

What's in it for me?

By being involved and completing our Registration Form, you will receive information such as future Newsletters. If you desire, once completed, we will send you a CD version of the EIS and accompanying Specialist Consultant Reports, free of charge.

The First Community Forum

The First Community Forum will be held between 6:30pm and 8:30pm on Wednesday, 4 June 2008 at Orange City Council offices. The forum will involve three components.

1. An introduction to the environmental impact assessment process and how the EIS is being prepared.
2. A presentation of an overview of the proposal, including an overview of the results of the existing environment assessments and identification of the constraints on the design of the road identified during those assessments.
3. A discussion session where you can raise issues of interest and any concerns about the proposal.

A Second Community Forum will be held to discuss the measures taken by Council to address the constraints and concerns identified during the community consultation and existing environment assessments.

First Community Forum:

Wednesday, 4 June 2008

6:30pm to 8:30pm
Orange City Council Offices
Cnr Byng Street and Lords Place
ORANGE NSW 2800

Please telephone 6362 5411 (8:30am to 5:00pm) to indicate how many members of your family/household would like to attend the First Community Forum.

How can I have an input?

Should you have particular queries about the proposal, please contact Mr Mitchell Bland of R.W. Corkery & Co. Pty. Limited on 6362 5411. Alternatively, please complete the attached community Feedback Form now or following the First Community Forum and post, fax or email it to R.W. Corkery & Co. Pty. Limited at the number / address below.

Finally, if you would like to receive a copy of future newsletters, please complete the attached Registration Form for Community Consultation and return it to us by post, fax or email. Alternatively, a collection box for this form and the Feedback Form will be available at the First Community Forum.

Facilitated by:



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Purpose of Newsletter

This newsletter aims to inform the local and wider community about the proposed North Orange By-pass and the environmental impact assessment process, including Community Involvement.

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Community Forum Newsletter for the Proposed North Orange By-pass (Astill Drive to Mitchell Highway)

Environmental Impact Statement Commissioned for the North Orange By-pass

Orange City Council (Council) has commissioned R.W. Corkery & Co. Pty. Limited (RWC), a respected and experienced Orange-based environmental consultancy group, together with a team of specialist consultants (the Project Team), to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the construction and use of a two-lane rural road from the current eastern end of the

Northern Distributor Road at Astill Drive to Chinamans Bend on the Mitchell Highway (referred to hereafter as the North Orange By-pass). An invaluable component in the assessment of the proposed North Orange By-pass will be the involvement of the local community comprising residents, businesses and community interest groups.

Why Consult with the Local Community?

Council and RWC recognise the importance of involving the local community in the environmental impact assessment process. This involvement is to ensure that the local community is informed about the proposal and that issues or concerns important to the local community are identified, and where possible, appropriate solutions and strategies are developed and documented in the EIS.

This involvement also provides the community with an opportunity to be involved in the design and planning for the North Orange By-pass through suggestions and discussion as part of the organised Community Forums.

Council and RWC welcomes the involvement of any member of the community, organisation or group in the Community Forum process to ensure that all individuals or groups have the opportunity to express their concerns or raise issues relevant to the proposed North Orange By-pass. Where appropriate, individuals can be met on a one-to-one basis.

Why the Contact with me?

By involving you during the preparation of the EIS for the proposed North Orange By-pass, it provides you with an opportunity to tell us about your opinions as they relate to the proposal and your expectations of issues to be addressed in the EIS. Invariably, projects that proceed following genuine community consultation, are better designed and managed because all relevant issues were discussed during the preparation of the EIS.

The North Orange By-pass - What's Proposed

Council proposes to construct a two-lane rural road to link the existing Northern Distributor Road at Astill Drive with the Mitchell Highway at Chinamans Bend. This would extend the existing Northern Distributor Road to form a by-pass around Orange and would allow heavy and other vehicles to by-pass urban roads within Orange. In addition, the proposed by-pass road would allow residents of Orange and others an alternate travel route than the existing Mitchell Highway route via Summer Street between the eastern and western sections of Orange

The road would be constructed in a corridor approximately 6.1km in length and between 30m to 45m wide (the "Road Corridor").

Council intends to initially construct the formation of the road in a number of stages. This would be followed by construction of the intersections with the existing road network, namely at Ophir Road, Icelly Road and the Mitchell Highway. Finally, Council would seal and then open the entire length of the proposed North Orange By-pass at the completion of the construction phase. Council anticipates that construction of the North Orange By-pass would be completed by late 2010.

