The NSW Government is planning improvements at the Starkey Street and Warringah Road intersection at Forestville to improve traffic flow.

Roads and Maritime Services is proposing to remove the signalised pedestrian crossing of Warringah Road at Starkey Street and install a new pedestrian bridge over Warringah Road east of Starkey Street.

The proposed pedestrian bridge would increase the transport efficiency on Warringah Road through Forestville, minimise delays, allow for road-based public transport and improve road safety.

What improvements are proposed?

There is currently a very high demand for the signalised pedestrian crossing of Warringah Road at Starkey Street due to the local buses, shops, community facilities and schools. Over 100 pedestrians per hour use the crossing in the morning peak period. The minimum crossing time for this pedestrian crossing is 25 seconds. The frequency and length of time the pedestrian crossing is used causes congestion on Warringah Road during peak times.

Roads and Maritime developed and evaluated four options to improve this intersection. Options that were developed and evaluated included:

- **Option 1 – (do nothing)** – Maintaining the existing road configuration along Warringah Road within Forestville and retaining the existing pedestrian crossing across Warringah Road
- **Option 2** – Installing a pedestrian bridge over Warringah Road at Starkey Street and widening Starkey Street
- **Option 3** – Installing pedestrian bridges over Warringah Road at Starkey Street and Brown Street
- **Option 4** – Installing a pedestrian bridge over Warringah Road at Starkey Street and not widen Starkey Street.

Evaluation of the options included traffic modelling to assess network and intersection performance, an economic analysis and a value/risk management workshop.
Roads and Maritime has prepared an options report for the Starkey Street pedestrian bridge proposal, which outlines the four options that were developed and evaluated, and provides information on how the preferred option was chosen. You can view the options report on the project website at [www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-north/index.html](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-north/index.html).

Following assessment of the four options, Roads and Maritime selected a preferred option (Option 4). The key features of the preferred option include:

- Installing a new pedestrian bridge over Warringah Road east of Starkey Street
- Removing the existing pedestrian crossing of Warringah Road at Starkey Street
- Relocating the existing eastbound bus stop from west of Starkey Street to east of Starkey Street near the proposed pedestrian bridge entry.
- Providing new pedestrian connections, including a defined pathway through the existing car park to the pedestrian bridge entry and bus stop.

**Proposal benefits**

The proposed pedestrian bridge over Warringah Road would:

- Improve the efficiency of traffic flow along Warringah Road at Forestville, particularly westbound traffic in the morning peak and eastbound traffic in the evening peak
- Reduce delays on Warringah Road in both the morning and evening peak
- Support improvements to road-based public transport on Warringah Road by improving traffic capacity
- Improve safety by separating pedestrians from a busy main road
- Improve transport access by aligning bus stops with the proposed pedestrian bridge
- Provide urban design improvements in the adjacent car park.

The main impacts of the proposal would be:

- Changes in visual amenity
- Some property acquisition to accommodate the bridge
- A reduction in the number of car parking spaces in the car park, which services the Forestville Memorial Hall and Senior Citizens Centre.
Other road upgrades in Sydney’s northern suburbs

- **Wakehurst Parkway flood mitigation** – Roads and Maritime is investigating options to reduce the impact of flooding on Wakehurst Parkway in parallel with the planning for the Northern Beaches Hospital road upgrades.

- **Wakehurst Parkway left-turn slip lane extension** – Roads and Maritime is extending the southbound left-turn lane for Wakehurst Parkway into Frenchs Forest Road East to improve traffic flow and safety for all road users. This work is currently being carried out and is due to be completed in early 2015.

- **Mona Vale Road East and West upgrade** – Roads and Maritime is proposing to upgrade Mona Vale Road between Terrey Hills and Mona Vale to improve safety and traffic efficiency. The upgrade includes:
  - **Stage 1** – Improvement of Mona Vale Road intersection with Ponderosa Parade and Samuel Street, Mona Vale
  - **Stage 2** – Mona Vale Road East upgrade: Upgrade of 3.2 kilometres of Mona Vale Road from two lanes to four lanes between Manor Road, Ingleside and Foley Street, Mona Vale
  - **Stage 3** – Mona Vale Road West upgrade: Upgrade of 3.2 kilometres of Mona Vale Road from two lanes to four lanes between McCarrs Creek Road, Terrey Hills and Powder Works Road, Ingleside.

Roads and Maritime recently consulted on the proposed road upgrades for Mona Vale Road East and West. Community feedback on the proposals is currently being reviewed and will inform further development of the projects.

For further information please contact the project team on 1800 633 332 or monavaleroad@rms.nsw.gov.au or visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-north/mona-vale-road/index.html

- **Northern Beaches Hospital road upgrades** – The NSW Government is planning road upgrades around the new Northern Beaches Hospital with works scheduled to be completed in time for the hospital opening. These upgrades would provide customers with a better travelling experience by car or bus, increase the capacity of the road network and improve access through the precinct.

  Roads and Maritime is planning and delivering the road upgrades in two stages. Stage 1 would provide essential access to the Northern Beaches Hospital. Stage 2 would help increase capacity of the road network and reduce congestion.

  Roads and Maritime recently exhibited the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Stage 1 of the road upgrade project and the broader concept for the whole project.

  Roads and Maritime is preparing a separate EIS for the proposed Stage 2 road upgrades and expects to exhibit the EIS for community and stakeholder comment by mid-2015.

For further information please contact the project team on 1300 367 459 or nbroadwork@rms.nsw.gov.au or visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-north/northern-beaches-hospital/index.html
Next steps
Roads and Maritime will prepare a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) to examine the likely and potential impacts of the Starkey Street pedestrian bridge proposal. The REF will also outline measures to reduce and manage the impacts of the proposal. The REF will be displayed in mid 2015 for community and stakeholder comment.

We will engage an urban design specialist to ensure consideration is given to urban design issues while facilitating the most appropriate, practicable and cost effective urban design outcome.

Further information
Roads and Maritime welcomes community and stakeholder feedback on this proposal and will consider all feedback as development progresses.
Comments should be sent to Joanne Moore:
Email: joanne.moore@rms.nsw.gov.au
Mail: Joanne Moore
Roads and Maritime Services
PO Box 973
Parramatta NSW 2124
For further information please contact Joanne Moore during business hours on 8849 2345 or joanne.moore@rms.nsw.gov.au