

Perth Darwin National Highway Bindoon Townsite Deviation Planning Study

FINAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

The planning study to define the reservation requirements for the future deviation of Great Northern Highway (GNH) around the Bindoon townsite has been completed. GNH is part of the National Highway network between Perth and Darwin.

This newsletter provides stakeholders and the community in the area with the outcomes of the community consultation program conducted and the final concept and reservation plan.

Consultation occurred from March – September 2010 as part of the planning study being undertaken by Main Roads to define the concept and road reservation for the Bindoon townsite deviation.

A newsletter entitled *Perth Darwin National Highway: Bindoon Townsite Deviation Planning Study (July 2010)* was distributed throughout Bindoon and surrounding areas in July 2010 to gain community, business and road user feedback on a preliminary concept and road reservation for the Bindoon townsite deviation.

The concept provides for a four-lane divided rural highway from the Brockman River crossing on GNH to the Bindoon Moora Road, after which it ties back into the existing GNH.

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

Consultation Results

Affected landowners discussed their concerns through meetings, via telephone, direct mail or email. The Study Team held meetings or corresponded with 27 of the 31 landowners whose property or property access would be directly affected by the preliminary concept and reservation. Letters were sent to the remaining four landowners. A total of 16 written submissions were received, with 15 from directly affected landowners and one community member.

The key issues raised in the directly affected landowner submissions were:

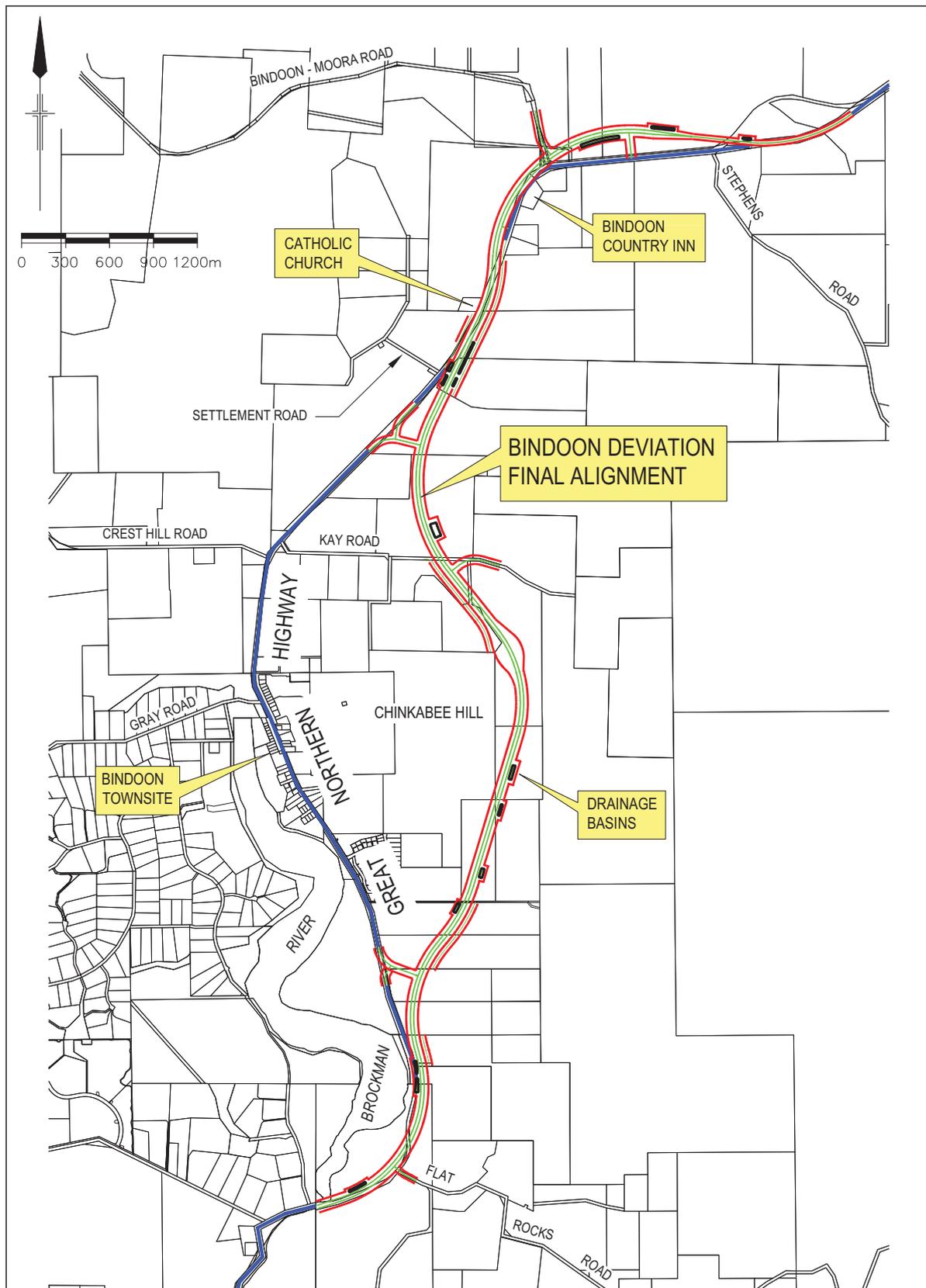
- Impact that the reservation and property severance would have on current operations, including water sources.
- Compensation and loss of property value.
- Unwelcome change of lifestyle, including noise and visual impacts.
- Impact on property access.
- Location of the alignment between Chinkabee Hill and Settlement Road.
- Environmental concerns on landowner properties.
- Lack of understanding of the process to reserve land and compensate landowners.

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. It was found:

- The preliminary alignment between Chinkabee Hill and Settlement Road as shown in the July 2010 newsletter is preferred to an alignment further east as it has better road geometry, requires less earthworks and minimises visual impact.
- Noise impact may be effectively mitigated by erecting noise bunds at appropriate locations.
- Carnaby's Cockatoo is located in the area, but no other declared rare or priority flora or fauna, or Indigenous archaeological finds were discovered.
- Property access will be improved from a road safety perspective.
- The intersection of Stephens Road with GNH would have to be moved 600m to the west to improve road safety.

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 liaising with the Shire of Chittering to initiate an amendment to the Town Planning Scheme to include the Bindoon townsite deviation reservation. Opportunity for further public comment is provided during this process.

At this stage, no decision has been made to construct the Bindoon townsite deviation. 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.