

All crossing
locations T.B.C.



CONVERSATION REPORT

**Draft Wanganui Road and Ford Road Shepparton
Feasibility Study Design Report, 2018**



All crossing locations T.B.C.

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FOREWORD

Greater Shepparton City Council, in conjunction with Regional Roads Victoria and GTA Consultants Pty Ltd, recently undertook a community and stakeholder engagement program relating to the Draft Wanganui Road and Ford Road Feasibility Study Design Report 2018 (Draft Report). This report summarises the approach taken, the submissions received and the next steps in the process.

Background

Council, in partnership with Regional Roads Victoria (RRV), engaged GTA Consultants Pty Ltd to undertake an investigation study into the upgrade of Ford and Wanganui Roads to serve as a key east-west arterial route connecting Stage 1 of the Shepparton Bypass with the Shepparton Alternative Route (Grahamvale Road).

The principle of Ford and Wanganui Roads serving as a direct connection between Stage 1 of the Bypass and the Shepparton Alternative Route was established in Council policy as early as 2006.

The Draft Report determines how these roads should be designed and upgraded to cater for increases in car and heavy vehicle use. It explores the options and constraints to upgrading these roads.

ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Council, in partnership with RRV and GTA Consultants Pty Ltd, engaged with all stakeholders at pre-draft and draft stages to ensure that all stakeholders have had an opportunity to have their say on the upgrade of Ford and Wanganui Roads and that all issues are known and addressed as part of the finalisation of this project.

The purpose of these consultation events was to get an understanding of any potential impacts and also the opportunities associated with any future upgrade of Ford and Wanganui Roads.

The consultation phase took the form of public notices in the Shepparton News, media releases, providing a copy of the Draft Report for inspection in the Council offices and on the Council website, letters to all land owners and occupiers along Ford and Wanganui Roads seeking submissions and finally a number of one-to-one workshops. The phases of the engagement program are set out below:



PRE-DRAFT CONSULTATION

Council wrote to approximately 700 land owners and occupiers of land along Ford and Wanganui Roads in April and May 2017, inviting interested parties to attend drop-in sessions. The purpose of these one-to-one workshops was to ensure that all issues associated with any future upgrade of Ford and Wanganui Roads were known, and that the scope of the investigation was thorough and robust.

30 people attended the Ford Road workshop held on 19 April 2017 and provided comments from Linda Court, Rosina Court, Matilda Drive, Jersey Crescent, Ryeland Drive, Holstein Court, Ayrshire Way, Ann Wood Nook, Botany Crescent and Mootwingee Crescent.

A similar exercise was undertaken for Wanganui Road in May 2017 and a drop-in session held on 7 June 2017.

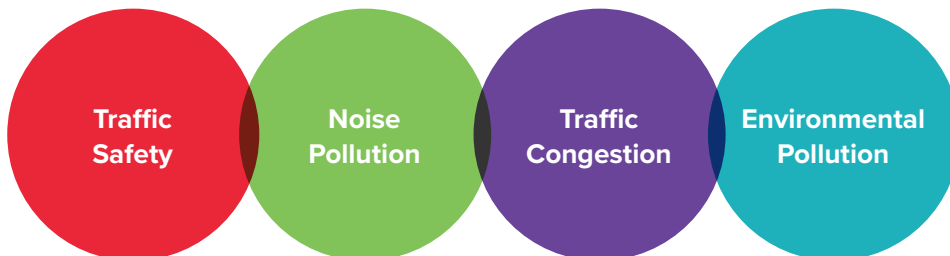
As a result of the pre-draft consultation, 18 submissions were received.

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Through these forums, Council heard a wide range of comments, queries and concerns. Below is a list of the main themes that emerged:

- Detrimental impact on safety of residents of the area;
- Additional noise pollution;
- Traffic congestion; and
- Increased pollution from truck exhausts.

One submission supported the proposal. 17 submissions opposed the proposal.



To address these concerns Council and RRV commissioned the following further studies:

- an Amenity (Acoustic) Assessment;
- a Safe System Assessment; and
- a Landscape Master Plan.

The Draft Wanganui Road and Ford Road Shepparton Feasibility Study Design Report 2018 was prepared and considered by Council. Council resolved to endorse and release the Draft Report for public comment on 20 February 2018.

DRAFT CONSULTATION

The Draft Report was released for public comment for a period of eight weeks, commencing on 26 February 2018 and concluding on 23 April 2018.

The Draft Report was made available at the Council offices and on the Council website. A media release was prepared and a public notice was published in the Shepparton News.

Further to the above, Council contacted all land owners and occupiers of land along Ford and Wanganui Roads inviting them to provide feedback on the Draft Report.

To further engage with the community, Council, in partnership with RRV and GTA Consultants Pty Ltd, conducted community drop-in sessions on:

- 6 March 2018;
- 13 March 2018; and
- 5 April 2018.

A total of 19 people attended the one-to-one sessions.

Arising from this comprehensive public consultation phase, a total of 89 submissions were received.

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Through these forums, Council heard a wide range of comments, queries and concerns. Below is a list of the main themes that emerged:

Impacts on traffic safety and the increase in traffic movements in the area is a key concern, including the increase in the number of B-Double trucks using Ford and Wanganui Roads.

Alternative alignments, many of the submissions to the Draft Report requested that Council consider alternative alignments.

Air pollution from the increased **number** of trucks was a common theme.

