



PROJECT UPDATE DECEMBER 2023

KEMPSEY-ARMIDALE ROAD RESTORATION PROJECT

Midday traffic window survey

The community were recently asked to consider three options for a midday traffic window via a survey administered through Council's Your Say webpage. The survey was conducted from Wednesday 18 October 2023 to midnight on Wednesday 1 November 2023.

The options were all based on a 14-day cycle of a 10-day work-on roster and four-day off-roster. The work on-roster would be carried out from 7am until 5pm each day with a midday shutdown to provide a one hour traffic access window.

During these periods, stakeholders would be able to travel one way on either side of Lower Creek, namely:

- Big Hill to Lower Creek OR Lower Creek to Big Hill, and
- Lower Creek to Blackbird Flat OR Blackbird Flat to Lower Creek

The survey was carried out to determine if residents of the road would consider a reduced midday traffic access window during the 10-day work-on roster which would increase productivity and reduce project duration, but provide fewer access opportunities.

The options:

Three options were presented for consideration and feedback:

A: Current traffic proposal:

A midday traffic window on each of the 10 days work on-roster either side of Lower Creek.

B: Alternative - Option 1:

A midday traffic window on 3 of the 10 days work on-roster WEST of Lower Creek.

A midday traffic window on 5 of the 10 days work on-roster EAST of Lower Creek.

C: Alternative - Option 2:

A traffic window on 2 of the 10 days work on-roster either side of Lower Creek.

For all of the three options shown above, residents would be provided with additional traffic access opportunities as follows:

- General unrestricted access on each of the four days off-roster.
- Unrestricted access between 5pm and 7am each day.

Results of the survey:

- A total of 157 people have registered for project updates via email and were sent out information inviting participation in the survey.
- Of these a total of 27 respondents participated in the survey.
- Two responses were received from each of 5 properties on the project. The remainder consisted of one response from a single property.

Summary of preferences from all respondents:

- 33.3% of stakeholders supported Current traffic proposal (includes 2 living adjacent to project).
- 14.8 % of stakeholders supported Alternative – Option 1.
- 51.9 % of stakeholders supported Alternative - Option 2.

Summary of preferences for those living / leasing / owning property on project:

- 22.2 % of stakeholders supported Current traffic proposal (includes 2 living adjacent to project).
- 14.8 % of stakeholders supported Alternative – Option 1.
- 48.1 % of stakeholders supported Alternative - Option 2.

The results of the survey were submitted to Council for its consideration.

Based on the community feedback provided in the survey, Council have decided to adopt Option 2 as the preferred midday traffic access window arrangement during main construction works.

Private property access for project related activity

Prior to, and during main construction, Council's authorised staff and Contractor's may need to access properties along the project alignment to carry out works which could have an impact on the property. The types of activities will include, but not be limited to:

- Establishment and management of ancillary sites for things like, but not limited to, concrete batching and worker accommodation.
- Temporary stockpiles.
- Upslope treatments and downslope retaining structures.
- Temporary works such as U-turn / passing bays and sidetracks.
- New drainage construction.
- Pavement resurfacing.
- Surveying.

Before any works can be undertaken, affected landowners will be consulted on the planned impacts on their property.

The **Roads Act 1993** sets out requirements which must be met in determining these agreements and also regulates what types of works can be carried out on land adjoining a public road.

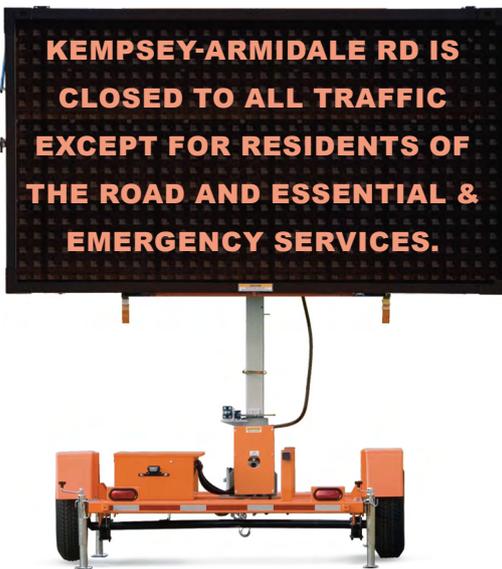
Council will be seeking to agree with landowners on the access needs of the project.

