



28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP  
280 Willoughby Road  
Naremburn NSW 2065

Dear Ms Berejiklian,

**RE: PACIFIC HIGHWAY / MOWBRAY ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS**

The Artarmon Progress Association is writing to you as our local member to request you to make representations regarding the poor performance of the Pacific Hwy / Mowbray Rd intersection and the consequential adverse impacts this has on the local area. This is documented below with two suggestions as to how this situation might be improved.

**Background**

Pacific Hwy / Mowbray Rd intersection is usually badly congested with the intersection rated by RMS as unsatisfactory performance.

The poor performance of the current Pacific Hwy/Mowbray Rd intersection and its resulting road congestion restricts social and economic opportunities in the Willoughby local government area. The impact on these communities is particularly felt in the AM and PM peak journeys to/from work and school.

Artarmon Progress Association (APA) is of the opinion that improvements to the Pacific Hwy / Mowbray Rd intersection to allow a right turn from Mowbray Rd West to the Pacific Highway southbound and a right-turn from the Pacific Hwy southbound to Mowbray Rd West would have great benefits to Artarmon and neighbouring communities.

With the Metro works near the intersection nearing completion, APA believes it would be an ideal time to explore the opportunity to use the works site to improve the intersection before the site is redeveloped.

**Current Traffic Patterns and Impacts on Neighbouring Areas**

Current traffic arrangements at the Pacific Hwy/Mowbray Rd intersection allow: straight-ahead traffic; northbound Pacific Hwy traffic to turn right onto Mowbray Rd East; and westbound Mowbray Rd traffic to turn right on to the Pacific Hwy northbound. Northbound traffic right-turning off the Pacific Hwy is

replaced by right-turning Mowbray Rd traffic. The signalling is “two-phase” as per the other intersections along the Pacific Hwy.

Due to the desire to maintain two-phase signalling, the equivalent right turn options are not available for the Pacific Hwy southbound. The Pacific Hwy and Mowbray Rd run along ridge lines. The steep drops into the valleys below restrict opportunities to use other roads as alternatives to travel on main roads. Thus, travel to and from Lane Cove North, Artarmon, Chatswood and Willoughby is significantly impacted by the missing right turns.

Southbound traffic volumes on the Pacific Hwy reach a peak at Boundary St and decrease by one-third as traffic turns off for Chatswood CBD, the A38 (Fullers Rd), Artarmon, Lane Cove and the motorway. The Pacific Hwy southbound at Mowbray Rd has more than sufficient peak-hour capacity for traffic from Mowbray Rd West.

Eastbound traffic on Mowbray Rd West wishing to head south on the Pacific Hwy, must currently travel through the intersection and turn right into Hampden Rd, travelling through Artarmon Village and then join the Pacific Hwy / Gore Hill Fwy at a number of other points.

Southbound traffic on the Pacific Hwy wishing to head west on Mowbray Rd, must currently turn left at Albert Ave, turn right at Orchard Rd and turn right at Mowbray Rd before crossing the Pacific Hwy intersection.

The unsatisfactory performance of the Pacific Hwy / Mowbray Rd intersection results in:

- Major congestion in Orchard Rd traffic turning west into Mowbray Rd
- Major congestion in Hampden Rd traffic turning west into Mowbray Rd
- Rat-running through Artarmon residential streets (Sydney, Elizabeth and Hampden) of westbound Mowbray Rd traffic wishing to head south. This is instead of the traffic proceeding to Pacific Hwy and turning left.

