

Traffic improvements on Old Northern Road from Castle Hill to Baulkham Hills

Engagement Report

Roads and Maritime Services | May 2019



Executive summary

This report provides a summary of Roads and Maritime Services' engagement with the community and key stakeholders about new and extended clearways on Old Northern Road between Showground Road, Castle Hill and Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills, as well as changes to the southbound bus lane on Old Northern Road between Raemot Lane and Windsor Road.

Roads and Maritime traffic investigations found that new and extended clearways along Old Northern Road were required to preserve capacity and improve safety on this important road corridor. Our investigations into on-street business customer parking along Old Northern Road identified that business parking south of Raemot Lane would be impacted; however, sufficient offset car parking spaces were available in existing side streets and public car parks.

We also investigated the efficiency of the existing weekday 6am to 10am southbound bus lane between Raemot Lane and Windsor Road. Our investigation found that extending the bus lane hours to operate 24 hours would increase the capacity for buses to get through this busy intersection that connects to Windsor Road.

On 6 September 2018, Roads and Maritime informed the community and key stakeholders, including business owners about the proposed changes to the clearways and bus lane hours on Old Northern Road. We engaged with the community and asked for feedback on the alternative business customer parking (see Appendix A – Project Update September 2018).

During the engagement period, the following feedback was received:

- Verbal responses from 9 individuals from doorknocking 15 business along Old Northern Road
- Verbal feedback from 15 community members and 1 written feedback at an information kiosk
- 13 written feedback from businesses, residents and other stakeholders
- 1 comment and 3 reactions on social media and
- 1 petition signed by 293 people raising concerns about the proposed bus lane changes.

The key matters raised included support for the new and extended clearways and bus lane hours, the need for clearways, the extension of bus lane hours and parking impacts on local businesses.

Additionally, we received a request from the office of The Hon David Elliott MP, Baulkham Hills requesting Roads and Maritime to look at other parking options and a request to find effective solutions to mitigate the loss of business customer parking due to the 24 hour bus lane.

A detailed summary of the feedback and responses can be found in the section of this document titled: **“Feedback summary and Roads and Maritime’s response”**.

The decision

Roads and Maritime would like to thank everyone who provided feedback. After considering the feedback received, Roads and Maritime will proceed with the new and extended clearways and 24 hour bus lane on Old Northern Road. Roads and Maritime has offered funding to The Hills Shire Council to reconfigure the public car parks on Railway Street and Raemot Lane to provide additional parking spaces for business customers.

The new and extended clearways and 24 hour bus lane will operate as shown in Table 1 and Table 2 below:

Table 1 - Existing and new clearways on Old Northern Road between Showground Road and Windsor Road.

| | Existing Clearways | New Clearways |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Weekdays | 6am-10am and 3pm-7pm (both directions) | 6am-7pm (both directions) |
| Weekends and public holidays | No clearways | 9am-6pm (both directions) |

Table 2 - Existing and new bus lane hours on Old Northern Road between Raemot Lane and Windsor Road

| | Existing Bus Lane Hours | New Bus Lane Hours |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Weekdays | 6am-10am (southbound) | 24 hours (southbound) |
| Weekends and public holidays | No bus lane hours | 24 hours (southbound) |

There will be no changes to existing parking restrictions on this section of Old Northern Road outside of the new clearway and bus lane hours.

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Introduction

Background

On 1 December 2013, the NSW Government released the Sydney Clearways Strategy as a key initiative to reduce congestion on Sydney's state roads. The strategy identifies over 1000 kilometres of state roads on key corridors across Sydney, which may benefit from the introduction of new and extended clearways. The strategy aims to increase the performance of Sydney's state roads by introducing new or extended clearways on roads that are experiencing congestion and not operating at full capacity to efficiently transport people and goods across the Sydney metropolitan area.

The NSW Government's Long Term Transport Master Plan outlines a number of responses to traffic congestion in Sydney, aimed at improving travel on Sydney's roads in both the short and the long term. One of the primary means to achieve this is the use of clearways.

Traffic growth in Sydney has reached a point where there is a need to consider further improvements in the use of the existing road network to reduce travel times. The current clearways network has been in place for several decades, and has proven to be effective in improving travel times during traditional peak hours. A particular need has been identified to extend clearways for weekend travel, where traffic growth has led to congestion levels similar to that of weekday peak periods.

The Sydney Clearways Strategy also sets out a process for engaging with local communities and councils for investigations of alternative business customer parking to minimise impacts on local businesses.

The NSW Government has committed \$121 million to the Sydney Clearways Strategy which includes assisting local councils with alternative business customer parking solutions where feasible. So far, we have delivered over 550 kilometres of new and extended weekend and weekday clearways across the Sydney road network under the Sydney Clearways Strategy.

Old Northern Road is a key state road (number 160) connecting Sydney's northern suburbs to the Parramatta CBD managed and maintained by Roads and Maritime.

The section of Old Northern Road between Showground Road and Windsor Road is 3.5 kilometres in length in each direction and has two lanes in both directions. Investigations carried out in December 2017 found that this section of Old Northern Road would benefit from new weekend and extended weekday clearways to improve journey times for around 32,000 vehicles travelling on this busy corridor every day.

Existing weekday clearways operate in both directions from 6am to 10am and from 3pm to 7pm. There are other existing parking restrictions such as 'No Parking', 'No Stopping' and 'Bus Zone' that operate along the corridor. There is an existing bus lane in the southbound direction of Old Northern Road between Raemot Lane and Windsor Road that operates from 6am to 10am Monday to Friday with 1P parking restrictions at other times. Parking is available in the two public car parks adjacent to Raemot Lane and Railway Street and in nearby side streets.

The proposal

Roads and Maritime proposed to introduce new weekend and extended weekday clearways on Old Northern Road between Showground Road, Castle Hill and Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills. A map of the corridor and the new and extended clearways hours are shown in Figure 1. The new clearways will operate in both directions on Old Northern Road from:

- 6am to 7pm on weekdays
- 9am to 6pm on weekends and public holidays.

The proposal also included converting the existing southbound 6am-10am bus lane on Old Northern Road between Raemot Lane and Windsor Road into a 24 hour bus lane (see inset on map in Figure 1 for details). This connects the adjoining 24 hour southbound bus lane on Old Northern Road to Windsor Road, which will increase capacity for buses to get through this busy intersection.

The introduction of new and extended clearways and the extension of the bus lane hours will restrict parking in the kerbside lane to enable more vehicles to pass through each traffic light cycle. This should improve the efficiency of the intersection and improve travel time reliability for all road users.

