

10 August 2010

## Response plan for Sand Track finalised

Shoalhaven City Council has established an Incident Response Plan with the RTA that will enable Gerroa and Bolong Roads to be used during times of incidents or accidents on the Princes Highway between Gerringong and Bomaderry.

This plan will mean the “sand track” – Gerroa Road / Bolong Road – may be used when there is an incident involving traffic on the Princes Highway.

The Incident Response Plan is in place between Council and the Roads and Traffic Authority.

Council engaged consultants to undertake laser profiling and digital imaging survey of the roads from the northern Shoalhaven City boundary to the Princes Highway at Bomaderry. This survey has established the existing condition of the roads before any Highway traffic is diverted to these roads during emergency incidents between Gerringong and Bomaderry.

Deputy Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Gareth Ward said the response plan is vital to ensure traffic flows when the highway is closed in times of accidents and emergencies.

“Accidents on the Princes Highway have previously resulted in lengthy delays for heavy vehicles which is a real cost for local business,” Cllr Ward said.

“Council has fought hard to achieve this agreement by working with all of the stakeholders involved.

“It is my strong view that we need to do all that we can to keep business moving by using common sense solutions to traffic management problems.

“By using the sand track for heavy vehicles, emergency services can minimise delays to freight and haulage and reduce costly time delays in the tragic event of an accident on the Princes Highway.

Council has also confirmed that the Sand Track would retain a five-tonne limit, except in times of an incident response.

Council’s investigations have also found that the road formation and lane widths are adequate for use by heavier vehicles during incidents on the Princes Highway.

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