation during preparation of environmental assessment

Consultation	Details
Aboriginal stakeholders	AFG meeting 2 June 2009.
Public stakeholders (affected landowners and special interest groups)	<i>Glenugie Upgrade Preliminary Environmental Assessment Report</i> – April 2009 – available on RTA website. Media release - Announcing funding for the Glenugie upgrade – 26 April 2009. Community update June 2009. Telephone discussions with nearby land owners and special interest groups. Telephone discussion and email to Clarence Valley Nature Conservation Coalition.
Clarence Valley Council	<i>Glenugie Upgrade Preliminary Environmental Assessment Report</i> – April 2009 – available on RTA website. Discussion with Council regarding Glenugie upgrade - 27 April 2009.

Consultation	Details
State Government agencies (DECC, DWE and DPI)	<p><i>Glenugie Upgrade Preliminary Environmental Assessment Report</i> – April 2009 – available on RTA website.</p> <p>Combined State agency meeting – 31 March 2009 – RTA, DECC, Department of Planning.</p> <p>Planning focus group meeting – 9 April 2009: RTA, DECC (noise, air and ecology), DPI (Forests/ Fisheries), and Department of Planning.</p> <p>Meeting/ site visit with RTA, DECC & DPI – 21 April 2009.</p> <p>DECC – Discussions, meetings and requests for information - 24 April 2009, 12 May 2009, 13 May 2009 and 10 July 2009.</p> <p>DWE – Discussion on 9 July 2009.</p> <p>DPI – Meeting on 11 May 2009 and numerous telephone discussions in May and June 2009.</p>
Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts	Meetings on 30 April 2009 and 7 July 2009.

The main issues raised during preparation of the environmental assessment are listed in **Table 6-6**, together with the section of the environment assessment where the issue is addressed.

■ **Table 6-6 Issues raised during preparation of environmental assessment**

Issues raised	Environmental assessment reference
Department of Environment and Climate Change	
Impact on the Square-fruited Ironbark (<i>Eucalyptus tetrapleura</i>) and Weeping paperbark (<i>Melaleuca irbyana</i>)	Section 7.1 & Appendix D
Impact of vegetation clearing on habitat and connectivity implications for the range of species present in the area.	Section 7.1 & Appendix D
Impact on Glenugie Creek and other receiving waterways, including runoff from paved surfaces and flow from drainage structures.	Section 7.2 & Section 7.6.3
Operational noise and vibration impacts including impacts on sensitive receivers and structures, as relevant.	Section 7.4 & Appendix F
Impact of construction noise and vibration	Section 7.6.1
Department of Primary Industries (Forests)	
Impact on the ecology of the Glenugie State Forest	Section 7.1 & Appendix D
Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries)	
Construction impacts at watercourse crossings including erosion, sedimentation, water quality and riparian management, including, potential for impacts on riparian vegetation, fish passage and water quality in the watercourse during construction.	Section 7.6.3
Department of Primary Industries (Agriculture)	
No issues raised	N/A

Issues raised	Environmental assessment reference
Department of Water and Energy	
No additional issues raised.	N/A
Clarence Valley Council	
No additional issues raised.	N/A
Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (Commonwealth)	
Impact on <i>Eucalyptus tetrapleura</i> and the need for an offset strategy for the species.	Section 7.1 & Appendix D
Aboriginal Focus Group	
Opportunity for pre-construction inspections by the Local Aboriginal Land Council.	Section 7.5 Chapter 10
Assessment of the impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage.	Section 7.5 & Appendix E
Management of Aboriginal artefacts / sites.	Section 7.5 & Appendix E
Opportunities for Aboriginal employment during construction.	Section 7.5 Chapter 10
Land owners	
Local road access and road safety	Section 7.3 & Section 7.6.2
Clarence Valley Conservation Coalition	
Opportunity to comment on the environmental assessment	Chapter 5 & Section 6.6

6.6 Consultation proposed during environmental assessment exhibition

Public exhibition of the environmental assessment is a requirement of the Department of Planning. The Department of Planning is responsible for advertising the environmental assessment and the receipt of submissions.

The environmental assessment will be advertised and placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 30 days. The environmental assessment would be available for viewing at the following locations:

- Department of Planning, Head Office, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney (Monday - Friday, 8.30am - 4.30pm).
- RTA Pacific Highway Office, 21 Prince Street, Grafton (Monday - Friday, 8.30am - 4.30pm).
- Clarence Valley Council, 2 Prince Street, Grafton (Monday - Friday, 8.30am - 4.30pm).
- Coldstream Gallery, 5 Coldstream Street, Ulmarra (shopfront window).
- Tucabia Village store, 12 Cordini Street, Tucabia (Monday - Sunday, 7am - 7pm).

- Woolli Post Office, 89 Carraboi Street, Woolli (shopfront window).
- Yamba Chamber of Commerce noticeboard, corner Yamba and Coldstream streets, Yamba.
- Brooms Head Post Office, Ocean Road, Brooms Head (shopfront window).
- Tyndale Roadhouse, Pacific Highway, Tyndale (shopfront window).
- United Service Station, Lot 41 Pacific Highway, Halfway Creek.

Staffed displays and stakeholder meetings will be held during the exhibition of the environmental assessment to enable community representatives to ask questions and to provide further information for consideration in the assessment process. Staffed displays will be at the following locations:

- RTA Pacific Highway Office, 21 Prince Street, Grafton.
- Grafton Community Centre, 59 Duke Street, Grafton.

The environmental assessment will also be available on the Department of Planning's website as follows:

- <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au> (click on "Development Assessment", then "On Exhibition", then "On Exhibition Major Projects Part 3A").
- Direct link for Part 3A projects on exhibition - <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/page/on-exhibition/>.

During the environmental assessment exhibition, the community, government agencies and other interested parties are invited to make written submissions on the project to the Department of Planning. Following exhibition of the environmental assessment, the Director General, Department of Planning will consider the submissions received and provide copies of submissions or a report containing a summary of the issues raised to the RTA. The Director-General, Department of Planning will prepare a report on the project. The Minister for Planning will consider any advice from the Minister for Roads and the Director-General's report. The Minister for Planning will then decide whether or not to approve the project and the conditions to be attached.

6.7 Consultation proposed during construction

Community involvement would continue as part of the construction of the project. A community involvement plan would be developed and implemented at a time nearer to construction. Keeping the community informed will include provision of regular project updates, prior notice of project activities (including changes to traffic/ access and works outside standard working hours), and provision of contact details for enquiries.

Targeted consultation with affected individuals or groups during construction (eg DPI Forests NSW and other affected stakeholders) will occur as necessary. Further details of the communication and consultation procedures proposed are provided in the draft Statement of Commitments in Chapter 10.