Thursday, 28 February 2019

**EIS FOR STAGE FIVE OF NEWCASTLE INNER CITY BYPASS APPROVED**

Parliamentary Secretary for Planning and the Hunter Hon. Scot MacDonald MLC today announced that the Environmental Impact Statement for the fifth stage of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass from Rankin Park to Jesmond has been approved.

Mr MacDonald said the Department of Planning and Environment carefully considered community submissions, taking on board feedback requiring further project improvements.

“As a whole-of-government approach we worked closely with the Newcastle community to ensure the best outcome for local people and that includes a full interchange at the John Hunter Hospital,” Mr MacDonald said.

“The existing Jesmond Park shared path will cross the bypass at the northern interchange in an overpass (bridge) and an underpass to ensure cyclists and pedestrians can safely cross the bypass.”

“In addition, a new shared path bridge will be built over Newcastle Road near Steel Street providing a north south connection between the shared path south of Jesmond Park with the shared path on the eastern side of the Jesmond to Shortland section of the bypass.”

Minister for Roads and Maritime Services, Melinda Pavey, said when the 3.4km bypass is completed motorists travelling north-south could avoid up to 11 sets of traffic lights along the existing route.

“This is a major win for local motorists who will enjoy faster travel times, particularly during the morning and afternoon peaks,” Ms Pavey said.

“This bypass is part of the NSW Government’s long-term strategy to provide an orbital road within Newcastle’s road network.”

“Stage five is the final link of this important arterial road that will provide traffic relief to the existing route of Lookout Road, Croudace Street and Newcastle Road, which is currently used by about 40,000 to 60,000 vehicles each day,” Liberal candidate for Wallsend Nick Trappett said.

“Today is an important step forward in delivering the final stage of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass, which was bolstered in 2017 by the NSW Liberal National Government announcing a full interchange at John Hunter Hospital,” Liberal candidate for Newcastle Blake Keating said.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was exhibited in late 2016 and 173 community submissions were received. Issues included the Jesmond Park shared path, construction traffic, noise and vibration impacts, the hospital interchange and pedestrian access.
The Department assessed the issues raised in submissions including pedestrian and cycling facilities, construction and operational traffic impacts, noise and vibration impacts during construction and operation.

The project has been approved subject to conditions which include:

- The preparation and implementation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), with sub-plans covering traffic and transport, noise and vibration, flora and fauna, air quality, soil and water, heritage and flooding, to guide the construction of the project.
- A Community Communication Strategy to facilitate communication during construction between the proponent and the community.
- Limiting heavy vehicle access through the John Hunter Hospital to the early works construction of a compound adjacent to the hospital carpark.
- The provision of adequate respite from construction (periods when noisy works cannot occur) and the early implementation of at receiver noise mitigation measures.
- Replacement trees planted in Jesmond Park must result in a net increase in trees.

For more details on the project and conditions: [https://bit.ly/2Tn5nK4](https://bit.ly/2Tn5nK4)

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