

Perth Darwin National Highway Planning Study Muchea to Bindoon (Northern Section)

Final Community Newsletter

The planning study to define the reservation requirements for the future Perth to Darwin National Highway (PDNH) from Muchea to north of Bindoon has been completed.

This newsletter provides stakeholders and the community in the area with the outcomes of the community consultation program and the final concept and reservation plan. Consultation occurred from November to December 2010 as part of the planning study being undertaken by Main Roads to define the concept and road reservation for the future highway. Great Northern Highway (GNH) is the existing PDNH.

A newsletter was distributed throughout communities between Muchea and Bindoon and surrounding areas in November 2010 to gain feedback from landowners, community members, businesses and road users on a preliminary concept and road reservation for the future PDNH.

The concept plan provides for upgrading GNH to a four-lane divided rural highway from Brand Highway (Muchea) to the Brockman River crossing (Bindoon), tying into the planning that has been completed for the Bindoon deviation to the north. The plan was developed by a Project Working Group that consisted of representative from Main Roads, the Shire of Chittering and the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Social, environmental and engineering work, including local access, drainage and earthworks, was taken into account in developing the concept. Where possible, the alignment was located to minimise property impacts. However, in some areas there are engineering and environmental constraints, which means the alignment in those areas is generally fixed.

Consultation Results

Affected landowners were sent a letter inviting them to contact the Study Team to discuss their concerns either through meetings, via telephone, direct mail or email. The Study Team held meetings or corresponded with landowners of 31 of the 75 properties along the route, and one interest group (Chittering Landcare). A total of 17 written submissions were received.

The key issues raised in these submissions were:

- Unwelcome change of lifestyle, including noise and visual impact;
- Impact on property access to the highway;
- Impact that the reservation would have on property and operations, including water sources and infrastructure;
- Compensation and loss of property value;
- Impact on the environment.

Following consultation, further technical work was undertaken to address the issues raised and determine what alterations could be made to the preliminary concept and road reservation. A traffic noise assessment showed that noise mitigation measures would keep future noise levels within acceptable limits. The alignment was shifted to the west just north of the Barracca Nature Reserve to limit impact on private property.

The final concept and reservation is illustrated in this newsletter.

What has happened since consultation?

The Shire of Chittering has endorsed the final concept and reservation. The outcomes were subsequently endorsed by the Western Australian Planning Commission's (WAPC) Infrastructure Coordinating Committee.

What are the next steps in this planning study process?