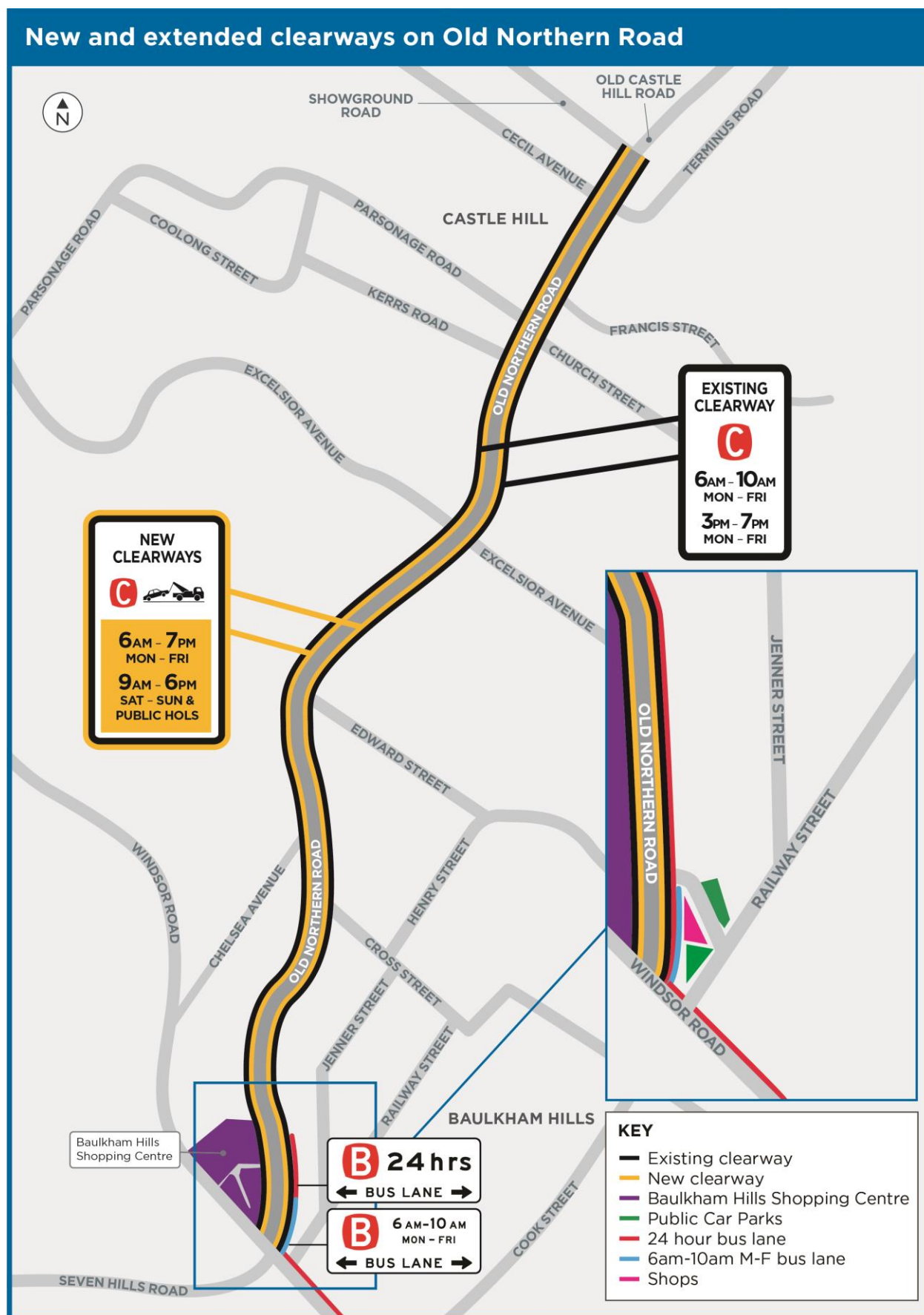
Existing 'No Parking' and 'No Stopping' restrictions and sections of unrestricted parking will continue to operate outside the clearway hours.

In May 2018, Roads and Maritime investigated business customer parking along Old Northern Road between Showground Road, Castle Hill and Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills to determine the demand for parking. The study assessed the location and duration of business customer parking with the aim to determine if alternative business customer parking arrangements were required.

The investigations identified that up to nine timed 1P parking spaces in front of businesses southbound of Old Northern Road between Raemot Lane and Windsor Road would be impacted to complete the 24 hour bus lane. Our investigations also found that there is available capacity in the public car parks adjacent to Raemot Lane and Railway Street to facilitate the removal of nine parking spaces at this section of Old Northern Road.

On 6 September 2018, Roads and Maritime sought feedback from the community, businesses and stakeholders on the business customer parking arrangements.

Figure 1 - Clearways on Old Northern Road (September 2018 project update)



Engagement approach

Engagement objectives

Roads and Maritime engaged with the community to understand their concerns and needs, so that this feedback can be considered as part of the decision making process where possible.

This allows Roads and Maritime to:

- seek comment, feedback, ideas and suggestions for consideration when making a decision on a matter that has not yet been determined;
- advise directly affected stakeholders of changes and/or proposals;
- build a database of interested and concerned community members with whom to continue engagement with during the project's development and delivery; and
- advise the community on how they can obtain further information and communicate feedback.

How engagement was done

Roads and Maritime adopted an 'inform' and 'consult' engagement approach for this project to:

- 'Inform' the community, businesses and other stakeholders on the extended weekday and new weekend clearways hours, as these have been determined based on traffic volumes and travel times; and
- 'Consult' on the proposed alternative business parking and extension of bus lane hours to ensure the best solution is taken forward based on the local business parking needs.

Roads and Maritime commenced engagement with the community and stakeholders on Thursday 6 September 2018 and feedback closed on Friday 28 September 2018 (see Table 3 - Community and stakeholder engagement timeline).

Table 3 - Community and stakeholder engagement timeline

| Method | Event | Date |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Stakeholder Meetings | Phone calls to: Member for Castle Hill, Ray Williams MP Member for Baulkham Hills, David Elliott MP. | Phone call on 23 May 2018 |
| | Briefed office of Member for Castle Hill, Ray Williams MP. | 27 July 2018 |
| | Briefed office of Member for Baulkham Hills, David Elliott MP. | 27 July 2018 9 November 2018 7 December 2018 |
| | Meeting with The Hills Shire Council. | 30 May 2018 – Briefing to council staff 7 August 2018 – Briefing to councillors on Clearways Program |
| | Doorknocked directly impacted businesses on Old Northern Road. | 6 September 2018 |

| Method | Event | Date |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| | Follow up meetings with community, stakeholders and businesses. | Throughout feedback period |
| September 2018 Project Update Distribution | Project Update (see Appendix A – Project Update September 2018) distributed to 1,800 properties within the distribution area (see Appendix B – Distribution Area). | 6 September 2018 |
| | Project Update emailed to local MPs. | 6 September 2018 |
| | Project Update emailed to key stakeholders including Local Councils, police, emergency services and utility companies. | 6 September 2018 |
| | Information about the kiosk was included in the Project Update. | 6 September 2018 |
| Website | Project webpage with information including the Project Update. | 6 September 2018 |
| Social media post | Facebook post (see Appendix C – Social Media Post) to inform of the project and link to the project page. | 6 September 2018 |
| Media Release | Media Release issued to advise of the proposed clearway. | 6 September 2018 |
| Information kiosk | The Clearways project team was available to discuss the clearway and business customer parking arrangements with the public at Baulkham Hills Shopping Centre in Baulkham Hills. | 13 September 2018 |
| December 2018 Project Update Distribution | Doorknock directly affected businesses. | 13 December 2018 |
| | Project Update (see Appendix D – Project Update December 2018) distributed to 1,800 properties within the distribution area (see Appendix B – Distribution Area). | 14 December 2018 |
| | Project Update emailed to local MPs. | 14 December 2018 |
| | Project Update emailed to key stakeholders including Local Councils, police, emergency services and utility companies. | 14 December 2018 |
| | | |

Engagement summary

Overview

On 6 September 2018, Roads and Maritime informed the community and key stakeholders, including business owners, about changes to the clearway hours and bus lane hours. We sought feedback on the alternative business customer parking arrangements.

The community was informed through a project update distributed to 1,800 properties along Old Northern Road and surrounding areas (see Appendix B – Distribution Area). As part of the engagement, 15 businesses were doorknocked.

A geo-targeted social media post (see Appendix C – Social Media Post) was also published on Facebook on 6 September 2018. This enabled us to target the wider community and road users who travel along the road corridor to inform them of the changes, the kiosk and encourage feedback. The posts which reached about 2,800 people, received a total of 51 post clicks, with 3 positive reactions and 1 comment. The comment requested alternative business customer parking options.

During the feedback period between 6 September and 28 September 2018, Roads and Maritime received a number of feedback from key stakeholders, community members and residents, who either provided support for the proposed changes, suggested other changes or raised a number of concerns. We also received a petition with 293 signatures opposing the extension of the bus lane hours to 24 hours bus lane and the removal of nine parking spaces outside the Baulkham Hills shops.

Subsequent to the close of engagement period, we received a request from the office of The Hon David Elliott MP, Baulkham Hills requesting Roads and Maritime to look at other parking options and a request to find effective solutions to mitigate the loss of business customer parking due to the 24 hour bus lane. A summary of the feedback received during the community engagement period is shown in Table 4 - Feedback received via email and direct stakeholder engagement.

