

Tripoli Way Extension Project

Submission from the Illawarra Business Chamber to
Shellharbour City Council

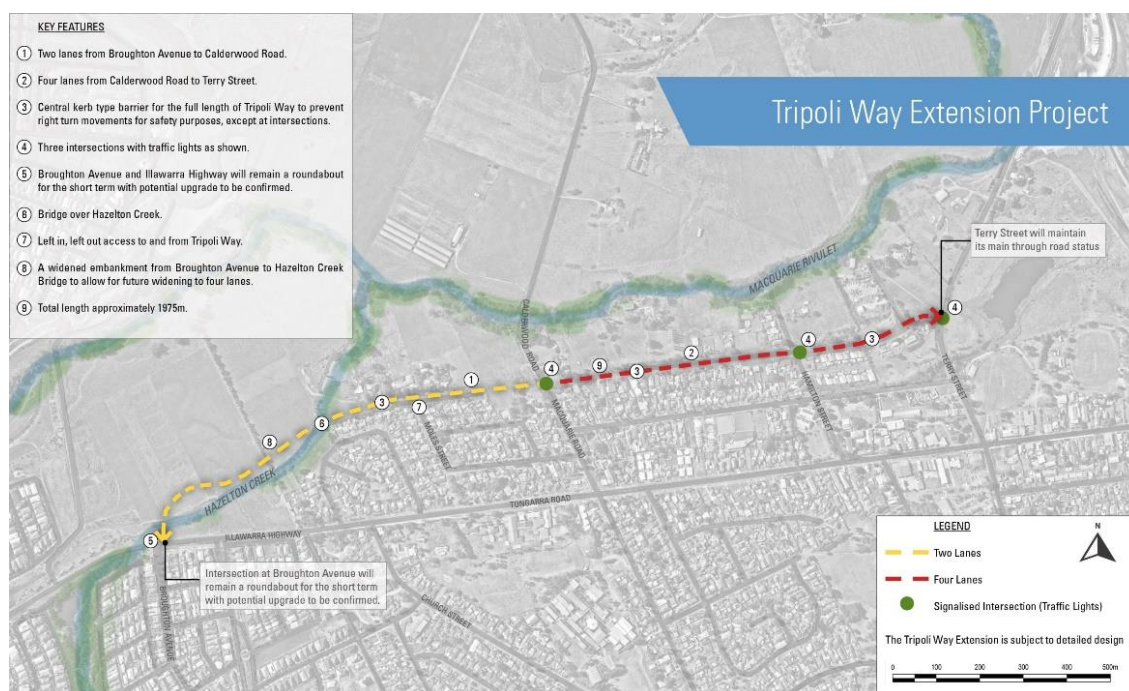
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Alignment and construction

- The Illawarra Business Chamber (IBC) supports the proposed alignment and future construction of the Tripoli Way Extension, as detailed below.
- In doing so, the IBC recognises the strong advocacy and commitment of Shellharbour City Council (Council) and the Albion Park Chamber of Commerce (APCC) to address traffic flow issues and interrelated planning considerations through the Albion Park Town Centre.
- As identified by Council in 1961, Tripoli Way Extension presents as the best option to reduce congestion on the Illawarra Highway/Tongarra Road through Albion Park. The IBC agrees that the proposed works are necessary in order to:
 - alleviate the impacts of traffic growth along Tongarra Road,
 - ease traffic congestion within the Albion Park Town Centre, and
 - provide an enhanced link to the Albion Park Rail bypass.