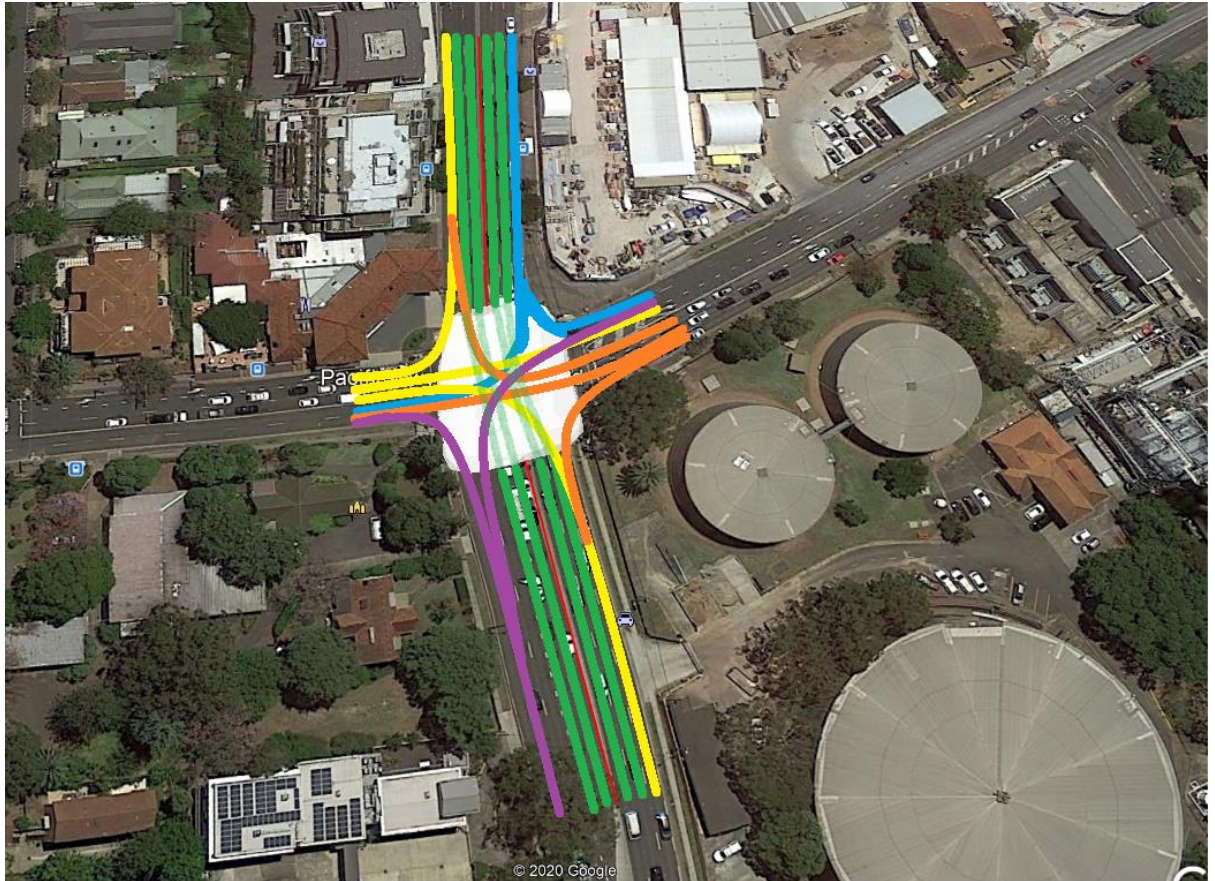
Due to traffic diverted away from the Pacific Hwy and the resulting increased traffic through the Artarmon Village, Hampden Rd has lost parking spaces important to local businesses. The impact of the parking loss can be seen in the high turnover of businesses in the Hampden Rd retail block from Francis Rd to Broughton Rd.

### **Suggestions for Improvements**

APA suggests 2 options for improvements to the intersection.

Option 1 would provide the better outcomes, but would be considerably more expensive than option 2.

### Option 1 – Pacific Hwy underpass of Mowbray Rd



- Pacific Hwy underpass built under Mowbray Rd (suggested construction approach below)
- 2 Pacific Hwy lanes in each direction travelling unimpeded under Mowbray Rd
- Left lane off-ramps from Pacific Hwy leading to Mowbray Rd
- Left lane on-ramps to Pacific Hwy leading from Mowbray Rd
- Mowbray Rd traffic travelling straight-ahead or right turning controlled by traffic signals
- Left turns from Mowbray Rd and Pacific Hwy controlled by give-way signs.