On 14 December 2018, a Project Update (Appendix D – Project Update December 2018) was distributed to stakeholders in relation to the project. This update advised that Roads and Maritime have listened to the community and will carry out further parking investigations into the parking availability behind the Baulkham Hills shops. There have been no new issues raised in the feedback received after the distribution of the December Project Update.

In summary, key matters raised included:

- support for the new and extended clearways and bus lane hours
- the need for new and extended clearways
- the need for extension of the bus lane hours
- impact on local businesses, particularly parking and loading

Feedback and Roads and Maritime's responses

Roads and Maritime has summarised the feedback received and provided responses below in Table 4 - Feedback received via email and direct stakeholder engagement.

All feedback has been considered to help Roads and Maritime make decisions on the alternative business customer parking arrangements. Matters raised during the engagement period that are out of scope of this project have been forwarded to the relevant bodies/departments.

Feedback summary and Roads and Maritime's response

Table 4 - Feedback received via email and direct stakeholder engagement

| Category | Feedback | Roads and Maritimes' response |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Why clearways in my area? | I support the clearways, it's a great idea. | The NSW Government announced the Sydney Clearways Strategy in December 2013 as one of its key initiatives to reduce congestion on Sydney's major roads. |
| | I do not agree that a clearway is warranted in this location. | <p>The strategy identifies over 1,000 kilometres of state roads on key corridors across Sydney, which may benefit from the introduction of new and extended weekday and new weekend clearways, to improve the movement of goods and people. These routes were identified, based on an assessment of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • directional traffic flows exceed 800 vehicles per hour per lane • strategic bus or freight corridor • travel speeds are 30km/h or below during peak periods. <p>Old Northern Road was identified in the Sydney Clearways Strategy and plays a vital role in Sydney's transport network. It is identified as a strategically important tertiary freight corridor in the 'NSW Freight and Ports Strategy'. It has also been identified as a rapid bus route in Transport for New South Wales's 'Sydney's Bus Future' Strategy.</p> <p>The graphs in Figure 2 to Figure 9 below show traffic volume data for December 2017. The red line marked on the graphs show where 800 vehicles per hour are travelling on Old Northern Road, where anything above the line is more than 800 vehicles per hour and provision of two travel lanes would improve traffic flow.</p> <p>The graphs in Figure 10 to Figure 13 show the average travel speeds on Old Northern Road. The black line marked on the graph shows a 30km/h travel speed, where anything above the line is less than 30km/h.</p> <p>There are existing weekday peak period clearways that operate in both directions from 6am to 10am and from 3pm to 7pm with existing parking restrictions along most of the corridor on weekdays and weekends.</p> <p>During our investigations, we found that the clearways conditions meet the criteria for this corridor.</p> <p>The investigations showed that this section of Old Northern Road would benefit from new weekend and extended weekday clearways based on hourly traffic volumes and travel times.</p> |

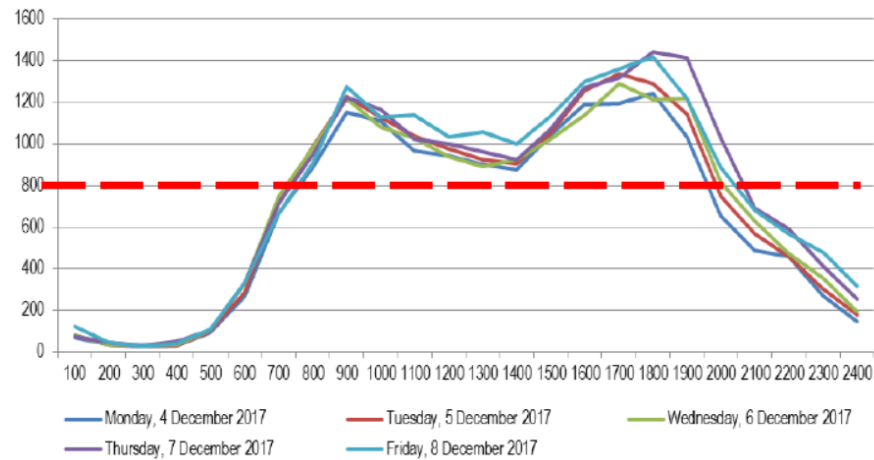


Figure 2 - Weekday northbound traffic volumes on Old Northern Road through two lanes at Excelsior Avenue intersection.

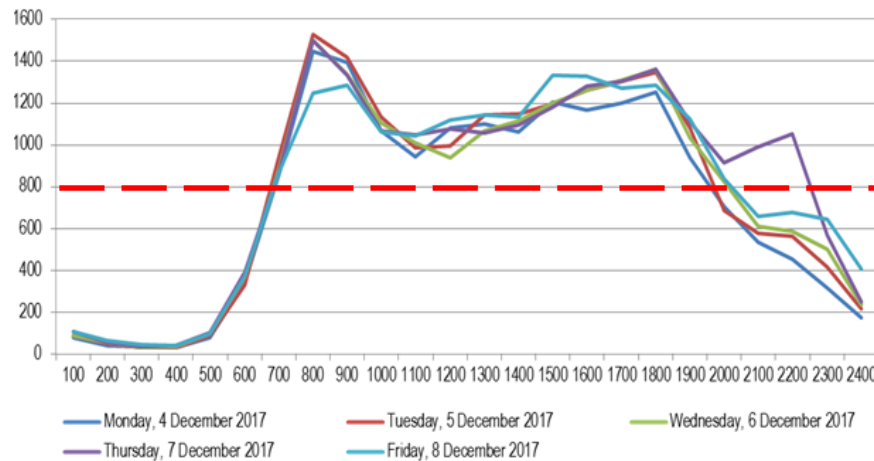


Figure 3 - Weekday southbound traffic volumes on Old Northern Road through two lanes at Excelsior Avenue intersection.

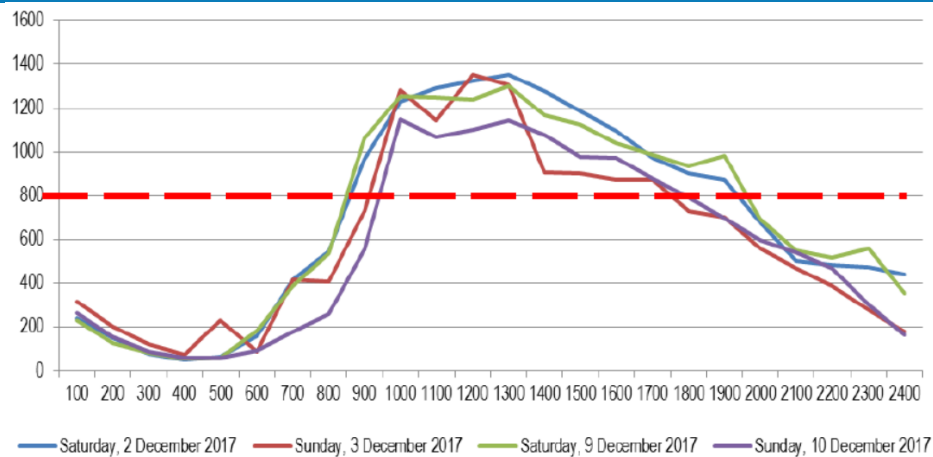


Figure 4 - Weekend northbound traffic volumes on Old Northern Road through two lanes at Excelsior Avenue intersection.

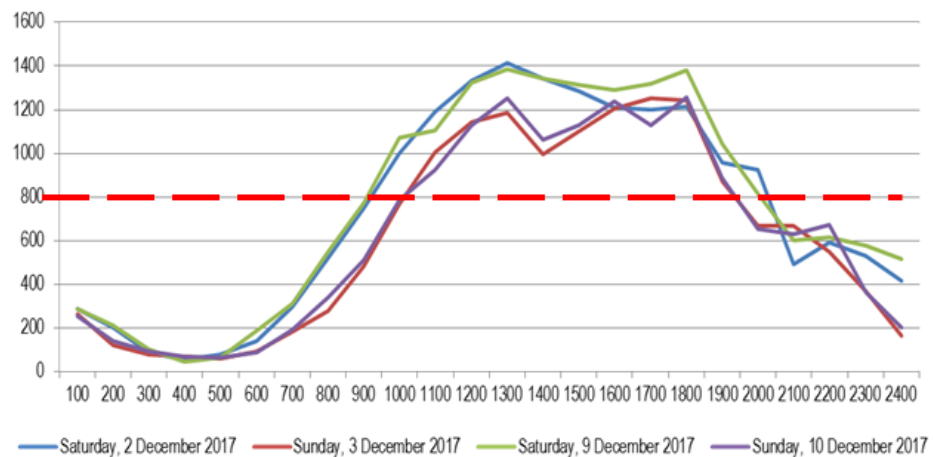


Figure 5 - Weekend southbound traffic volumes on Old Northern Road through two lanes at Excelsior Avenue intersection.