Proposed Tripoli Way Extension¹



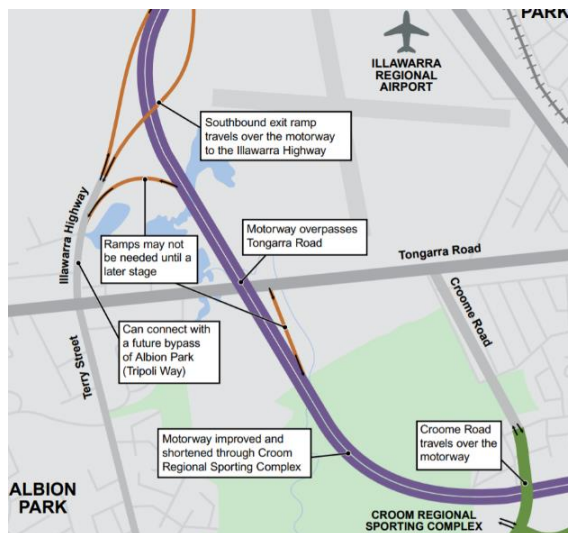
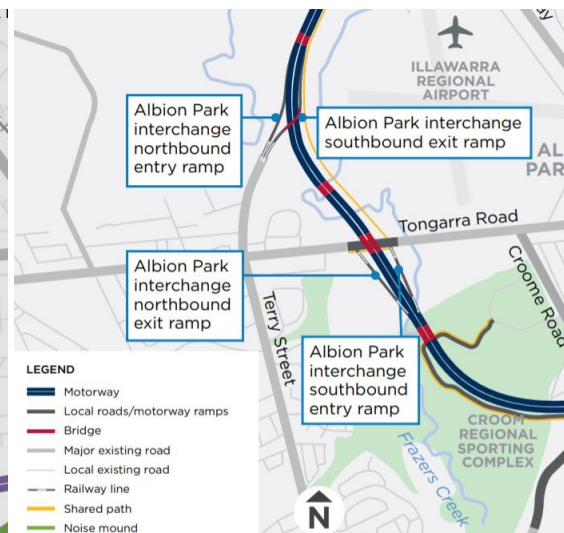
Interrelated planning considerations

- However, the IBC is concerned that residents and businesses in Albion Park will continue to be significantly impacted until planned completion in 2027 and believes that the NSW Government should take responsibility for alleviating existing and future traffic flow.²
- With rapid planned residential growth in the immediate area (itself approved by the NSW Government), there is a pressing need for traffic flow modelling through the Albion Park Town Centre in the immediate-term.

¹ Shellharbour City Council, *Tripoli Way Extension Project*, <<https://letschatshellharbour.com/tripoli-way-extension-project>>, accessed 19 March 2020.

² Ibid.

- The IBC understands that Roads and Maritime Services is aware of pending gridlock and the impact of flooding on the Illawarra Highway/Tongarra Road and is concerned that no plans exist to mitigate this.
- The removal of on street parking along Tongarra Road is not an acceptable mitigating measure, given the impact it will have on local businesses.
- Critically, traffic flow modelling will inform how the Town Centre should intersect with the Albion Park Rail bypass via the proposed Tripoli Way Extension.
- The IBC agrees that connecting the Albion Park interchange northbound exit ramp to the Tripoli Way Extension – by repositioning the southern exit ramp (2014 option) – to present a better option than feeding northbound traffic onto an already congested Tongarra Road, as is now proposed (2018 option).

2014 Option³

2018 Option⁴


- The Tripoli Way Extension will ultimately reduce congestion on the Illawarra Highway/Tongarra Road through Albion Park, however this requires other planning decisions and support from NSW Government to consider these interrelated factors before construction commences around 2025.
- The IBC therefore considers that NSW Government should urgently revert to the 2014 positioning of the southern exit ramp of the Albion Park Rail bypass to avoid major congestion on Tongarra Road and to allow for the development of Tripoli Way Extension to further relieve congestion at the Terry Street/Tongarra Road intersection.

Next steps

- The IBC would welcome future opportunities to work with Council to achieve an optimal planning solution for the Albion Park Town Centre.

³ Transport for NSW, *Albion Park Rail bypass - Princes Highway upgrade*, <<https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/01documents/albion-park-rail-bypass/albion-park-bypass-map.pdf>>, accessed 27 March 2020.

⁴ Ibid, <<https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/01documents/albion-park-rail-bypass/albion-park-rail-project-overview-map.pdf>>, accessed 27 March 2020.

- The IBC would support continued advocacy to NSW Government, including a prospective application to the [Housing Acceleration Fund](#), noting:
 - that residential uplift is placing a considerable strain on local infrastructure and planning,
 - the strategic regional importance of the Albion Park thoroughfare, and
 - our support for issues of importance to the local business community, including APCC.

About the Illawarra Business Chamber and Illawarra First

The IBC is the peak business organisation and the regional chamber that supports businesses and local chambers across the Illawarra-Shoalhaven, primarily, as well the South East and Tablelands, and is a division of Business NSW (formerly known as the NSW Business Chamber).

We develop policy, advocate to all levels of government on issues affecting businesses, undertake research to guide greater public and private sector investment in economic infrastructure, and support the development of workforce capacity and skills in our region.

Illawarra First is the top tier of IBC membership, harnessing best practice and thought leadership to progress key priorities including improving connectivity with Sydney, realising greater value from existing strategic infrastructure and leveraging competitive advantages to bolster economic growth. Its membership comprises a select group of leading businesses in the Illawarra, sharing a commitment to driving the development and prosperity of the Illawarra.