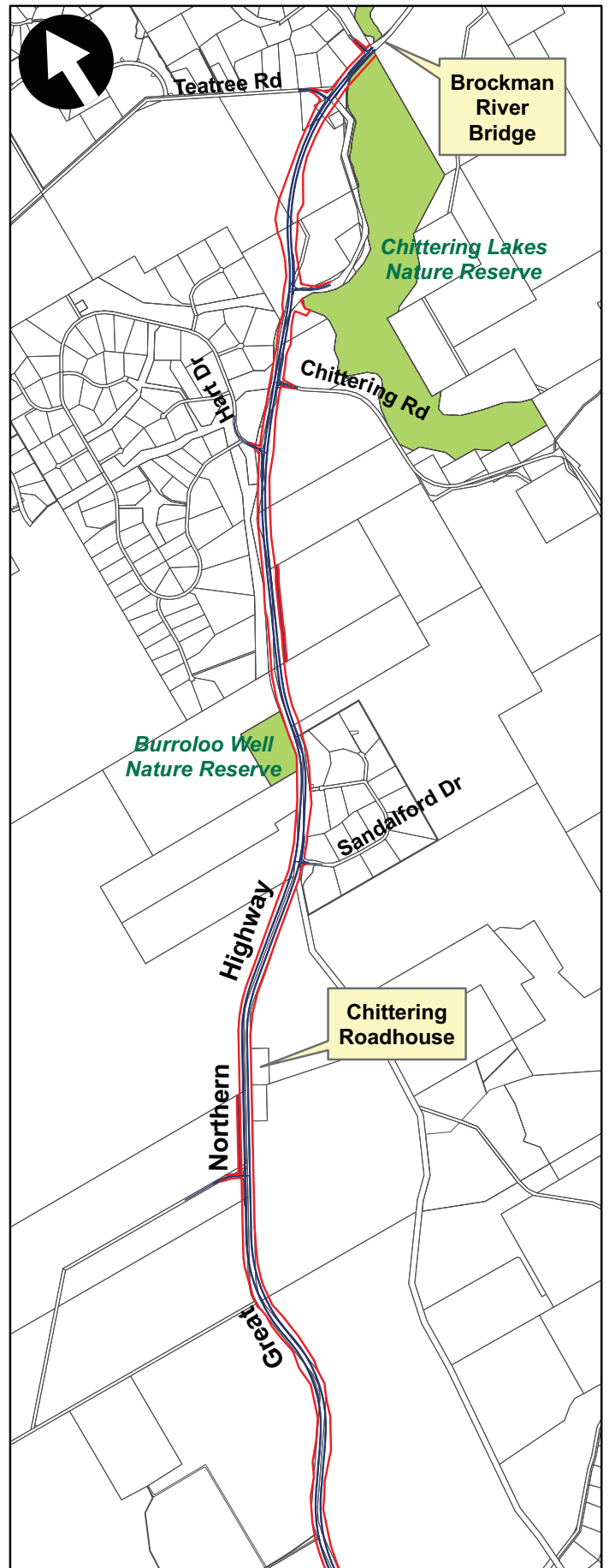
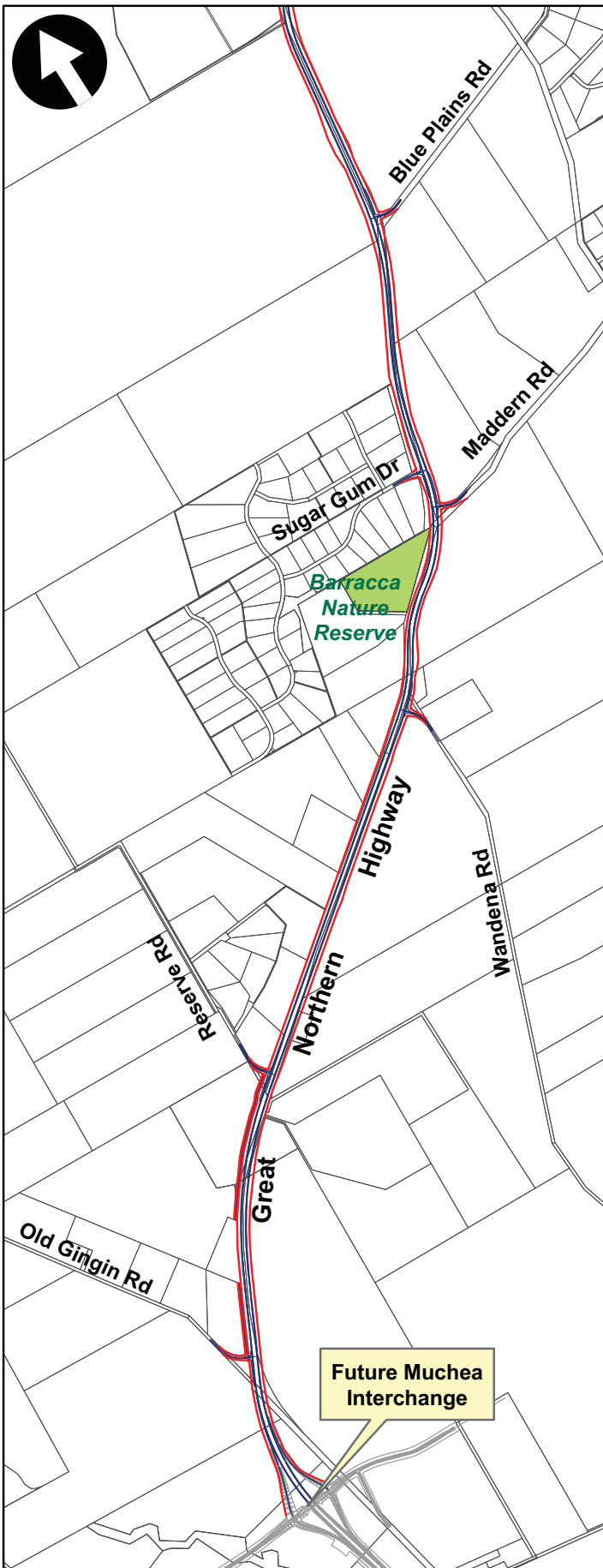
The next step involves the Shire of Chittering amending the Town Planning Scheme to include the reservation for the future PDNH. Opportunity for further public comment is provided during this process. At this stage, no decision has been made to construct the highway. Consequently, landowners can continue to use their land for existing purposes.

Further Information

Main Roads thanks you for your patience and continued interest in this process. If you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact Main Roads Wheatbelt North Regional office on phone: 9622 4777.

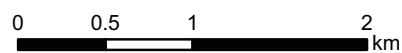


JOINS BELOW



JOINS ABOVE

Great Northern Highway Upgrade Final Concept and Reservation



Legend

- Reservation
- Carriageways
- Conservation areas