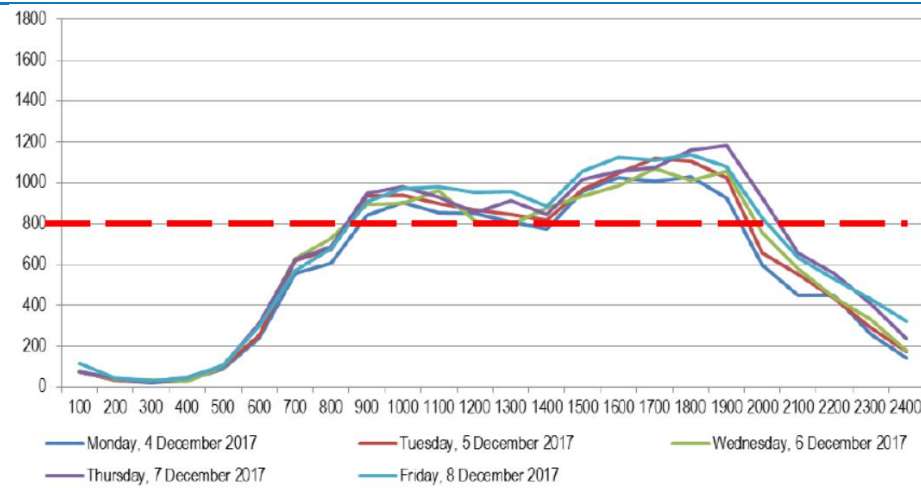


Figure 6 - Weekday northbound traffic volumes on Old Northern Road through two lanes at Edward Street intersection.

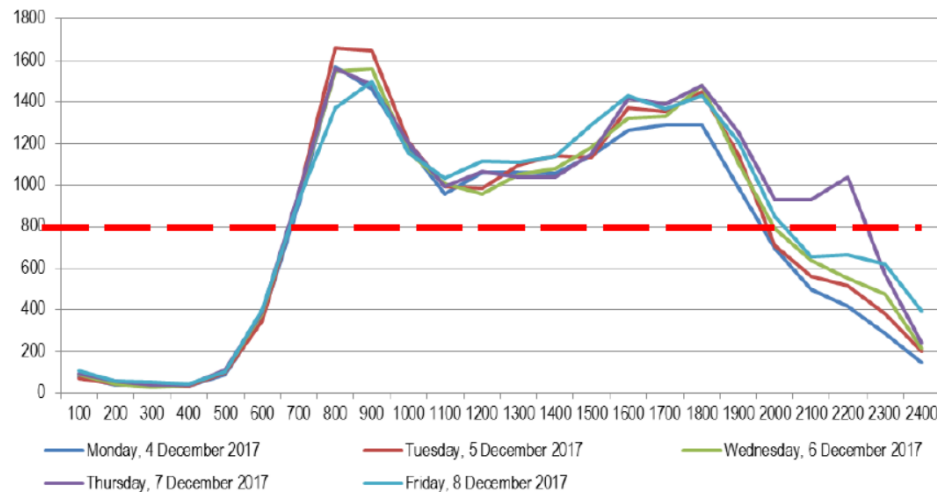


Figure 7 - Weekday southbound traffic volumes on Old Northern Road through two lanes at Edward Street intersection.

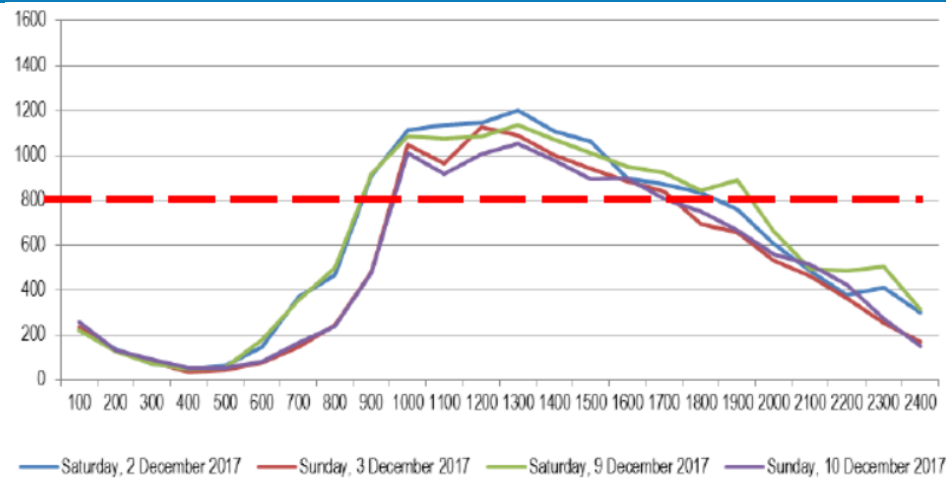


Figure 8 - Weekend northbound traffic volumes on Old Northern Road through two lanes at Edward Street intersection.

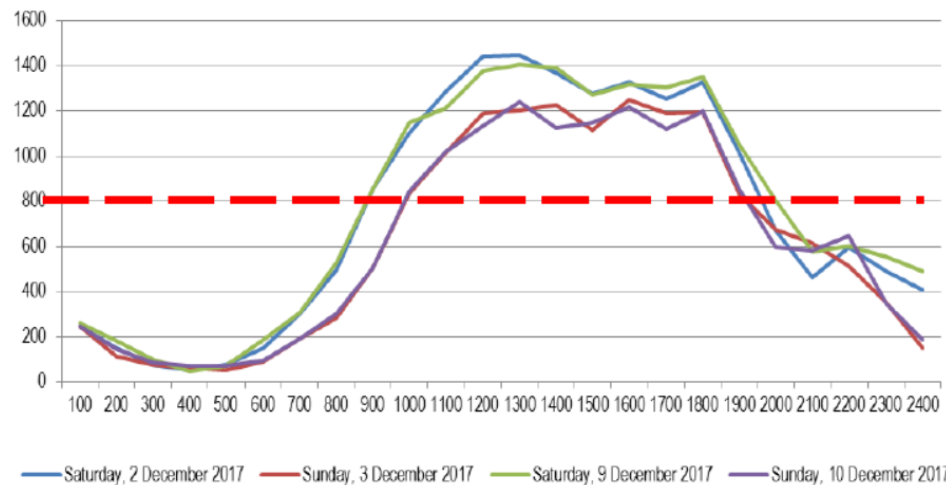


Figure 9 - Weekend southbound traffic volumes on Old Northern Road through two lanes at Edward Street intersection.