Consultation with affected landowners is important to ensure that they have a full understanding of the property access process and the exact nature of the impacts on the property.

Council will generate / prepare information packs for each property.

Generally, landowners will have an initial meeting to receive an information pack to provide them with detailed information and an opportunity to discuss any aspect of that at the time.

The information pack typically contains, but is not limited to: site plans for each impacted property, nature of the impact - temporary or permanent (life of project), a **Land Access Agreement** deed, reinstatement details and damage repair process and the type and duration of the work to be carried out.



New “Road Closed” signage and information displays

Additional signage is to be installed to advise the general public that the road is closed from Big Hill to Blackbird Flat.

The current locations at the Wollomombi and Kempsey ends of the road are being reviewed to provide better turnaround opportunities and room to safely stop to read the signs.

An additional location back from the Styx River Forest Way and Kempsey Road intersection is also being included as a new location for the “Road closed” signage.

**KEMPSEY-
ARMIDALE
ROAD CLOSED
AHEAD**

**KEMPSEY-
ARMIDALE ROAD
CLOSED AHEAD**
More information at
turn-around area
500m ahead

In addition to the above, a broader network of over 40 flyer display locations has been established to improve the reach of key messaging that the **“Kempsey-Armidale Road is closed with the only exceptions being local residents of the road and essential and emergency services”**.

These locations include, but are not limited to, local businesses in Armidale, tourist holiday parks, caravan & camping and associated retail services, tourist information centres and 4WD associations.

The area covered extends from Newcastle north to Tweed Heads along the coast and major inland routes and destinations.

Lower Creek Community Hall

Preparations are progressing for the construction of the Lower Creek Community Hall.

Council has been working with representatives from the Lower Creek Local Area Committee to ensure the hall will serve the needs of the local community.

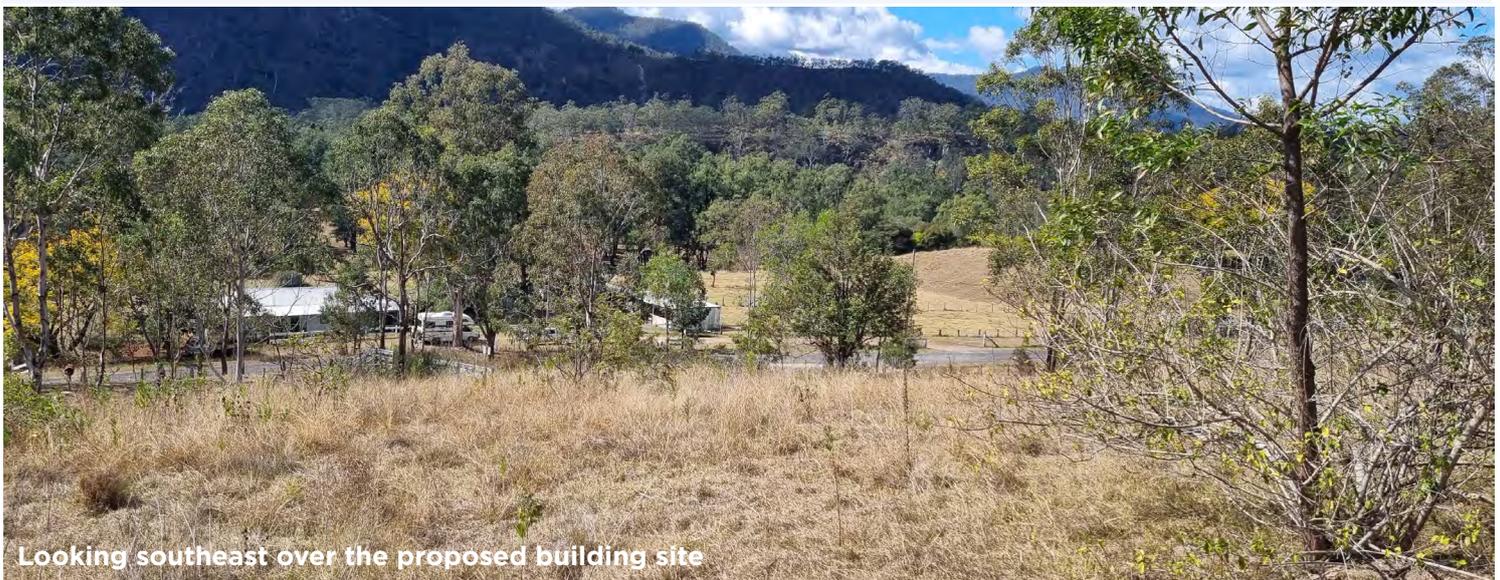
To date the following tasks have been completed:

- Geotechnical report received.
- Onsite water treatment design report received.
- Statement of Environmental Effects received and comments provided for finalisation.

- Structural drawings for the shed received with comments returned.

Tasks currently underway:

- Procurement of a building structure currently being finalised.
- Procurement of a civil works contractor underway.
- Procurement of building contractor being finalised.
- Development approvals being finalised.



Looking southeast over the proposed building site

Review of Environmental Factors

A new Review of Environment Factors (REF) has been developed for the project. This REF supersedes a previous REF written for Kempsey Road and Lower Creek Road works.

The previous REF was written based on conceptual designs, while the new REF takes into account the design developed during the Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) phase of the project.

The purpose of the REF is to describe the nature of the activities to be undertaken during construction and to document the likely impacts this will have on the environment.

The REF will ensure that a compliant **Environmental Management Plan** can be finalised to ensure that appropriate measures are put into place to protect the environment during construction.

This REF fulfils Council's obligation under section 5.5 of the EP&A Act, including to examine and take into account, to the fullest extent possible, all matters affecting or likely to affect the environment as a result of the project.

The REF is now under review and will be determined by Council in the coming weeks.

What's next

During the Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) phase of the project, Seymour Whyte Constructions have worked collaboratively with Council to advance necessary preparation and investigations to enable final costings and a works program/schedule to be determined.

Seymour Whyte Constructions have submitted their final costs and program for the main construction works and this proposal is now being considered by Council.

Christmas break

The project will shut down over Council's annual Christmas closure from 12 noon on Friday 22 December 2023 until Monday 8 January 2024.



Council's project team wishes everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



The road will be only open to local residents of the road, and emergency and essential services.

Signs are in place at either end of the project to deter non-residents from using the road.

We recognise that there may be cumulative traffic delay impacts from other roadworks. Kempsey Shire Council provides a weekly works update on its website. Link provided opposite.

The Council also has a community e-newsletter database. Call 02 6566 3200 from 9am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday to be included in the e-newsletter on the database or email: ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

Updates can be found at the links below:
(CTRL + click to follow links)

<https://www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au/Your-Valley/Ongoing-works-in-the-shire/Weekly-Works-Update>

Waterfall Way: Transport for NSW (TfNSW) provides information on its website. <https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/waterfall-way/index.html>

TfNSW also posts regularly on the Waterfall Way Community Facebook page. Link to the Facebook page provided below:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/waterfallwaycommunity>

Enquiries and more information:

Call **1300 136 833** and **press menu option 1** or email: council@armidale.nsw.gov.au

Updates can be viewed on the Armidale Regional Council website shown below:



www.armidaleregional.nsw.gov.au/kempseyroad

ARMIDALE
Regional Council