



Vincent Street
CESSNOCK 2325

14 January 2008

To All Councillors

You are hereby notified that the next Meeting of the Works & Services Committee will be held in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, 23 January 2008, commencing at 6.30 pm, for the purpose of transacting the undermentioned business.

**B R MORTOMORE
GENERAL MANAGER**

AGENDA:

PAGE NO.

(1) APOLOGIES

(2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Works & Services Committee Meeting
held on 12 December 2007.

(3) OFFICERS' REPORTS

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES

1/2008 MR588 – Cessnock Road Stage 3 Upgrading 2
Works at Abermain

(4) QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

OFFICER'S REPORTS

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES REPORT NO. 1/2008

SUBJECT: MR588 – CESSNOCK ROAD STAGE 3 UPGRADING WORKS AT ABERMAIN

Design & Contracts Manager, Mr Kevin Dillon, reports:

REPORT

At its Ordinary Meeting held on 3 October 2007, Council considered the Works & Services Committee Report No. 15/2007 concerning the NSW Road and Traffic Authority's (RTA's) proposed reconstruction works for the section of MR588 – Cessnock Road at Abermain between Grafton Street and Swamp Creek Bridge. In that report several concerns were raised about the scope of the proposed works and the recommended amendments sought to improve traffic safety and amenity.

Council has now been advised that the RTA is prepared to accede to most of the design amendments sought but installation of traffic signals at the MR588/Orange Street intersection will not be undertaken as part of the current works, however, these possible future improvements will be catered for in terms of pavement widening, electrical conduits placed, etc as part of the project. The RTA has reviewed the traffic accident statistics and volume counts at this location and concluded that the provision of signalised control at this time is not warranted. The compromise approach adopted of incorporating much of the expensive civil works as part of the current project will allow future installation of the traffic signals at a much lower cost plus involve less disturbance and is supported.

The following design amendments have been acknowledged by the RTA:

- Installation of a "No Stopping" area on Cessnock Road opposite Charles Street (eastbound) 20 metres either side of the Charles Street intersection to improve traffic flow and reduce the risk of accidents at this location.
- Widen the approach to Cessnock Road at Charles Street to provide both a left turn and right turn lane into Cessnock Road.
- Change the linemarking in Orange Street to allow for both a left turn and right turn lane from Orange Street into Cessnock Road.
- Deep Lift AC pavement at Swamp Creek Bridge to be extended to Ch 6,280 to assist with the construction and traffic staging.
- Inclusion of a deep lift AC pavement in the kerb side parking lane (eastbound) adjacent to the Abermain Newsagency to assist with the construction and traffic staging.
- Provision of conduits/minor pavement widening between Charles Street and Orange Street (westbound) to assist with the construction and traffic staging and allow for the possibility of a signalised intersection treatment in the future should the need arise.
- Amendments to the linemarking arrangements in the vicinity of the Charles Street intersection to make provision for cyclists heading westbound.

The suggested parking restrictions opposite the Charles Street intersection will be referred to the local Traffic Committee, however, approval of such restrictions rests with the RTA.

To minimise traffic disruption and facilitate alternate route opportunities during the reconstruction phase, the RTA has also undertaken to coordinate the necessary flood damage repairs along Swamp Creek to allow reopening of Elizabeth Street to vehicular traffic. This reopening together with the proposed deep-lift AC pavement works proposed should assist with traffic staging and help minimise the overall duration of the works.

The RTA has indicated that funding is available for this project this financial year and Council Officers are currently negotiating the completion of the project under the Single Invitation Contract arrangements. The RTA has suggested a desired commenced date in late February/early March with completion required by June 2008.

RECOMMENDATION that the information be noted.

To: **The General Manager**
Works & Services Committee –
23 January 2008

L OLDFIELD
DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES
14 January 2008