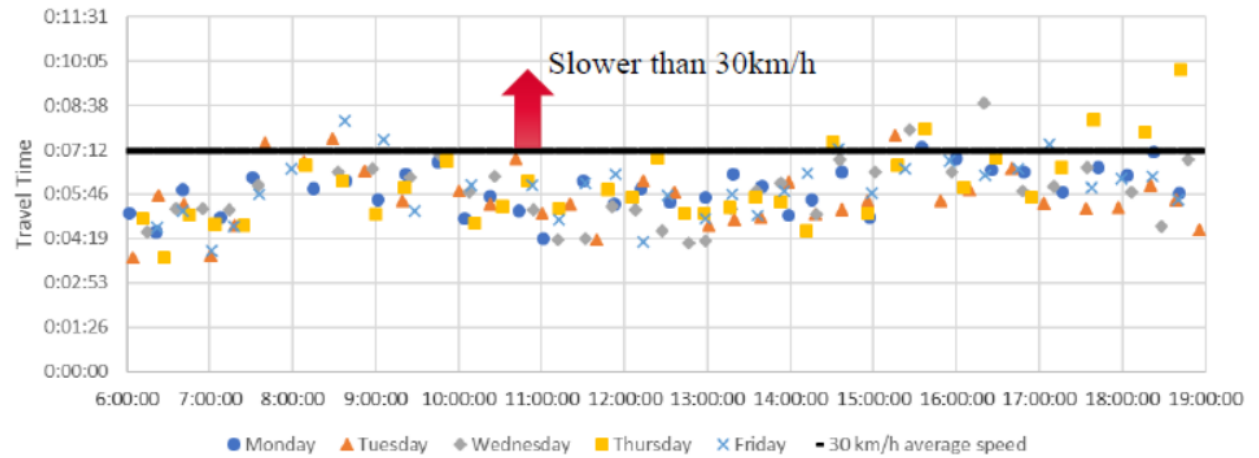


Figure 10 - Weekday northbound travel speeds on Old Northern Road between Showground Road and Windsor Road.

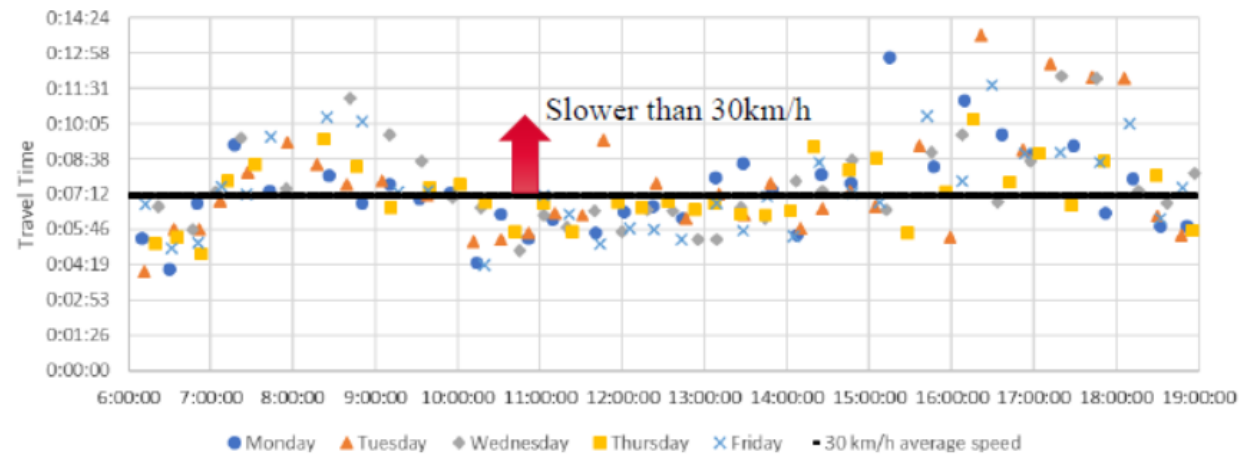


Figure 11 - Weekday southbound travel speeds on Old Northern Road between Showground Road and Windsor Road.

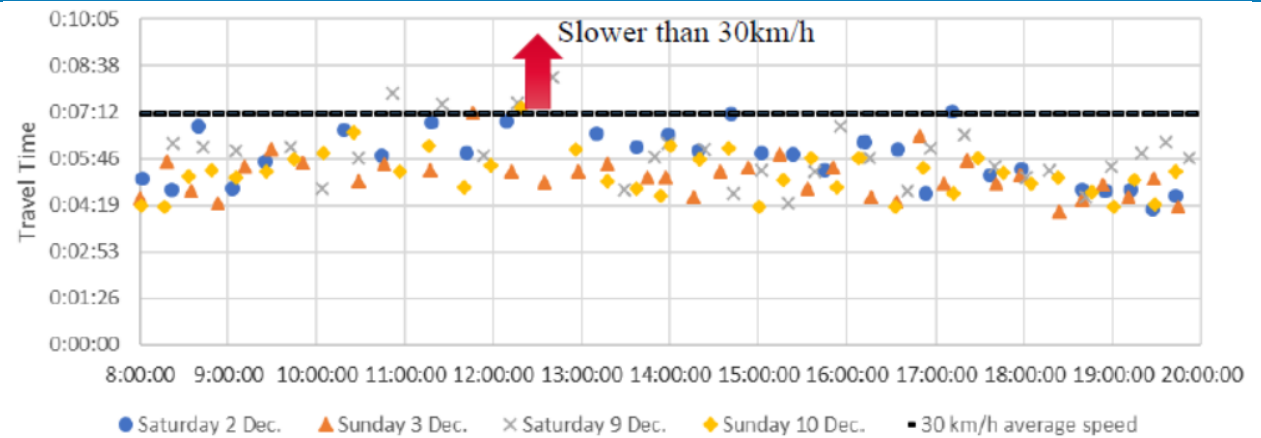


Figure 12 - Weekend northbound travel speeds on Old Northern Road between Showground Road and Windsor Road.

