

ITEM NO: 24

SUBJECT: LOCAL LINK ROAD STRATEGY REVIEW 2008

FILE NO: F03269 & R00/0093

Recommendation:

1. *That the Council receives and notes this status report.*

Report by Group Manager, Community and Corporate:

Summary

This purpose of this report is to present the review of the Local Link Road Strategy as adopted by the Council in 1999. This Strategy forms a key component of the 25 Year *Map for Action – Towards A More Sustainable Blue Mountains*. A copy of the local Link Road Strategy has been included as an Enclosure.

Background

At the Council meeting of 18 September 2007, a report was presented relating to the closure of Loftus Street, Bullaburra. Loftus Street had been included as part of the Local Link Road Strategy and is identified in this report as site 9. From this meeting the resolution relating to the strategy was:

“4. That a review of the Local Links Road Strategy be report back to the Council by June 2008.”

(Minute No. 259, 18/09/2008)

In August 1999 the Council adopted a Local Link Strategy, which was specifically aimed at providing improved local linkages, which would:

- Improve safety for local residents and highway users
- Improve convenience by making areas more accessible
- Improve bushfire access
- Reduce the traffic conflict with the highway.

This strategy also addresses a key Strategic Objective and Priority Action Area of the *Map for Action 2000-2025*, namely:

Strategic Objective 4.21: Sustainable transport links are developed between villages as an alternative to the Great Western Highway.

Priority Action Area 4.2.1: Design and complete an alternative link to the Highway which increases sustainable transport options.

When adopting the Link Road Strategy, the Council also made a number of resolutions, which included, in part:

4. *That the Local Link Road Strategy be considered when Council determines its annual capital works funding program*
5. *That a funding submission be prepared for the State Government to review long term funding opportunities for local roads after each site in the strategy has been assessed against the criteria provided by the RTA.*

(Minute No; 393, 08/1999)

The Council's strategy was consistent with the Ministers announcement on the \$360 million upgrade for the Penrith to Orange Route, that the State Government would consider funding local link roads. A review was completed in accordance's with the Council's resolution, item 5 above. The review indicated that some sites should be fully funded by the RTA as part of the highway upgrading work, some sites should be joint funded and other sites should be funded by the Council or other sources. A funding program was developed which allowed for substantial components of the strategy to be implemented over a six year period commencing in the 2001-2002 financial year. This program recommended that the Council approach the RTA for shared funding to a value of \$200,000 per year for 6 years.

At the 7 November 2000 Ordinary Meeting, the Council resolved:

1. *That Council formally approach the Roads and Traffic Authority to seek shared funding on a dollar for dollar basis, for a program of works on the Local Link Road Strategy, for a six year period, initially based on \$200,000 per year.*
2. *That we seek the support of our local members, Mr Bob Debus (Member for Blue Mountains) and Mrs Faye Lo Po (Member for Penrith) in our application for funding.*

(Minute No: 487, 7/11/2000)

Correspondence was sent to the RTA and respective Local Members on 13 November 2000. On 5 February 2001, the Council received notification from the then Minister for Roads Carl Scully, that the Council would receive funding of \$950,000 for implementation of the strategy.

At the 13 February 2001 Ordinary Meeting, the Council resolved:

1. *That Council formally accept the offer of \$950,000 from the State Government for funding of the Local Link Road Strategy over a period of 5 years.*
2. *That Council formally acknowledge the support of our local members, Mrs Faye Lo Po (Member for Penrith) and Mr Bob Debus (Member for Blue Mountains) in gaining State Government funding for this important program.*
3. *That Council make the appropriate allocations in future budgets to match the State Government allocations dollar for dollar.*

(Minute No: 39, 13/02/2001)

Current Status

The funding allocation from the Council and the RTA has allowed for 14 of the 19 links (74%) of the original strategy to be implemented. A summary of the current status and priority is contained in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of Status and Priority of Proposed Link Roads

Site	Location	Status & Priority
1.	Station Street, Blackheath	The 1999 review identified that no further action should be taken due to cost estimates, land access, visual and environmental impacts and limited local access benefits. This position remains unchanged.
2.	Station Street, Medlow Bath	The 1999 review identified that no further action should be taken due to cost estimates, land access, visual and environmental impacts and limited local access benefits. This position remains the unchanged.
3.	Railway Parade, Katoomba	The 1999 review identified that no further action should be taken due to cost estimates, land access, visual and environmental impacts and limited local access benefits. This position remains the unchanged.
4.	Woodlands Road Link, Katoomba	No further Action Required; The Council resolved at the meeting of 10 August 1999 not to adopt link and have the RTA consider service road.
5.	Willow Park Avenue, Leura	No further Action Required: Highway Upgrade completed in this area as part of Leura – Katoomba Stage 1.
5A.	Bate Street, Wentworth Falls	The 1999 review identified that no further action should be taken due to cost estimates, land access, visual and environmental impacts and limited local access benefits. This position remains the unchanged.
6.	Railway Parade, Wentworth Falls (nr Taylor Av)	Completed
7.	Sandbox Road, Wentworth Falls	To be completed as part of Wentworth Falls East Upgrade 2008-10
8.	Railway Parade, Wentworth Falls	Completed
9.	Loftus Street, Bullaburra	At the Council Ordinary Meeting 3 June 2008 Minute No. 510, resolved that the item be deferred for further report on only closing Loftus St to eastbound traffic following appropriate community consultation in conjunction with ward councillors.
10	Noble Street link, Bullaburra	No further Action Required: Council resolution 10 April 2001, Minute 143. Recommendations: Abandon link ; and pursue option for service/link road. See comments below.
11.	Kalinda Road extension, Bullaburra	Current under investigation as part of the Bullaburra East GWHwy Upgrade 2008-2010
12.	Queens Road link, Lawson	Low Priority

Site	Location	Status & Priority
13.	Gregg Street, Lawson	Low Priority: This link may be achieved in association with a possible development of land for sub division.
14.	Baths Road, Lawson	Completed
15.	Clearview Road Link, Hazelbrook	Work to be completed as part of Woodford –Hazelbrook GWHwy Upgrade 2008-10
16.	Forest Glen Road, Woodford	Low Priority
16A.	David Road, Springwood	Low Priority: This link affected by possible development of land for sub division.
17.	Waratah Road, Warrimoo	Completed
18.	The Valley Road, Valley Heights	Medium Priority

Capital Works Program and Funding

It should be noted that there has been no allocation within the 2008-2012 Management Plan period for the construction of the outstanding links. As referred to in previous sections of this report, the Council and the RTA have entered a 50/50 funding arrangement for implementation of the strategy. Therefore, prior to any formal application to the RTA for contributions to any of the outstanding link projects, preliminary design/ costings and decisions regarding Council funding allocation would need to be considered.

External consultation

No external consultation has been undertaken in the review of the strategy.

Sustainability Assessment (Triple Bottom Line Reporting):

Not applicable - status report on 1999 strategy only.

Financial implications for the Council

Nil.

Legal and risk management issues for the Council

Nil.

Conclusion

This report provides the Council with a position statement on the delivery of the adopted 1999 Local Link Road Strategy – a key component of the Council's adopted 25 year Map for Action for a more sustainable Blue Mountains.

The current status and priority of each of the links has been reviewed and noted as indicated in Table 1. In this regard, Council staff will continue to review appropriate external funding opportunities in support of the remaining priorities. Work will also continue on monitoring Link 13, Gregg St Lawson and Link 16A, David St Springwood for any proposed developments and effects on the strategy. Any variations to the proposed strategy will be reported back to the Council as appropriate.

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