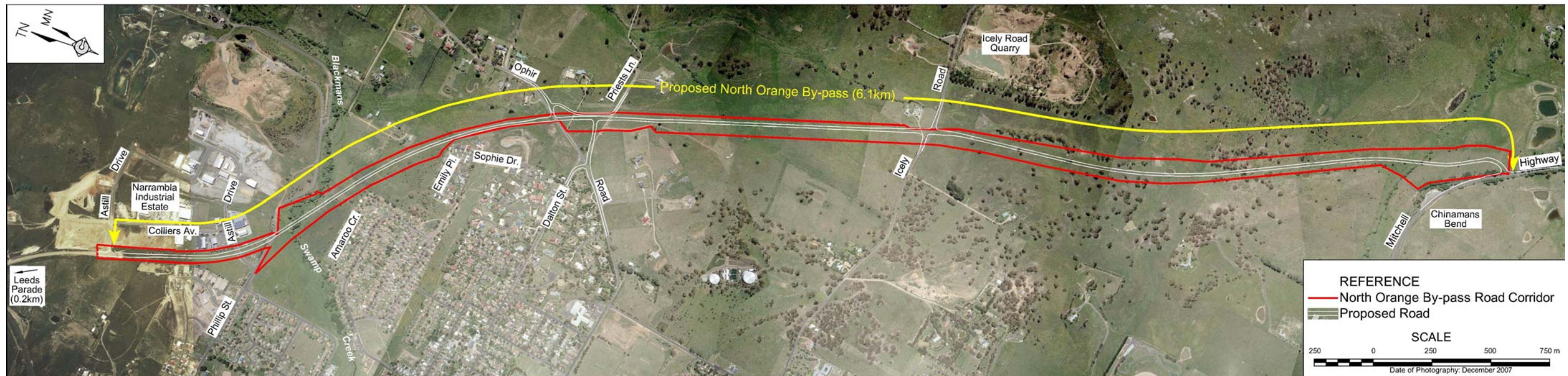
How will the road be designed and

It is proposed that the North Orange By-pass will:

- be constructed to a two-lane rural road standard, with one lane in each direction. The road design will allow a speed limit of 100km/hr, ie. 7m wide sealed pavement with two 1.5m wide sealed shoulders;
- use appropriate intersection designs with existing roads;
- use appropriate noise abatement methods, where required;
- be surfaced with a two-coat bitumen seal or asphaltic surface. The road width, surface and line markings would be similar to the existing Northern Distributor Road (see photograph below); and
- use a bridge structure for the Blackmans Swamp Creek Crossing.

It is proposed that construction will occur between 7:00am and 6:00pm Monday to Friday and between 8:00am and 6:00pm on Saturday. No construction is proposed on Sundays or public holidays.

The construction of the road will involve the use of environmentally responsible construction techniques and methods, together with the use of best practice safeguards. The outcomes from the environmental investigations undertaken during the preparation of the EIS will be evaluated and, where appropriate, reflected in the design of the road. This will be particularly relevant to noise mitigation measures.



EIS Preparation

A two stage investigation and assessment process is being followed to provide the Project Team with a good understanding of the issues that need to be considered during the design, construction and operation of the North Orange By-pass.

During the first stage, the Project Team is studying the existing environment in the vicinity of the Road Corridor to identify any constraints upon the design of the proposed road. Those aspects of the environment that are being examined include the following.

- Noise.
- Traffic.
- Surface Water and Soils.
- Air Quality.
- Ecology.
- Indigenous Heritage.
- Non-indigenous Heritage.

Measures that should be put in place to minimise any potential impacts would also be considered as part of the assessment.

This work is nearing completion and the results of these assessments will be presented at the First Community Forum.

During Stage 2 of the investigation and assessment process, Council will take into consideration each of the constraints and concerns identified during the above studies and the community and government agency consultation and will attempt to address as many as possible in preparing the final design of the proposed North Orange By-pass. This design will be presented at the Second Community Forum and in the completed EIS.

Once completed, the EIS will provide:

- a detailed description of the proposed North Orange By-pass;
- details on the need for and benefits of the proposal;
- an assessment of all relevant environmental constraints relating to the proposed route;
- construction techniques, methods and ancillary works;
- rehabilitation strategies; and
- details on the operation of the road.



Photo Source: Orange City Council