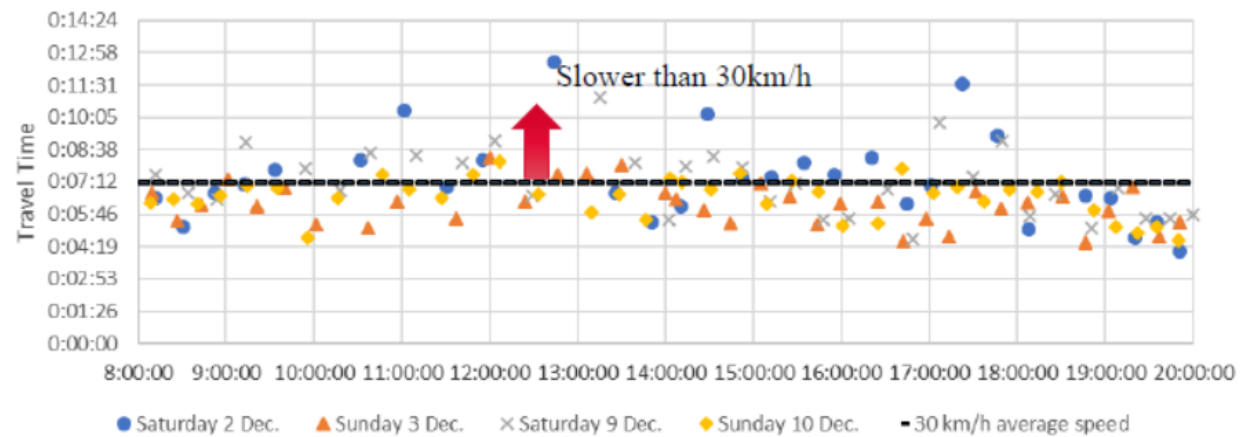


Figure 13 - Weekend southbound travel speeds on Old Northern Road between Showground Road and Windsor Road.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Why extend bus lane hours? | <p>There is already a dedicated bus lane.</p> <hr/> <p>The buses are not hindered by traffic.</p> <hr/> <p>The buses seem to have minimal difficulties in merging and driving through in the afternoons.</p> | <p>In addition to carrying local bus services, Old Northern Road has been identified in the 'Sydney's Bus Future Strategy' (2013) as a rapid bus route corridor. The 610, 610X, 612X, 619, 627, M60, M61 and school services currently use the 24 hour bus lane on Old Northern Road and Windsor Road. Historically on-time running of these services is poor.</p> <p>Extending the bus lane to operate 24 hours connects the adjoining 24 hour southbound bus lane on Old Northern Road to Windsor Road, which will increase the capacity for buses to get through the intersection on this busy corridor.</p> <p>Combined with the 32,000 vehicles that travel along the corridor daily, extending the 6am to 10am bus lane into 24 hour bus lane will enable over 500 buses from having to travel on the general traffic lanes each day on Old Northern Road. This will improve travel speeds, journey reliability and safety on this corridor.</p> |
| Access and Amenity | <p>I will not be able to receive deliveries.</p> <hr/> <p>How will we drive into our home property during the clearway hours?</p> <hr/> | <p>We understand that the new and extended clearway hours will change parking conditions in front of properties, which may cause some inconvenience for residents and visitors. However, the primary purpose of state roads such as Old Northern Road is to move people and goods efficiently across Sydney. Any parking currently permitted on the state road is not specifically allocated to residents or properties.</p> <p>Parking impacts on the primary function of the road. Roads and Maritime change parking restrictions across the state road network to ensure they are meeting their primary purpose.</p> <p>During clearway hours, tradespeople, delivery trucks and visitors are encouraged to park within properties where possible. If parking is not available on your property, tradespeople, delivery trucks and visitors will need to park in local side streets and walk to your property.</p> <p>This is similar to all other state roads where clearways and 'No Stopping' restrictions are in place, including other sections of Old Northern Road.</p> <p>Under NSW road rules, buses and taxis are allowed to stop on a clearway to drop off or pick up passengers. However, hire cars, including ride-sharing services, are not permitted to drop off or pick up passengers in a clearway. Emergency vehicles and postal vehicles accessing a public post box are exempt from clearways restrictions.</p> <p>If delivery vehicles cannot be located within the property, deliveries should be arranged outside the clearway hours or on nearby side streets so the impact on road users can be minimised.</p> |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Local business customer parking and deliveries | My customers won't stop to shop if they can't park outside my business. | We understand that the new and extended clearway hours and the extended bus lane hours will change parking conditions in front of businesses. However, any parking currently permitted on the state road is not specifically allocated to business properties or staff parking. |
| | The changes will put massive strain on our customers and affect the viability of my business. | We undertook detailed parking investigations in December 2017 along Old Northern Road and again in May 2018 to understand the current parking usage on Old Northern Road and adjacent to Baulkham Hills shops. The investigations showed that the average parking demand in front of Baulkham Hills shops is around four to five vehicles. |
| | How will I accept heavy business items or load my products if trucks can't stop in front of my business? | Our investigations also showed that there was poor compliance with the '1P' parking restriction in front of Baulkham Hills shops, with vehicles regularly exceeding the one hour parking restriction. |
| | There is a shortage of parking in the area. | The Sydney Clearways Strategy provides for the offset of business customer parking demand for parking that is removed through the introduction of a clearway. Our investigations found that there is sufficient parking available in side streets and existing public car parks close to where the parking would be removed from Old Northern Road. |
| | The public car park on the corner of Railway Street and Old Northern Road should include 4P, 2P and 1/4 P parking spots, and a loading zone. | Roads and Maritime has offered funding to The Hills Shire Council to reconfigure the public car parks adjacent to Raemot Lane and Railway Street to provide additional parking spaces for business customers. |
| | My staff have to move their cars around during the working day due to the existing parking restrictions. | Parking on state roads impacts the primary function of the road. Roads and Maritime change parking restrictions across the state road network to ensure they are meeting its primary purpose. |
| Financial impact | Clearways decrease the value of my business and rental return. | Roads and Maritime does not speculate on property values. The introduction of new and extended clearways and bus lane hours does not change the land use, land size or development capacity of properties. |

Safety

Parked cars provide a level of security and protection for my clients as they walk along the shopfronts of Old Northern Road.

There is a limited line of sight turning right at the intersection of Hill Street and Old Northern Road.

The new and extended clearways and bus lane hours on Old Northern Road will remove parking in the kerbside lane. It is considered that relocating parking from the state road onto side streets, carparks and driveways may provide a safer parking environment than currently provided, as pedestrians will not be getting in/out of parked vehicles adjacent to busy, high volume traffic lanes. Additionally, the need for through traffic to weave and change lanes to manoeuvre around parked vehicles and buses will be alleviated during clearway and bus lane operational hours.

The implementation of clearways would improve sight lines for vehicles exiting driveways and side streets onto Old Northern Road.

In addition, vehicles will be able to use all lanes which should improve the efficiency through existing intersections, allowing more vehicles to cross during each traffic signal cycle. This often results in 'platooning' where groups of vehicles travel closer together in bunches or platoons (i.e. groups of vehicles) at similar speeds with larger gaps between each platoon.

Larger gaps between platoons of vehicles allow more time to safely exit driveways or side streets, when compared with a steady stream of individual vehicles as observed when intersections and roads are not operating efficiently.

Out of Scope

There were a number of responses that were considered out of scope for this project.

Table 5 – Feedback received that was out of scope

| Category | Feedback | Roads and Maritimes' response |
|---|--|---|
| Other identified issues and suggestions | The traffic lights are the main reason for stopping the flow of traffic. | <p>Traffic signals in NSW are part of the Sydney Coordinated Adaptive Traffic System (SCATS), which allocates the length of green time based on current traffic flows. Sensors embedded beneath the road measure the number and density of traffic approaching the lights in each direction and allocate green lights accordingly. The length of time the lights stay green vary in response to changing traffic conditions.</p> <p>More information on SCATS can be found on the Roads and Maritime Services website at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/scats</p> |
| | I would like additional pedestrian crossings to improve access to bus stops along Old Northern Road. | We have passed this suggestion onto the Roads and Maritime 'Network and Safety Division' for their consideration. |
| | We need more timed parking on Ackling Street. | <p>Roads and Maritime manage state roads, and local councils (such as The Hills Shire Council) manage local roads such as Ackling Street.</p> <p>Any feedback and traffic suggestions relating to any local streets or carparks will be forwarded to The Hills Shire Council for their investigation and consideration. We recommend that any traffic matters on local roads be raised with Council to ensure the appropriate government agency can review and consider them accordingly.</p> |

Additional investigations

On 14 December 2018 Roads and Maritime distributed a Project Update (see Appendix D) to 1,800 properties, including businesses within the distribution area. No new issues have been raised since the distribution of the Project Update in December.

In the September 2018 community engagement, Roads and Maritime received some feedback concerning loading and access to the Baulkham Hills shops.

As a result, we have further investigated the current layout and use of the car parking spaces in the two council car parks adjacent to the Baulkham Hills shops. We investigated the provision of a loading bay in the car park near Railway Street which would allow a small rigid vehicle to service the shops.

Based on our investigations, a 6.4 m long small rigid vehicle is the recommended size of vehicle that would service the proposed loading bay in the car park adjacent to Railway Street. Although there would not be full protection when it rained, it is located close to the shops and would make it convenient to undertake deliveries. There would be no reduction in the number of car parking spaces with this proposal.

Investigations into line marking and traffic direction changes were undertaken for the second car park adjacent to Raemot Lane. A line marking proposal resulting in six additional car parking spaces in the car park is recommended. The changes to the council car parks are subject to approval by The Hills Shire Council.

We will continue to work with The Hills Shire Council to support the business customer parking improvements.

Decision

Roads and Maritime thanks everyone who provided comments during the feedback period.

Based on the feedback from the community and businesses, Roads and Maritime distributed a Project Update to stakeholders on December 14 (see Appendix D) and doorknocked directly affected businesses on 13 December 2018.

Roads and Maritime will install new and extended clearways on Old Northern Road between Showground Road, Castle Hill and Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills to operate from 6am to 7pm on weekdays and from 9am to 6pm on weekends and public holidays. We will also extend the existing 6am to 10am bus lane hours in front of Baulkham Hills shops to 24 hour bus lane.

The new clearways and bus lane signs will be installed between Sunday 16 June and Sunday 23 June, weather permitting. The new clearways and bus lane hours will open to traffic from Monday 24 June 2019.

Roads and Maritime has offered funding to The Hills Shire Council to reconfigure the council car parks to provide additional parking spaces for business customers and a new loading zone for a small delivery vehicle, within the carpark adjacent to Railway Street.



Proposed alternative business parking at Baulkham Hills for new clearways

Old Northern Road between Showground Road, Castle Hill and Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills

Project Update | September 2018

The NSW Government is funding this clearways project as part of its program which aims to reduce congestion and delays on Sydney's roads.

Roads and Maritime Services is working to preserve capacity and improve safety on this important road corridor by installing new weekend and extended weekday clearways on Old Northern Road between Showground Road, Castle Hill and Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills.

