

John Oxley Drive Northern Precinct Upgrade

Concept Design

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council has developed a 'concept design' for the upgrade of John Oxley Drive as part of Council's strategic planning for the Innes Peninsula. The design focuses on the northern precinct of John Oxley Drive from The Ruins Way to Wrights Road including Major Innes Road to Forest Grove.

The need for an upgrade of John Oxley Drive has been recognised in Council's planning for a number of years due to growth in this area. Planning for this road upgrade has also been prioritised due to the approval of the Charles Sturt University campus and the proposed bulky goods retail centre at the intersection of Wrights Road and John Oxley Drive.

Listening to the Community

Council conducted a community workshop on 13 April attended by key residents and business owners of the northern precinct of John Oxley Drive.

Suggestions put forward by the community were incorporated in the design and resulted in the following outcomes;

- Improved intersection layouts to provide the capacity to handle future traffic growth
- Synchronised traffic signals to allow better traffic flow
- Traffic signals to allow safe pedestrian access, particularly for school and university students needing to cross John Oxley Drive
- Additional footpaths to improve pedestrian connectivity
- Increased accessibility to public transport and designated cycle ways
- Safer vehicular access for properties along John Oxley Drive
- Enhanced stormwater management with piped stormwater being incorporated

Driving Factors

Recent development within the northern precinct of John Oxley Drive has highlighted the need for Council to have a robust concept on how the road network would function and what it would look like.

This need is further strengthened by the traffic volumes, both now and the predicted increase into the future.

The concept is critical for informing decisions around development and for developers to know how they 'fit in' with the overall plan for the area, avoiding a piecemeal approach to development and decision making for the northern precinct on John Oxley Drive.

Council is also undertaking a review of the orbital link road options and Development Control Plan for the Innes Peninsula which will form a separate consultation as part of these planning processes.

The road upgrade being considered for John Oxley Drive will be incorporated into these planning processes.

Environmental Considerations

As a part of the design process Council undertook a preliminary desktop environmental study. This study found that the vegetated areas along John Oxley Drive are home to or provide an important food source for several threatened or endangered species like the Squirrel Glider and Grey Headed Flying Fox.



The Grey Headed Flying Fox, pictured left, is a federally listed threatened species that camp along Kooloonbung Creek and feed on the nectar and pollen of native trees including those along John Oxley Drive.



The Squirrel Glider is listed as vulnerable in NSW and is known to live in hollows and feed within the groups of trees found along John Oxley Drive.

To minimise impact on the environment and reduce the amount of trees to be removed the existing alignment of John Oxley Drive has been kept. Where native trees have been identified for removal, specifically koala food trees, they will be offset by planting at least 10 for every 1 removed on Council managed public reserve.

How did we get here?

2012 - John Oxley Drive becomes a Council owned local road.

The new Oxley Highway opens and the old Oxley Highway is renamed John Oxley Drive.

Council commissioned a detailed study to assess traffic volumes and recommend improvements along John Oxley Drive to cater for the increasing traffic. The study was completed in late 2013 and recommended certain design considerations which have been incorporated in the design

A Structure Plan for the area was produced and released in 2012. This Structure Plan provides a framework for future planning in the area between John Oxley Drive and the new alignment of the Oxley Highway.

2015 – Concept designs for the northern John Oxley precinct produced.

Consultation was undertaken with community members to help inform this concept design.

Key stakeholders will have their say on current constraints relating to the upgrade of John Oxley Drive.

Next Steps

Presentation of the concept designs to community members. Comments will be collected and used to refine the concept design.

The concept design will be reported to Council incorporating community feedback for adoption.

The concept design will become a key planning and decision making tool for the area.

This concept will be advanced to a detailed design over the next 5 years. This process will involve more in depth consideration of community concerns and comments, environmental impact, land acquisitions, stormwater drainage and construction staging.

Construction Sequencing

The staged construction and implementation of the design is anticipated to occur over the next 20 years, in line with development and rezoning of the area. The first stage will be the RMS works at Wrights Road and the intersection upgrade for the bulky goods retail development site. This is currently planned to commence within the next two years. Works are also planned for the upgrade of the intersection of Major Innes Road and Ellis Parade being undertaken by CSU.

Cost Estimate

The cost estimate to complete all the works as shown on the drawings is \$17 million. This is a strategic cost estimate and contains at least 30% contingency.