Since late 2002, the Tweed Shire Council (TSC) and Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) have been working together to develop and agree on arrangements for the connection of Kirkwood Road to the Pacific Highway (Tweed Heads bypass).

A wider area traffic assessment was undertaken to model the implications of the upgrade by both State and local government and to determine the interaction of the highway and local road network through any proposed interchanges.

This community update

This community update describes the plan developed from studies, traffic modelling and analysis of a number of options in consultation between the Tweed Shire Council and the RTA.

Detailed report available

More information is contained in the Lower Tweed and Pacific Highway Traffic Master Plan. The report describes the plan and the analyses that were carried out.

Pacific Highway upgrade schemes

The following schemes form part of the upgrading of the Pacific Highway from Hexham in Queensland and are key elements in the traffic plan for Tweed Heads area. They are:

- Chinderah bypass
- Banora Point upgrade
- Kirkwood Road extension
- Local road east of Terranora Creek Bridge

Chinderah bypass

The Chinderah bypass was completed in January 1997. The 5.8 kilometre upgrade provides a high standard dual carriageway from Ocean Avenue to Banora Point. The project provides six lanes north of Wommin Bay Road and a major bridge over the Tweed River at Banora Point.

Banora Point upgrade

The Banora Point upgrade would align the Chinderah bypass to the south and the previously completed 4-lane Tweed Heads bypass to the north.

The preferred concept for the Banora Point upgrade has been developed from the displayed options in April/May 2005 (see the Banora Point upgrade community update). During the options development phase the configurations of the proposed interchanges were saved by the project team and the community as a critical element of the proposed scheme, to ensure both separation of local and long distance traffic and to ensure satisfactory local traffic connection within the Tweed Heads area.

Tweed Heads bypass

The 5.7 kilometre Tweed Heads bypass was completed in two stages. The first stage, Kennedy Drive to the Queensland border was completed in 1986, with stage 2 between Sawtell Hill and Kennedy Drive completed in November 1993.

The bypass provides four traffic lanes on dual carriageways and includes interchanges with Minjungbal Drive (old Pacific Highway) and Kennedy Drive and a major bridge over Terranora Creek.

Tugun bypass

The Tugun bypass, currently under construction, will provide a new four-lane controlled access motorway between Combarin in Queensland and Tweed Heads in NSW.

The proposed bypass will be 7 kilometres and will include a median wide enough to allow future upgrading to six lanes. Grade-separated interchanges will be provided at the Tweed Heads bypass in NSW and at Stewart Road in Queensland. These works will also include the removal of the existing north-facing Kennedy Drive ramps and the provision of one-way local roads on either side of the highway between Kennedy Drive and the Tweed Heads bypass interchange.

Future six lanes

Future widening of the Tweed Heads bypass and Tugun bypass to six lanes to meet traffic demand is anticipated to be required sometime around the year 2025.

Local road schemes

Kirkwood Road extension

The extension of Kirkwood Road was a recommendation of the 2003 revision of the Tweed Road Development Strategy. Under the proposal, Kirkwood Road would be extended between Fraser Drive and Falcon Way, and would include the extension of Enterprise Avenue.

Kirkwood Road interchange

Highway connections to the proposed Kirkwood Road extension have previously been proposed by Tweed Shire Council, in particular with north facing ramps.

Terranora Creek local roads

The provision of one way local roads either side of the Tweed Heads bypass between Kirkwood Road and Kennedy Drive were proposed as part of the Lower Tweed and Pacific Highway Traffic Master Plan.

Display locations

The plan is now on display until Friday 22 November 2006 at the locations shown below.

- Tweed Shire Council, Roseburg Road, Murwillumbah (Mon-Fri 8am-4.30pm)
- Tweed Shire Council, Brett Street, Tweed Heads (Mon-Fri 8am-4.30pm)
- Tweed City Shopping Centre, Minjungbal Drive, South Tweed Heads (Trading Hours)
- Banora Village Shopping Centre, Leisure Drive, Banora Point (Trading Hours)
- RTA Motor Registry, Greenway Drive, Tweed Heads South (Mon-Fri 9am-4pm)
- RTA Pacific Highway Office, 21 Prince Street Grafton (Mon-Fri 9am-4pm)

More information is contained in the Lower Tweed and Pacific Highway Traffic Master Plan. The report describes the plan and the analyses that were carried out.

Details report available

Detailed report available

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Lower Tweed and Pacific Highway Traffic Master Plan

**Scheme Timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Tweed Heads bypass</td>
<td>Chinderah bypass completed in January 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Tugun bypass (Prop)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-15</td>
<td>Banora Point upgrade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-20</td>
<td>Kirkwood Road extension</td>
<td>Four-way local road west of Terranora Creek Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020-20</td>
<td>Tweed Heads bypass widening to 8 lanes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Community Update**

Community update

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**Contact Information**

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Plan for future development

The studies undertaken by the Tweed Shire Council and the RTA have concluded that the traffic master plan for the satisfactory operation of both the Pacific Highway and adjoining local road network would comprise the following elements:

1. The Banora Point upgrade
   - South-facing ramps at Barney’s Point Bridge
   - North and south-facing ramps direct to Minjungbal Drive
   - North-facing ramps connecting to the Darlington Drive intersection.

2. The extension of Kirkwood Road to Fraser Drive

3. A Kirkwood Road interchange, including
   - One-way local roads both sides of the existing highway extending from Kirkwood Road to Kennedy Drive (Terranora Creek local roads).
   - South-facing ramps connecting to Kirkwood Road and the Terranora Creek local roads via signalised intersections.

4. Future six lanes (Tweed Heads bypass)

Objectives of the plan

The aims of the plan are:

- Providing an integrated solution for traffic access to the Pacific Highway between the Tweed River and the Tugun bypass to best meet local traffic requirements.
- Providing “best use” of existing infrastructure.
- Ability to be staged to meet operational and funding availability.

What happens next?

A preferred concept has been announced for the Banora Point Pacific Highway upgrade. Further detailed investigation is required to assess the design and engineering feasibility and any impacts associated with the described Kirkwood Road interchange and associated service road arrangement. In addition funding should be secured, planning approvals should be obtained and where necessary environmental studies carried out.

The Banora Point upgrade project has reached preferred concept stage. Further information is available in a separate report and community update for this project.