#### Benefits of Option 1:

- Improved traffic flows on the Pacific Hwy
- Improved Mowbray Rd traffic flows, resulting in reduced congestion in local streets.
- A traffic signal phasing regime that allows all-direction turns within the “two-phase” regime operating at other intersections along the Pacific Hwy.
- Southbound right turn from Pacific Hwy into Mowbray Rd will reduce traffic through Chatswood and reduce congestion at Mowbray Rd / Orchard Rd intersection.
- Eastbound right turn from Mowbray Rd into Pacific Hwy will reduce through-traffic in Artarmon by providing a more direct route to Gore Hill Fwy and Artarmon Industrial Area.



## Option 1 Suggested Construction Approach

Existing:



Stage 1:



- Build new 3 lane Pacific Hwy temporary road utilising part Metro works site, part Sydney Water site and motor dealer site (white), allowing 200m approach north and south of Mowbray Rd to achieve desired gradients.



- Relocate some traffic signals allowing all existing traffic movements.

## Stage 2:



- South-bound Pacific Hwy traffic uses new roadway (white) with similar connections to Mowbray Rd as currently.
- North-bound Pacific Hwy traffic uses previous south-bound roadway (blue) with similar connections to Mowbray Rd as currently.
- Excavation and tunnelling of Pacific Hwy new north-bound route under Mowbray Rd (yellow)
- Pacific Hwy off and on ramps to/from Mowbray Rd constructed on western side of Hwy.

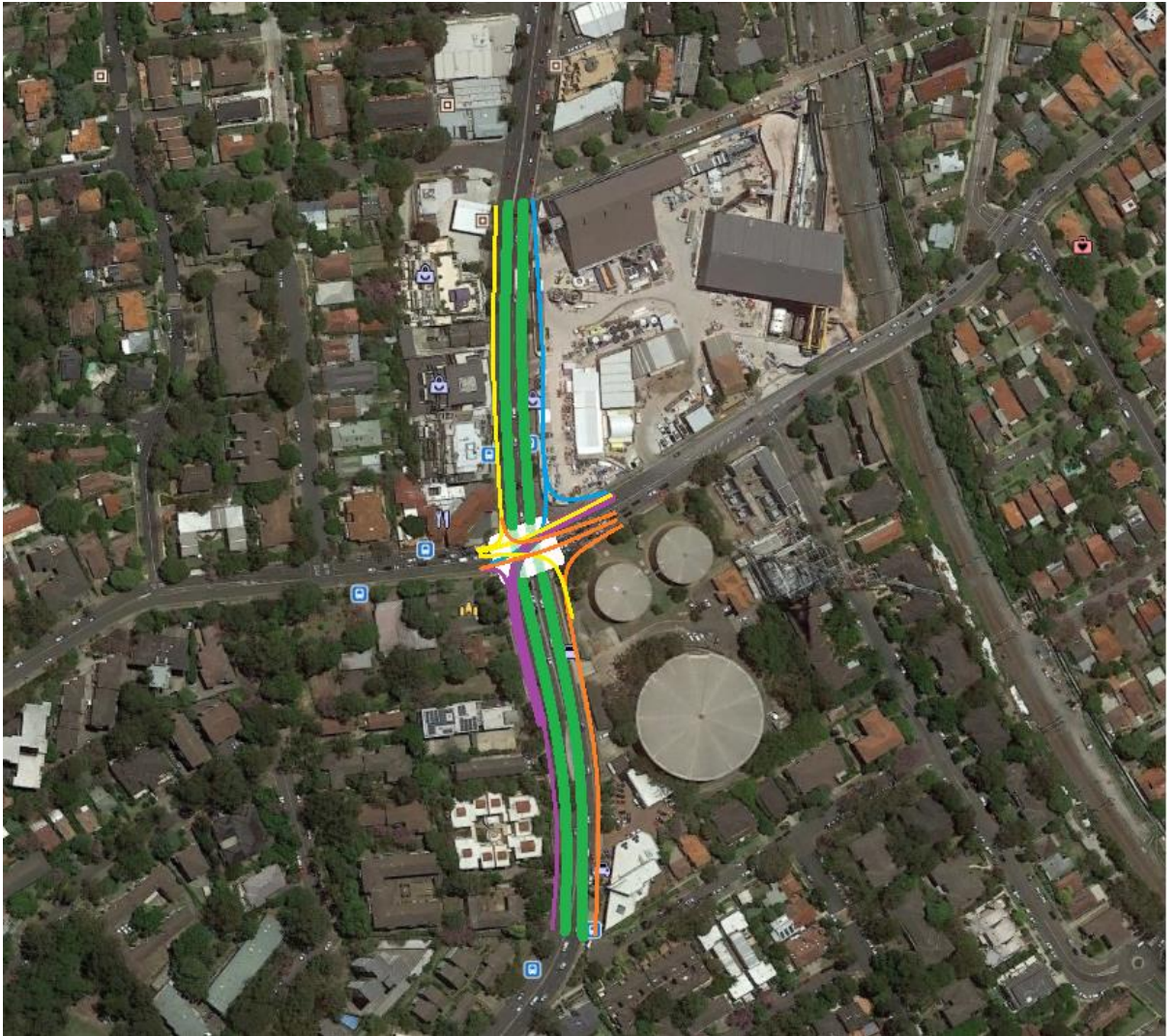
### Stage 3:



- South-bound Pacific Hwy traffic uses new temporary roadway (white) with similar connections to Mowbray Rd as currently.
- North-bound Pacific Hwy traffic uses new underpass roadway (blue) or off-on ramps to/from Mowbray Rd
- Excavation and tunnelling of Pacific Hwy new south-bound route under Mowbray Rd (yellow)
- Pacific Hwy off and on ramps to/from Mowbray Rd constructed on eastern side of Hwy, possibly using part of temporary roadway to achieve additional roadway width.

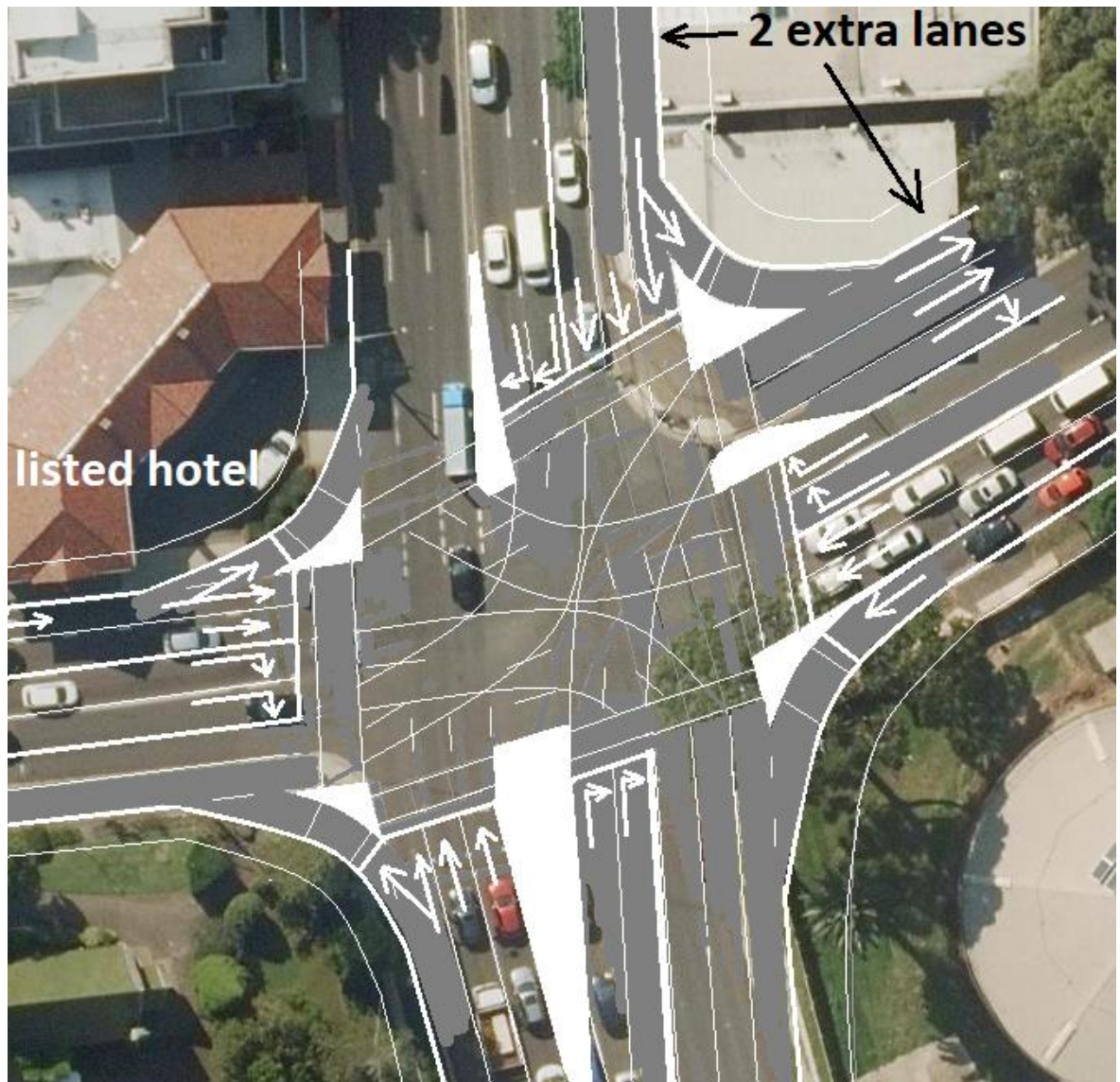


Stage 4:



- Final configuration of intersection
- Opening of north-bound Pacific Hwy underpass lanes
- Repurposing of temporary south bound roadway.

## Option 2 – Intersection Widening with Additional Lanes



- Uses the Metro works site to provide additional lanes and hence additional capacity to intersection. The intersection's centre is shifted in a north-east direction.
- Pacific Hwy capacity the same as currently
- Improved left turning lanes
- New southbound right hand turn lanes from Pacific Hwy into Mowbray Rd
- New eastbound right hand turn lanes from Mowbray Rd into Pacific Hwy
- Additional westbound right hand turn lane from Mowbray Rd into Pacific Hwy



**Benefits of Option 2:**

- Southbound right turn from Pacific Hwy into Mowbray Rd will reduce traffic through Chatswood and reduce congestion at Mowbray Rd / Orchard Rd intersection.
- Eastbound right turn from Mowbray Rd into Pacific Hwy will reduce through traffic in Artarmon by providing a more direct route to Gore Hill Fwy and Artarmon Industrial Area.
- Two right turn lanes in each direction allow adequate turn capacity within the coordinated signal phasing operating along the Pacific Hwy.

APA would be happy to discuss the above options with any interested party.

Yours faithfully,



Michael Dawes  
Vice President  
Artarmon Progress Association

CC: Willoughby City Council CEO Debra Just

**Who we are**

The Artarmon Progress Association, Inc. (APA) was founded in 1906 as a not-for-profit group and our objectives are to promote the welfare, physical and intellectual advancement of the suburb of Artarmon and the City of Willoughby, to protect the interests of the residents, and to encourage a keener spirit of citizenship and mutual help amongst residents.