

What is the reason for this project?

The project will improve the safety of this intersection. The Huon Highway - Summerleas Road intersection has a history of crashes, mostly from right-turn movements and cross-highway traffic on Summerleas Road. The upgrade of this intersection will provide a safer road for all road users and reduce traffic delays in the area.

What will the project involve?

The design includes a grade separated intersection (put simply, a road over another road) with Summerleas Road passing under the Huon Highway. Roundabouts will be provided either side of the highway to efficiently and safely control the intersections between Summerleas Road and the Huon Highway on / off ramps. The design also includes a passing lane on the Huon Highway for traffic travelling towards the Huon Valley. This lane will begin immediately north of the Kingston interchange.

Why this design?

Analysis of crash data and traffic volumes determined that a grade separated intersection would provide the safest option for road users. The slope of the land in this area means that Summerleas Road has to pass under, rather than over, the Huon Highway. Roundabouts will provide safe turning movements between Summerleas Road and the Highway on / off ramps. The footprint of this design minimises any impact on surrounding properties and accesses.

How long will the upgrade take?

The design phase of the project is expected to be completed by mid-late 2016. Construction works are expected to commence in late 2016 and be completed by April 2018.

Will the noise at my property be different?

Careful planning has been undertaken to make sure that the design will have minimal effect on traffic noise for surrounding properties. Steps will also be taken to manage noise during the construction phase of the project.

How will pedestrians and cyclists be catered for?

A shared cyclist and pedestrian path will be provided through the underpass on one side of Summerleas Road. Pedestrians will be able to use this path in both directions. Cyclists will be able to use this path travelling towards Fern Tree.

What will happen to the view from my property?

There will be some visual impact on surrounding properties caused by raising the Huon Highway over Summerleas Road. To minimise this impact, the Huon Highway will only be raised a maximum of 1.8m (over a length of 240m).

Summerleas Road will be lowered by 4.8m to fit it under the highway. Photos and measurements taken at the intersection indicate that mountain and ocean views for surrounding properties are largely unaffected.

A clean work site that is safe and visually acceptable to the public, nearby residents and businesses will be maintained during construction. Measures will be put in place to control litter, debris and dust during construction.

What is happening to bus-stops and informal parking facilities?

Following consultation with the bus operators, the two existing bus-stops adjacent to the highway will be relocated 1km north of the intersection, near the existing pedestrian underpass linking Willowbend Road and Campbell Street (Firthside). This is a much safer location for a school bus interchange than in the vicinity of the busy intersection. The relocated stop will include walkways and access to an existing pedestrian underpass. The majority of passengers using these bus stops are students from schools in Hobart transferring from one bus to another with some local children pick up. It is not a general access bus stop. Metro provides a bus service for local residents travelling from Nolan Crescent, Adelong Drive, Willowbend Road, Malachi Drive and Whitewater Crescent to Kingston or Hobart.

The informal parking currently occurring at the intersection will not continue as this is not a safe place for parking. The large parking facility near the Kingborough Sports Centre provides a convenient and safe facility with a sealed road surface and lighting.

Why is there only one Huon bound additional overtaking lane from the Kingston Interchange to Summerleas Road?

An additional uphill overtaking lane has been incorporated in the south-bound lane of the Huon Highway to allow for safe overtaking of slow moving vehicles –this lane has been included to address a safety issue, where slow moving heavy vehicles are currently pulling into the gravel to let other vehicles pass. This safety issue is not applicable to north-bound (downhill) traffic. Traffic modelling for the design confirmed that based on an optimistic traffic growth, there is no need for an additional north bound lane.

How will travel along the Huon Highway, Summerleas Road and property accesses be affected when construction commences?

Stakeholders will be informed well before any construction works start on this project. Construction will be staged and traffic managed to reduce impacts on traffic flow, nearby residents and properties.

Travel along Summerleas Road and the Huon Highway will be maintained with appropriate traffic management and construction methods. There may be limited periods where the highway and/or Summerleas Rd will need to be closed and appropriate diversions will be in place should a road closure be required. The general public and affected landowners will be notified of proposed delays or detours with sufficient notification and signage. Priority will be given to keep bus movements functional during construction, especially at peak times.

Access to residences, Kingston High School, Southern Lights Hotel, Kingston Cemetery and the sports facilities will be maintained at all times, unless required for a short period of time in consultation with the property owner. Pedestrian access especially for Kingston High School and sports facilities will be provided.

Who do I contact for further information?

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