



Wednesday, 22 June 2016

JRPP approves the Byron Bay Bypass

The independent Northern Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP) has approved an application to construct new roads and make upgrades to existing roads to bypass Byron Bay's town centre.

The bypass will be approximately 1.3 kilometres in length and will include:

- constructing a new road with a pavement width of approximately 10 metres
- upgrading the existing roundabout at the intersection of Shirley, Lawson and Butler Streets
- constructing roundabout at the intersections of:
 - Butler and Somerset Streets
 - Jonson and Browning Streets
 - Butler and Browning Streets
- additional works including pedestrian crossings, pathways, drainage and infrastructure relocation, installing medians, cycling facilities, line marking and fencing
- a new level rail crossing where Browning Street crosses the rail line
- removal of one tree near the police station on Shirley Street
- possible removing of a number of trees opposite Butler Street Reserve
- removal of 1.21 hectares of native vegetation for the southern exit at Butler Street and the western exit at Browning Street.

The panel Chair, Garry West said the decision was made after hearing community and stakeholder submissions.

The proposal was exhibited for over a month from late February and received 42 submissions.

A near identical proposal was submitted to Council in June 2015 but was withdrawn in February this year as it did not include an agreement to offset land in response to clearing. This proposal received 609 submissions which were also considered in the assessment of the current proposal.

Issues raised during consultation included:

- the bypass location and length
 - effects on adjoining wetland
 - noise and amenity issues
 - potential impacts on the market site
-



Joint Regional Planning Panels

- lack of assessment of alternative routes and whether rail corridor could be used
- loss of on street parking.

“A bypass in this area has been discussed and planned for by Council since the 1980s,” Mr West said.

“A number of options have been considered and the approved route will have the smallest impacts on the environment and approximately half of the road is situated on an existing built road corridor.

A Bio Banking Agreement has been issued with biodiversity offsets to reduce the impacts on the wetlands and animals. Measures including koala fencing, street plantings and landscaping, and various environmental management plans will also be put in place.

In response to feedback received, a number of other conditions have also been placed on the project, including measures to mitigate noise on neighbouring properties to be decided after consultation with the affected neighbours, a noise management plan and noise monitoring during construction.

The bypass will help cars, cyclists and pedestrians to move around Byron Bay and ease traffic congestion in the town centre.

More information on the regional panels can be found at www.jrpp.nsw.gov.au

Media contact: *Chair Garry West 0418 215 059*



Joint Regional Planning Panels