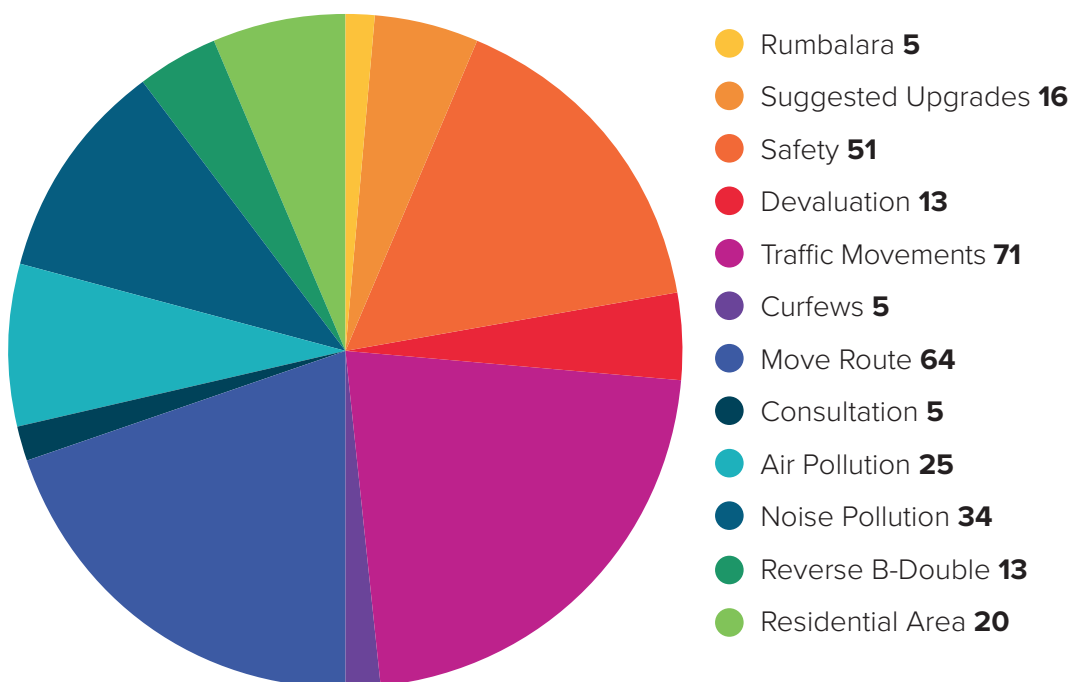
Noise pollution and the impact of traffic including B-Doubles on sleeping patterns and general residential amenity were outlined.

Impact on a residential area many of the responses noted that Ford Road is an emerging residential area and that allowing large numbers of trucks would detrimentally impact upon the amenity of the area.

Reverse B-Double status of Ford Road concerns were raised regarding the use of Ford Road by B-Doubles, especially the intersection of Grahamvale and Ford Roads.

Truck Curfews a number of submissions requested that B-Doubles not be allowed to use Ford Road during night time hours.

Property Devaluation people were concerned that their property would be devalued as a result of the use of Ford Road by B-Doubles.



As a result of the feedback Council with the assistance of GTA Consultants Pty Ltd undertook further targeted consultation regarding the community suggested alternative alignments.

Consultation on Community Suggested Alternative Alignments

On 7 May 2018, Council contacted land owners and occupiers of land in proximity to the community suggested alternative alignments to inform them that Council was assessing these alignments and requesting feedback.

Further to this, the letter noted that Council intended to undertake further targeted consultation along the community suggested alternative alignments to ensure that all parties were aware of these suggestions.

Council, with the assistance of GTA Consultants Pty Ltd undertook further community drop-in sessions on:

- 28 May 2018; and
- 30 May 2018.

A total of 11 people attended these one-to-one sessions.

As a result of consultation on the community suggested alternative alignments, a further 34 submissions were received.

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Through consultation Council heard the following:

- 9 submissions supported and 18 submissions objected to the original proposed alignment along Ford and Wanganui Roads;
- None of these further submissions supported community suggested alignment no.1, while four submissions objected to it;
- 3 submissions supported community suggested alternative alignment no.2 and five submissions objected to it;
- 8 submissions supported community suggested alternative alignment no.3 and eight submissions objected to it; and
- 8 submissions objected to community suggested alternative alignment no.4 and seven submissions supported it.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



In mid-2019, the responsibility for planning and designing changes to Wanganui and Ford Roads was formally transferred from RRV to Major Road Projects Victoria (MRPV). Subsequently, MRPV merged the business cases for the upgrade for Wanganui and Ford Roads into the Bypassing Shepparton business case, which is currently being prepared for consideration in a future State Government budget.

As a result, the intent to prepare an updated Draft Report for consideration by Council and the wider community has been superseded by work conducted by MRPV.

The future planning, design and, ultimately, the implementation and construction of any east-west arterial link is subject to future funding and consideration by the State Government.

While the future planning, design and, ultimately, the implementation and construction of any east-west arterial link is subject to future funding and consideration by the State Government, Council retains the management of Wanganui Road and Ford Road and will remain a significant stakeholder for future planning and implementation works.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held in June 2020, it will be recommended that Council transfer all submissions received to the Draft Report to MRPV.

Further community consultation would be undertaken by the relevant State Government agency prior to any upgrade of Wanganui and Ford Roads.

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