The southbound bus lane on Old Northern Road from Raemot Lane to Windsor Road will be changed from 6am-10am to operate 24 hours.

Clearways have an immediate **positive impact on traffic flow** as existing road space is used for the movement of vehicles. Facilitating the removal of parked cars maximises road space for traffic movement and **improves the efficiency of intersections** along the corridor as all lanes are used. In this location, extended clearway and bus

lane hours will also support on-time running of bus services as they approach and pass through the busy intersection at Old Northern Road and Windsor Road.

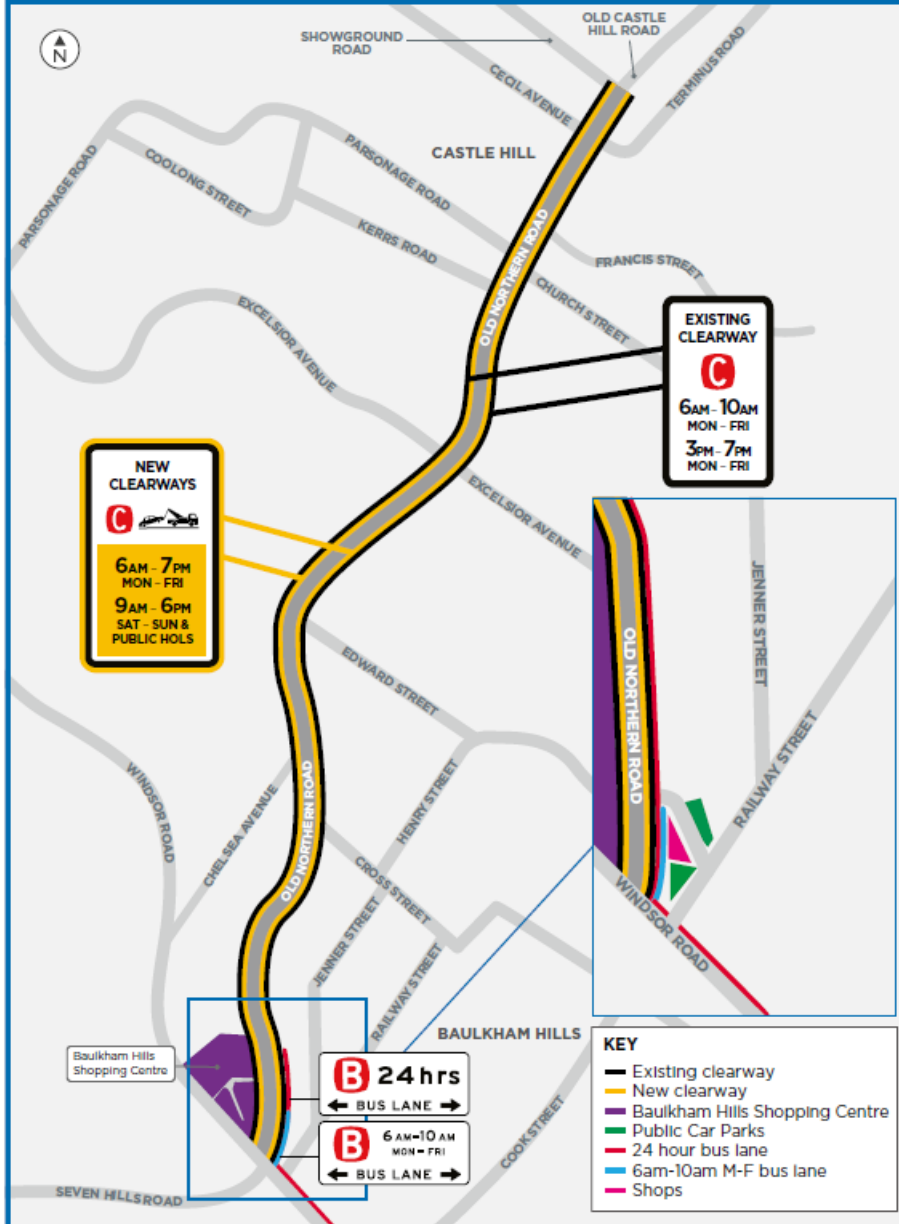
The new weekend and extended weekday clearways will improve the journey time reliability for the 32,000 motorists travelling on this corridor each day which means less time in traffic and more time doing the things you enjoy.

We have included a map (overleaf) that shows existing parking, clearway and bus lane restrictions along Old Northern Road and the new clearways and new bus lane hours. Existing parking, clearway and bus lane restrictions will continue to apply outside of the clearway and bus lane hours.



Old Northern Road

New and extended clearways on Old Northern Road



Roads and Maritime Services

The new clearway hours will apply in both directions and are shown below:

| | Existing Clearways | New Clearways |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Weekdays | 6am – 10am 3pm – 7pm | 6am – 7pm |
| Weekends and Public Holidays | Nil | 9am – 6pm |

Talk to the clearways team

The Clearways Project Team will be available to discuss the new and extended clearway hours and business parking arrangements on **Thursday 13 September** at the **Baulkham Hills Shopping Centre** from **4pm to 7pm**. The centre is located at **Windsor Rd, Baulkham Hills** (see map for location).

We invite you to come and speak to the team and provide feedback the alternate business parking arrangements.

Southbound Bus Lane

As part of this project Roads and Maritime will change the current southbound bus lane that operates from 6-10am between Raemot Lane and Windsor Road to 24 hour bus lane (see map). This connects the adjoining 24 hour southbound bus lane on Old Northern Road to Windsor Road, which will increase the capacity for buses to get through this intersection on this busy corridor. To complete this 24 hour bus lane, nine timed one hour parking spaces that were previously available after 10am on weekdays will be removed from Old Northern Road.

Business parking arrangements

Roads and Maritime investigated the on street business parking along Old Northern Road, near the intersection of Windsor Road within the Baulkham Hills Town Centre (see map for location).

Our investigations found that there is sufficient parking available in side streets and existing public car parks close to where the parking would be removed from Old Northern Road if the new and extended clearways are installed.

We are seeking your feedback on this alternate business parking.

What happens next?

We invite your feedback on the business parking arrangements by **Friday 28 September 2018**. Please send your comments to clearways@rms.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 706 232.

We will consider your feedback and update you as the project progresses.

As a resident or visitor, what does this mean for me?

The new and extended clearways will change the ability to park or pick up and drop off family, friends and deliveries along Old Northern Road. However, our parking investigations outside Baulkham Hills town centre observed only illegal parking on the state road outside of the existing clearway hours.

If you do not have a driveway, garage or carport on your property, local streets are available for you to park during the clearway hours, subject to any council restrictions. Outside the clearway hours, existing parking restrictions will remain in place.

As clearways continue to be rolled out across Sydney, you, your family and friends will experience more efficient, safer, and more reliable journey times. This means less time in the car, and more time doing the things you enjoy.



Improving
safety



Better and more
reliable trips
for people, business and freight



Providing
clearways

New clearways on Old Northern Road

Are there other clearways in my area?

A number of state roads in Sydney's northwest were identified within the Sydney Clearways Strategy released in 2013 for the investigation of new and extended clearways.

We will investigate clearways on main roads in Sydney's northwest through Baulkham Hills, Castle Hill and West Pennant Hills to help ease congestion and improve journey reliability.

New clearways were installed earlier this year along Showground Road between Windsor Road and Old Northern Road, and will be installed soon on Windsor Road, between Old Northern Road and Showground Road.

New and extended clearways will increase the reliability of the state road network in Sydney's northwest. As clearway investigations progress in this area we will continue to engage with the community on any new projects.

What is a clearway?

A clearway is a section of road where stopping and parking is not allowed during the times shown on the clearway sign. Clearways are put on key roads with heavy traffic and congestion.

They help keep vehicles moving by making all lanes available to motorists. The only exception is the stopping of buses and taxis dropping off or picking up passengers as well as emergency vehicles.

If you park in a clearway during the specified hours, you risk being fined and your vehicle can be towed.

