

Community update

September 2005



Southern Cross Drive and Gardeners Road, Eastlakes Proposed traffic ramps

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) is developing a proposal to provide direct access between Southern Cross Drive and Gardeners Road at Eastlakes. South-facing ramps (northbound exit to Gardeners Road and southbound entry to Southern Cross Drive) are being considered. This community update is to provide you with information about the proposal. This is a NSW State Government project.

Background

The NSW State Government is planning to make improvements to the South Sydney road network.

Access between Southern Cross Drive and Gardeners Road at Eastlakes has been identified as a project that would provide benefits for the community.

Southern Cross Drive is the major north-south arterial route between Botany and the city. It is an important link for commuters travelling between Kingsford Smith Airport and the city centre and North Sydney. Gardeners Road is an arterial road that runs east-west from Kingsford, through Eastlakes and Rosebery, to the Princes Highway.

- Removing the existing signalised pedestrian crossing near Tunstall Avenue.
- Installation of a signalised intersection with pedestrian crossings at Slattery Place.
- Local area traffic management.

Benefits of the proposal

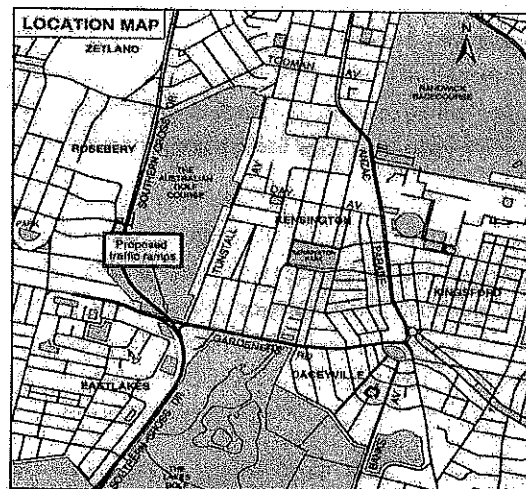
The construction of south-facing traffic ramps between Southern Cross Drive and Gardeners Road would provide benefits to both the local community and to through traffic, including:

- Improved accessibility to local and regional places.

Key features of the proposal

The RTA is considering:

- Construction of a single-lane, northbound exit ramp from Southern Cross Drive to provide one left slip lane and two right-turn lanes into Gardeners Road.
- Construction of a single-lane, southbound entry ramp from Gardeners Road to Southern Cross Drive.
- Two westbound lanes on Gardeners Road between the ramps.
- Installation of traffic signals at the intersections of the ramps with Gardeners Road, including provision for pedestrians.



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- Improved traffic flow and reduced travel time by easing traffic congestion in areas to the north of these ramps, during both morning and afternoon peak periods.
- Improved safety for all road users, including pedestrians and cyclists.

What has happened so far?

The RTA is working on a design for the traffic ramps. Site and utility investigations (water, telecommunications, sewage, electricity services etc.) have been carried out.

Traffic data on Gardeners Road and adjoining local roads has been collected and possible noise issues are being examined.

Local area traffic management

Some traffic exiting Southern Cross Drive will access local destinations. Discussions and submissions to date have raised several ideas and options for managing this traffic flow.

The next step is to consider possible changes to traffic movements in the area around the proposed ramps. The area to be considered is bounded by Southern Cross Drive, Gardeners Road, Anzac Parade and Todman Avenue.

Initial investigations note there is unlikely to be traffic impacts on areas to the west of Southern Cross Drive. How well the Kingsford roundabout will operate will also be assessed.

Local area traffic management options are being developed with the community's input. Community issues will be considered alongside traffic studies to identify options for local traffic management.

A working party consisting of local council, residents, the RTA and the Member for Heffron has been considering options for local area traffic management. These options will be provided to the community for comment shortly. The preferred option will then form part of the proposal to be the subject of a review of environmental factors.

The final proposal

Traffic modelling and analysis (including local area traffic management options and an assessment of how well the Kingsford roundabout will function with these options) is currently underway. The RTA will then prepare the following environmental studies on the preferred project:

- Air quality assessment
- Urban design analysis and assessment
- Heritage assessment
- Flora and fauna assessment
- Community considerations including local access, noise, visual and other potential impacts and benefits.

These studies will be compiled to form the Review of Environmental Factors. This document will be publicly displayed for community comment. The display dates and venues will be advertised in local newspapers and on the RTA website.

Feedback from the community will then provide important information to the RTA on issues and concerns to be considered when deciding whether to proceed and finalising the proposal.

For further information

For further information about the project please contact RTA project manager Kali Gupta on (02) 8814 2249 or email Kali_Gupta@rta.nsw.gov.au.

General information about the project can be obtained by calling toll-free on 1800 633 332. Information is also available on the RTA website www.rta.nsw.gov.au.