To report a vehicle parked in a clearway or if your vehicle has been towed from a clearway, please call Transport Management Centre on 131 700.

Background

The NSW Government announced the Sydney Clearways Strategy as one of its key initiatives to reduce congestion on Sydney's major roads. \$121 million was committed to implementing the strategy and installing new clearways on Sydney's road network.

Installing new and extended clearways on weekdays and weekends can help reduce congestion in many areas of Sydney by allowing motorists to use all traffic lanes.

Since 2013, we have installed over 450 kilometres of new and extended clearways across some of Sydney's busiest road corridors. We are continuing to investigate where new and extended clearways would help ease congestion and establish more reliable travel times for motorists across the network.

Clearways on Old Northern Road will ensure consistent vehicle throughput on the state road and protect a key corridor in Sydney's north.

For further information on the Sydney Clearways Strategy and how you can nominate a state road, please visit our website: www.rms.gov.au/clearways

Contact us

For more information:



1300 706 232 for project information



clearways@rms.nsw.gov.au



rms.nsw.gov.au/clearways



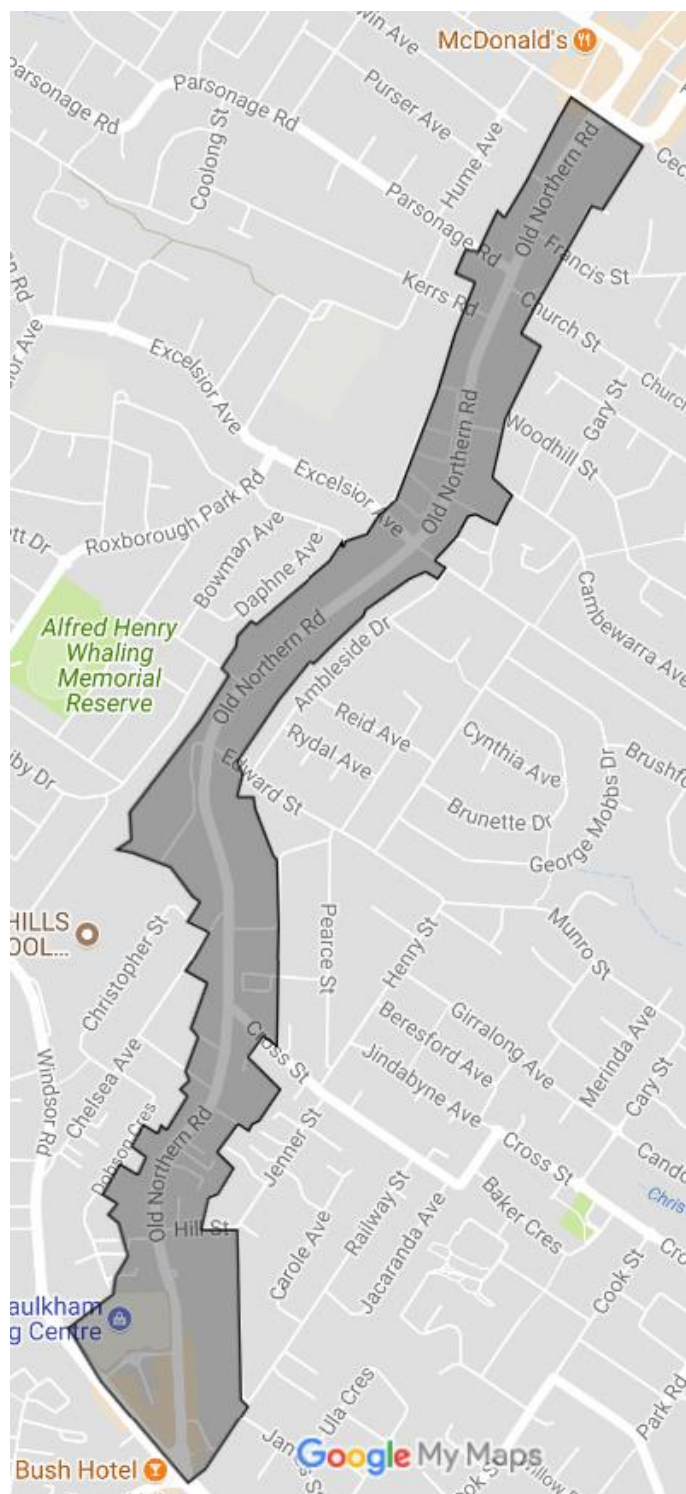
If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1300 706 232.



September 2018
RMS 18.985


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Appendix B – Distribution Area



Appendix C – Social Media Post

Post Details




NSW Roads

Published by CoSchedule App [?] · 6 September ·

New and extended clearways are being introduced on Old Northern Road between Showground Road at Castle Hill and Windsor Road at Baulkham Hills

We are also extending the 24-hour southbound bus lane through Baulkham Hills town centre

The Clearways team will be at Stockland Baulkham Hills on Thursday 13 September from 4pm to 7pm to answer your questions, and gather feedback on proposed business parking arrangements. ... See more



Old Northern Road clearways update

2,796

55


Boost Post

People reachedEngagements

Like

Comment

Share



Graeme Krauss, Paul Sullivan and Tim Cassidy

1 Comment

Performance for your post

2,796

People Reached

4

Likes, Comments & Shares

3

Likes

3

On Post

0

On Shares

1

Comments

1

On Post

0

On Shares

0

Shares

0

On Post

0

On Shares

51

Post Clicks

20

Photo views

3

Link clicks

28

Other Clicks

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

3

Hide Post

0

Hide All Posts

0

Report as Spam

0

Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

28 | Old Northern Road between Showground Road, Castle Hill and Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills



Community update for clearways on Old Northern Road, Baulkham Hills

Roads and Maritime Services – December 2018



Traffic on Old Northern Road Baulkham Hills

The NSW Government is delivering easier, faster and safer travel on Sydney's roads.

In September 2018, Roads and Maritime Services spoke with the community about proposed new weekend and extended weekday clearways and extended bus lane hours on Old Northern Road between Castle Hill and Baulkham Hills. During the engagement period, we also asked for feedback on an alternative business parking proposal.

We also proposed changing the southbound bus lane hours on Old Northern Road between Raemot Lane and Windsor Road to operate 24 hours for consistency along the corridor for public transport customers.

Project Update

We have listened to the local community and the installation of the proposed clearways and extended bus lane hours are not proceeding, whilst investigations are underway.

Based on the suggestions we received from businesses on Old Northern Road we will continue to work with The Hills Shire Council to review the existing council car parks.

What happens next?

We plan to provide an update to registered community members on the progress of the investigations next year.

If you provided feedback during the engagement period you have been included on the stakeholder list, so we can continue to keep you up to date about this proposal.

If you would like to be on the email distribution list for this proposal, please contact the clearways project team at clearways@rms.nsw.gov.au or 1300 706 232.

How we talked to you

We used a number of methods engage with the community:

- We distributed 1,800 letters to residents and businesses within close proximity to Old Northern Road
- We doorknocked impacted businesses
- We held an information kiosk at Baulkham Hills Shopping Centre
- We published a social media post to reach motorists and the broader community.

What you said

Community members, including businesses, residents and motorists provided their feedback on:

- Support for the new and extended clearways
- The need and effectiveness of clearways and extended bus lane hours
- Suggestions for business customer parking
- Deliveries during clearway hours.


New clearways were installed earlier this year along:


- Showground Road between Windsor Road and Old Northern Road
- Windsor Road between Old Northern Road and Showground Road
- Castle Hill Road between Old Northern Road and Pennant Hills Road
- Around Castle Hill Town Centre.


For more information on recently installed clearways see rms.nsw.gov.au/clearways.

Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact our project team:

 1300 706 232 (during business hours)

 clearways@rms.nsw.gov.au

 rms.nsw.gov.au/clearways



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1300 706 232.

Other work in your area

A number of State roads in Sydney's northwest were identified within the Sydney Clearways Strategy released in 2013 for the investigation of new and extended clearways.

These included through Baulkham Hills, Castle Hill and West Pennant Hills.

We investigate clearways on State roads to help ease congestion and improve journey reliability.



December 2018

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